



# 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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**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:05 P.M.**

**Best Bets: COULD BE A COUGAR (5<sup>th</sup>) – BORRACHO (7<sup>th</sup>)**

### Race 1

- 7** CHINESEIAM – Survived traffic woes to edge heavy favorite in tougher field; Pa.-bred can repeat.
- 3** OMEY ISLAND – Dueled and continued gamely proving he fits with this kind; wide-open event.
- 10** ONE LAST KISS – Forced pace this far with better in route; captured pair of sprints previously.
- 2** BAD ADVICE – Ran down two-time winners at square price and taking realistic next step.

### Race 2

- 3** LITTLE COCOA BEAN – Speedy filly been fading in stretch but should wire these taking plunge.
- 1** BROWNEYEDVALENTINE – Overmatched in last after double-digit score against maidens.
- 4** FIFTY NINE FIFTY – Dueled to final furlong in longer test and rallied from off pace earlier.
- 9** SAINT GRACE – Improved showing on wet surface returning to sprint; might continue progress.

### Race 3

- 7** TESTED – Successful return to main track when defeating similar and claimed by Aristone.
- 5** ENCRYPT – Hard-earned score in latest after beaten by top pick previously; often runner-up.
- 6** CHRIS'S REVENGE – Humbled by smashing winner in sloppy sprint and testing stamina again.
- 3** BOYS OF SUMMER – Excuses in recent defeats and runs big race on occasion; upset shot.

### Race 4

- 6** B D SAINTS – Defeated more numerous winners and likely drop in class within same claim tag.
- 5** FLUFF THE PILLOW – Battled throughout this spot and serious contender with similar showing.
- 3** WHITEWALKER – Broke and raced poorly then idle two months; good form with better earlier.
- 2** VINI VIDI VICI – Faded twice since return but likely sets pace with slower route fractions.

### Race 5

- 10** COULD BE A COUGAR – Rapid mare weakened late with tougher and limited distance helps.
- 9** ET'S MOON MAIDEN – Far behind in classier company after decisive score in prior try.
- 11** AWESOME ANNMARIE – Absent nearly three months after losing rider; won this spot before.
- 5** REE NEE'S SIX – Drops notch and returns to sprint and poses threat despite losing streak.

### Race 6

- 7** IT'S GAME TIME – Amazing 9-year-old with 21 victories from 96 starts; much success for Ness.
- 10** ENGLISH PAINTER – Late energy behind runaway winner in sprint; back at preferred yardage.
- 9** NEW COMMISSION – Claimed by Pino from even-money loss but won prior outing impressively.
- 8** MOSE PERFECT – Used up dueling this level when claimed; quick from gate and likes to win.

### Race 7

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| <b>9</b> | <b>BORRACHO</b> – Another terrific veteran with 21 scores and exits decisive win when claimed.     |
| <b>2</b> | <b>FORE HARP</b> – Half million earner competed primarily on turf; still quick and yardage suits.  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>TATUM</b> – Re-claimed again by Kirby barn where he has achieved success; severe pressure.      |
| <b>6</b> | <b>EASY ACTION</b> – Captured four of last five starts and changed barns again; tested with these. |

### Race 8

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| <b>3</b>  | <b>A VOTRE SANTE</b> – Fired all three attempts including this spot; likely stalks contested fractions. |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>OKIE DEN DEN</b> – Disliked wet footing after series of good efforts on dry surfaces; fits well.     |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>SOAR RICHARD</b> – Crushed lesser in confidence booster after sharp try vs. top selection.           |
| <b>11</b> | <b>LEX</b> – Significant drop after placed first via disqualification; outside speed to pose threat.    |

### Race 9

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| <b>5</b> | <b>TOOTALOO KANGAROO</b> – Dominated rivals at Penn after hiatus and speedy mare loves to win.     |
| <b>4</b> | <b>BEAUTIFUL CRAZYGIRL</b> – Lightly raced but dueled to stretch in “open” company; threat on best |
| <b>8</b> | <b>DANCING ON MY OWN</b> – Soundly beaten by top pick on road trip but series of big tries before. |
| <b>2</b> | <b>GLOWS IN THE DARK</b> – Captured three of four attempts and overcame traffic woes locally.      |

### Race 10

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| <b>7</b>  | <b>AGGRANDIZE</b> – Difficult to like or ignore plunge after trailing; key third start since hiatus.   |
| <b>11</b> | <b>DITHER</b> – Set clear pace and held on gamely as 1-2 favorite when Pino claimed for this tag.      |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>FULL IRISH</b> – Dueled to late stages as odds-on chalk in return; contributes to lively fractions. |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>WARRIOR TED</b> – Overcame early roughing in upset at Penn for Kulp barn clicking at 30%.           |