



# 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, DECEMBER 29, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:05 P.M.**

Best Bets: DIVINE GRACE (6<sup>th</sup>) -- CAROUSEL QUEEN (9<sup>th</sup>)

### Race 1

- 8** WAMPANOAG CHIEF – Broke through gate prior to start as 8-5 chalk; overcomes stamina woes.
- 14** WEEK'S STRONG – Closed well when finishing ahead of top choice; threat despite 12 chances.
- 11** SUNNY MAGIC – Weakened chasing capable newcomer; faced better in past and yardage suits.
- 5** CHANGE YOUR NAME – Hit board in both local tries and just missed earlier at Monmouth.

### Race 2

- 2** LIGHT MY WAY – Set pressured pace and held on determinedly this spot; third race since return.
- 7** EXTRASEXYMCSTEEMEE – Distant third in last after crushing maidens prior try; tries route.
- 8** KEEPING THE FAITH – Used up dueling after early roughing when outrun by top selection.
- 6** KING DEIVYS – Easily second best with lesser and signs of progress despite losing streak.

### Race 3

- 4** TOWER TWENTY TWO – Excellent local mark and defeated similar when Ramirez took for 25K.
- 1** PAM PAM – Trounced rivals at Laurel after fading prior local try; among top “bugs” in nation up.
- 2** EQUUS – Narrowed gap after early trouble in sprint return; handled two turns in past.
- 6** RACEY RUBY – Rebounded from dull efforts with sharp try against hard-hitting veterans.

### Race 4

- 2** AU SOME WARRIOR – Anticipated better last time but decisive score earlier when claimed.
- 7** BANJO – Speedy gelding drops again and often forms bottom of exacta; needs to shake loose.
- 6** SIR MENDEL – Trained last out at Penn after several good Delaware outings; late kick likely.
- 1** HOPPY TIME – Posted 20-1 surprise after several months on bench; takes logical next step.

### Race 5

- 4** MYBANDIT – Roughed in stretch behind smashing winner in bow; conqueror ran big again.
- 9** RAGING CAJUN – Sharp again in local bow and making seventh attempt; Allard barn hot locally.
- 8** SAM'S GLORY – Closed gap after early bumping in debut; dam earned over quarter million.
- 10** ALASTAR – Drops into claimer first time but yet to duplicate debut effort; switches to “bug.”

### Race 6

- 10** DIVINE GRACE – Sharp last local outing despite severe early trouble; drops notch, loves to win.
- 2** DATE NIGHT KISSES – Far behind when re-claimed by Ness but often formidable in past.
- 5** MARY'S REWARD – Walloped lesser last three at Penn for high percentage Kulp stable.
- 7** AMY MULE – Stretch-runner ran into tigress when claimed again and remains at same level.

**Race 7**

<b>9</b>	<b>RECKER POINT</b> – Sharp despite slow start after four month's absence; primed for this yardage.
<b>10</b>	<b>SMOOTH FLYIN MIKE</b> – Crushed lesser with perfect trip this distance; fits despite big jump.
<b>2</b>	<b>MISTER LINCOLN</b> – Very capable, game, and handles various surfaces; ample local success.
<b>1</b>	<b>MIDLANER</b> – Failed to offer true measure on wet surface but numerous big efforts in past.

**Race 8**

<b>6</b>	<b>PONDER AND DREAM</b> – Trio of solid efforts and gets blinkers added for Reid-Sanchez combo.
<b>5</b>	<b>MYSTERIOSO</b> – Edged top pick in encouraging try and also just missed in debut at Penn.
<b>4</b>	<b>BUFF GARY</b> – By top sire and half-brother to huge earner Ninetyprcentmaddie; makes debut.
<b>8</b>	<b>CAPITAINE</b> – Showed ability in slightly softer debut field but threat with some progress.

**Race 9**

<b>10</b>	<b>CAROUSEL QUEEN</b> – Cruised past rivals in best effort of career; ample early targets for late kick
<b>12</b>	<b>CENTRE COURT CHAMP</b> – Rapid and determined mare won impressively; bled in prior defeat.
<b>7</b>	<b>AOIFE'S MAGIC</b> – Looked like old self battling rugged opponent this spot; 2023 local champion.
<b>1</b>	<b>MILA ROSE</b> – Failed to run to heavy support but gets blinkers in third attempt since hiatus.

**Race 10**

<b>3</b>	<b>CURIOUS SOUL</b> – Responded well to drop wiring similar and Arce barn has them firing.
<b>8</b>	<b>SIMPLY DISREGARDED</b> – Weakened late when claimed again for higher tag; wide-open test.
<b>6</b>	<b>MY KID SYD</b> – Overcame slow start to trounce compact group; factor with renewed confidence.
<b>12</b>	<b>UNION PURRFECTION</b> – Middle move after early excuse in route; beat next-out winner sprint.