



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, OCTOBER 8, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: BAILOUT BILLY (2nd) – MISSION FIRST (8th)

Race 1

- 3** TUFF CONSTITUTION – Lightly raced but competed well after layoff when taken; may progress.
- 5** JAYJAYDEE – Battled to final stages for higher tag in finish dominated by stretch-runners.
- 8** HOT ROD RUMBLE – Speedy gelding sharp for new connections; shorter time between races.
- 9** ICONIC LEGACY – Failed as 4-5 chalk last pair; seen better days but helpful pace scenario.

Race 2

- 4** BAILOUT BILLY – Extremely quick filly romped last pair showing much-improved stamina.
- 7** MISSPENT – Won via disqualification and first finisher scored decisively last week; dangerous.
- 5** STRESS RELIEVER – Ness runner must adjust to sprint but very capable and working fast.
- 3** VODOO YOU DO- Faded after half mile in latest but series of strong tries previously as threat.

Race 3

- 5** TRULLI WARRIOR – Drops from top maiden ranks and returns to sprint; best despite 11 chances
- 2** PASTERO – Good effort chasing runaway winner and two poor efforts in mud and route.
- 1** TAP THE DEVIL – Eliminated at start in last after claim and prior try stamps contender.
- 6** KEEPING THE FAITH – Outrun on road trip but last local try decent; Solis barn with 43 2025 wins

Race 4

- 6** I FEELUCKY TONITE – Upset solid group by wide margin; seeks third straight well-spotted again
- 1** GROUP TICKET – Ness runner captured three of last five outings including much local success.
- 2** CUPID'S DUDE – Failed as 2-5 chalk at Monmouth but five wins this year and 10 lifetime.
- 3** ADMIRAL'S WAVE – Eventful trip in last after pair of decisive scores after bargain Padilla claim

Race 5

- 1** ENCRYPT – Pursued frequent smashing winner in tougher version this spot; inside stalking trip.
- 6** COBBLESTONE BRIDGE – Good form at Colonial and proven to handle various surfaces.
- 2** GO YOSHIDA – Weakened sprinting last week and testing stamina again; probable pacesetter.
- 7** AUTHENTIC KINGDOM – Wired easier in easy fashion after Perez claim; tested with this kind.

Race 6

- 11** YO LEVEN – New York shipper plunges after retreating in return; enough left to handle these.
- 3** REINA MAR – Gulfstream invader moves to sizzling Pino barn; competed primarily on synthetic.
- 7** HARD SPICE – Improved effort sprinting and prior route try good; must put it all together.
- 8** FIFTY NINE FIFTY – Advanced again sprinting and sheds weight preparing for route attempt.

Race 7

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| 5 | TUNISIAN SPRING – Competed strongly in bulky field on Pa. Derby undercard; fired at Saratoga |
| 6 | BEYONDEXPECTATIONS – Finished first in game stake effort but lost on foul; speedy Pa.-bred. |
| 3 | MARVELOUS MO – Yet another quick and determined runner; second finisher won next time. |
| 4 | ALCHEMISM – Vastly overmatched at 219-1 in Gallant Bob but shown ability here in past. |

Race 8

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| 1 | MISSION FIRST – Bid strongly to front then tired late in longer test; figures close up throughout. |
| 2 | FACTOR U AND ME IN – Rapid gelding in peak form and crushed lesser last local attempt. |
| 4 | MR PUNCTUALITY – Showing steady improvement and prevailed from extreme outside post. |
| 3 | RESPIRATOR – Often competes better than odds predict and just missed this spot last month. |

Race 9

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| 11 | METALHEAD – Ended losing skid with dream trip in decisive win; repeats with new confidence. |
| 8 | TORPEDO RUN – Back from New York and raced well locally in prior try; fits nicely with these. |
| 10 | COJELO PA TI – Speedy colt drops but hampered by stamina woes lately; Pino-Sanchez combo. |
| 6 | BANJO – Rapid gelding usually fires over various surfaces; stablemate of second choice. |