



Craig Donnelly's

ANALY\$IS\$
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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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TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024 -- FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: STRASSE (2nd) -- FLAT OUT FLYING (5th)

Race 1

- 3** SUENO PROFUNDO – Narrowly missed with similar at Monmouth after series of good local tries.
- 4** FENWICK JACK – Prone to poor starts but ran down nearly entire field in recent mild upset.
- 7** EDDIEMUSH – Just over two lengths behind top choice in Jersey and both victories here.
- 2** GAMERUN – Not at his best lately but back in sprint and defeated top pick earlier in summer.

Race 2

- 2** STRASSE – Used up after slow break this spot in first local try; won prior race at Churchill.
- 4** IFEELUCKY TONITE- Remote third with tougher version in route; likely prefers this distance.
- 6** TRY HARDER – Fired every time and sufficient ability but shelved since \$20,000 January claim.
- 7** CRACK THE CODE – Overmatched last pair after crushing lesser in June; just 1-for-26 log.

Race 3

- 3** HIDDEN PROMISE – Failed to offer true measure in slop after Martinez re-claimed; wins on best.
- 5** HIBACHI – Carried very wide into stretch when edged this spot; threat with clear sailing.
- 1** WIZARD SERRAT – Pursued runaway repeat winner this spot and prior loss on turf.
- 6** LOOK OUT LAMBO – Absent nearly three months since voided claim; 10 career victories.

Race 4

- 4** ANNA ROCKS – Seen better days but firing lately and enough left to handle this kind.
- 5** BEYOND A MILLION – Drops back early and finding best stride too late; needs pace set-up.
- 6** MORE RANSOM – Humbled by runaway winner in sprint and makes rare two-turn attempt.
- 1** LIKE A PRO – Slow fuse and soundly beaten by top choice before; some progress necessary.

Race 5

- 3** FLAT OUT FLYING – Hampered by early trouble and amazing veteran with 18 wins and \$398,195.
- 5** VINE JET – Chased formidable winner in last and excellent record locally; key threat on best.
- 7** ROADTRIPTONOWHERE – Just missed this spot in second outing after hiatus; rare loss streak.
- 1** SPLENDOR BEAUTY – Prompted pace long way then tired against similar; rail zip poses threat.

Race 6

- 4** OLD HEAD – Sharp effort last week despite poor start and traffic woes; back at price of claim.
- 3** BUCKS SOME – Failed as usual over wet surface but old mare often defeated tougher in past.
- 7** WISHING ONA PRAYER – Improved after Moore barn claimed; steps up within identical claim.
- 2** SO SWELL – Very slow fuse but drops notch and runs big race on occasion; lively pace needed.

Race 7

1	SPY NOVEL – Edged over synthetic after solid try this spot following hiatus; draws rail and Paco
2	DRUNKEN SAILOR – Major progress since switched to turf and first try against state-breds.
6	CRISPER – Powerful stretch-runner overran solid field at Laurel; failed at 3-5 last local outing.
7	MAX BARLEY – Narrowed gap despite extremely wide trip as longshot; ample early targets.

Race 8

6	RINGER CARD – Sidelined year after showing much promise as juvenile; fast works and Lasix.
5	ÉCLAIR BLANC – Back sprinting on dirt and frequently close but still maiden after 9 attempts.
3	HONEST – Major improvement in Jersey at 92-1 after poor form in Texas; may continue progress
4	PEACH TEA – Returns to main track over preferred surface and deserves some attention.

Race 9

2	MAGIC MICHAEL – Victim of bad start at Laurel and excellent 9-for-13 over this track; soft field.
4	RIDEN WITH BIDEN – Classy in past but far from his best since return; much success with Paco.
1	ITWASTHEDEVILSIDEA – Failed to give true measure at Monmouth after crushing lesser locally.
6	MODERN ERA – Disliked turf and back home on main track; only score against maidens.

Race 10

8	FAIR HAIRED BOY – Nearly overcame severe early trouble this spot; changes management.
10	BASSANIO – Ample ability and making key third start after layoff; top turf stable in Delacour.
3	SMOKE WAGON – Rallied last to first in Penn National sprint; might hope for switch to dirt.
2	HARBOR OF GOLD – Gives his best every time and just behind top choice only two-turn try.