



Craig Donnelly's

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@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, JANUARY 5, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:05 P.M.

Best Bets: EASY ACTION (7th) – TUFF CONSTITUTION (10th)

Race 1

1	SECRET OAKS – Rallied behind huge favorite despite early roughing in sprint bow at Laurel.
4	NATURES FURY – Prominent all way when plunged to this level when adding blinkers.
5	MIDNIGHT FLIGHT – Distant third behind heavy favorite in Churchill finale; moves to Pino barn.
7	BREEZEFROMTHEEAST – Trailed better in debut but half-sister to strong closer Snappy Ride.

Race 2

3	FIFTY NINE FIFTY – Advanced behind runaway drop-down winner; handled two turns earlier.
12	WEST SIDE DIVA – Speedy filly drops after firing three straight; needs alert break from outside.
9	SHINES MADELIN - Used up dueling before fading behind easy winner; double-digit score prior
11	JOYFUL JOYCE – Anticipated more last out but previous try stamps upset possibility.

Race 3

9	IT'S AUTHENTIC – Signs of interest in better company despite 13 losses; must adjust to sprint.
3	LION IN THE SUN – Remote third as even-money chalk at Penn; better suited this yardage.
6	IMPERIAL SPY – Sidelined since Ness claimed in June but brisk works for return to dirt.
7	SHOWPIECE – Improved when blinkers removed in Maryland and should be gaining late.

Race 4

4	MAJOR MISCHIEF – Road warrior tried various surfaces at numerous venues; logical drop.
9	COMPÁ – Faded after quarter mile with quicker after crushing maidens in previous start.
3	ONE IMPROBABLE – Retreated when voided claim in November but speed to pose threat.
5	WE MISS NEIL – Linder stable has them firing but hampered by stamina issues recent months.

Race 5

3	WARRIOR'S VENDETTA – Wore down pair of capable rivals 12 days ago; able to repeat this spot
10	FIRST MONEY – Rallied late sprinting in third race after hiatus; also adept around two turns.
2	RACKATAPTAPE – Veteran narrowed gap again and needs aid of contested pace for best chance
9	VANZZY – Classy in past and much success over years in Pino barn; near half million in bank.

Race 6

4	FILLED WITH DESIRE – Humbled by pair of runaway winners going short and long; logical drop.
11	JOSEPH POTATO – Victim of early trouble again in compact and slow field; needs alert break.
6	HOUSEBUSTER DUDE – Failed to fire when claimed for this tag and might want two turns.
3	IMPRESSIVENESS – Disappointed at short odds several times elsewhere; must fear Ness runner

Race 7

8	EASY ACTION – Seeks fourth straight score with aggressive drop; won five in row with Aguilar.
7	LIBERTY STAR – Veteran with 11 victories drops and formidable earlier in 2025; obvious threat.
9	UNCAPTURED STAR – Forced pace in good effort but failed to handle top pick; needs front.
10	BORRACHO – Anticipated more last time but 10-year-old with 21 wins always possibility.

Race 8

1	DISCO HOPP – Half-sister to talented stretch-runner Snappy Ride debuts; must guess firsters.
9	ROSIE WARRIOR – Prominent throughout at Penn for high percentage barn; Lasix and blinkers.
6	EXCITER – Hard used chasing decisive winner and conqueror next finished third in stake.
8	POLAR MAGIC – Yet to perform like full-sister Aoife's Magic but merits some attention.

Race 9

11	DOUBLE YOUR MONEY – Ultra-consistent and edged in N.Y. after defeating talented Ky. foes.
9	HOPE'S ALIVE – Major progress in just three weeks after claim; Penn shipper in peak form.
5	SECURED LANDING – Lightly raced but ample ability; romped last local try with Sanchez up.
8	TRICOLOUR – Benefits from good effort sprinting after layoff; more effective this distance.

Race 10

12	TUFF CONSTITUTION – Hard used dueling in finish dominated by stretch-runners; Ness claimed
8	NANCY MADE MY DAY – Often claimed and seems very capable and game; below price paid.
6	GOLDEN CANDY – Veteran seen better days but claimed by Pino in November; can't dismiss.
4	MR. ROUNDTREE – Slow fuse but offers closing punch on occasion; needs aid of pace set-up.