



Craig Donnelly's

ANALYSIS

@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, DECEMBER 31, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:05 P.M.

Best Bets: OUR UPTOWN GIRL (3rd) – PACHELBEL (5th)

Race 1

- 9** BACKTRACK – Battled more numerous winners when claimed and retains top “bug” Hazlewood.
- 10** DEPORTIVO – Improved when easily second best to huge favorite over sloppy surface.
- 6** BOOTED UP – Failed to fire on wet footing after finishing ahead of top pick; threat on best.
- 7** MOVING TO KENTUCKY – Hampered by wide journey when putting blinkers back on; upset shot

Race 2

- 8** DESIGNED BY SMARTY – Used up after early roughing in better field at Penn; gets blinkers.
- 11** CAP’N CATS – Victim of early problems in recent outings but drops and major threat this level.
- 3** CHUBASCO SAUCE – Humbled by smashing winner for much higher tag; slow start in debut.
- 6** KING OF FOG – Broke slowly and steadied when heavily backed; sheds seven pounds for this.

Race 3

- 4** OUR UPTOWN GIRL – Improved effort in classier company behind frequent winners; top barn.
- 6** TEMPEST RISING – Pair of strong efforts as longshot since return; likely to be gaining late.
- 2** PEARLS AND HEELS – Faded behind top choice after pursuing hot fractions; 11 career wins.
- 8** BOSS LIKE BETH – Advanced late in solid field after three consecutive claims; upset chance.

Race 4

- 10** REDOUBTABLERIPKEN – Battled throughout in finish dominated by closers; edge in same spot.
- 3** IRISH TENOR – Fits nicely again with this kind but hampered by stamina issues; often overbet.
- 7** TRUE CONNECTION – Failed as 2-5 chalk when voided clam in October; faced better New York.
- 9** ROCKET NIGHT – Bid then weakened against some of these; must put it all together.

Race 5

- 3** PACHELBEL - Amazing mare wore down loose pacesetter to win last; \$100,000 claim in October.
- 8** PUT THE CRAZY AWAY - Numerous good efforts recent months and often forms bottom exacta.
- 5** CONCRETE FAZE - Seeks seven victory of year and competed well locally in past; strong field.
- 4** BRAQUET - Wide in Laurel defeat after taking two prior outings; good form since Kreiser re-clm.

Race 6

- 7** GOTMISTYONTHEMIND – Rallied wide then faded behind smashing winner; sharp twice earlier.
- 11** JUSTTAKETHECANNOLI – Poor showing as favorite at loftier level; sharp previously in Md.
- 2** NOHAI – Closed big gap as heavy favorite this level; extra sixteenth mile might prove helpful.
- 9** DAISY BELIEVES – Prominent throughout despite making first start in 17 months; may progress.

Race 7 THE \$75,000 KRIS KRINGLE

2	POINT DUME – Wide trip from difficult post at Churchill; perfect locally in three attempts.
8	CALL ME FAST – Edged similar on wet surface after impressive romp with lesser prior outing.
4	DOUBLE YOUR MONEY – Incredibly consistent gelding upset Ky. stake; also won at Big A.
6	NINETYPRCENTMADDIE – Strong route form since adding blinkers and obvious contender.

Race 8 THE \$75,000 BLITZEN

5	BUCCHERINO – Terrific sprinter captured 6 of 7 local starts; edged in graded stake in New York.
4	DROPLINE – Rapid gelding with ample determination and poses threat in excellent field.
3	TWISTED RIDE – Outdueled second pick in 11th local victory; veteran banked \$786,488.
1	MAXIMUS MERIDIUS – Hard-earned score after two month's absence; post often obstacle.

Race 9 THE \$75,000 MRS. CLAUS

10	FOXY JUNIOR – Defeated similar this yardage to boost career mark to 12-26; half million earned.
2	ALANI – Speedy and game filly hit board in 16 of 19 tries; serious threat in terrific field.
5	BOUTWELL TIME – Exis pair of powerful victories and possibility despite taking major jump.
6	JEANNE MARIE – Less than two lengths behind top duo when rebounding from poor showing.

Race 10

9	NORMANDY HERO – Rapid colt back on main track with impressive local wins; wide-open race.
13	NO EASY DAYS – Absent couple months after finishing ahead of top pick twice; likely ready.
8	FACTOR U AND ME IN – Developed rapidly this season and recent conqueror won again.
6	GRAHMALAMADINGDONG – Possibility if disregard last; hotly-contested pace in his favor.