



Craig Donnelly's

ANALY\$IS

@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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TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025 -- FIRST POST 11:35 A.M.

Best Bets: HAPPY DELUSIONAL (9th) – YOUNG SQUIRE (10th)

Race 1

- 3** MAGICAL ROAD – Good effort at loftier level this yardage local bow; shorter time between races.
- 2** CAUTELOSO – Humbled by capable newcomer and prior try encouraging; threat on best.
- 8** ROSSINGTON – Advanced behind runaway winner again; needs help with pace scenario.
- 5** MARINE PATROL – Humbled by smashing winners last pair and shown progress recently.

Race 2

- 4** STAY FUNNY – Rapid gelding failed to offer true measure on road trip; speedy and fits well here.
- 1** AARAJ – Battled throughout again and back at level of claim; often forms bottom of exacta.
- 9** CHINESEIAM – Flashes of ability with similar and must out it all together; hot rider in Adorno.
- 6** UNSWAYED – Weakened after dueling in finish dominated by stretch-runners; merits attention.

Race 3

- 8** DISTURBED – Overmatched after claim but survived bad start in prior score; ample early targets.
- 1** LIBERTY STAR – Stretch-runner drops notch and Flores-Coba barn heating up; tough veteran.
- 2** GUAPONESS – Claimed by Ness at Laurel and perfect in two local tries; handles various footing.
- 6** OLLIEMEISTER – Swept past mud rivals in decisive score; fired in five straight with cheaper.

Race 4

- 6** SIX WHIPS – Game gelding edged heavy favorite in slop and equally adept over fast footing.
- 3** JUSTINSPEIGHTOFIT – Defeated same rival as top choice as longshot and obvious threat again.
- 1** DARK TIMBER – Formidable at times and drops with speed inside; Ness stable 364 wins 2024.
- 2** JW'S THIRD MISCHIE – Disliked wet track as always after taking previous pair; still tough at 9.

Race 5

- 1** ERIN'S ENTHUSIASM – Romped in two of last three attempts and taking realistic next step.
- 3** JEZEBEL JADE – Changed barns again after very wide trip and should be flying late this level.
- 10** HALEIGH B – Led to late stages as odds-on chalk; drops peg and probable favorite for Ness.
- 2** MENDED WE STAND – Well behind smashing winner in second race after layoff; often claimed.

Race 6

- 4** DIVINE CHILD – Shipper finds ideal spot in first local appearance; overmatched since mdn romp.
- 2** HUMBLE JOE – Gained late again in capable company but lone victory from 29 outings.
- 8** HATMAKER GIZMO – Canadian shipper edged at Woodbine then sold privately; must consider.
- 7** STARLORD – Improved in narrow loss after steadying on turn; avoiding claiming tag.

Race 7

1	TATUM – Sidelined since summer but very quick, drops, and suited by yardage from inside post.
2	DATHOSS – Hard used dueling in second race following hiatus; Abrams stable clicked at 19%.
4	SLEIPNER – Faded against tougher after forcing pace; captured three of four prior attempts.
9	DANCE FOR GREEN – Penn National shipper racing cheapest ever and very capable in past.

Race 8

3	KATE'S GOLDEN DUDE – Ten-year-old with 17 victories plunges in third outing since return.
4	POWER AGENDA – Better in past but dueled to final furlong this level; won quarter of 28 races.
6	JEBOLOGIST – Faded in slop after series of good efforts; faces severe early pressure again.
10	NOTABLE BOB – Advanced behind easy winner in slop; competed in past on New York circuit.

Race 9

6	HAPPY DELUSIONAL – Stretch-runner with pair of solid route efforts; should overrun these.
4	REGALPAINS – Chased promising newcomer vs. state-breds in initial route try; main threat.
3	RIVER'S GAMBLE – Remote third in last and twice soundly defeated by top selection.
7	DAY OF DAYS – Humbled by impressive winner in return and gets Lasix; route might help.

Race 10

2	YOUNG SQUIRE – Hampered by bad start and wide trip when \$40,000 claim; prior try excellent.
5	BIG BOYS ANSWER – Strongest effort of career when trouncing “open” company in November.
4	COLD FEET – Rapid gelding idle three months but handles various surfaces and 6-for-13 career.
7	MEET ME AT MUNDIS – Late energy behind smashing Ness barn favorite this spot; loves to win.

Race 11

6	PONTIFFANY – Led to final furlong after hiatus and shorter time between races likely a plus.
9	BURNING EMBERS – Closer than odds predicted in mud and beat lesser in prior outing.
10	PRINCESS CUPID – Plunges despite defeated less than four lengths in last; comes out flying.
11	CHLOE ROSE – Soundly defeated twice on wet surfaces after firing on fast tracks; 9 victories.