



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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WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: CENTRAL TO SUCCESS (8th) – ENFORCER (9th)

Race 1

- 8** WAITWAITDONTTELLME – Major progress last pair going short and long; suited by distance.
- 1** YOU KNOW ME – Rediscovered ability when closing well to finish just ahead of top choice.
- 7** FAST MOTION – Speedy mare hampered by stamina issues but has won this yardage in past.
- 6** GOLDEN PHILLY – Numerous losses at short odds but frequently claimed and can't dismiss.

Race 2

- 1** TARA'S TALENT – Ten-year-old mare seen better days and rallied after hiatus; shorter time plus.
- 6** POPOVER GAL – Rapid and determined mare 8-for-26 and seeks third in row for Velazquez.
- 3** THELASTBULLETSMINE – Veteran competed well in New York and fired this spot locally.
- 7** MENDED WE STAND – Long losing streak but racing cheapest in ages and merits attention.

Race 3

- 2** JUDY'S FLYER – Responded well to plunge with wide-margin romp despite slow start.
- 6** CLEARLY COPPER – Wore down loose pacesetter on wet surface after claim; key threat again.
- 4** WILD GIRL – Overmatched for new barn but just missed prior outing this spot; figures close.
- 5** SHE CAN SCAT – Finished with good energy again and hit board four straight; must consider.

Race 4

- 5** SHOW EM UP – Absent since October debut at top Pa.-bred maiden level; gets Lasix in return.
- 7** SWEETBITTERS – Flashes of interest in Kentucky and under new management fourth time.
- 3** INNER EXCELLENCE – Victim of bad stumble when claimed; close up twice earlier in year.
- 4** POM POM – Moves from turf to dirt and makes presence felt early; needs to shake loose.

Race 5

- 8** NIKKI'S CHARM – Difficult to like or dismiss plunge after romping with Pa.-breds in debut.
- 4** CHUCK'S LAW – Crushed routers in tenth attempt and likely set up nicely for elongated sprint.
- 3** KING BAROU – Closer than odds predicted when taking drop; improving for hot Penaloza barn.
- 7** BASIN BAY – Outrun on wet footing after layoff and began career with easy score in September.

Race 6

- 5** Z STORM IS COMING – Big effort with similar in slop after hiatus; removes blinkers, improves.
- 7** SERGEANT SINATRA – Advanced very wide in another good effort; often forms bottom exacta.
- 4** COMPA – Prominent throughout last when just ahead of top pick; best when controls pace.
- 10** SUNNY MAGIC – Led then edged away from single-winners and gets clear sailing outside.

Race 7

5	WILLISAU – Improved against solid rivals on road trip and appears well-spotted by Linder barn.
4	IF I CAN DREAM – Fired nearly every time and solid effort this spot in slop; obvious danger.
1	ARCH COMPETITOR – Trounced rival in slop which won next start easily; avoids tag this time.
3	PENN FRANKLIN – Prominent to final furlong in route and likely better suited this yardage.

Race 8

6	CENTRAL TO SUCCESS – Hampered by early trouble and wide trip when likely best this spot.
5	MARILYN M – Battled to final yards with similar in just second outing of season; speedy threat.
4	WEST OF LEX – Trounced maidens in Indiana finale when removing blinkers; logical next step.
3	STATELY GIRL – Finished behind pair above but crushed maidens and capable of better.

Race 9

5	ENFORCER – Fair showing on wet surface after just missing on fast track; tigerish in past.
2	LITTLE LANCE – Weakened slightly under pressure as heavy favorite when claimed this spot.
9	MISSION FIRST – Drops within same claiming tag for new connections; must be considered.
8	LORD WINSALOT – Rallied behind smashing odds-on winner in slop; 9-year-old with 13 wins.