



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 JANUARY 8, 2025 – FIRST POST 11:35 A.M.

Best Bets: NOISY ON THE BAY (9th) – FOUR EYES (11th)

Race 1

- 4** D DAY – Faced much tougher twice since arriving from Keeneland and early trouble in latest.
- 7** OMINOUS DUDE – Speedy gelding led to final yards in solid effort; key third outing since layoff.
- 5** PINE VALLEY – Chased series of runaway winners here and elsewhere recent months; fits well.
- 2** AVES MAKIN' WAVES – Likely to press pace and frequently hits board but making 28th attempt.

Race 2

- 6** ZOPPI FISCHBEIN – Realistic drop after overmatched much of last year; lively pace should help.
- 1** BOBBY'S CANDY – Absent four months but figures close this level; often forms bottom exacta.
- 8** JAKE BRAKE ALLEY – Edged this spot after wide trip when claimed in November; major threat.
- 5** TRACK OF MY TEARS – Led throughout last pair this distance and taking logical next step.

Race 3

- 6** BALANTYNE – Swept past two-time winners in 18-1 upset and could repeat with similar showing
- 1** LEVEL UP – Hard to like or dismiss drop after claimed again and romped here earlier; dangerous
- 2** BIG BEEMSTER – Driving score in muddy sprint and also handles route with leading rider up.
- 7** RUN CORY RUN – Frequently claimed but failed as 4-5 chalk this spot; captured prior pair.

Race 4

- 2** I CAN DO MAGIC – Weakened in route but likely better suited this yardage; met tigers previously
- 1** COMPA – Florida invader shown flashes of ability and fits nicely for new management.
- 4** BAD ADVICE – Absent again after finishing behind trio of next-out winners; threat if ready.
- 8** FULLY COMMITTED – Exits poor showing but fired four prior outings when heavily-backed.

Race 5

- 2** ROB THE RICH – Seen better days with 10 victories and hits bottom after Ness claim November.
- 9** ALMOND CIDER – Used up dueling rapid winner as major longshot; could prove hard to catch.
- 7** PARDSY – Faltered over sloppy surface after idle two months; shorter break appears plus.
- 3** WOOD BE WILD – Lightly raced but knows how to win with three victories last season.

Race 6

- 1** COJELO PA TI – Rapid colt with stamina woes but realistic drop and one to catch from inside.
- 7** MASTER OF TWEETS – Came up empty after chasing huge Ness favorite; threat adding Lasix.
- 3** MINE SEEKER – Fired both times sprinting in Canada and changed barns; merits attention.
- 5** OKIE DEN DEN – Dueled this far with routers and removes blinkers; encouraging debut outing.

Race 7

2	LADY ROBO – Plunges after dueling eventual winner to stretch in route; should like this yardage
7	JUMP A FOX – Rallied from last to first with strong rally in mud; needs help with pace scenario.
3	ROYAL UPSTART – Humbled by runaway Ness winner after hiatus; hit board five of last six.
10	SUNNY SIDE UP – Prone to slow starts and retreated after half mile last week; chance this level.

Race 8

8	ADELEKE – Bargain claim defeated colts and perfect since return; bargain claim one to catch.
1	DAZZY – Vied long way in Aqueduct mile and romped last local try; well-spotted with Sanchez.
2	MISS EASY – Chased frequent winner in local bow two months ago; success in Midwest.
5	MISSY SIXTYSIX – Numerous good efforts and just two lengths behind this level; upset shot.

Race 9

3	NOISY ON THE BAY – Crushed slightly easier this yardage last month and stakes-placed in 2023
4	RACEY RUBY – Pursued repeat winner after taking prior two outings; effective on front end.
7	LOST LOVE – Pushed heavy favorite to limit when claimed again; continues to give her best.
6	SNOW LAKE – Good form in past but last couple discouraging; entered with tag this time.

Race 10

1	WHISKEYROMEOSIERRA – Rapid gelding shown determination; one to catch first stamina test.
3	AWESOME FLAY – Finished ahead of top choice despite wide trip; double-digit Delaware score.
6	IT'S GAME TIME – Nine-year-old with amazing 18 victories failed to offer true measure in slop.
5	MO REWARDS – Road warrior close up in blanket finish at Aqueduct after prevailing locally.

Race 11

11	FOUR EYES – Impressive double-digit score with blinkers back on; takes aggressive next step.
2	REMARKABLE MO – Adjusted nicely to sprint in decisive maiden score; Padilla barn at 24%.
3	STRASSE – Hard used dueling as favorite in longer event after claim; frequent slow starts in past
8	BIRTHDAY BOND ROB – May have needed first outing since September and fits with this kind.