



# 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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**SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:10 P.M. – BELMONT STAKES DAY**

Best Bets: **PROFOUND (8<sup>th</sup>) – IF I CAN DREAM (9<sup>th</sup>)**

## Race 1

- 1** GOTTA GUY – Chased runaway winner at loftier level and significant drop removing blinkers.
- 2** TAVERN TIME – Overcame traffic problems as odds-on winner and taking logical next step.
- 5** CARLIN CONTENTION – Pair of solid efforts since moving to Padilla barn; likely gaining late.
- 7** KUZ IT'S CHILLY – Battled throughout in narrow loss as longshot this spot; merits attention.

## Race 2

- 4** SUNDRIA – Plunges for Ness barn in rare trip around two turns; closing kick when in mood.
- 6** HI HEELED WARRIOR – Cruised past slightly easier and flattered when runner-up won next time.
- 5** BATTLING TIME – Forced pace long way and rallied from behind in prior score; upset chance.
- 2** OBSTINATE – Possibility if disregard latest; 9-year-old mare hit board 34 of 70 attempts.

## Race 3

- 3** CANDOTHIS – Dueled to final yards when taken from this spot and romped vs. maidens earlier.
- 6** MADDIE'S GARDEN – Defeated top choice when stretching out again after poor sprint efforts.
- 1** ROYALTIES RICHES – Broke sluggishly in local bow after hiatus; initial try around two turns.
- 4** ASTRID – Faced better in past but last couple discouraging; wired routers in October.

## Race 4

- 2** SUNLIT – Wide margin score at Penn for high percentage Kulp barn; first local appearance.
- 1** AGGRO – Chased tougher at Delaware and making third start since hiatus; Allard barn firing.
- 5** WEST SIDE DIVA – Speedy filly stretches out as probable pacesetter but stamina woes persist.
- 3** MELODY'S KISS – Distant third in sprint and lost all 8 attempts this distance; must progress.

## Race 5

- 4** ELUSIVE TARGET – Bargain claim by Penaloza edged by repeat winner; should handle yardage.
- 1** SUNDAY SPIRIT – Terrific gelding won five of last six for Solis barn, often in game fashion.
- 6** SUNDAESWITHSANDY – May have needed first outing since August at Delaware; 8-for-32.
- 5** SILENT MODE – Late kick in hard-earned score with similar; may continue improvement.

## Race 6

- 7** REELIN N DEALIN- Drops notch after early excuses and claimed from third straight outing.
- 4** WHAT IT TIZ – Chased pair of runaway winners in possibly tougher versions of this spot.
- 5** CARRY GRANT – Disliked wet footing as usual but good form earlier; rare sprint outing.
- 8** DESERT AIRE – Tries sprinting again and likely to contribute to early pace again.

**Race 7**

<b>1</b>	<b>NIXON JOY – Exits pair of upsets with last-to-first rallies and shown he handles this distance.</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>THE BEST DISTANCE – Determined veteran with 15 victories led throughout at Delaware.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>AMEDEUS MUSIC – Survived repeated trouble in double-digit romp when Potts claimed.</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>DEVIL’S CAY – Far back after claim but defeated top pick this yardage in prior attempt.</b>

**Race 8**

<b>4</b>	<b>PROFOUND – Powerful effort in local bow battling odds-on winner to final yards; well-spotted.</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>FREEDOM’S ECHO – Absentee impressed here in November; working fast and gets Lasix.</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>OUR NOTION – Frequently close at various venues but lone victory from 10 attempts for Ness.</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>FLASH OF CHAOS – Ran into tiger at Aqueduct after crushing maiden-claimers at Keeneland.</b>

**Race 9**

<b>4</b>	<b>IF I CAN DREAM – Set pace and resisted when challenged by winner and easily second best.</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>NUMBERS GAME – Decisive score when Moore claimed for \$40,000; making steady progress.</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>INTROUBLEAGAIN – Exits good effort but conqueror next finished far behind top choice.</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>FILLED WITH DESIRE- Trounced lesser and re-claimed soon as possible by Hawthorne barn.</b>

**Race 13 SARATOGA – THE \$2,000,000 BELMONT STAKES**

<b>3</b>	<b>CHIEF WALLABEE – Raced in heavy traffic and bothered mid-stretch Derby; Mott won last year</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>COMMANDMENT – Big move after early trouble in Derby and twice edged top choice for Cox.</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>RENEGADE – Closed huge gap in Louisville after impressive Oaklawn score; always fires.</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>GOLDEN TEMPO – Passed entire field in Derby when benefiting from quick and contested pace.</b>