



Craig Donnelly's

ANALY\$IS\$
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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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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: BORRACHO (1st) – MISSOURI RIVER (5th)

Race 1

2	BORRACHO – Decisive score after Ness re-claimed and 22 time winner should handle raise.
7	DOWNTOWNCHALYBROWN – Vied to mid-stretch before tiring for higher tag; long losing skid.
5	YULETIDE GALLOP – Battled throughout twice on road trips; proven he fits with this kind.
6	MIDLANER – Even effort this spot after Moore re-claimed and formidable locally in past.

Race 2

1	TRY HARDER – Victim of traffic trouble in solid field last week; excellent effort prior outing.
3	TRANSCENDENT – Captured last two starts by combined 16 ¼ lengths; moves to Pino barn.
2	ROMANTIC GAMBLE – Drew away eagerly from cheaper when Gallimore took; 10-for-44 career.
4	BACKSIDE BUZZ – Closed well this level as heavy favorite when Padilla-Preciado claimed.

Race 3

4	PITTORE D'ORO – Advanced well against similar after arriving from Turfway; progress likely.
1	ASTRID – Fair showing with similar and puts blinkers back on; likely speed along inside.
5	CANDOTHIS – Crushed maidens in mud two months ago and takes realistic next step.
6	LUMINOUS SECRET – Failed twice as huge favorite at Laurel but must respect Ness runners.

Race 4

4	CATHEDRAL AISLE – Wired maidens in seasonal bow when adding Lasix at Aqueduct in slop.
2	ROSIE WARRIOR – Overmatched twice since claim but romped earlier and fits this level.
1	TUSH PUSH – Flashes of ability but finished behind some of these; must put it all together.
5	MARIAH'S BIG GIRL – Quick filly back home but stamina woes persist; lone victory on turf.

Race 5

2	MISSOURI RIVER – Edged by classy opponent when easily second best; finds ideal condition.
5	ELUSIVE TARGET – Good form since Catalano claim and decisive win in 15-1 upset this spot.
6	CHACHACHING – Sharp on road trip after defeating capable, group locally; late kick anticipated.
4	SUNDAY SPIRIT – Dueled and continued gamely against second pick; chance to shake loose.

Race 6

1	AMBITIOUSLY PLACED – Amazing 8-year-old exits 20 th victory; drops notch after Pino re-claim.
2	MOOR STRENGTH – Cruised past slightly easier after lacking room; Badillo-Casado barn firing.
5	POPOVER GAL – Rushed up after bad start; formidable in past and speedy threat this level.
4	SOCIETY BALL – Retreated behind top choice and soundly beaten last three; must improve.

Race 7

3	PEAK OF CHIC – Difficult to like or dismiss plunge; 13-time winner sidelined since July.
9	DAKOTA SPRINGS – Contributes to lively pace but showing tendency to weaken in stretch.
8	QUEEN WIGGY – Yet another front-runner which came up empty with long lead two weeks ago.
4	SOLEMN OATH – Menacing wide rally on turn as major longshot; might continue progress.

Race 8 THE \$75,000 WAIT FOR IT STAKES

1	SHANE'S WONDER – Wired both attempts in impressive style; remains perfect first stakes try.
6	GOLD IN MY HANDS – Forced pace in good effort against top choice; broke slowly prior outing.
3	PRESENCEISAPRESENT – Overcame awkward break and traffic woes; meets colts first time.
2	CONNOR'S CREW – Absent since leading throughout in December when adding blinkers.

Race 9 THE \$100,000 UNIQUE BELLA STAKES

6	KAPPA KAPPA – Set pace then tired in graded route stake; upset Grade II in Keeneland sprint.
7	CONFIRMED STAR – Rallied last to first with powerful move following \$50,000 Moore claim.
1	DISCO EBO – Rapid mare looked like old self winning latest; 14-for-37 and \$863,744 in bank.
3	CARMELINA – Weakened after layoff at Colonial; ample success in past with Lopez aboard.

Race 10 THE \$100,000 PAGE MCKENNEY HANDICAP

2	TWISTED RIDE – Repelled rival after extended pressure in game score; edge in competitive field.
7	GORDIAN KNOT – Terrific form since \$50,000 Ness claim and wore down talented rival latest.
9	KOHLER'S – Lightly raced but formidable sprinter idle since September; won after layoff before.
3	INSURMOUNTABLE – Caught second pick late despite early roughing after layoff; can progress.