



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

Best Bets: RETRIBUTION (11th) – NUEDORF (12th)

Race 1

- 2** MY KID SYD – Plunges after difficult trip in better company; blinkers on and first time gelding.
- 7** SAVE A PRAYER – Determined score last month and multiple winner eligible as three-year-old.
- 13** SIMPLY DISREGARDED – Wired maidens with energy in reserve and may continue improvement
- 12** EL MEDIANOCHE – Easily second best to odds-on winner and captured four of last six outings.

Race 2

- 11** SHETALKSTOMUCH – Significant drop and offers powerful late kick on occasion; ample targets.
- 1** PEARLS AND HEELS – Game mare boasts numerous decisive scores; nearly always gives best.
- 3** TARA'S TALENT – Drops notch with shorter break between starts; nearing half million earnings.
- 12** NEVER SWAY – Road warrior moves to Pino barn with ample success; idle over three months.

Race 3

- 10** AIRMAN TREVOR – Pushed heavily-favored winner to limit in game try; best despite 17 losses.
- 8** KEEPING THE FAITH – Finished behind top choice after arriving from Kentucky; can progress.
- 3** EXTRASEXYMCSTEEMEE – Edged by longshot after race-long duel; similar try makes threat.
- 6** RICKIE'S KIN – Pressed pace at top state-bred level in sloppy debut; speed to pose danger.

Race 4

- 14** I'LL SAY NO MORE – Retreated in last but excellent speed despite slow start in bow; blinkers on.
- 2** WEEKEND HONOR – Lagged far behind then finished strongly in debut; improvement likely.
- 1** NIT WITNESS – Prominent throughout when edged by experienced rival in Delaware debut.
- 5** WEST SIDE DIVA – Finished mid-pack in bulky field then shelved since January; blinkers added.

Race 5

- 6** ALYVIA'S GIRL – Narrowly beaten taking plunge despite stumbling start; claimed by Padilla.
- 5** SPOOKY GAL – Switches from turf route to dirt sprint racing cheapest ever; lures Sanchez.
- 11** BROOKLYN RHAPSODY – Hard-earned score after hiatus at Delaware and drops again for Ness.
- 13** JODY'S RUBY – Stakes-winner as juvenile and enough left to threaten this kind for top barn.

Race 6

- 3** GREENER PASTURES – Terrific veteran with 10-for-39 career mark edged similar and claimed.
- 2** MARGIE'S FUN SON – Failed to give true measure on road trip after game local score; fits well.
- 4** VANZZY – Fired four straight after returning to Pino barn where he excelled in past years.
- 7** SILENT MODE – Pulled away eagerly from softer group when taken from fourth consecutive race

Race 7

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| 8 | RIVER'S GAMBLE – Bid then weakened in route; set up nicely for elongated sprint with Lopez. |
| 2 | AMORE D'ORO – Failed turf experiment again after powerful local score over main track. |
| 4 | ZANDUHOC – Rapid and fired on turf and one to catch again; extra yardage possible obstacle. |
| 3 | BOTTLES – Excellent speed in routes and winning streak earlier; Dunn barn having great year. |

Race 8

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| 3 | WYNN GIANT – Stretch-runner benefited from hot fractions in impressive romp when claimed. |
| 11 | HEY PORTER – Overmatched lately but should regain closing kick; re-claimed here in March. |
| 13 | NEW COMMISSION – Sharp try for higher tag when reaching \$300,000 in earnings; dangerous. |
| 4 | KEITHSENDSHELLOOOO – Classy in past and chased runaway winner at Delaware. |

Race 9

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| 2 | MAVILUS – Maryland shipper with 13 victories and drops with local success in past; late punch. |
| 6 | CHELSEA WALL – Veteran seeks fourth in row and romped with Lopez locally; obvious threat. |
| 10 | SHEZA BERNARDINI – Marched through conditions in Jersey and Breen barn firing locally. |
| 12 | HALEIGH B – Battled throughout at Delaware after chasing second pick here; tricky post. |

Race 10

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| 7 | VALIANT MAJESTY – Back home and taking plunge with five local victories; three with Silvera. |
| 8 | CLOUD CHASER – Just three lengths behind in tougher field but on long losing streak. |
| 9 | OLD HEAD – Hard-hitter part of trifecta in 22 of 30 attempts; figures close and gets Lopez. |
| 10 | DENALI RAE – Perfect since hiatus and should be gaining late; upset odds-on favorite. |

Race 11 THE \$75,000 PTHA PRESIDENT'S SPRINT

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| 12 | RETRIBUTION – Battled formidable rivals in rich Churchill stake; shipped east and won before. |
| 6 | KENTUCKY OUTLAW – Used up after slow start when setting pace in Haskell; must adjust sprint |
| 11 | COOL INTENTIONS – Led to stretch in turf stake route and pressured second pick in Jersey. |
| 8 | FIRE PIT – Broke through gate prior to start in compact but solid field at Monmouth, excels here. |

Race 12

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| 8 | NUEDORF – Pulled away with energy in reserve after Pino re-claimed; perfect with Sanchez up. |
| 7 | TATUM – Rapid gelding back on dirt and success for Kirby in past; faces early pressure. |
| 13 | KATE'S GOLDEN DUDE – Amazing 10-year-old with 20 victories; lightly raced but always fires. |
| 11 | FAST BOB – Looked bit like old self crushing compact field; threat with renewed confidence. |