



# CRAIG DONNELLY'S ANALYSIS @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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Best Bets: POPPY'S PRIDE (6<sup>th</sup>) – TAVIN (7<sup>th</sup>)

### Race 1

- 7** ROAD TO DREAMS – Ran into tigrress at loftier level and might overcome pressure for new barn.
- 4** DENALI RAE – Good effort in first try with this kind; third race since hiatus, often bottom exacta.
- 8** LEVIOSA – Absent nearly three months but much success locally and seeking 11<sup>th</sup> career score.
- 5** BETWEEN DREAMS – Prominent throughout with similar and less than length behind at Penn.

### Race 2

- 5** HARDY CHOICE – Easily second best to huge favorite this spot after layoff; progress anticipated
- 4** CLANCY O'TOOLE – Romped twice earlier and drops after claim by 40% Pino stable; dangerous.
- 7** BIG JOHN – Slow fuse but rallied behind decisive winner this spot; slow pace would hamper bid.
- 6** BATTER UP BUD – Far behind since return but can't dismiss with this kind taking plunge.

### Race 3

- 4** IT'S AUTHENTIC – Turfway shippers excelling locally and competes first time gelding for Krebs.
- 6** CARNABY – Roughed early then chased smashing winner which stepped up and repeated.
- 7** SUNNY MAGIC – Steadied retreating top of stretch this level two weeks ago; figures close.
- 2** JUST CHEESY – Overmatched in New York after facing tough local rivals; aggressive drop.

### Race 4

- 2** BOBBY'S CANDY – Capable in past and stable 30% off claim; sufficient early targets a plus.
- 3** PARKERNESS – Significant drop in first race of season; very difficult to catch if ready.
- 7** AARAJ – Dueled and continued gamely on wet surface and Irving Rodriguez barn heating up.
- 6** FINANCIAL STRENGTH – Often hits board with similar but winless long time; barn on a roll.

### Race 5

- 1** HI HEELED WARRIOR – Strong move to front in easy score and should handle logical next step.
- 8** MORE RANSOM- Battled better last week after Padilla claim and serious threat at this level.
- 3** TIZ RACE DAY – Difficult to like or ignore plunge after far behind last three; formidable on best.
- 2** SOLEMN OATH – Both victories recent months with Lopez aboard; weakened on deep surface.

### Race 6

- 4** POPPY'S PRIDE – Hard used setting pace in classier company; prior outing also encouraging.
- 9** THE JUDGE AND JURY – Dueled this far at Aqueduct and shown ability to rally from off pace.
- 8** MAC DADDY TOO – Gained behind loose pacesetter this level and Ramirez stable continues hot.
- 1** ROAN BURGUNDY – Disappointing try after slow break; frequently claimed and must consider.

**Race 7**

<b>5</b>	TAVIN – Pressed eventual winner throughout in route and also adept sprinting; late kick likely.
<b>8</b>	TEMPEST RISING – Gained late in another good effort this level and likely favorable set-up.
<b>3</b>	GOLDEN MOONLIGHT – Stopped abruptly and trailed as 2-5 chalk but must respect Ness runner
<b>9</b>	TRUE PHENOMENON – Soundly beaten three races this season but drops and capable in past.

**Race 8**

<b>8</b>	ALCHEMISM – Exits another solid try sprinting and adding Lasix; impressed early in career.
<b>7</b>	COJELO PA TI – Rapid colt defeated top choice and seeks fourth straight as obvious threat.
<b>5</b>	FRIDAY SURPRISE – Maiden sidelined since good efforts at Saratoga; edged here in sharp bow.
<b>2</b>	SON OF THOR – Determined score after Pino claim but likely tested against this kind.

**Race 9**

<b>5</b>	ELOQUIST – Runner-up to talented winners last pair and back for tag; re-claimed earlier by Ness.
<b>1</b>	POINT DUME – Led throughout with slightly lesser in wet track sprint; also from Ness stable.
<b>6</b>	IN SPADES – Finished just behind top pick and nearly always gives his best for winning barn.
<b>7</b>	BERNIE'S MITTS – Speedy gelding victim of early trouble at Laurel; pacesetter in first route try.

**Race 10**

<b>8</b>	FREE FOLK – Closed with rush as longshot in second race after layoff; extra sixteenth of mile.
<b>9</b>	BORRACHO CONCHO – Weakened late after constant pressure as favorite; lures Lopez again.
<b>11</b>	CHECKING BOXES – Bit erratic and lone score from 21 attempts but figures close with best try.
<b>1</b>	STOUTHEARTED – Speedy gelding faltered despite clear early lead; trounced maiden previously