



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, MAY 5, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: JAKE BRAKE ALLEY (7th) – BUCCHERINO (8th)

Race 1

- 3** MOON FLEET – Responded well to plunge and drops again; Mosco stable clicking at 20%.
- 6** WILD GIRL – Competing much better than odds suggest lately and chased big favorite this spot.
- 7** SISTER EVE – Signs of life lately but finished behind second pick and must put it all together.
- 8** FLAG SONG FLYIN – Close up in tight finish and roughed early in prior defeat; hard to guess.

Race 2

- 5** PROBATIONER – Overmatched in Turfway finale after taking prior pair; switches to Pino stable.
- 6** PLANET – Led long way when overmatched in route but likely better suited this distance.
- 7** JUST BE HONEST – Set up nicely for this yardage with good route effort vs. winning favorite.
- 1** WHOOSH – Stretch-runner re-claimed soon as possible by Tzortzakis barn; just one-for-30.

Race 3

- 6** BETWEEN DREAMS – Held on determinedly against stretch-runner and capable of repeating.
- 1** ERIN'S ENTHUSIASM – Victim of traffic problems in last; numerous chances at this level.
- 5** PRINCESS CUPID – Lacked usual zip in bulky field at Penn and shorter yardage in her favor.
- 2** POPTHECHAMPAGNE RO – Sufficient heart and ability but making first start since December.

Race 4

- 2** MENDED WE STAND – Better than anticipated at much loftier level and sharp two prior outings.
- 3** SUE ELLEN MISHKIN – Speedy filly weakened as odds-on chalk; aggressive drop for top barn.
- 4** DIVINE ROMANCE – Humbled by runaway winner after claim by hot Soto-Martinez stable.
- 1** GOLDIENESS – Clear throughout in softer company and should contribute to contested pace.

Race 5

- 6** OKIE DEN DEN – Several good efforts this spot and cures seconditis in softer version with Paco.
- 5** DR. LOU – Disliked wet footing as always but fired last two attempt on fast tracks; Pino claimed.
- 3** LIGHTNING BOSS – Drops and yet another likely aided by dry surface; initial sprint attempt.
- 2** MARCHIN INTO APRIL – Overmatched after claim but could regain closing kick with this kind.

Race 6

- 1** BOOM BOOM KABOOM – Faltered from extremely outside post in large field; might wire inside.
- 3** SUPER CONSTITUTION – Upset even lesser at Penn when trying blinkers; yet to fire locally.
- 2** JEBOLOGIST – Showed speed this far in route and capable with better during winter.
- 6** MIDNIGHT GETAWAY – Retreated in better field after layoff but much progress necessary.

Race 7

1	JAKE BRAKE ALLEY – Hard used dueling with vastly quicker group; prior effort encouraging.
7	WHAT A BLAST – Finally broke alertly and dueled to final stages when claimed by hot stable.
10	SAM WHEAT – Hampered by early roughing and drops again but sharper several months ago.
8	SOPHIA'S PRINCE – Speedy gelding failed with clear lead but shown ability to rally from behind.

Race 8

3	BUCCHERINO – Shelved since powerful effort in Grade 2 Gallant Bob; rapid works for return.
4	SPIKEZONE – Terrific gelding captured 11 races last year and edged last pair; obvious danger.
6	DEBIT CARD – Improved lately as longshot and racing into peak form; favorable pace set-up.
2	VEESON – Rare poor showing after hiatus but often very determined with finishing kick.

Race 9

1	HARP'S HOT CORNER – Captured seven of last eight outings and testing stamina first time.
7	BIG BOY'S ANSWER – Game and versatile gelding with only recent loss due to stumbling start.
2	DEPOSITION – Vied to mid-stretch on Laurel turf; nearly won this spot locally last month.
4	ARROW SPEED – Prevailed in longer test at Laurel after poor local showing; perfect with Lopez.

Race 10

7	BULLET BREEZE – Battled throughout this level in longer test after decisive score prior outing.
9	AARAJ – Stablemate of top choice nearly always fires and “bug” rider Gonzalez hot last week.
6	THE GRAYT PUMPKIN – Improved speed and effort in seemingly softer version of this spot.
3	BORRACHO CONCHO – Weakened under pressure as odds-on chalk but romped in prior try.