



# 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, JULY 2, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.**

**Best Bets: PEAK OF CHIC (3<sup>rd</sup>) – WRAP AND SEND (6<sup>th</sup>)**

#### Race 1

- 4** MCKIRGAN – Soundly defeated lately but takes significant drop and should be gaining late.
- 2** MARCHIN INTO APRIL – Overmatched recent races; returns to amount of claim; Arce barn 19%.
- 9** COACH KNIGHT – Retreated on wet footing again but drops and fast track might aid chances.
- 7** JUST BE HONEST – Distant third at Monmouth after closed gap locally; Ramirez clicks at 22%.

#### Race 2

- 5** MISTER LINCOLN – Game gelding came again in narrow loss; won three of prior four outings.
- 1** CALIFORNIA TIGER – Back sprinting and switches to Ness barn after \$40,000 claim at Oaklawn.
- 4** RUNYONESQUE – Competing better than odds predict and just over length behind top choice.
- 7** ACTION HERO – Ran down pair of favorites with good trip; needs help with pace scenario.

#### Race 3

- 1** PEAK OF CHIC – Victim of early problems at Delaware and terrific 8-for-19 local record.
- 4** CHICKIENESS – Speedy mare obvious threat but hampered by stamina woes.
- 6** THEGODDESSOFSNAKES – Exits good effort in route when Ness claimed; often hits board.
- 3** JUMP A FOX – Much-improved stretch-running mare; several scores with Castillo aboard.

#### Race 4

- 7** ROYAL UPSTART – Walloped single-winners on wet surface and chased streaking winner prior.
- 2** DISCO FLASH – Absentee very quick and suited by yardage after layoff; won twice for Martinez.
- 3** ONE OF THE ONES – Flashes of interest going short and long; chance if puts it all together.
- 1** SISTER EVE – Lone poor recent showing on muddy surface and could work out inside rally.

#### Race 5

- 2** SPERRY CHALET – Hard used early at top maiden level after arriving from Ky.; progress likely.
- 3** DON'T POST IT – Beaten favorite in mud after chasing runaway winner previously; main threat.
- 4** HURRICANE JANE – Disliked wet footing but prior try encouraging; makes presence felt early.
- 5** MIA COUNTING – Chased heavy favorite this spot in possible best yet; upset possibility.

#### Race 6

- 6** WRAP AND SEND – Exploded past lesser first local attempt; handles raise with similar showing.
- 5** WICKED MELODY – Second best at tough Churchill meet recently and moves to Padilla barn.
- 7** BOYS OF SUMMER – Nearly lasted despite slow start when claimed from this spot by Guerrero.
- 3** SCUDETTO – Signs of ability recent outings but some improvement necessary; entered with tag.

#### Race 7

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| <b>4</b> | SIRCHARLYBROWN – Determined effort in narrow defeat; shorter time between starts a plus.     |
| <b>1</b> | SON OF THOR – Perfect in four starts since Pino claim and probable favorite again from rail. |
| <b>7</b> | COJELO PA TI – Failed to offer true measure on road trip; humbled by second pick earlier.    |
| <b>6</b> | ALCHEMISM – Impressed in past but outrun with similar lately; would prefer wet surface.      |

#### Race 8

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| <b>3</b> | PACHELBEL – Powerful and versatile stretch-runner stretching out again in peak form.           |
| <b>6</b> | WARRIOR'S RANSOM – Exits solid effort at Aqueduct; one-for-16 elsewhere but 4-for-13 here.     |
| <b>4</b> | DOCTOR ABBIE – Last pair discouraging but 10-time winner formidable on best; in for \$50,000.  |
| <b>2</b> | GIRVINIZED – Crushed easier to end losing skid after trailing early and often shows early zip. |

#### Race 9

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| <b>2</b> | OURDAYDREAMINGGIRL – Narrowed gap despite troubled trips in stakes; adds Lasix for return.     |
| <b>8</b> | ANGEL OF HOPE – Strong maiden victory in first start of season; extra furlong not an obstacle. |
| <b>7</b> | POLECAT – Sidelined since route setback in October; impressive maiden romp locally and Lasix   |
| <b>1</b> | DELICATE – Couple decisive scores this yardage since Keeneland claim; tested with this kind.   |

#### Race 10

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| <b>5</b>  | FINANCIAL STRENGTH – Absent since losing rider in April; often close, can end losing skid.    |
| <b>11</b> | PONTIAC – No match to pair of smashing winners after Smylie re-claimed; dangerous this level. |
| <b>3</b>  | MYSTIC LUTE – Shelved since voided claim for more than twice this tag at Tampa; must guess.   |
| <b>8</b>  | JIGGERY POKERY – Led throughout at Penn after competing well locally following hiatus.        |