



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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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: MAMARSHA (7th) – COCOA'S VIVIAN (9th)

Race 1

- 3** EXTRASEXYMCSTEEMEE – Narrowed gap in tougher company and proven route ability in past.
- 8** VINO DOMINUS – Easily second best this spot as odds-on chalk and won prior try decisively.
- 6** TEN PLUS TEN – Retreated in bulky field sprinting and drops again for initial stamina test.
- 4** NOBLE HONOR – Victim of early trouble after nearly three month's absence; first time gelding.

Race 2

- 4** XIMENA – Bore out badly at top of stretch then continued well; romped twice during summer.
- 3** EDGE OF THE BLADE – Forced pace and weakened when dropped to this spot and claimed.
- 6** EXTRASEXYZQTEEPEYE – Humbled by runaway winner in route and should adjust to sprint.
- 5** DISCO HOPP – Fair showing this spot and pair of romps with Herman up for successful barn.

Race 3

- 6** MISSION FIRST – Used up setting rapid fractions when claimed fourth consecutive outing.
- 3** ALL AMERICAN ROD – Classy in past and wide rally in good effort; drops within same tag.
- 4** DOT'S DOLLAR – Led to final stages when taking plunge and shorter time between starts plus.
- 2** SOUTHERN DREAM – Closed big gap when pacesetter stopped; sufficient early targets.

Race 4

- 8** TAP AND A HUG – Solid try in local bow when edged by drop-down winner; cures seconditis.
- 2** BECTIVE ABBEY – Disliked muddy footing on steep drop and can't dismiss with this kind.
- 7** AMERICAN PEACHES – Far back on muddy surface but prior two outings encouraging.
- 4** CALIFORNIA SMOKE – Hard used from tricky post in larger field and stable clicking at 27%.

Race 5

- 6** ALASTAR – Weakened after dueling tougher opposition and likely outside stalking trip.
- 2** KING BAROU – Second best to smashing repeat winner and numerous good tries earlier.
- 1** INTROUBLEAGAIN – Responded nicely to drop last month and outran second pick before.
- 9** TIZ THE COAST – Improved effort as longshot but winless for ages and lone win from 39 tries.

Race 6

- 7** PRAETORIAN GUARD – Looked bit like old self trouncing similar despite stumbling start.
- 8** BOB JOHN RAY – Ran down loose pacesetter and drew off; just behind top pick prior outing.
- 6** TRAFFIC MASTER – No match for top choice when claimed again; hot rider aboard in Ruiz.
- 10** JACKSON ROAD – Good effort but failed as odds-on favorite; needs help with pace set-up.

Race 7

2	MAMARSHA – Dominated rivals from start in impressive score and seems well-spotted again.
5	TIZ PURPLE – Battled throughout in narrow loss this spot after sharp try at Colonial.
3	FORMAGGIO – Outran top choice several weeks ago after claimed by Miguel Rodriguez.
6	SUNFLOWER STATE – Exits solid tries at Colonial and Laurel; must respect all Ness runners.

Race 8

7	MAGICAL TRICK – Passed numerous rivals behind runaway winner; just missed previously.
2	DEWEY DOIT – Far back from extreme outside post against streaking winner; back at price paid.
5	ÉCLAIR BLANC – Overmatched in last and only recent success at Penn; merits attention.
6	SHETALKSTOMUCH – Slow fuse but terrific closing kick on occasion; banked \$481,819.

Race 9

6	COCOA'S VIXEN – Rushed to contention after very difficult break; wires these with alert start.
8	PEAK OF CHIC – Veteran with 13 victories returns to Moore barn where she achieved success.
7	SPIRITED RIDE – Making third outing since hiatus and drops within identical claiming tag.
9	GOLDIENESS – Hard used after sluggish start when claimed; boasts seven local triumphs.