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# Craig Donnelly's ANALYS\$\$ @parxracing



Craig has been involved in horseracing for 50 years as a handicapper, journalist, linemaker and analyst. He began his career in 1969 handicapping the races for the Miami Beach Sun. Beginning in 1971 he began picking winners for the Philadelphia Inquirer, where he remained for 37 years. Craig has also been a linemaker for the Atlantic City Racecourse and The Meadowlands, where he was the program oddsmaker and television co-host for seven seasons.

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## **SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2019—BELMONT STAKES SELECTIONS INCLUDED**

Best Bets: DRAXHALL WOODS (7<sup>th</sup>)-- ORDINARY LOVE (8<sup>th</sup>)

### **Race 1**

- 5** IRISH MEADOW – Makes key third start since layoff and stretches out dropping into claimer again.
- 3** FROST'S SONG – Set pressured pace as favorite before yielding to longshot winner; makes 12<sup>th</sup> attempt.
- 1** TRICKY GAMBLE – Poor showing after slow start but series of good tries previously stamp contender.
- 6** BUILT BETTER – Raced greenly after reaching front and disqualified for interference; back up claiming ladder.

### **Race 2**

- 1A** IRON LION – Capable in past and significant drop for new connections; chance to regain confidence.
- 3** CAPE MAY STYLE – Responded well when plunged to this level; shorter yardage but gets blinkers.
- 7** TURNSTYLE – Hard-earned score vs. maidens in Jersey and realistic next step while lightly raced.
- 6** PURE STYLE – Faded after dueling when arriving from Florida; stamina issues but blinkers back on.

### **Race 3**

- 3** LUVINMEISEASY – Re-claimed by Carlos Guerrero barn then given couple months off; romped in February.
- 4** BURNTWOOD – Improved speed when capturing this spot in slop and remains eligible by seven days.
- 6** MIDNIGHT HARBOR – Slow fuse and far back lately but major drop and should be gaining late.
- 1A** ZIPPED CODE – Progressed in recent start and nine-year-old boasts 10 local victories.

### **Race 4**

- 7** ONLY ESSA – Led to final furlong for higher tag and shorter time between starts; pair of easy scores.
- 6** GLOWING STAR – Narrowly missed in good try and finished just ahead of top pick in prior outing.
- 3** BATMITZVAH – Passed rivals sprinting despite very wide trip; yet to pass stamina test.
- 1** PASTICHE – Woke up in decisive victory vs. single-winners last week; logical next step.

**Race 5**

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| <b>5</b>  | DESCARADO – Late energy behind loose leader sprinting and overmatched previously; romped at Tampa.               |
| <b>1</b>  | YES MZ ADAH – Scored in mud and claimed but still winless on fast tracks; likely difficult to catch.             |
| <b>1A</b> | MRS. REMBRANDT – Gained late behind streaking winner and Lake claimed back with same ownership.                  |
| <b>4</b>  | PRETTY COOL CAT – Rallied behind second choice after series of sound defeats; 79 <sup>th</sup> local appearance. |

**Race 6**

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| <b>1A</b> | LUXICHARM – Chased runaway winner in tougher field and best spot since claim; outside stalking trip.      |
| <b>2</b>  | STROLL ACTION – Seeking fourth straight and speed along inside again; Joe Taylor barn clicks at 25% rate. |
| <b>4</b>  | BAD NANA – Edged by second choice when changing barns again; game and versatile.                          |
| <b>3</b>  | BON HEIR – Pulled away after dueling against slightly softer and threat returning in 11 days.             |

**Race 7**

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| <b>3</b> | DRAXHALL WOODS – Battled throughout in game effort and returns to amount of claim; 11 local victories. |
| <b>7</b> | SECRET SECRET – Advanced wide and finished strongly behind pair of favorites as longshot.              |
| <b>4</b> | DODDSPRIVATELABEL – Failed to give true measure on wet footing; contested pace aids late kick.         |
| <b>5</b> | TRULY A MOON SHOT – Good effort behind Gulfstream invader when claimed again; up another notch.        |

**Race 8**

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| <b>1</b> | ORDINARY LOVE – Returns to preferred surface where she has prevailed seven times; fitness edge.        |
| <b>4</b> | MINI HERO – Loves local turf course and sufficient ability but sidelined since July and may need this. |
| <b>2</b> | TRUE YANKEE – Third attempt since return and most recent turf loss in stake; wired on Belmont grass.   |
| <b>5</b> | CELTIC VOW – Gained at Laurel when testing turf and route first time; progress anticipated.            |

**Race 9**

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| <b>4</b> | RUBLE – Difficult to like or dismiss plunge after claimed with \$12,500 tag; definite ability advantage. |
| <b>6</b> | S.S. MINNOW – Faded in slop and overmatched previous try; prevailed after layoff in February.            |
| <b>3</b> | GLOBAL POSITIONING – Popular at claim box and impressed here in April; bit difficult to guess.           |
| <b>5</b> | KING'S HOUSE – Clear throughout latest and steps up within same claiming tag; can rally from off pace.   |

**Race 11 BELMONT PARK—THE \$1,500,000 BELMONT STAKES**

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| <b>10</b> | TACITUS – Failed to offer true measure rallying from far back in bulky field over wet surface in Derby; distance suits. |
| <b>5</b>  | BOURBON WAR – Began career in encouraging style then victim of slow pace in Fla; blinkers no help in Preakness.         |
| <b>9</b>  | WAR OF WILL – Nightmare journey in Derby followed by dream trip in Preakness; should continue progress.                 |
| <b>8</b>  | INTREPID HEART – Initial defeat possibly due to stumbling start; \$750,000 purchase adding blinkers.                    |