



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, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: KING DEIVYS (3rd) – TRANSCENDENTAL (6th)

Race 1

- 8** ANITA GLASSOFWINE – Shows 13 defeats but faces softest field yet; clear sailing outside.
- 1** SAND QUEEN – Absent since claimed at Turfway in February; Kentucky invaders excelling here.
- 6** LADY AMELIE – Competed over various surfaces with moderate success; back sprinting.
- 4** COCOA NIMBUS – Hits bottom after flashing speed then trailing; began career with promise.

Race 2

- 3** BUFF GARY – Weakened late after heated duel with heavy favorite; chance to shake loose.
- 2** IRISH MAMBA – Slow fuse but outran half of bulky field for much higher tag; main threat.
- 5** MATZOBALL MUHAMMET – Often quick but soundly beaten by top choice; makes 16th try.
- 7** ELUSIVE REWARD – Far behind following hiatus but flashes of interest earlier in season.

Race 3

- 6** KING DEIVYS – Crushed two-time winners in mud; logical next step for new connections.
- 5** NOTTURNO – Overmatched in routes and numerous good efforts earlier; fits well this level.
- 2** FIRST TRUMPET – Forced pace long way in Saratoga mile and speed to pose threat this spot.
- 3** WICKED MELODY – Sufficient ability but sidelined year; Padilla-Preciado barn clicking at 27%.

Race 4

- 3** CATCH ME A CATCH – Lacked best effort after shoe repair when claimed for \$30,000; improves.
- 6** SLASH ALLEY – Led to final yards this spot when caught by big favorite; stablemate of above.
- 1** THISGIRLSGOTCHILL – Finished behind top pair but encouraging efforts; retains Sanchez.
- 2** BENEVOLENT – Strong rally in debut at Penn National; shipping here from Maryland.

Race 5

- 3** WHOLELOTOFTROUBLE – Chased series of impressive runaway winners with steady progress
- 2** HIGHWAY PATROL – Two lengths behind top choice in local bow and making 15th attempt.
- 4** SPARTACUS – Absentee hinted at ability in both races at Gulfstream and Keeneland; new barn.
- 1** TAKE COURAGE – Rookie by Social Inclusion with ample preparation including route works.

Race 6

- 6** TRANSCENDENTAL – Disappointed as 6-5 chalk in sprint but back in route with lone speed.
- 4** HERMOSO HOMBRE – Trounced easier when changing barns again; explosive closing kick.
- 2** DONNELLY'S HOLLOW – Improving gelding overmatched in last but walloped lesser prior try.
- 5** DENYING – Hit board six straight at Monmouth and lures Lopez as likely contender.

Race 7

2	HAUNTING ECHOES – Trio of losses as odds-on chalk but shown talent; fast work for this.
6	ANCIENT – Changed course in narrow defeat in seeming softer version of this spot.
8	KOOL KAROLINE – Debut loss in Canadian turf route; very successful Saffie Joseph stable.
4	LUCKY LU LU – Prominent throughout when outrun by second pick; dam tigress this circuit.

Race 8

1	SOUPER TUSCAN – Stakes-winning road warrior drops into claimer with 5-for-12 career mark.
3	DURATION – Failed to offer true measure in June after several terrific efforts here earlier.
6	RIPPED – Sharp try in Delaware slop after absent couple months; won pair at Oaklawn.
7	BIG BOYS ANSWER – Ran into tiger in Penn route after claim; boasts 8 local victories.

Race 9

8	AUTHENTIC ANGEL – Competed well in Churchill finale; well-spotted moving to Gallegos barn.
2	PITTORE D'ORO – Nearly caught loose pacesetter when easily second best this level last month.
7	RELEVATE – Strong showing sprinting in first local try; proven route prowess at Ellis.
5	CARA'S DREAMWEAVER – Solid effort on Delaware turf after chasing smashing winner locally.