



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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SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M. - FATHER'S DAY

Best Bets: SPHERIFICATION (6th) – MISTER MONDAY NITE (7th)

Race 1

- 1** HUGGY – Shown ability in past and takes significant drop for high percentage Padilla stable.
- 2** DOCSGOTALLTHECANDY – Speedy gelding prominent to late stages in route; adjusts to sprint.
- 3** SITTIN CHILLY – Led under pressure and continued well this spot three weeks ago; upset shot.
- 7** PRAIRIE DUNES – Consistently close but numerous chances with similar; just 2-for-40 career.

Race 2

- 5** DESERT AIRE – Set pressured pace in good effort sprinting; passed stamina test in March.
- 1** ZOPPI FISCHBEIN – Absent since October and slow fuse but ample targets for late kick.
- 7** SOUTHERN DREAM – Signs of progress lately and rare try around two turns as possibility.
- 2** WAR COMMANDER – Finished behind pair above after hiatus and sharp in winter routes.

Race 3

- 7** WORLD WIDE WEB – Difficult to excuse 13 defeats but just missed in last when easily second.
- 4** THE FRIDGE – Anticipated better when failing as 1-2 chalk and claimed; prior try encouraging.
- 5** MI HERMANO – Led to final furlong after layoff and changed barns; likely fitter now as threat.
- 6** AUSSIE'S HEIR – Idle since November but drops from top maiden ranks and adds Lasix.

Race 4

- 7** ALYVIA MAVIS – Aggressive drop by leading barn after facing tougher here and elsewhere.
- 6** BROAD STROKES – Improved effort when trying blinkers and shorter yardage in her favor.
- 4** CRAVING CARBS – Captured two of last three at Penn for high percentage Kulp stable.
- 2** ENGLISH ELSA – Overran maidens in 12th attempt and taking logical next step for Coletti.

Race 5

- 2** DAVID'S KITTEN – Set up nicely for elongated sprint when just over length back in Delaware rte.
- 6** GENTLEMAN DON – Easily second best to repeat winner as longshot in best yet this spot.
- 4** WARHEADED – Made up ground late again and extra distance might help in soft company.
- 3** LITTLE SNECKDRAW – Close up last pair in routes and should be gaining late this yardage.

Race 6

- 6** SPHERIFICATION – Won last pair decisively around two turns; Aristone claim continues streak.
- 5** EXTRASEXYMCSTEEMEE- Battled throughout in blanket finish when claimed by Pino barn.
- 8** IT'S AUTHENTIC – Good effort this spot after Abrams took and needs to put pair together.
- 3** PEACH SMOOTHIE – Tested over synthetic and now tries route; might set pace under pressure.

Race 7

8	MISTER MONDAY NITE – Debut defeat in tough field on Preakness undercard with very wide trip
3	RAGATONY – Good effort in last and second finisher won next easily; just missed only prior try.
4	ASSOCIATED – Heavily-backed in local bow after competing at tough meets; retains Sanchez.
5	BUFF GARY – Speedy gelding tends to weaken in late stages but adding blinkers.

Race 8

2	ALLENHURST – Keeps on firing at various venues and ran into tigriss last local attempt.
5	EDGE OF THE BLADE – Wore down rivals in slop last month; both victories achieved locally.
7	LADY SRIRACHA – Sufficient ability but makes first start of year after losing last 10 tries.
6	FLAMING EYES – Better than odds predicted last pair but soundly outrun by top selection.

Race 9

3	ATROCIOUS – Rebounded from poor showing with strong effort behind smashing winner.
10	RILEY'S ROCKSTAR – Drops notch after very wide rally; slow fuse and extreme outside post.
5	TRUE CONNECTION – Usually close with heavy support but no excuse when outrun by top pick.
1	UNION PURRFECTION – Balked loading then set pressured pace in good effort; speed inside.