



# 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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**MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:40 - MEMORIAL DAY**

Best Bets: WARRIOR WAYNE (6<sup>th</sup>) – ALL AMERICAN ROD (7<sup>th</sup>)

## Race 1

- 1** COACH BENNETT – Unruly delaying the start then dueled gamely in race taken by deep closer.
- 7** ASSOCIATED - Faded after hiatus at tough Keeneland meet; couple encouraging tries earlier.
- 5** TEDISON – By super-quick Mitole out of stakes-winning dam; fast works for 4-year-old debut.
- 4** IRISH MAMBA – Finished nicely in bow and \$45,000 purchase should benefit from experience.

## Race 2

- 4** ROAN BURGUNDY – Overmatched last pair but romped previously; Padilla barn clicks at 24%.
- 2** YOUTBETTERBEJOKING – Big effort this spot against Ness winner; third finisher captured next.
- 1** ALILNALOT – Trounced easier when hot Vega barn claimed just 9 days ago; dangerous.
- 5** SPEEDY HANS – Veteran with much success at Tampa; switches to Pino barn seeking 12<sup>th</sup> win.

## Race 3

- 5** LORDEN'S PRIDE- Hard used setting pace when claimed by DeMasi; should handle soft group.
- 2** MATZOBALL MUHAMMET- Stretching out first time in third race after layoff; one to catch.
- 1** GUNMAN JAYVO – Offers speed along inside but hampered by stamina woes and 22 chances.
- 3** LITTLE SNECKDRAW – Made up ground again as longshot with pace that favored late runners.

## Race 4

- 6** GRUENE HALL – Raced sparingly but chased repeat winner in March and Guerrero barn hot.
- 4** MIA COUNTING – Humbled by smashing winner in sprint but handled route earlier; 18<sup>th</sup> attempt.
- 1** LADY AMELIE – Brief traffic trouble as longshot but likely speed inside trying two turns.
- 2** IRIE AND MELLOW – Making key third start since return but came up empty in stretch again.

## Race 5

- 1** GOLDEN CHAKRA – Fired all four outings and battled throughout after claim; softer version.
- 3** EDGE OF THE BLADE – Good efforts at Penn since hiatus and local success in past; key threat.
- 4** INSTANT VISION – Nearly overcame slow start when leading to final yards in weaker field.
- 6** ROSIE WARRIOR – Soundly beaten since maiden romp but been idle and faces tough task.

## Race 6

- 2** WARRIOR WAYNE – Edged this spot after arriving from Gulfstream; handles various surfaces.
- 7** TRUE CONNECTION – Heavily-back as usual but finished behind top choice; consistently fires.
- 5** EARL OF DASSEL – Prominent throughout with similar when rebounding from poor showings.
- 10** REAL CONVICTION – Offered middle move then weakened; upset chance despite tricky post.

### Race 7

<b>5</b>	ALL AMERICAN ROD – Aggressive drop returning to sprint after dueling talented routers.
<b>1</b>	WHISKEYROMEOSIERRA – Very quick and exits “key” race where several runners fired again.
<b>2</b>	BRAVE BLEND – Dueled to final furlong with speedy group and drops in for tag again.
<b>3</b>	AUTHENTIC KINGDOM – Game effort when pressured all way after King claim; up a notch.

### Race 8

<b>1</b>	NEIGH DUDE – Hard-hitter with 15 victories moves inside and can rate off pace; 22% Moore barn.
<b>3</b>	LASSO – Yet another which nearly always fires and defeated top pick in March; major threat.
<b>4</b>	MAC DADDY TOO – Changed barns again but nearly always fires; numerous frustrating losses.
<b>2</b>	A VOTRE SANTE – Retreated in route but likely better suited this yardage; upset possibility.

### Race 9

<b>1</b>	SMOOTH MOTION – Used up after early roughing but should shake loose and lead throughout.
<b>2</b>	EXCLUSIVE DANCER – Slow fuse but regained closing kick in latest and merits attention.
<b>3</b>	COALVILLE – Regally-bred gelding proven he fits with these but often difficult to guess.
<b>6</b>	PARLAY FOR DESTINY – Hard-earned score vs. single-winners as 1-2 chalk; Pino barn now.