



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, MAY 6, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: **ROCK ME GENTLY (4th) – OPTIC WAY (7th)**

Race 1

- 4** TWENTYEIGHTTOTHREE – Improved last pair in better company; ends losing streak this spot.
- 8** PATRIARCHAL – Drops and returns to sprint in possibly softest spot of career; main threat.
- 5** RYAN'S FLEET – Stopped abruptly after early roughing and takes plunge; prior try encouraging.
- 1** PONTIAC – Dominated single-winners when Smylie barn re-claimed; retains Hernandez.

Race 2

- 6** FAST MULE – Chased heavy favorite this spot and should handle soft opposition for Guerrero.
- 7** SIRENETTA – Remote fourth in better company and fired this level in prior try as longshot.
- 5** DOROTHY'S THE BOSS – Unruly prior to runner-up with three-time winners; merits attention.
- 1** ANNA ROCKS – Soundly outrun by top choice and best showing when reached front early.

Race 3

- 3** AWESOME FOR SURE – Decisive score as 4-5 chalk last week; repeats with logical next step.
- 2** WIZARD SERRAT – Slow fuse but finished well again; lack of pure-front-runner an obstacle.
- 5** HOTPOT – Possibility if throw out latest; Rosado stable clicking at 20% as possibility.
- 1** NIFTY – Good earlier and switches back to “beaten” company; draws favorably inside.

Race 4

- 3** ROCK ME GENTLY – Firing every time and recent runner-up this spot; won prior pair easily.
- 1** APOLLONIA VITELLI – Crushed slightly easier and likely stalking trip from inside again.
- 5** MELODY'S KISS – Trailed early when finishing behind top choice; overmatched prior outing.
- 2** LADY ANNABELLE – Hampered by traffic problems when closer than anticipated after claim.

Race 5

- 4** ADDYSON'S DREAM – Drew clear after dueling then caught late in solid effort; top rider aboard.
- 5** MATZOBALL MUHAMMET – Sharp effort in slop and second finisher next defeated top choice.
- 6** CURIOUS SOUL – Absent couple months after solid try this level; tends to weaken late stages.
- 1** SMOKEY PLACES – Dueled long way despite early excuses when claimed; first time gelding.

Race 6

- 5** OLD HEAD – Game mare exits solid effort and formed part of exacta in 15 of 28 attempts.
- 6** BRIGHT KOHANA – Speedy filly trounced easier when claimed again; seeking third straight.
- 7** WAITWAITDONTTELLME – Edged away after dueling two weeks ago; Soto-Martinez barn hot.
- 2** SNOW LAKE – Late rally in shorter test and outrun by top pick before; needs aid of pace set-up.

Race 7

1	OPTIC WAY – Used up dueling in solid field on road trip; ample success over this track.
2	MARTY’S MAGIC – Handled raise and constant pressure after shipping from Turfway; dangerous
7	GROUP TICKET – Traffic trouble near top of stretch at Laurel; sharp this spot locally in winter.
8	HOKU – Overmatched in muddy return at Aqueduct; likely gaining late for 31% Abrams barn.

Race 8

1	JUST CALL RAY – Battled classy rivals on road trip and chance to control fractions from rail.
6	ELOQUIST – Numerous good efforts with similar but winless nearly year; also from Ness barn.
4	EAGLES CRY – Good effort behind dominating favorite but lost all 15 outings over this track.
5	PRAETORIAN GUARD – Formidable in past but winless two years; can’t dismiss in solid field.

Race 9

2	SHETALKSTOMUCH – Powerful wide rally after trailing early last week; sufficient early targets.
3	EDGE OF TOWN – Crushed easier in local debut when claimed for \$25,000; appears peak form.
5	MARY Q – Remote third after awkward break and all four victories achieved here; figures close.
1	DANCING ON MY OWN – Dueled this far with routers despite long absence; rare sprint attempt.

Race 10

8	BAILOUT BILLY – Very quick filly just failed to last and might continue progress with Lopez up.
2	DADOO – Rallied behind winning stablemate when trying blinkers; began career with promise.
6	LEILAUNI SUE – Displayed speed since adding blinkers at tough Oaklawn meet; new stable.
1	FROSTED LACE – Improved with Lasix despite very wide journey after layoff; late kick likely.