



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, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: DRUM ROLL PLEASE (7th) – STATELY GIRL (8th)

Race 1

- 1** MILES OF SMILES – Lightly raced mare hard to like or ignore plunge after competing for \$25k.
- 5** SISTER SUPREME – Chased streaking winner at loftier levels at Delaware; Gallegos barn hot.
- 4** MARY'S REWARD – Fits well for leading barn at Penn and boasted four race win streak earlier.
- 8** LADY EMILY KATHRYN – Competed primarily on turf and synthetic but several local workouts.

Race 2

- 6** QUAKER CITY – Tests stamina again and recent conqueror narrowly missed in next attempt.
- 5** MOR CHEESE PLEASE – Led easily to final furlong then weakened in local bow; dangerous.
- 3** SOLE LUTE – Obvious contender but numerous losses at short odds in 11 tries; can't dismiss.
- 2** REBELLUTION – Finished behind top pick for new connections; close three prior outings.

Race 3

- 2** FIRST CLASS T L C – Hinted at ability in Gulf debut; finished third at Monmouth on Friday.
- 7** BLAZING BRIDGETTE – Ness runner frequently close elsewhere and handles various surfaces.
- 4** MISCHIEF STORM – Competed well this spot in prior outing; dam terrific runner this circuit.
- 6** BULMA – Runner-up last three sprinting for lower tags; faded in prior route attempts.

Race 4

- 1** FAYTASTIC – Strong finish in bulky field and top pair ran big again; should continue progress.
- 7** BLOODY COLORS WAVE – Very quick and plunges after three month's absence; key threat.
- 2** THELASTBULLETSMINE – Road warrior trailed at Charles Town but often close previously.
- 5** MOOR STRENGTH – Firing nearly every outing and serious contender in good version this spot.

Race 5

- 8** BATTLE ANTHEM – Rallied behind heavy favorite this spot in mud; shorter break appears plus.
- 7** SITTIN CHILLY – Failed as always on wet surface but sheds 10 pounds and fits with this kind.
- 6** SCUDETTO – Much closer than odds suggest last pair and should be making up ground late.
- 2** PRAIRIE DUNES – Often close but stuck in this spot many months; possibility on best.

Race 6

- 7** GREAT COMPOSER – Speedy and improving gelding battled classy company to late stages.
- 4** NIKKI'S CHARM – Captured both races by wide margins; gets tested for new connections.
- 2** TROTSKY – Good efforts this spot and top pair from last event have won since; dangerous.
- 3** RIGHT WING RUNNER – Very quick and making key third start since layoff; merits attention.

Race 7

3	DRUM ROLL PLEASE – Edged in big effort in “open” company; sharp this spot prior outing.
4	ALCHEMISM – Freshened since poor showing but upset chance despite long losing skid.
6	CULTIVATE – Used up dueling tough company at Colonial; tries two turns again for Ness.
2	ROAN BURGUNDY – Hard used forcing pace from extreme outside post in bigger field.

Race 8

6	STATELY GIRL – Narrowly missed when easily second best at Delaware; chased rocket locally.
7	STARLIT NITE – Eventful trip in first attempt since November; fitter now and back home.
4	MARILYN M – Dueled to stretch then weakened, finishing three lengths behind top choice.
1	AVATUDE – Possibility if throw out latest; could regain closing kick for high percentage barn.

Race 9

2	BRIGHT KOHANA – Absent couple months and drops within same claiming tag in soft field.
4	CREATIVE CAUSE – Game mare boasts 10 victories but sidelined since November; must guess.
5	PEAK OF CHIC – Used up forcing pace after sluggish break from rail; very classy in past.
7	GOLDEN PHILLY – Battled eventual winner long way in longer test; light package with “bug” up.