



# 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, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.**

**Best Bets: CAPTAIN FANCY (5<sup>th</sup>)- RACEY RUBY (8<sup>th</sup>)**

#### Race 1

- 2** ROYAL UPSTART – Hard used after slow start when less than three lengths behind winner.
- 7** JUSTHEART – Just ahead of top pick as odds-on chalk when claimed by 27% Kirby barn.
- 6** TWIST HER – Re-claimed soon as possible by Moore stable where she captured prior outing.
- 1** MELODY'S KISS – May have needed first race in nearly four months; progress likely.

#### Race 2

- 3** DISCO FLASH – Speedy filly switches turf to dirt and can prove difficult to catch this yardage.
- 2** BOSSY KATE – Sharper in past but offered some interest in last; fast track might help.
- 5** STARSHIP LEGEND – Long losing streak but troubled trip in Gulfstream finale; new trainer.
- 1** EVERHEART – Overmatched in last but shown she fits with this kind; capable here in past.

#### Race 3

- 2** PURPLE LADY VERA – Plunges after failing on turf and sprint; stretching out on dirt might aid.
- 5** YOUNG AND PRETTY – Good showing as 6-5 favorite this level when claimed from local bow.
- 3** AWESOME SUNSHINE – Brief speed before fading with similar and possible pacesetter in route.
- 6** LU LU VATON – Continued well behind loose pacesetter as longshot in sprint; testing stamina.

#### Race 4

- 6** PROBATIONER – Overcame early roughing for higher tag; five wins but remains eligible.
- 5** I CAN DO MAGIC – Battled throughout in narrow loss as heavy favorite after claim; dangerous.
- 2** UNION PURRFECTION – Drew away from maidens in decisive score and takes logical next step.
- 4** EL DOLLAR – Improved ability and gameness two weeks ago; chance with further progress.

#### Race 5

- 5** CAPTAIN FANCY – Hard used dueling winner and slight drop while back in for claim tag.
- 3** CENTAUR CENTRAL – Just one length behind this spot in 13<sup>th</sup> try then absent couple months.
- 1** TARTARIAN – Shipper trying various surfaces with moderate success; close at Monmouth.
- 7** VIX – Stablemate of top pick yet to offer much locally but gets blinkers first time.

#### Race 6

- 3** IT'S GAME TIME – Nine-year-old with 19 victories plunges after hiatus competing cheapest ever.
- 8** SAILOR'S RETURN – Set pace, lost advantage then came again in narrow loss; speed outside.
- 1** DEPLANE – Heels clipped on final turn when failing to respond; best recent effort after layoff.
- 2** ABADIN – Formidable in past but voided claim for twice this amount at Penn; faces pressure.

### Race 7

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|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2</b> | MR SANDMAN – Faced classier opposition in past and Catalano claim can handle this kind.    |
| <b>6</b> | LORD WINSALOT – Narrowed gap at Monmouth and finds softest spot in several attempts.       |
| <b>3</b> | GOLDEN WILDCAT – Held off rival through final furlong two months ago; hot “bug” aboard.    |
| <b>1</b> | BRINDISI – Frequently claimed and boasts six local victories; edged by third pick in July. |

### Race 8

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|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5</b> | RACEY RUBY – Solid effort behind heavy favorite in just second race after layoff; prior loss turf. |
| <b>2</b> | PLEASANT DREAMS – Advanced sprinting after layoff and should improve around two turns.             |
| <b>1</b> | PAM PAM – Weakened as 7-5 chalk when Ness claimed from sprint; pair of Aqueduct scores.            |
| <b>7</b> | JESS’S MOMENT – Easily second best to decisive repeat winner in possibly best yet.                 |

### Race 9

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|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2</b> | DREAMING OF GERRY – Retreated when taking steep drop and Ness took; softer version aids.       |
| <b>7</b> | SAL N LOUIE – Battled throughout when re-claimed by Thompson; retains Bowman as threat.        |
| <b>5</b> | NEW COMMISSION – Disliked mud as usual in bulky field and prior try makes dangerous.           |
| <b>3</b> | DIVINE ARMOR – Likely holds ability advantage but lightly raced and idle two months; new barn. |