



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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TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.- SMARTY JONES DAY

Best Bets: SPIKEZONE (7th) – TAP TO OPEN (10th)

Race 1

- 2** MALIBU WARRIOR – Returns to amount of claim and stretches out again; winning streak earlier.
- 1** HEY PORTER – Veteran on rare losing skid but drops with ample local success in past.
- 9** TRAFFIC MASTER – Improved effort when easily second best behind winning favorite.
- 8** BESTSUGARDADDYEVER – Claimed from five of last six outings but often difficult to guess.

Race 2

- 3** TROTSKY – Third behind pair of capable shippers in June and runs big race on occasion.
- 4** PARTY WITH SMARTY – Keeps firing with routers and Ness runner should adjust to sprint.
- 6** KING DEIVYS – Disregard latest and closed with rush prior outing; likely suited this yardage.
- 7** BIZ WHIZ – Exits upset on Delaware turf and also prevailed locally in maiden victory.

Race 3

- 2** GIRVINIZED – Game and versatile mare back on dirt with impressive score here last summer.
- 8** CENTER STAGE – Humbled by smashing winner in last and part of exacta in 20 of 45 starts.
- 9** TARA'S TALENT – Ten-year-old mare overcame traffic to win sprint; rare try around two turns.
- 4** WINKIWINKI – Monmouth shipper seeks third straight going short and long; merits attention.

Race 4

- 8** LUCKY DUDE – Failed to offer true measure at Spa and series of terrific local efforts for Kirby.
- 3** NO EASY DAYS – Chased rocket following \$50,000 claim; determined vet nearing half million.
- 2** PACO THE TACO MAN – Within couple feet of taking five straight but tested with this kind.
- 6** LASSO – Awesome stretch-runner won when Aristone claimed and retains Wolfsont as threat.

Race 5

- 3** MAXIMUS ANGELICUS – Retreated vs. solid state-breds but several big efforts previously.
- 4** PERSIAN – Used up dueling with quick opposition and finished ahead of top pick prior try.
- 2** YES PICNIC – Battled formidable rival at Delaware after double-digit romp over this course.
- 5** HAUNTRESS – Dueled long way at Spa but ages since last victory and rare sprint attempt.

Race 6 THE \$75,000 PTHA PRESIDENT'S SPRINT

- 1** UNWRITTEN RULE – Competed well in graded turf sprint stake at Spa; main track talent Florida.
- 6** FULMINE – Back sprinting on dirt and won stake at Gulfstream; outran top choice at Tampa.
- 4** MISTER MONDAY NITE – Weakened in rapid company at Colonial after pair of impressive wins.
- 3** CONNOR'S CREW – Pulled away from capable Pa.-breds this yardage in just third race of year.

Race 7 THE \$75,000 STATE REPRESENTATIVE'S SPRINT

6	SPIKEZONE – Led throughout with energy in reserve; edged prior try despite bad start.
1	BUCCHERINO – Among top sprinters in local history with numerous stakes victories.
3	MAXIMUS MERIDIUS – Very determined score after layoff and battled second pick last year.
4	FIRE PIT – Excellent since return and beat top pick with better trip; rapid work for this.

Race 8

4	GET SET – Weakened in solid field but re-claimed by Pino barn and ample success in past.
6	A VOTRE SANTE – Used up early when outrun by streaking winner; improved this season.
5	MORETHANAFEELING – Held rival safe in game score and fired in seven straight over track.
7	HIGHER SENSE – Overmatched in Jersey stake but formidable at times and removes blinkers.

Race 9 THE \$75,000 MAYOR'S MILE

7	WILD VINE – Lightly raced but very successful with 11-for-29 record and \$462,490 in bankroll.
6	OFFALY COOL – Terrific veteran prevailed after 10 month's absence; 9-for-13 over local mark.
2	MOVISITOR – Wired capable group at Penn despite over year on sidelines; progress likely.
3	NELSON AVENUE – Used up dueling on turf but perfect locally including stake in September.

Race 10 THE \$200,000 CATHRYN SOPHIA STAKES

2	TAP TO OPEN – Steady development and fired at top meets in Arkansas and Kentucky for Cox.
3	MS SOPHISTICATION – Proven route ability elsewhere and \$525,000 buy continues progress.
1	PROJECT MAXIMUS – Ample promise as juvenile and probable pacesetter from inside as threat.
4	MISS FULTON GAL – Overmatched in Grade I stake after capturing two stakes earlier in year.

Race 11 THE \$200,000 SMARTY JONES STAKES

6	PONDER AND DREAM – Crushed Pa.-breds again in best yet; should prove difficult to catch.
5	VERY VOLATILE – Faded in tough field at Colonial and won prior Laurel outing after layoff.
3	FREEDOM'S ECHO – Defeated older rivals in second race since return; brisk work for this.
4	STAR SWEEPER – Far back last pair in classy company after just missing in Long Branch.

Race 12

5	DIVINE SEEKER – Broke sluggishly and lost whip near top stretch; set for maximum effort.
9	LADY ANNABELLE – Bargain claim outran top pick and seeks fifth straight for top stable.
1	TIZ PURPLE – Victim of severe trouble in stretch; romped in prior outing at Delaware.
3	SISTER EVE – Improving mare trounced lesser when Kirby claimed; must be considered.