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Craig Donnelly's ANALY\$I\$S @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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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020—FIRST POST 12:55 P.M.

Best Bets: V.I.P. CODE (8th)-- GRAVES ISLAND (9th)

Race 1

- 3** CREDIBILITY – Overmatched after claim again but sharp this spot despite eventful trip in prior outing.
- 1** AMANDASROMEO – Stopped abruptly in classier field and cost twice this amount in early December claim.
- 8** VICTORIA E – Significant drop and often competes better than odds predict; outside stalking trip.
- 5** LA PURISSIMA – Possible pacesetter with bulk of success at Penn National and most effective on turf.

Race 2

- 4** ULTERED PERCEPTION – Far behind in Ohio but prior good form in Canada and should be ready for route.
- 8** FLORENCIA – Chased runaway winner this level in December and Guerrero barn excels with “fresh” horse.
- 5** LA BELLA CHICA – Distant third last pair this spot but deserves attention despite making 13th attempt.
- 6** GOLD RUSH KIZZIE – Just behind third choice in last but best try sprinting last season; lost all 14 locally.

Race 3

- 8** TRUE WISDOM – Failed to give true measure in tougher version on wet surface; popular at claiming box.
- 4** SMART RAGS – Repelled challenges then caught late by longshot in another good effort; obvious danger.
- 1** NO HITTER – Improved stretch-runner cruised past two-time winners and moves back inside as threat.
- 2** BROTHER TEZ – May have needed first start in over two months; speed nearest rail and progress likely.

Race 4

- 10** PRINTER – Pulled away in stretch in decisive score and could repeat for tenth local victory and quarter million.
- 9** KID MAC COOL – Realistic drop and Ness stable won five races in two days last week; conqueror won again.
- 6** FLYING ROCKET – Claimed from this spot seven weeks ago and also, like top pick; from Guerrero barn.
- 1** ARRIVEDERCI – Forced pace long way in improved effort and frequent in past at other venues.

Race 5

2	HEROIC OFFICER – Roughed early then vied to stretch in longer test; shorter break between starts.
8	ELL BE EYE – Speedy filly hampered by stamina issues but plunges and must be considered.
9	MORE DIAMONDS – Battled state-breds at Aqueduct and contributes to lively pace; barn good here in past.
3	WINNISH – Newcomer prepared earlier at Keeneland but hard to guess; sire won 2013 Preakness.

Race 6

7	FIDUCIARY VALUES – Retreated against tougher in slop after strong record at Laurel; realistic drop.
3	CAT GIUMARELLO – Captured this spot when Catalano barn re-claimed soon as possible; retains Silvera.
6	PRINCESS PALOMAR – Runner-up to second pick when taken for fifth time in last seven starts.
2	FLIPPITY FLOP – Stretching out again as contender and been up and down claiming ladder.

Race 7

8	VERRAZANO VITTORIA – Very determined and captured three of last five outings; edge in wide-open event.
4	THATTA BOY GIRL – Veteran mare with 14 victories and most effective when reaches front early; dangerous.
2	ROYALTY FOR LIFE – Improved try when nailed at wire as longshot; speed inside a plus on Saturday.
3	HER DIVINENESS – Overmatched in last but prevailed for higher tag previously; pair of upsets this winter.

Race 8

9	V.I.P. CODE – Walloped lesser in route and set up well for this yardage; classy in past and Ness barn sizzling.
7	FACTOR THIS IN – Bargain claim by Zulueta barn won this spot before; four straight wins when Rodriguez up.
6	PHISH FAN – Drew away impressively in softer field for new connections; excellent lifetime record.
2	EMPEROR JOHN – Surged from last to first this spot in 10-1 surprise and plenty of early targets again.

Race 9

7	GRAVES ISLAND – Hard used pursuing eventual winner on wet track; powerful score in prior attempt.
2	TEAK – Unlucky in 6-5 loss at Penn National after prior double-digit romp; faded with similar locally.
10	MEADE – Series of good efforts since Taylor claim and chased favored New York shipper last local defeat.
5	HIS NAME IS SUE – Faced quality rivals at Aqueduct and posted 22-1 shocker this level here in September.

Race 10

1	OFF THE MARK – Battled throughout in race taken by closer after arriving from Florida; speed inside a plus.
2	TIZANOXBOW – Competed at loftier levels in New York but appears to prefer turf; threat with this kind.
6	ZEN ARCHER – Taken up sharply retreating vs. classier following layoff; hard to like or dismiss plunge.
9	FRAN'S WORRIER – Idle since disappointing try when claimed in November; hot apprentice named.