



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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THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: VALENZAN DAY (8th) – DUKE OF GLOUCESTER (9th)

Race 1

- 5** L GOLDEN BOY – Making steady progress and third outing since hiatus; very competitive field.
- 4** MARVELOUS MO – Speedy gelding just missed in sprint and tries route first time as threat.
- 1** TRULLI WARRIOR – Rallied well with similar and continues to improve after long absence.
- 8** VIX – Sharp as longshot earlier in month at Ellis Park; moves to Solis barn for stamina test.

Race 2

- 4** COCOA'S VIXEN – Chased streaking winner in another good effort; should handle extra furlong.
- 2** BURNER ACCOUNT – Set pace before humbled by runaway winner in return; won March stake.
- 7** HOW SWEET SHE IS – Fired both local attempts and finished ahead of second pick this spot.
- 6** DELICATE – Clear early then weakened in mud this yardage; pair of impressive scores before.

Race 3

- 6** TO BE LOVED BY YOU – Dueled long way with tougher in routes; competing cheapest ever.
- 3** JODY'S RUBY – Plunges back on main track in third race since hiatus; more yardage obstacle.
- 5** ALYVIA'S GIRL – Might hold ability advantage but idle over four months and major drop.
- 1** TWIST HER – Far behind lately but recent \$16,000 claim entered with \$7,500 tag; top stable.

Race 4

- 2** MALIBU STAR – Gained late behind repeat winner despite stumbling start; closer to pace here.
- 5** LOVE ME NOT – Claimed by Ness for \$20,000 and idle couple months; most success on grass.
- 4** EXPENSIVE CUT – Edged in Oaklawn finale and switches to Mosco barn; on rare losing skid.
- 3** CAPITAL CONQUEST – Soundly beaten at Colonial and winless long time but likely gaining late.

Race 5

- 6** MR. BOGAN – Used up dueling classier in route and well-spotted; back in sprint with Sanchez up
- 7** JADON'S HONOR – Retreated with quicker group on muddy surface but prior race very strong.
- 1** WYATT HUNTER – Trained badly when overmatched; showed speed and determination in bow.
- 3** EL MEDIAONOCHE – Captured four of last five outings in game style and figures close again.

Race 6

- 1** PACHELBEL – Game and versatile mare keeps firing and exits big effort in classy field last week
- 5** JUMP A FOX – Much-improved stretch-runner lacked best kick behind top pick but upset chance
- 6** AMBITIOUSLY PLACED – Terrific 15-for-35 over this course but last discouraging; best required.
- 2** SNAPPY RIDE – Often closer than odds predict and developed nicely in hot Lupe Guerrero barn.

Race 7

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| 8 | VEKOMA'S WAR – Flashes of ability in Florida and from hot barn; Preciado shippers excelling. |
| 4 | MARILYN M – Battled heavily-backed newcomer to final furlong in return when adding blinkers. |
| 1 | MISCHIEVOUS TWINS – Well-bred filly far back twice as juvenile but flying in works for return. |
| 5 | SILENT WRATH – Sire won only four of 33 attempts but \$70,000 purchase flying in mornings. |

Race 8

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| 4 | VALENZAN DAY – Ran into tiger when easily second best returning for local bow; 10-for-25 mark |
| 3 | MARTY'S MAGIC – Dueled to final yards in solid effort and scored this level before; figures close |
| 1 | DREAMING OF GERRY – Drifted very wide on turn then re-bid behind top selection. |
| 6 | GREENER PASTURES – Formidable during winter but not at his best lately; can't dismiss yet. |

Race 9

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| 6 | DUKE OF GLOUCESTER – Pulled away with energy in reserve and Moore re-claimed for \$40k. |
| 1 | SMOOTH FLYIN MIKE – Failed to give true measure in Monmouth sprint but strong local form. |
| 4 | DROPLINE – Rapid gelding been idle with series of decisive scores and already handled route. |
| 3 | PIRATE – Lightly raced and failed to fire as 8-5 chalk at Colonial; ended loss streak Aqueduct. |

Race 10

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| 3 | GOLDEN ICE – Fired all three outings for hot Dunn barn and should offer finishing kick. |
| 8 | SMILE MON – Speedy gelding exits big effort at Aqueduct after Ness bought for \$50,000. |
| 5 | PRINCE COLTON – Dueled to final furlong in another solid effort for Lake; might shake loose. |
| 2 | REAL MEN VIOLIN – Sharp in Churchill finale but just one-for-17 lifetime; competed in stakes. |

Race 11

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| 9 | STANDPOINT – May have needed turf outing after layoff and puts blinkers back on and drops. |
| 6 | WARHEADED – Chased smashing winner in last and races cheapest yet; fits with this kind. |
| 1 | KERNER – Good speed in routes but absent since April; removes blinkers with inside zip. |
| 2 | SON OF DELILAH – Trailed in debut then sidelined 11 months; gets Lasix and dangerous if fit |