



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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Best Bets: GOLDCREST (3rd) – OTTER MISCHIEF (9th)

Race 1

- 9** BIAGIO – Improved when dropped to this level and likely favorable outside stalking trip.
- 6** HOPPY TIME – Pair of strong efforts since layoff and offered powerful late kick after slow start.
- 5** BANJO – Hard used dueling in finish dominated by stretch-runners; might need to shake loose.
- 7** HARBOR OF GOLD – Gained late on wet footing at Penn but both victories on turf.

Race 2

- 1** IT'S AUTHENTIC – Drops notch and stretches out again; appears best despite 14 chances.
- 2** CHARTAGE – Initial trip around two turns while adding Lasix and blinkers; progress likely.
- 3** BERMUDA TRIANGLE – Often close and faced classier in past; failed twice at very short odds.
- 5** WINNING SONG – Lagged far behind then narrowed gap without menacing; barn 17% last year.

Race 3

- 2** GOLDCREST – Pushed heavily-favored Ness winner to limit for higher tag; ends losing skid.
- 8** TOOTSIE TOES – Rallied then flattened out after winning prior two outings at Mountaineer.
- 3** HI HEELED WARRIOR – Fair showing as 8-5 chalk in seemingly softer version of this spot.
- 7** SPRING MAGIC – Plunges after used up in stumbling start at Aqueduct; cost \$16,000 September

Race 4

- 2** SIMPLY STATED – Excellent speed before yielding to runaway impressive winner; one to catch.
- 4** BOSS LIKE BETH – Improved effort against solid opponent and might revert to rating tactics.
- 7** ANTONACCI GIRL – Game and versatile filly won again after claim and nearly always fires.
- 5** WHATTA WORLD – Making progress and closed strongly despite very wide trip; steps up.

Race 5

- 6** WARRIOR'S MISS – Lightly raced but responded well to drop defeating next-out winner.
- 1** BEYOND A MILLION – Rare sprint attempt after idle over two months; boasts 8 local scores.
- 4** TAKE TIME TO DREAM – Remote fourth this spot last week and key third outing since layoff.
- 5** SWEET MISCHIEF – Sidelined since summer but sufficient ability; upset chance if ready.

Race 6

- 4** FINANCE – Used up after sluggish break in muddy debut; by top sire and takes significant drop.
- 12** PETEY MOTTO – Speedy gelding plunges but hampered by stamina woes; dangerous this level.
- 6** SHOWMANCE – Progressed with blinkers in third try at Penn; Houghton barn firing locally.
- 9** DESIGNED BY SMARTY – Faded when distant fourth for higher tag at Penn; gets blinkers.

Race 7

9	BACKTRACK – Altered running style when runner-up this spot; leading apprentice aboard.
8	JACKSON'S LEGACY – Rallied behind top choice and only victory in route; likely gaining late.
11	JADON'S HONOR – Shelved since August but showed ability on occasion; possibility if ready.
13	DEPORTIVO – Speed from outside if draws in from also eligible list; stamina issues persist.

Race 8

1	MONTANA CLASS – By top sire Vekoma which won 6 of 8 starts and over million; must guess.
5	OUR GOLDEN GATOR – Full-sister to huge earner Brilliant Chase; shows “bullet” half mile work.
4	HAUNTING ECHOES – Signs of ability in both starts when heavily-backed; adding blinkers.
2	ABOLTOFSECONDWIND – Fair showing in debut but \$38,000 auction buy eligible to improve.

Race 9

1	OTTER MISCHIEF – Powerful effort in Laurel stake after double-digit romp locally; in peak form.
10	DUKE OF GLOUCESTER – Talented stretch-runner re-claimed for \$50,000 by Moore; key threat.
9	HOKU – Deep closer exits series of strong outings including this spot; contested pace a plus.
4	HAGRID'S FLAME – Competed well three times since return at Laurel; finished first only local try

Race 10

2	IMMENSE FAITH – Improved as longshot when dueling long way; race dominated by closers.
3	YORKVILLE – Road warrior ships from high percentage Penn barn; obvious danger this level.
4	THE GRAYT PUMPKIN – Hampered by traffic problems this spot in last; fits with clear sailing.
5	STARLORD – Overmatched lately but returns to level of claim; should offer closing kick.