



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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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2024 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: FROSTED DIAMOND (7th) -- SOZE (8th)

Race 1

- 1** LEADER OF MEN – Veteran takes significant drop trying route again; should end losing streak.
- 6** MEGA CHARLIE – Dueled long way in finish dominated by stretch-runners; shorter break plus.
- 2** SUPER JOHN – Step forward in good effort vs. heavy favorite; just 1-for-24 over this track.
- 7** LONG GRAY LINE – Nine-year-old looked bit like old self as huge longshot; making 86th start.

Race 2

- 3** CHECKING BOXES – Nice effort despite early trouble and drops notch with soft opposition.
- 4** PLENTY OF TIME – Vied to final furlong this level and making third outing since hiatus.
- 6** SOPHIA'S PRINCE – Fair showing behind runaway winner in Jersey finale; \$25,000 buy earlier.
- 5** MILAGROSO – Mild rally last week but long losing streak and only 1-for-30 lifetime.

Race 3

- 4** HAPPY UNION – Pressured throughout but fought gamely to finish sprinting; handles route.
- 6** PRINCESS SOPHIE – Decisive score this spot three months ago; terrific 9-for-23 career mark.
- 5** GANGSTER RAP – Overmatched twice since shipped from Texas; merits attention this level.
- 2** UNADULTERATED – Showed little in latest but formidable in past and can't dismiss with these.

Race 4

- 7** SOUPER FLY OVER – Approaching half million in earnings with 21 victories; edged with better.
- 5** REJECTED AGAIN – Tired late after taxing duel and romped previously; suited by distance.
- 1** POWER AGENDA – Hampered by stamina issues lately but competing cheapest ever as threat.
- 3** HOTPOT – Stretch-runner claimed from three of last four attempts; lively pace could help.

Race 5

- 2** MY BROTHER CHARLIE – Finally gained maiden victory and repeats with renewed confidence.
- 1** CHECKITUP – Chased smashing winner as favorite this spot but conqueror failed next time.
- 6** KHOPE\$H – Overmatched last pair and fits here with closing kick; lone score on synthetic.
- 3** RUMAWAY – Rallied despite clobbered at start in return; upset possibility stretching out.

Race 6

- 2** FROSTED DIAMOND – Prominent throughout in better fields last pair and takes aggressive drop.
- 4** BRIGHT KOHANA – Good try pressing runaway repeat winner; showed ability to rate previously.
- 1** BURNING EMBERS – Eliminated by extreme early trouble after claim; threat with alert break.
- 6** MADE BIRDIE – Captured final pair at Monmouth and claimed both times; eligible as 3-year-old.

Race 7

8	SOZE – Switches turf to dirt after facing solid company in Jersey; Soto- Martinez 25% off claim.
1	STAY FUNNY – Fired all four outings and excellent speed again adding Lasix; avoiding tag.
7	TRY HARDER – Very game in narrow defeat this spot after layoff; fitter now and poses threat.
2	CHINESEIAM – Encouraging effort but no match for heavy favorite in last; continues to fire.

Race 8

8	FINAL SHOT – Terrific 9-year-old raced sparingly but plenty of ability, heart; 3 wins with Lopez.
4	NOBLE GASTON – Used up forcing pace again in classy company at Delaware; good local form.
1	EASY DAY – Regained closing punch in narrow loss and contested fractions would aid.
7	EGO MAN – Yet another determined veteran seeking third in row for new barn; always contender

Race 9

6	TREASURE PEACE – Hard used after hiatus dueling runaway repeat winner; capable of wiring.
9	REVOLU – Competed primarily on synthetic but Florida invaders excelling here; must consider.
11	PRETTY LILY – Pulled away from maidens in decisive score; possibility with logical next step.
7	FLAG SONG FLYIN – Exits good effort this spot and usually hits board; factor with Sanchez up.