



Craig Donnelly's

ANALYSIS

@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, OCTOBER 13, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: VANCOUGAR (1st) – YOUROWNSPECIALWAY (7th)

Race 1

- 7** VANCOUGAR – Crushed rivals showing main track ability at Del Mar; well-spotted avoiding tag.
- 6** TROTSKY – Wide bid then weakened late on Pa.-Derby undercard; determined score previously.
- 1** ZEUS' WAR – Yet another California invader with sufficient ability; stablemate of top selection.
- 10** ELECTRIC EEL – Primed for elongated sprint when closer than odds predicted in route.

Race 2

- 2** NIKKI'S CHARM – Set pace and held on gamely again; romped initial two outings during summer
- 3** AMERICA'S HONOR – Closed big gap wide with strong finish and extra sixteenth mile a plus.
- 7** LOOKIN AT MAC – Led to late stages in turf route; won lone local attempt by 19 ½ lengths.
- 5** HORSE OF THE SEA – Midwest invader outrun last pair but shown finishing kick in past.

Race 3

- 3** CRITICAL MAGIC – Improving filly victim of rough trip in solid company; seems capable of upset
- 5** RELEVATE – Retreated in route after encouraging sprint try in first local appearance.
- 7** MACLEAN'S LULLABY – Unlucky behind second pick after hiatus at Ellis; lone win from 23 tries.
- 6** CROWN ROYAL BABE – Soundly beaten in just second race of season; adding blinkers.

Race 4

- 6** DADOO – Just over one length behind in better field; overruns these with similar showing.
- 4** BRISCOE COUNTY – Narrowed gap on wet footing despite losing ample ground; new barn.
- 5** ASTRID – Romped again and remains eligible as three-year-old; perfect with Herman aboard.
- 7** LADY SRIRACHA – Chased runaway winner at Laurel; slow fuse but likely to be gaining late.

Race 5

- 1** ACTION HERO – Chased pair of favorites in seemingly tougher version this spot; retains Lopez.
- 2** MODICA – Difficult trip with tougher group in route; merits attention in rare sprint attempt.
- 5** KEEPING IT COUNTRY – Drops within same claiming tag; veteran may regain closing kick.
- 3** FIRST MONEY – Late energy after hiatus when loose pacesetter stopped; six local scores.

Race 6

- 1** AU SOME WARRIOR – Hard used dueling winning odds-on favorite; trounced lesser prior outing
- 9** FROST MOUNTAIN – Excellent form since voided claim in May; seeks fourth in row for top barn.
- 8** BORRACHO – Amazing 10-year-old with 22 victories and \$792,496 in bank; needed Timonium try
- 3** STRAWBERRY TREAT – Terrific record at Penn but yet to fire locally; 5-for-11 this season.

Race 7

2	YOUROWNSPECIALWAY – Used up chasing impressive winner in debut; sire won 5 of 6 starts.
3	FLYING FREE – Battled to stretch against talented rival in bow and progress anticipated.
8	SIX OF SPADES – Fair showing in July debut and by rapid sire; move off rail possible plus.
7	TENGO ESPERANZA – Half-sister to top local sprinter Final Shot makes bow with nice works.

Race 8

7	PARTY WITH SMARTY – Strong rally when just missing to big favorite; handled route earlier.
4	DRUM ROLL PLEASE – Good effort but failed as odds-on chalk this spot; runner-up in stake.
5	CODY PASS – Dueled then weakened behind top choice; over year since last victory.
1	OUR NOTION – Victim of early trouble in rare poor showing at Delaware; dangerous on best.

Race 9 THE \$60,000 COMMONWEALTH SIRE STAKES

7	NATURE'S CANDY – Led nearly this far in rich route stake and excels at this distance.
3	LADY ANNABELLE – Bargain claim won six straight by clear margins; obvious threat.
1	PRESENCEISAPRESENT – Idle since used up dueling colts in April; capable and determined.
5	CAROUSEL QUEEN – Absentee with powerful closing kick on occasion; outrun by top pick.

Race 10

2	CANNONBURY – Big effort in debut and conqueror next placed twice at Laurel; can progress.
1	PARFIVEINTWO – Used up dueling heavily-bet rookie in bulky debut field as major longshot.
9	VALHALLA – Prepared at Saratoga and ships here as Pa.-bred for high-profile Pletcher barn.
3	CHEF SPARROW - Broke slowly then used up from rail in debut; factor with alert break.