



Craig Donnelly's

ANALY\$IS

@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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MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: FIFTH OF MAY (1st) – REAL BLUES (3rd)

Race 1

- 2** FIFTH OF MAY – Dueled this far in Churchill route and possibly better suited this distance.
- 8** AMELIORATE – Nearly scored after year's absence despite clipping heels early on muddy track.
- 5** HOPEFORGREATNESS – Faded after layoff on road trip but back home; speed to pose threat.
- 3** RAVENITE – Good effort at Monmouth after edged locally in return; lures Lopez for Brown barn.

Race 2

- 5** ZOPPI FISCHBEIN – Easily second best this spot and Pino stable 34% off claim; overruns these.
- 3** SHEER DOMINANCE – Distant third when overmatched but strong closing kick in prior victory.
- 6** FLUFF THE PILLOW – Trounced single-winners at Laurel taking drop; shorter time this outing.
- 4** DOS DE OROS – Fair showing in slightly softer field when Gallimore took; merits attention.

Race 3

- 3** REAL BLUES – Several sharp races at tough Oaklawn meet and \$25,000 claim moves to top barn
- 4** WE MISS NEIL – Flashes of interest in 11 attempts and back for tag; must put it all together.
- 5** ARCH COMPETITOR – Dueled to final furlong in route despite layoff; fitter now sprinting.
- 2** REDOUBTABLERIPKEN – Distant third in compact field in return; gets Lasix as possibility.

Race 4

- 6** JADON'S HONOR – Set fractions and held on determinedly first route try; competitive group.
- 2** JACKSON'S LEGACY – Fired all three outings with steady progress; Ramirez barn 23% 2025.
- 1** GRAN YACO – Frequently close on dirt and turf in Florida; absent couple months and one-for-16.
- 5** NEVER SAY NEVER – Humbled by stablemate after arriving from Gulfstream; fits nicely.

Race 5

- 6** FAST BOB – Veteran stretch-runner in too deep at Penn; showed late punch here after hiatus.
- 4** AHSAD – Drops as threat in 98th career start and good form with Ruiz aboard in past.
- 8** CRYPT – Exploded past pacesetters one week ago and threat taking realistic next step.
- 1** WE READY – Often close with late energy and claimed by Pino; works out inside rally.

Race 6

- 8** GINGERSAYSCHILL – Nearly ran down huge favorite in Penn mud; good late punch locally.
- 4** INSTANT VISION – Improving filly second best to formidable rival two weeks ago; dangerous.
- 2** GOLD STAMP – Battled throughout in Jersey and also sharp at Tampa; speedy threat with Paco.
- 1** BAILOUT BILLY – Very quick filly drifted wide nearing stretch and stamina issues persist.

Race 7

6	TAP IN FORMATION – Drops below level of claim after dueling heavily-favored winner; can wire.
2	JUSTINSPEIGHTOFIT – Faced tougher last pair at Monmouth and 10-year-old often excels locally
4	PARDSY – Humbled by top choice this spot but just missed previously with Sanchez aboard.
1	JEBOLOGIST – Failed to offer true measure again on wet surface after taking two prior outings.

Race 8

1	DIVINE GRACE – Used up after slow start in slop but drops and won 5 of 9 local attempts.
8	EXPECT TO BE READY – Veteran mare raced sparingly but loves to win; outside stalking trip.
6	LEFTOVER SUSHI – Speedy filly with excellent local record stretching out again as danger.
3	HALEIGH B -- Trounced easier recently when Diaz claimed; 8-for-24 career mark encouraging.

Race 9

3	YOUBETTERBEJOKING – Hard used early with better after hiatus; enough left to handle these.
1	MR. HUSTLE – Drops after Padilla claim and threat this level; long losing streak but fits well.
5	SAILOR'S RETURN – Under constant pressure when runner-up this spot; can rate if necessary.
7	ARTISTIC REASON – Far from his best lately; gets Lopez and can't dismiss yet with this kind.