



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: THE CHALK (7th) – BRAVE BLEND (8th)

Race 1

- 4** CYNTHIA GAIL – Rallied after three month's absence despite stumbling badly and wide trip Md.
- 7** UNTOUCHABLE – Half-sister to huge earner Prince Lucky drops again; first try around two turns
- 6** SUPERSONIC BETTY – Last air dull but closed big gap in debut and additional yardage plus.
- 3** HOPE SHE FIRES – Competed behind runaway winner last week after absent since October.

Race 2

- 2** SACRED PRAYER – Faced tougher twice in Kentucky and Benjamin Dunn barn 5-for-11 last year
- 3** DALE – Claimed from recent outing at Turfway and tries route first time moving to Mosco barn.
- 8** J K STRONG – Sire won 2020 Kentucky Derby; many works offer few clues prior to debut.
- 4** ROSIE OUTLOOK – Failed as odds-on chalk after early roughing at Penn; back in sprint.

Race 3

- 7** BOLD ENDEAVOR – Strong effort at Laurel after defeating similar locally; 10-year-old still tough.
- 8** AULA – Weakened after forcing pace on road trip; pair of local romps September and October.
- 3** BALANTYNE – Rallied well after Ramirez re-claimed where he achieved success in past.
- 4** AHSAD – Keeps firing with closing kick and boasts 16 victories in 107 attempts.

Race 4

- 6** UP THE KINGDOM – Half-brother to solid runner tries blinkers and may improve with time off.
- 4** SAMS AFTER PARTY – Hit board in 10 of 17 starts; speedy but tends to falter in late stages.
- 7** PASSIONFORGLORY – Sharp both outings and tries blinkers while avoiding claiming tag.
- 5** NEVER TILL NOW – Often close but numerous gaps between outings; needs some improvement

Race 5

- 6** CENTER STAGE – Anticipated better last out but prior two romps impressive; lures Sanchez.
- 5** WOW LUCKY – Upset winner in similar company when claimed by Padilla; obvious threat.
- 4** FLOWER MOUND – Poor showing after brief early trouble and rough trip in prior attempt.
- 2** MAVILUS – Far behind after early excuses but prior try stamps contender; new management.

Race 6

- 5** RUBY RUBY – Moves to Kirby barn in fourth outing at different tracks; should adjust to sprint.
- 2** WANNA GO HOME – Speedy in Kentucky but had nine chances; Lasix may help stamina.
- 1** PUNCH AND JUDY – Retreated in route but back sprinting with claimers; merits attention.
- 3** WARRIOR BUNNY ZEE – Progressed with blinkers when dueling to final yards this spot.

Race 7

1	THE CHALK – Failed to offer true measure on wet track again when taken for \$50,000; improves.
6	HEPHEPCUTDOWNNETS – Road warrior overcame slow start to crush maidens in local bow.
7	VIX – Pulled away from lesser in tenth attempt and possibility with renewed confidence.
3	CENTAUR CENTRAL – Flashes of ability hitting board nine times but just 1-for-17 lifetime.

Race 8

9	BRAVE BLEND – Frequently close and drew away from single-winners in Churchill finale.
5	FRIDAY SURPRISE – Caught late in another solid effort proving he fits against this kind.
7	A VOTRE SANTE – Mild rally behind top choice and usually close; fired every local attempt.
8	MINISTER – Decisive upset at Laurel and taking logical next step; both wins with Chuan up.

Race 9

4	MR PUNCTUALITY – Easily second best to formidable rival this spot; outside stalking trip likely.
3	BEYONDEXPECTATIONS – Crushed lesser group after series of frustrating losses; main threat.
1	WAX BOX – Another good effort behind streaking winner and could benefit from contested pace.
2	COOL MILLION – Engaged in heated duel when finishing behind top pick; wired prior two starts.

Race 10

2	SAL N LOUIE – Keeps firing and drops after re-claimed yet again by Wyner barn; overruns these
15	WE READY – Last pair very good and drops within same claiming tag; key threat if draws in.
13	JIGSAW – Absent three months but sufficient ability and improving since stretched out.
12	VENEZUELAN TRIUMPH – Rediscovered ability as longshot when pressing 3-5 winner.