



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, OCTOBER 26, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: **HYPERLINK (5th) – VANCOUGAR (7th)**

Race 1

- 5** BUCKIN' RIGHT – Set pace and battled 16-time winner when claimed; three-time winners here.
- 6** MAY MISCHIEF – Quick filly used up chasing smashing winner on wet surface; one to catch.
- 2** SPOOKY GAL – Benefited from rapid pace to prevail in slop; also capable over fast footing.
- 1** VANAKA – Hard to support off latest but speed inside and prior try encouraging.

Race 2

- 4** SHETALKSTOMUCH – Drops notch for hot connections and sufficient targets to set up late kick.
- 1** PEARLS AND HEELS – Very capable in past and on rare losing streak; under new management.
- 5** TELEPHONE LINE – Perfect since adding blinkers and claimed again; threat stepping up.
- 2** SHADYSIDE – Captured three straight at Monmouth and Delaware and moves to Ness barn.

Race 3

- 3** WHEELHOUSE – Frequently close in 15 attempts, primarily at Gulfstream; finds soft opposition.
- 5** READ THE METER – Used up after awkward break at Delaware; prior loss in compact group.
- 1** CAPT FLUFF N STUFF – Failed as 3-5 chalk when taking plunge and switches to DeMasi barn.
- 4** QUICK TO JUDGE – Flashes of interest earlier and races cheapest ever; making 15th attempt.

Race 4

- 5** BONAFIDE – Rapid gelding often close this spot and appears lone speed as one to catch.
- 2** ZOPPI FISCHBEIN – Improved since return but yet to handle top pick; ages since last victory.
- 4** SHALLUS – Finished behind top pair in latest and lone score this year in compact Penn field.
- 1** IRISH MAMBA – Rallied from last to first in finish dominated by closers; tests stamina again.

Race 5

- 7** HYPERLINK – Chased at tough meets in Midwest and switches to Ness barn; progress likely.
- 5** MOR CHEESE PLEASE – Front-runner stretching out again; recent conqueror dull next out.
- 1** RELENTLESSNESS – Better than odds predicted and making key third start after layoff.
- 4** GREY BULL – Far behind last pair but one good showing at Colonial; also from Ness stable.

Race 6

- 6** CHELSEA WALL – Regained confidence in Delaware score boosting earnings to half million.
- 7** AMY MULE – Gained nicely behind smashing winner as longshot; contested pace in her favor.
- 3** AMBITIOUSLY PLACED – Terrific veteran drops notch and returns to route; 20 career wins.
- 4** GAME ENERGY – Speedy filly with three scores elsewhere this season; faded in sprints.

Race 7

7	VANCOUGAR – Set pace nearly this far after arriving from Del Mar; crushed rivals previously.
5	CALL ME ANDY – Faced talented rivals on Laurel turf and stumbled last local outing.
4	GREAT COMPOSER – Rapid gelding much-improved for Perez barn; tested with this kind.
1	KING PEANUT – Ended losing streak in Delaware romp after competing at tough Oaklawn meet.

Race 8

4	MORE THAN READY – Captured eight straight in decisive style and very short odds again.
5	MISSY SIXTYSIX – No match for top pick in last but offers strong closing kick on occasion.
6	VANILLA – Victim of bad start when Ness took for \$30,000 on Pa. Derby undercard; possibility.
3	CENTRE COURT CHAMP – Lightly raced but formidable in past; chased tigress at Penn.

Race 9

6	AS THE BELL TOLES – Rapid filly often claimed and romped both times with Lopez aboard.
1	SPIRIT OF ESTHER – Overmatched at Saratoga and raced but once since May; takes plunge.
3	GRUENE HALL – Far behind in better company but decisive score prior try; fits with these.
4	DOPPIO ESPRESSO – Won and claimed both local attempts; remains eligible as three-year-old.