



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.

Sponsored and Distributed by the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horseman's Association

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:05 P.M.

Best Bets: SMOOTH MOTION (6th) – HARMONY ROAD (8th)

Race 1

- 1** EL TAMILERO – Signs of life in tougher version this spot 10 days ago; likely ground saving trip.
- 5** WAMPANOAG CHIEF – Disliked mud and broke through gate previously; shorter yardage aids.
- 6** KERNER – Altered running style and gained late at Penn; last couple local tries discouraging.
- 3** ALPHADINI – Some of best efforts elsewhere but possibility if puts it all together.

Race 2

- 6** AGGRANDIZE – Responded well to drop in generous 13-1 upset; excellent 9-for-37 career.
- 1** DIAMOND HEIST – Battled frequent winner when claimed fourth consecutive outing; dangerous.
- 4** DUCALE – Drops notch for hot Arce barn and sizzling apprentice Hazlewood; tiger earlier.
- 5** NO NO JOE – Rapid gelding with stamina issues and recently failed with three time winners.

Race 3

- 4** CLASSY MISS – Overmatched last week and back around two turns against own kind.
- 5** TOMARIE – Surprised sprinters at 39-1 sprinting; 10-year-old mare with 14 local victories.
- 2** MOLLEWANTACRACKER – Exits hard-earned score this yardage and takes logical next step.
- 6** STELLA MARS – Significant drop but nearly entire earnings on turf; respect all Ness runners.

Race 4

- 8** BAD TEMPER – Improved effort when easily second best; rich purse with soft opposition.
- 7** PACIFIC PRINCESS – Anticipated better when 7-5 chalk with brief roughing; capable of better.
- 5** AMATERASU – Router been idle and competed only twice last year; likely to need this.
- 2** CLOUT CHASER – Finished behind some of these after layoff but some progress likely.

Race 5

- 5** LUCKY LARRY – Overmatched in New York after chasing runaway winner locally; ideal spot.
- 3** VINO GRAY – Humbled by double-digit winner but back in route where he performed well before.
- 4** ACCELERATED DATING – Bumped early then outrun sprinting; outrun by top choice November.
- 8** TWOOUTATHREAINBAD – Sire captured Florida Derby in Pletcher barn; works give few clues.

Race 6

- 6** SMOOTH MOTION – Led then resisted when collared two weeks ago; chance to control fractions
- 5** KING DEIVYS – Stretch-runner closer than odds predicted again; often forms bottom of exacta.
- 7** AGARRAMESIPUEDES – Slow fuse and outrun by top choice but making third start since hiatus.
- 1** MAJESTIC FRONTIER – Dueled to late yards in Finger Lakes finale; moves to Soto-Martinez barn

Race 7

3	ATROCIOUS – Failed to give true measure last out but prior efforts very encouraging for Linder.
6	TAVERN TIME – Easily second best sprinting and back in route in third outing since layoff.
4	TROTSKY – Stablemate of top pick often hits board with similar record; initial stamina test.
2	PARTY WITH SMARTY – Rallied from last to first in maiden score at Aqueduct; now with Ness.

Race 8

6	HARMONY ROAD – Blocked much of final turn then weakened late in first local attempt.
3	IRISH BANBA – Finished ahead of top choice after moving to Ness barn; obvious contender.
2	UP N RUNNIN – Ducked out at start with these when odds-on chalk; case of seconditis.
1	DEVILS ARROW – Fair showing as heavy favorite in sprint; pair from that race have won since.

Race 9

8	CAPITAL CONQUEST – Classy in past and improved try in bulky field; can end losing skid.
6	BOURBON AFICIONADO – Raced sparingly but mild rally behind top pick; adding blinkers.
4	BET N WIN – Edged in Woodbine finale then purchased by Linder; fits well with this kind.
9	CARBONITE – Faded in finish dominated by closers; just missed prior try and retains Sanchez.

Race 10

8	CHAMPAGNE MISCHIEF – Hard used pressing drop-down winner in tougher version this spot.
7	SANDY GIRL – Rushed up after early trouble and wired maidens previously; upset possibility.
9	HALA BLUE – Stablemate of top choice gained late when trying blinkers; ample early targets.
12	PURPLE LU LU – Drops again after good effort against stablemate; outside stalking trip.