



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.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:05 P.M.

Best Bets: BEYONDEXPECTATIONS (9th) -- SMOKE WAGON (10th)

Race 1

5	HOLY SYNERGY – Responded strongly to drop with double-digit romp over next-out winners.
1	DRUNKLE – Prompted pace under firm hold then rallied well vs. decisive rival this spot.
11	FAZARO – Solid runner-up this spot when rediscovering ability; speed to pose threat.
6	DIXIELAND CHILL – Vied to stretch before yielding after Penn romp; upset possibility.

Race 2

9	VOLATILITY- Significant drop after remote third in compact field; enough left to handle these.
3	YOU KNOW ME – Battled throughout in another good effort; threat with continued progress.
8	EVERHEART – Improved despite extended duel and making key third start since hiatus.
10	ZONING ORDER – Faded badly behind top choice in return; can't dismiss this level.

Race 3

2	ROCKET NIGHT – Edged in tight finish following nice try in “key” race; finds seconditis cure.
4	SKULL HONOR – Gained late taking drop when inches behind top pick; needs pace set-up.
5	PURE REALIZATION – Closed big gap as longshot in first local attempt for new management.
3	ROXTON – Used up from tricky post with above trio but yet to duplicate debut showing.

Race 4

1	KEEPING THE FAITH – Disliked wet surface again but shorter yardage and fast track can help.
2	CONFISCATED – Very quick but lightly raced for DeMasi barn; worked “bullet” for return.
8	JADON'S HONOR – Sidelined since summer but solid effort at times; might fire at long odds.
3	CENTAUR CENTRAL – Fits nicely if disregard latest; frequently close but just 1-for-18.

Race 5

4	MISSPENT – Faced tougher after claim and takes aggressive drop; six-time winner last season.
5	POPOVER GAL – Speedy and game mare overmatched in last and prior success this level.
2	SOCIETY BALL – Prominent this far in Laurel mile and cost twice this amount in November.
6	LEFTOVER SUSHI – Formidable earlier last year but stamina woes in recent months.

Race 6

6	SPINEMJOHNNY – Clobbered at start in debut losing any chance; likely avoids trouble this post.
1	KNOCKANARROW – Shelved after hinting at ability in Delaware debut; sire won Vanderbilt.
2	PEACH SMOOTHIE – Roughed early when adding Lasix and finishing ahead of top choice.
5	WHISKEY ALLEY – Improved as major longshot at Penn and chance to continue progress.

Race 7

8	UNION PURRFECTON – Closer than odds predicted and back at level of claim; usually fires.
12	WATCH HILL – Easily second best this spot but humbled by top pick sprinting in November.
4	MOVING TO KENTUCKY – Upset sprinters with closing kick and taking logical next step.
10	EXCLUSIVE DANCER – Offers closing kick at times but last couple discouraging; can't ignore.

Race 8

10	ARUMA – Looked bit like old self when setting pace to mid-stretch; shorter yardage might help.
14	PONTIFFANY – Weakened behind top pick after Pino re-claimed; obvious threat but must draw in.
5	DAKOTA SPRINGS – Penn invader won 5 of 12 outings last season; good record this distance.
13	WINKIWINKI – Rapid mare but numerous losses at short odds; early pressure from inside.

Race 9

3	BEYONDEXPECTATIONS – Fired every outing since layoff and re-bid this spot in narrow loss.
4	MR PUNCTUALITY – Advanced late behind first pick and ran into tiger in previous defeat.
1	SHOWTIME MATINEE – Rapid gelding with excellent form at Penn; likely pacesetter inside.
8	SON OF THOR – Terrific locally last year but sidelined since July; can rate off pace if needed.

Race 10

2	SMOKE WAGON – Cruised past entire field in 13-1 upset in best yet; repeats with similar effort.
10	HARP'S HOT CORNER – Loves to win and sharp effort this spot despite slow start, wide trip.
11	RESPIRATOR – Hampered by difficult trip and prior outing encouraging; chance at long odds.
7	MISSION FIRST – Decisive score with lesser after outrun by top choice; possible pacesetter.

Race 11

5	SHIPMAN – Sharp with tougher at Laurel after moving to Pino barn; competed well in Kentucky.
8	PALM ISLAND – Used up dueling and hard to like or ignore plunge after \$25,000 Nov. claim.
14	CISCO KID – Yet another taking significant drop after changing barns again; Dunn 45% in 2025.
15	TRANSCENDENTAL – Absentee tested various tracks and surfaces; blinkers off, must draw in.