



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 28, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: WAVE RIDER (5th) – WINNING TIME (7th)

Race 1

- 3** LEX – Used up early when Carlos Guerrero re-claimed; connections won pair on Friday 18th.
- 1** CASSATION – Broke poorly from rail in chute in bulky field; romped in prior try at Monmouth.
- 2** STARLORD – Improved speed and continued gamely after Perez barn took; fits well this spot.
- 4** BOURBON AFICIONADO – Offers late kick and frequently closer than odds suggest; loss streak.

Race 2

- 6** CHUCK'S LAW – Easily second best to heavy favorite this spot; Pino barn 29% off claims.
- 7** CENTAUR CENTRAL – Bit erratic but capable at times and often forms bottom of exacta.
- 3** NO MOR STONES – Ducked out at start then hard used forcing pace for higher tag; quick threat.
- 5** HEPHEPCUTDOWNNETS – Led early before weakening behind top pick; stamina woes persist.

Race 3

- 4** TELEPHONE LINE – Failed to respond to drop but classy in past; new barn adding blinkers.
- 6** SUNLIT – Hard used after bad start from inside and most effective when reaches front early.
- 3** MADDIE'S GARDEN – Back sprinting and re-claimed by King barn where she scored earlier.
- 1** MIKEY'S SONG – Overmatched in last but close previously and likely to be gaining late.

Race 4

- 3** TAVERN TIME – Outrun sprinting 10 days ago after hiatus and likely better suited this distance.
- 4** RILEY'S ROCKSTAR – Broke slowly then gained late to finish one length ahead of top choice.
- 7** FIRST TRUMPET – Plunges and stretches out again with ample experience at this yardage.
- 2** RUN CORY RUN – Step forward when removing blinkers but winless over two seasons.

Race 5

- 4** WAVE RIDER – Overcame slow start and traffic problems in powerful score after layoff.
- 3** RESPIGHI – Rallied wide behind top choice with late energy; romped only try this yardage.
- 2** AU SOME WARRIOR – Trounced easier in best yet when claimed again; retains "bug" in Herman
- 7** SMOKED BOURBON – Probably needed first start of year adding Lasix when outrun by top pair.

Race 6

- 9** AMAZING WOO – Overmatched on road trip after solid effort for higher tag here in July.
- 3** YOUNG SQUIRE – Re-claimed by Padilla stable and drops notch; often hurts chances at start.
- 1** NICOLE'S KING – Faced better in Jersey after solid try this spot locally over wet surface.
- 10** LITTLE LANCE – Hard-earned score at Delaware; keeps firing for hot Freddy Velazquez barn.

Race 7

7	WINNING TIME – Lightly raced but loads of heart and ability; survives pressure from his inside.
5	DR. STEVE – Amazing veteran with 12-for-32 record shelved since December; flying in morning.
2	CAPO – Exits pair of solid tries at Penn and recent conqueror next won here on Pa. Derby card.
3	CULTIVATE – Rediscovered ability in route and tries blinkers in third outing after layoff.

Race 8

9	MORE THAN GRACE – Terrific filly captured 7 straight by combined 46 lengths; short price.
2	KAPPA KAPPA – Failed twice at Spa but back home with excellent mark; won Grade II last year.
5	MARY Q – Versatile mare sidelined since May but ample targets for strong closing punch.
1	CAROUSEL QUEEN – Absentee formidable here last winter and lures Lopez for return.

Race 9

3	CRAVING CARBS – Battled to late stages in longer test and formidable Pino-Sanchez combo.
8	NOULIKEABOOK – Defeated top choice and remains eligible as 3-year-old; perfect for Adorno.
11	DISCO FLASH – Used up initial half mile after long absence; speedy and progress anticipated.
5	BRISCOE COUNTY – Good try behind pair of favorites this level; prior success at Penn.