



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, DECEMBER 3, 2024 – FIRST POST 12:05 P.M.

Best Bets: THE TIRE MAN (5th) – BOLT OF AURUM (7th)

Race 1

- 1** REMARKABLE MO – Claimed from final two starts in Kentucky; switches to hot Padilla stable.
- 4** SPINNING HEART – Rallied well sprinting first local attempt; often close in earlier routes.
- 7** I CAN DO MAGIC – Distant fourth in very tough field; duelled in prior try won by stretch-runner.
- 3** HEAT ALERT – Faded in “key” race from which four runners captured next starts; back in route.

Race 2

- 2** RECKLESS PLACE – Easily second best behind runaway winner in improved effort this level.
- 1** RAHMER – Led to stretch against similar but far behind previous outing at Penn National.
- 3** SHANGHAI SUPERFLY – Eight-year-old seen better days but \$306,973 earner always a chance.
- 6** SPOTTED BULL – Possibility if disregard last; often close earlier here and in Jersey.

Race 3

- 5** BORRACHO CONCHO – Hard used dueling rival which repeated last week; gets off Lasix.
- 3** HEAVY TIMBER – Lightly raced and faced tougher in past; finished just ahead of top choice.
- 6** CHECKING BOXES – Retreated in bulky field after claim but speed to pose threat this yardage.
- 4** WHY STOP THERE – Used up after early roughing and showed determination in maiden score.

Race 4

- 5** WIKI LIO – Closed strongly last week when removing blinkers and extra furlong should help.
- 1** FLAG SONG FLYIN – Changed barns again and figures close on best; works out inside rally.
- 6** MERRYCHILL – Victim of bad stumble after layoff at Penn National; can’t dismiss at this level.
- 4** HYACINTH BUCKET – Wore down maidens despite 10 months absence when adding Lasix.

Race 5

- 6** THE TIRE MAN – Difficult trip first route attempt and strong effort here in August; merits edge.
- 8** NATIONAL LAW – Midpack on Colonial turf after early trouble in Jersey bow; \$250,000 purchase.
- 7** L GOLDEN BOY – Rallied behind smashing winner as extreme longshot; might like two turns.
- 4** RIVER’S GAMBLE – Competed better than odds predicted again and outran top pick earlier.

Race 6

- 4** JW’S THIRD MISCHIE – Crushed slightly lesser in confidence booster and realistic next step.
- 1** BAAFEED – Overcame bad start when voided claim in September; ability advantage if ready.
- 6** POWER AGENDA – Hard to like or ignore plunge after trailing badly; remains quick as threat.
- 7** PYLON – Close again despite traffic trouble in stretch; shown ability to rate from off leaders.

Race 7

4	BOLT OF AURUM – Pulled away with energy in reserve in second outing after hiatus; solid field.
2	WINNING TIME – Edged clear despite severe early pressure; ran off in prior attempt after layoff.
7	ALPINE THUNDER – Overmatched at Aqueduct but tigerish at Monmouth; outrun in local races.
6	DON'T WAIT UP – Defeated quality field at Laurel after sharp local try; won 8 of 26 lifetime.

Race 8

4	STRASSE – Chronic poor starter but faces softest group of career following claim from this spot.
2	BIRTHDAY BOND ROB – Given necessary time off after voided claim again; dangerous if ready.
10	MENDELSFLY – Humbled by runaway winner in route but that conqueror far back twice since.
8	KHOPESH – Capable in past but not much recent months; early excuse in last and sheds weight.