



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, FEBRUARY 18, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:05 P.M.

Best Bets: BRILLIANT DISGUISE (7th) – GET SET (9th)

Race 1

- 9** SMALLSCHOOL WONDER – Flashed speed vs. quality opposition in sloppy debut, can progress.
- 10** AU SOME WARRIOR – Beaten favorite this level in good effort; key threat despite ninth attempt.
- 8** SUNNY MAGIC – Improved with Lasix against runaway winner; flashes of talent earlier in Ky.
- 2** MINE SEEKER – Proven he fits with this kind since arriving from Canada; likely gaining late.

Race 2

- 7** HOTPOT – Hampered by poor start last week after prevailing this yardage in prior attempt.
- 5** WIZARD SERRAT – Possibility if disregard last and more effectively lately sprinting.
- 6** EDDIEMUSH – Hits bottom again after chasing smashing winner; should be gaining late.
- 2** SAILOR'S RETURN – Faded with wide trip after just missing in prior outing as longshot.

Race 3

- 6** MAGICAL ROAD – Weakened late as heavy favorite in sprint after chasing runaway route winner.
- 5** ROSSINGTON – Gained late when finishing just ahead of top pick; soft opposition again.
- 1** NIMMO- Fair showing as 7-5 chalk with similar and deserves attention with Lopez aboard.
- 3** HUNDRED PROOF – Major step forward when trying blinkers and racing into shape again.

Race 4

- 4** MAKEMYDAYCHARLIE – Roughed early this spot when making first outing in seven months.
- 7** FULLY COMMITTED – Flashes of ability with similar and tests stamina again in 13th try.
- 3** MUCHO MAGNIFICO – Bumped at start this level after arriving from Canada; late kick likely.
- 2** UNAFFECTED – Offered little during career elsewhere and outrun on turf and main track.

Race 5

- 1** MATZOBALL MUHAMMET – Hard used pressing pace with better in return; wires from inside.
- 3** BOTTLES – Shelved since poor showing in October; gelded since, plunges, and gets Lasix.
- 7** LOVEMEAKAREN – Drops again after remote fourth in compact field; adding blinkers.
- 5** CHILLING TIME – One decent try earlier as longshot and gets Lasix; needs to improve.

Race 6

- 1** UTILITY – Drops notch and re-claimed earlier by Lupe Guerrero barn; draws inside with Lopez.
- 5** PONTIAC – Finished ahead of top choice as longshot and possibility despite losing streak.
- 2** STRASSE – Chronic slow starter absent couple months with numerous losses at short odds.
- 3** HEAVY TIMBER – Sharper in last but always chance with this kind; lone victory on turf.

Race 7

8	BRILLIANT DISGUISE – Hampered by poor start and traffic trouble on turn in encouraging debut.
1	DADOO – Eased after eventful trip sprinting; prior conqueror prevailed recently in New York.
7	SHADY NIGHTS – Narrowed gaps in Kentucky routes and claimed for \$50,000; Lasix, blinkers.
9	SMARTY’S LOVE – Rallied behind smashing winner after slow start in bow; avoiding tag.

Race 8

2	ICONIC LEGACY – Determined score in latest and seeks third in row with 9-for-32 career mark.
6	NORMANDY HERO – Speed to shake loose early but trailed only local attempt in November.
3	GUN COLLECTOR – Outrun in quality field and switches to Padilla barn; some progress likely.
5	CAPITAL CONQUEST – Victim of stumbling start in latest and on 11-race losing skid.

Race 9

3	GET SET – Ran into tiger when easily second best this spot; similar effort appears sufficient.
1	PRINCE OF RAIN - Probably needed first race in year when outrun by top pick; fires at price.
2	YOUNG SQUIRE – Prone to excuses and difficult trip behind top duo; big race on occasion.
7	MAGICNTHEMOONLIGHT – Led under pressure then weakened late after shelved three months.

Race 10

1	WE BE THERE – Easily second best behind loose pacesetter after layoff; progress anticipated.
3	MAKABIM – Hampered by traffic woes and drops within same claiming tag; capable in past
2	BERKS – Formidable in past and plunges in just third outing since March; 11-for-30 lifetime.
8	PIT BOSS – Far behind from extreme outside post after re-claimed by Arce barn; can’t dismiss.