



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, AUGUST 20, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: CHINESEIAM (3rd) – RACEY RUBY (8th)

Race 1

- 4** JUSTHEART – Switches turf to dirt and won “key” race locally in prior try for leading Ness barn.
- 6** TWIST HER – Overcame traffic woes in narrow score when claimed; soundly beaten by top pick.
- 1** UNION BELLE – Failed to fire at Monmouth following good local outing after hiatus this spot.
- 3** ROYAL UPSTART – Pair of losses as heavy favorite on wet surfaces; often close for Solis stable.

Race 2

- 2** PROJECT MAXIMUS – By top sire City of Light which won four Grade I stakes and 5 million.
- 5** EXTRASEXYZQTEEPEYE – Encouraging debut and stakes-winning dam won 7 of 15 races.
- 3** TIZA SMOKESHOW – Newcomer by Volatile which won 5 of 6 starts including Grade I sprint.
- 1** DREAM LIKE COCO – Rookie from John Servis barn out of dam which won 11 races, \$400,000.

Race 3

- 5** CHINESEIAM – Used up dueling tougher company and romped prior try; back at level of claim.
- 6** UNSWAYED – Finished ahead of top pick and early pressure again, big effort on occasion.
- 2** CISCO KID – Switches turf route to dirt sprint moving to Linder barn; likely stalking trip.
- 1** NIMMO – Forced pace long way in route and prior two losses on road trips; likely gaining late.

Race 4

- 2** MAGIC EIGHT BALL – Significant drop returning to main track and difficult to catch this level.
- 4** MISS CINNAMON – Benefited from contested pace in sprint but less success around two turns.
- 1** FAR HEART – Offers speed inside and decisive score in June route; third race since layoff.
- 5** ALMA BRILHA – Not much lately on wet footing but might regain closing rally on fast surface.

Race 5

- 2** SCUDETTO – Adjusted well to sprint in Jersey score; heavy favorite that test suffered rough trip.
- 3** PROBATIONER – Boasts four victories and remains eligible as 3-year-old; voided claim in July.
- 7** SOUTHERN DREAM – Remote fourth as 6-5 chalk this level; lone victory from 24 attempts.
- 6** SUPREME MIND – Speedy gelding back on main track but often hampered by stamina issues.

Race 6

- 3** UNION DOOS – Heavily-backed in sharp debut and should benefit from experience for Reid barn.
- 4** IN THE BIZ – By talented sire Divining Rod which captured Preakness stakes; few clues in works
- 7** SHE'SCOMIN'UPROSIE – Soundly outrun by top pick and stablemate in bow; progress needed.
- 6** SAVOR IT – Sire Vino Rosso, son of Curlin, won Breeders' Cup Classic and \$4.8 million.

Race 7

8	MAILATA – Prepared earlier at Saratoga and stallion Maximus Mischief sires many quick runners
5	TOUGH GUY TONY – Stablemate of top pick rallied after slow start in Jersey debut; can progress
3	VINO GRAY – Another son of Vino Rosso reveals little in many works; \$40,000 buy this year.
2	JOY BOY – Rapid sire stands with \$30,000 fee but this colt sold for \$5,000 as juvenile.

Race 8

2	RACEY RUBY – Excellent effort on turf after layoff and impressed locally in past on main track.
3	HOW SWEET SHE IS – Chased series of capable rivals at various distances; case of seconditis.
5	PUT THE CRAZY AWAY – Faded behind second choice and rare route attempt; upset chance.
6	ZONING ORDER – Hard-earned upset in slightly softer company to end losing streak.

Race 9

5	WAX BOX – Removes blinkers and prior loss in sloppy route; impressive score here in debut.
3	OTTER MISCHIEF – Sharp at Delaware after determined local victory; serious threat again.
2	MARVELOUS MO – Speedy and game gelding edged favorite and pushed second pick to limit.
7	LET'SMAKEITADOUBLE – Back sprinting with blinkers added and much best in December bow

Race 10

8	HOLY LADY – Shelved since poor start in debut defeat in January; gets Lasix and drops.
5	SAINT GRACE – Battled favorite this spot first local outing; obvious danger with similar effort.
1	YOUNG AND PRETTY – Shipper from high percentage Barboza stable competing cheapest yet.
7	AWESOME SUNSHINE – Set clear pace in Monmouth route after breaking through prior to start.