

Craig Donnelly's ANALYI @parxracing

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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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Best Bets: HYPERLINK (5th) – ASSOCIATED (7th)

Race 1

5	**BULMA – Victim of early excuses in narrow defeat when probably best; wins if avoids trouble.**
7	**CASH THE CHECK – Fair effort behind top choice after changing barns; hot "bug" aboard.**
4	**AMERICAN PEACHES – Some late energy as longshot but further improvement necessary.**
6	**ALYVIA'S LIL GIRL – Much closer than odds predicted in blanket finish; not much previously.**

Race 2

6	**SWEETBITTERS – Solid try sprinting when dropped to this level; should be prepared for route.**
1	**INNER EXCELLENCE – Rallied but could not get by favored winner when stretched out again.**
4	**SUNSHINE DAKOTAH – Far behind on Saratoga turf when claimed for $50,000; absent months.**
2	**CANDY KANE – Improved in last but yet to handle top choice; switches to "bug" rider.**

Race 3

5	**INMATE – Severely roughed early when rebounding from dull outing; helpful pace scenario.**
4	**INTROUBLEAGAIN – Stablemate of top pick far back when claimed but just missed prior try.**
1	**DIRTY CASH – Led to final yards in second race after hiatus; third finisher won next time.**
2	**QUICK TO JUDGE – Faded after half mile after defeating bottom maidens previously.**

Race 4

5	**BALANTYNE – Absent over four months after re-claimed by Ramirez barn; should fire if ready.**
6	**MY LAST MISSION – Prominent throughout this level as odds-on chalk; romped at Penn.**
3	**MODICA – Lacked room into far turn when easily second best to Ness barn winner.**
1	**BESTSUGARDADDYEVER – Been on decline but can't dismiss yet against this kind.**

Race 5

6	**HYPERLINK – Easily second best behind repeat winner after arriving from Kentucky for Ness.**
3	**SAM'S GLORY – Drops into claimer in third attempt since layoff; dangerous this level.**
4	**RELENTLESSNESS – Set pace before fading behind top pick; stamina issues persist.**
5	**TREGETOUR – Slow fuse and outrun by pair above but should be gaining late.**

Race 6

4	**MAGICNTHEMOONLIGHT – Speedy veteran exits good effort in solid field at Penn; might upset.**
7	**TRANSCENDENTAL – Usually close and key threat if adjusts to sprint for 29% Padilla barn.**
8	**AMUSING MISCHIEF – Hard-hitter narrowly missed this spot and boasts 9-for-33 career mark.**
5	**GUAPO AGAIN – Led under pressure and held on determinedly with similar; merits attention.**

Race 7	
3	**ASSOCIATED – Pulled away impressively in maiden score and appears well-spotted again.**
2	**PHANTOM SLAYER – Good effort as 7-5 chalk this spot after Keeneland claim; dangerous.**
7	**PASSIONFORGLORY – Nearly always fires and proven he fits with this kind since hiatus.**
8	**CASEOFTHEMONDAYS – Sharp try at Laurel but just one-for-14 career; first local attempt.**
Race 8	
3	**RACEY RUBY – Battled throughout when returning to dirt despite stumbling at start.**
4	**BELLANOVA – Victim of early trouble twice sprinting since layoff; ample ability, tries route.**
6	**HARMONIQUE – Dueled long way at Belmont after shipping from California; won at Del Mar.**
8	**I CAN RUN – Victim of loose pacesetter when easily second; solid tries here in summer.**
Race 9	
11	**CHIQUITA'S WAY – Aggressive plunge after facing higher quality rivals; hard to love or ignore.**
9	**FLAMING EYES – Big effort after claim by Miguel Rodriguez barn; threat with similar showing.**
5	**CALIFORNIA SMOKE – Difficult trip this spot after winning prior outing; likely gaining late.**
7	**NOULIKEABOOK – Responded well to drop for hot Perez barn; remains eligible as 3-year-old.**