



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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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:05 P.M.

Best Bets: SAVE A PRAYER (5th) -- YO YO CANDY (9th)

Race 1

- 7** BOBBY THE TANK – Hard used pressing eventual winner when claimed again; Adorno hot jock
- 4** FINANCIAL STRENGTH – Fired twice this spot since hiatus and finished ahead of top choice.
- 6** SCAMP WALKER – Advanced behind drop-down winner last week; needs to put pair together.
- 3** GOOD REUNION – New Yorker drops switching to Pino barn and can't dismiss with this kind.

Race 2

- 1** MIKEY'S SONG – Aggressive drop from inside post and retains Lopez while adding blinkers.
- 3** EMILY'S ON FIRE – Signs of interest last pair and making key third outing since layoff.
- 2** LOVE LIKE CRAZY – Led to final yards in route and also adept sprinting; merits attention.
- 5** BE MY QUEEN – Trounced soft maidens in confidence booster after claim; logical next step.

Race 3

- 1** CLASSY MISS – Prominent throughout this spot and conqueror scored again last Wednesday.
- 6** BEYOND A MILLION – Sufficient ability but sidelined since summer and might need this.
- 5** TOMARIE – Veteran capable in past but finished behind top pick last pair; \$415,626 in bank.
- 2** KATIE GOT LUCKY – Far back since shipping from Kentucky but must respect Ness runners.

Race 4

- 5** AMATERASU – Game mare re-claimed by Padilla barn where she achieved success in past.
- 6** PEACH PERFECT – Keeps firing and another frequently claimed; closing kick anticipated.
- 1** SOLEMN OATH – Nine-time winner proven she fits with this kind and taking logical next step.
- 7** HELEONORTIZ – Poor showing despite heavy backing but contested fractions would help.

Race 5

- 5** SAVE A PRAYER – Pulled away impressively when adding Lasix and avoids claim tag this time.
- 7** OKIE DEN DEN – Shocked classy group of maidens at 20-1; major threat with similar showing.
- 4** FRIDAYSWITHMURRAY – Overmatched in route but fits with this kind at suitable yardage.
- 3** SON OF THOR – Trounced easier in December when competing in claimer first time.

Race 6

- 1** DIVINE MIRACLE – Veteran with tremendous heart and ability; draws inside and well-spotted.
- 7** AULA – Rediscovered ability with double-digit romp in second race after layoff; threat again.
- 6** AFRAIDOFTHEBUNNY – Captured three of last four races elsewhere in front-running style.
- 4** EPIC LUCK – Claimed by Wyner barn two weeks ago and runs big race on occasion; upset shot.

Race 7

7	HI HEELED WARRIOR – Led routers nearly this far and should adjust to sprint; leading rider up.
4	BURNING EMBERS – Latest discouraging but capable at times; merits attention with Lopez up.
5	BAHAMA PEARL – Shelved since September and sheds 10 pounds for return; one-for-14 here.
3	GAVICHI – Hampered by poor start in latest and boasts 8 local scores over several years.

Race 8

4	CENTRAL CASTING – Prone to early trouble but ran into tiger at Aqueduct; worked locally.
7	LITTLE COCOA BEAN – Easily second best behind favored winner; lone poor try on wet track.
5	TALIESIN – Walloped bulky field when Nelson Solis took for \$25,000; may continue progress.
6	DOUBLE AIRO – Used up dueling when outrun by top pick in New York; beaten chalk in stake.

Race 9

3	YO YO CANDY – Chased streaking winner in solid effort; trounced rivals here in October.
2	PRINCE COLTON – Pursued eventual winner in route and often forms bottom of exacta.
4	MR SANDMAN – Ran into tiger in latest and on long losing streak; often hits the board.
9	KEITHSENDSHELLOOOO – Far behind when claimed by Ness after hiatus; late kick at times.

Race 10

8	I DON'T SEE COLORS – Difficult to like or dismiss plunge after facing classy opposition.
10	JW'STRICKYMISCHIEF – Rapid 10-year-old overmatched in December; adds to lively fractions.
5	DATHOSS – Returns from Laurel and fired this spot locally last month; romped for Lopez July.
7	NOBLE GASTON – Absentee takes significant drop and dangerous if ready for leading barn.