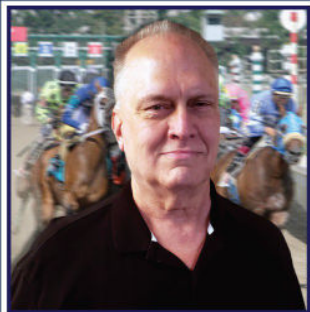




Craig Donnelly's

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, AUGUST 17, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: VIX (2nd) – CAPITAL CONQUEST (7th)

Race 1

- 6** RANTING AND RAVING – Overmatched in last and chased smashing winner in prior attempt.
- 3** EXTRASEXYZQTEEPEYE – Set pressured pace when re-claimed by ownership; stamina tested.
- 2** ROYALTIES RICHES – Eight lengths behind top choice as big favorite; prior try encouraging.
- 5** AMERICAN PEACHES – Disappointed in last after rallying on wet surface previously; fits well.

Race 2

- 4** VIX – Excellent speed leading throughout in longer test after Soto-Martinez took; can repeat.
- 3** BATTLE ANTHEM – Prevailed as odds-on chalk and main threat with logical next step.
- 7** PRAIRIE DUNES – Frequently close hitting board 21 times but just 2-for-43 career mark.
- 5** REVERSE THE CURSE – Competing cheapest ever but stamina issues persist; early pressure.

Race 3

- 5** WAR COMMANDER – Cruised past two-time winners when spreading out field; soft opposition.
- 2** WHAT IT TIZ – Advanced late in sprint and finished ahead of top pick before when setting pace.
- 3** RUN CORY RUN – Makes presence felt early but winless past two seasons; tries two turns.
- 4** REAL CONVICTION – Possible pacesetter stretching out but better form here last year.

Race 4

- 4** SUNDRIA – Faced better on road trip after edged this spot locally when claimed by Potts barn.
- 3** I BELIEVE IN MAGIC – Veteran nearly always fires and just missed following hiatus at Delaware.
- 1** SOLEMN OATH – Absent over three months but retains closing kick seeking 13th career score.
- 6** SPIRITED RIDE – Idle since hard-earned score in March but obvious contender if ready.

Race 5

- 1** MISSION ARTEMIS – Plunges after humbled by stablemate at Penn; fits against this kind.
- 3** AWOL – Eventful trip at Monmouth after winning locally; lively pace scenario in his favor.
- 5** SINCERITO – Easily second best this spot and shorter time between outings appears plus.
- 7** DESERT AIRE – Improved try against heavy favorite and handled route here in March.

Race 6

- 1** CENTAUR CENTRAL – Lost momentum when in tight top stretch; upset chance with clear trip.
- 8** TIZTIMONIAL – Narrowed gap sprinting again and making progress; sufficient early targets.
- 6** VINO DOMINUS – Retreated after forcing pace in Kentucky finale; plunges below price claimed.
- 9** TIZ THE COAST – Used up chasing quick pacesetter in sprint and adds to contested fractions.

Race 7

3	CAPITAL CONQUEST – Crushed three-time winners after claim to end loss streak; good in past.
4	NICOLE’S KING – Easily second best this spot prior to break; disliked wet footing prior outing.
8	AHSAD – No excuse when dropped to this level and claimed; veteran boasts 18 career scores.
6	CARBONITE – Hard used dueling for higher tag after upset score this spot; merits attention.

Race 8

3	MOR CHEESE PLEASE – Dueled long way on Ellis Park turf; showed dirt ability at Oaklawn.
2	BROTHER ENERGY – Humbled by runaway slop winner after hiatus; progress anticipated.
6	SOLE LUTE – Often close earlier but numerous losses at short odds; back home as threat.
8	EVERYTHING ORLY – Roughed early in debut defeat on turf; high percentage barn and Lopez.

Race 9

3	IT’S AUTHENTIC – Narrowly missed this spot when claimed again; finally gains second victory.
1	HEPHEPCUTDOWNNETS – Chased repeat winner in sprint and likely speed inside trying route.
7	KING BAROU – Fair showing behind top pick nearly two months ago; must be considered.
8	QUETZAL ISLAND – Better than odds predicted in sprint and showed route prowess before.

Race 10

5	ENFORCER – Veteran sharper in past but benefits from lively pace at suitable distance.
8	MISSION FIRST – Prominent throughout when finishing ahead of top choice and claimed.
9	COJELO PA TI – Speedy colt hampered by stamina woes but remains dangerous this level.
6	ADIOS JERSEY – Solid try against three-time winners but faces severe early pressure.