



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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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: SMILE MAKER (7th) – OTTER MISCHIEF (9th)

Race 1

- 4** PROBLEMS ABOUND – Sidelined since October but ability edge and able to avoid claiming tag.
- 7** ON PARADISE HILL – Rushed to contention after poor start; pair of decisive scores earlier.
- 6** BOSSY KATE – Failed to fire on muddy footing and turf but good earlier and drops again.
- 2** PERMED – Battled favored winner after hiatus in local bow; both victories achieved on turf.

Race 2

- 1** JUST CHEESY – Signs of progress with similar and draws inside with Lopez; narrow edge.
- 6** SUNNY MAGIC – Finished ahead of top choice but numerous losses at short odds in 12 losses.
- 3** WRAP AND SEND – Not much elsewhere but drops returning to dirt; merits some attention.
- 5** IT'S AUTHENTIC – Last couple discouraging and claimed earlier at Turfway; must improve.

Race 3

- 6** ADDYSON'S DREAM – Hit board 13 times but still maiden after 19 tries; competes cheapest ever.
- 2** PEACE CRUSADER – Edged in blanket finish at Monmouth; removes blinkers as key threat.
- 5** BIG DOSSER – Hinting at progress lately but soundly outrun by top choice; likely gaining late.
- 4** CELESTIAL DARK – Discovered ability as longshot in softer field at this distance.

Race 4

- 5** MENED WE STAND – Prominent throughout last after Pino claim; edge in competitive field.
- 4** CREATIVE COPY – Game mare won and claimed again when outrunning top pick; retains “bug.”
- 3** ROLLS ROYCE JOYCE – Romped twice since taken by hot Arce barn; obvious danger again.
- 1** EVERLYS GIRL – Moderate success in New York and new management puts blinkers back on.

Race 5

- 1** BOTTLES – Drops after no match for smashing Ness barn winner; impressive scores earlier.
- 6** COACH KNIGHT – Fair showing in mud but series of good efforts in past; fast track might help.
- 4** RILEY'S ROCKSTAR – Closer than odds predicted lately and finished just ahead of top choice.
- 5** RIVER'S GAMBLE – Fired this spot and overmatched previously; already shown route prowess.

Race 6

- 4** AVATAL HERO – Caught late by stretch-runner at Delaware; capable of controlling fractions.
- 6** BUNNY BONUS – Claimed from last three outings and four victories last year as possibility.
- 1** TOMARIE – Dueled long way with similar and 9-year-old mare with 13 victories, all locally.
- 5** MISS CHAMITA – Gained late this spot behind easy winner; good form here last season.

Race 7

2	SMILE MAKER – Shelved since encouraging debut racing greenly in August; fast work and Lasix
5	CHILLING ZENSATION – Finished strongly to newcomer after troubled trip in debut.
3	MR PUNCTUALITY – Brisk works over track and stablemate of top pick; dam retired maiden.
1	UP THE KINGDOM – Half-brother to formidable Bump N Run makes debut for Shaw stable.

Race 8

7	AU SOME WARRIOR – Dueled to final furlong in seemingly tougher version last week; can wire.
1	COLONEL BOB – Far behind in slop and turf; drops but yet to duplicate debut showing.
3	DR. LOU – Absent over two months since \$20,000 claim when disliking wet footing as usual.
5	SCUDETTO – Used up forcing pace in route when adding Lasix; better suited this distance.

Race 9

4	OTTER MISCHIEF – Signs of talent and speed on turf and synthetic at Gulfstream; fast dirt work.
3	MARVELOUS MO – Good effort behind runaway winner in slop return when first time Lasix.
1	COOL MILLION – Roughed early in “key” race vs. open company; sidelined since February.
2	CAPTAIN FANCY – Eventful trip as favorite after arriving from Keeneland; needs alert break.