



# 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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**THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026 – FIRST POST 5:00 P.M.**

**Best Bets: BOOTLEG RUNNER (3<sup>rd</sup>) – PINK ROSE (5<sup>th</sup>)**

### Race 1

- 7** TIZ THE COAST – Dueled nearly this far with routers and should adjust to sprint in soft field.
- 8** VIX – Failing to run to backing and idle nearly two months since claim but capable in past.
- 5** PASTERO – Slow fuse but regained closing kick in slop; sufficient early targets for set-up.
- 4** CHILLING TIME – Woke up last week when runner-up to favored winner as major longshot.

### Race 2

- 7** PIT STOP MAN – Exits pair of sharp efforts at Laurel and seeking 17<sup>th</sup> career victory.
- 3** MAC DADDY TOO – Overmatched last pair and significant drop after costing \$16,000 in May.
- 2** COJELO PA TI – Lightly raced but very quick and re-claimed in last by Pino stable.
- 8** YOUNG SQUIRE – Hard-earned score in last and realistic next step after changing barns again.

### Race 3

- 4** BOOTLEG RUNNER – Dominated single-winners couple weeks ago; repeats with similar try.
- 1** WILL'S MUSIC – Excellent effort despite long absence when rallying in slop; should progress.
- 2** HEPHEPCUTDOWNNETS – Prone to poor starts but drops in third outing since hiatus.
- 5** DAVID'S KITTEN – Poor showing in route after claim but crushed maidens sprinting before.

### Race 4

- 2** CAPITAL CONQUEST – Dueled to late stages against more frequent winners; new connections.
- 4** HOPPY TIME – Led throughout in hard-earned score; obvious threat with logical next step.
- 3** SMOOTH MOTION – Often quick in routes but gave up early last time; merits attention.
- 9** BRAVE BLEND – Failed with long lead this distanced in slop; rallied from off pace earlier.

### Race 5

- 2** PINK ROSE – Terrific mare with 9-for-25 mark upset very talented group after hiatus this yardage
- 8** WARRIOR'S RANSOM – Bid strongly then outfinished in recent outing; powerful closing kick.
- 6** I CAN RUN – Drew off through final furlong in confidence booster; well-spotted again.
- 1** MAGICAL TRICK – Captured two of last three races by combined 25 lengths; must consider.

### Race 6

- 1** MR. MENDELSSOHN – Narrowed gap extremely wide in slop and works out better trip this time.
- 3** REAL CONVICTION – Signs of progress in recent routes and elongated sprint seems helpful.
- 5** CARLIN CONTENTION – Won three of last four attempts but all-out to edge softer field.
- 7** STAR MAN BOB – Speedy and improved stamina in recent outings; extra yardage obstacle.

### Race 7

|          |                                                                                          |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8</b> | WALK AWAY JOE - Keeps firing and edged by rival which stepped up and won again next out. |
| <b>5</b> | BOB JOHN RAY – Convincing score and re-claimed soon as possible by Ness; major threat.   |
| <b>3</b> | AMEDEUS MUSIC – Dueled to late stages when finishing ahead of top pick; romped earlier.  |
| <b>2</b> | HERMOSO HOMBRE – Closed big gap in narrow loss in possibly softer version of this spot.  |

### Race 8

|           |                                                                                                  |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5</b>  | AHSAD – Amazing veteran with 18-for-118 record takes significant drop for high percentage barn   |
| <b>12</b> | FAST BOB – Drew clear and lasted in route after Soto-Martinez claim; set up nicely this yardage. |
| <b>4</b>  | NICOLE’S KING – Failed to offer true measure in slop after just missing previously fast track.   |
| <b>8</b>  | AU SOME WARRIOR – Defeated three-time winners when Pino took; down in tag but up in class.       |