

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, APRIL 1, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: POPPY'S PRIDE (6th) – TAVIN (7th)

Race 1

- 7** ROAD TO DREAMS – Ran into tigrress at loftier level and might overcome pressure for new barn.
- 4** DENALI RAE – Good effort in first try with this kind; third race since hiatus, often bottom exacta.
- 8** LEVIOSA – Absent nearly three months but much success locally and seeking 11th career score.
- 5** BETWEEN DREAMS – Prominent throughout with similar and less than length behind at Penn.

Race 2

- 5** HARDY CHOICE – Easily second best to huge favorite this spot after layoff; progress anticipated
- 4** CLANCY O'TOOLE – Romped twice earlier and drops after claim by 40% Pino stable; dangerous.
- 7** BIG JOHN – Slow fuse but rallied behind decisive winner this spot; slow pace would hamper bid.
- 6** BATTER UP BUD – Far behind since return but can't dismiss with this kind taking plunge.

Race 3

- 4** IT'S AUTHENTIC – Turfway shippers excelling locally and competes first time gelding for Krebs.
- 6** CARNABY – Roughed early then chased smashing winner which stepped up and repeated.
- 7** SUNNY MAGIC – Steadied retreating top of stretch this level two weeks ago; figures close.
- 2** JUST CHEESY – Overmatched in New York after facing tough local rivals; aggressive drop.

Race 4

- 2** BOBBY'S CANDY – Capable in past and stable 30% off claim; sufficient early targets a plus.
- 3** PARKERNESS – Significant drop in first race of season; very difficult to catch if ready.
- 7** AARAJ – Dueled and continued gamely on wet surface and Irving Rodriguez barn heating up.
- 6** FINANCIAL STRENGTH – Often hits board with similar but winless long time; barn on a roll.

Race 5

- 1** HI HEELED WARRIOR – Strong move to front in easy score and should handle logical next step.
- 8** MORE RANSOM- Battled better last week after Padilla claim and serious threat at this level.
- 3** TIZ RACE DAY – Difficult to like or ignore plunge after far behind last three; formidable on best.
- 2** SOLEMN OATH – Both victories recent months with Lopez aboard; weakened on deep surface.

Race 6

- 4** POPPY'S PRIDE – Hard used setting pace in classier company; prior outing also encouraging.
- 9** THE JUDGE AND JURY – Dueled this far at Aqueduct and shown ability to rally from off pace.
- 8** MAC DADDY TOO – Gained behind loose pacesetter this level and Ramirez stable continues hot.
- 1** ROAN BURGUNDY – Disappointing try after slow break; frequently claimed and must consider.

Race 7

5	TAVIN – Pressed eventual winner throughout in route and also adept sprinting; late kick likely.
8	TEMPEST RISING – Gained late in another good effort this level and likely favorable set-up.
3	GOLDEN MOONLIGHT – Stopped abruptly and trailed as 2-5 chalk but must respect Ness runner
9	TRUE PHENOMENON – Soundly beaten three races this season but drops and capable in past.

Race 8

8	ALCHEMISM – Exits another solid try sprinting and adding Lasix; impressed early in career.
7	COJELO PA TI – Rapid colt defeated top choice and seeks fourth straight as obvious threat.
5	FRIDAY SURPRISE – Maiden sidelined since good efforts at Saratoga; edged here in sharp bow.
2	SON OF THOR – Determined score after Pino claim but likely tested against this kind.

Race 9

5	ELOQUIST – Runner-up to talented winners last pair and back for tag; re-claimed earlier by Ness.
1	POINT DUME – Led throughout with slightly lesser in wet track sprint; also from Ness stable.
6	IN SPADES – Finished just behind top pick and nearly always gives his best for winning barn.
7	BERNIE'S MITTS – Speedy gelding victim of early trouble at Laurel; pacesetter in first route try.

Race 10

8	FREE FOLK – Closed with rush as longshot in second race after layoff; extra sixteenth of mile.
9	BORRACHO CONCHO – Weakened late after constant pressure as favorite; lures Lopez again.
11	CHECKING BOXES – Bit erratic and lone score from 21 attempts but figures close with best try.
1	STOUTHEARTED – Speedy gelding faltered despite clear early lead; trounced maiden previously

Monticello (12:10)

1. 6-8-4

2. 7-5-2

3. 3-5-1

4. 1-6-2

5. 6-2-4

6. 5-6-2

7. 2-7-1

8. 1-8-4-6

9. 4-1-3

Best Bet

Race 2 # 7 Vinovio

MAHONING VALLEY (12:15)

1. 3-4-2

2. 4-1-5

3. 7-3-5

4. 3-5-4

5. 2-1-4

6. 3-4-7

7. 1-4-6

8. 3-4-6

Best Bet Race 4 # 3 Honey Bella

POCONO DOWNS

SPOT PLAYS (1:00)

RACE 1 3-6-7

RACE 2 6-1-8-5

RACE 3. 3-8-6

RACE 5. 7-2-3

RACE 7. 8-2-5

RACE 10. 7-5-8

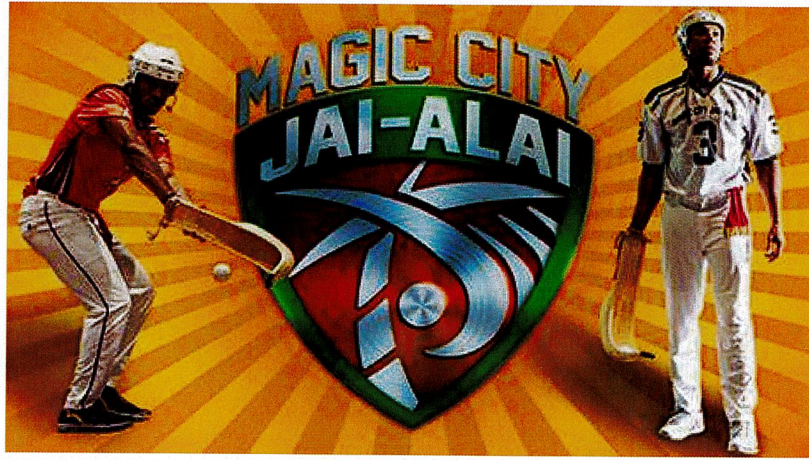
RACE 11. 3-7-4

RACE 15. 2-1-8

RACE 16. 5-2-8-1

BEST BET

RACE 10. # 7 STICK WITH CRAMER



Post 1:30

1. 4-6-1
2. 1-3-8
3. 3-4-7
4. 2-1-8

5. 8-4-6
6. 2-8-7
7. 8-5-6
8. 8-6-2

Best Bet

Game 5 # 8

Douglas- Jules

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Turf Paradise (Post 3:55)

By Scott Ehlers

First Race 3 Four Sweet Kid 5 Fancy Like 6 Fdd American Honey

Race 2 4 Imm a Heart On Fire 5 Tell America 2 Ruff an Rowdy

Race 3

3 CHASIN A DOLLAR ran a little better last out and should be settling in more and more. Added distance should help and this barn is 23% going sprint to route. Perhaps the jock switch to Corbett will prove the tipping point as he is 41% for this barn. Race flow is fine for this closer if all stay in. 7 CAUSE FOR DIVORCE looks capable off a layoff. He seems a tad better going two turns so we like that connections want that today. Pleasanton works are well spaced an this gelding could easily pick up where he left off (a Beyer top). 5 FACTORY DRIVE is the fresh face from SoCal. This gelding showed speed in both route tries but there is other zip in here. A pair of local works can only help

Race 4

7 SANGER loves this sod and figures the best trip. Versatile style is another plus and win rider stays put. Team Perry is 38% with horses that won their last race. 3 SBAGLIATO wants to pass runners and there are 3 confirmed front runners in this race. This gelding tries this sod for the first time but can win off a freshening. This gelding has the best figs and figures a good trip so hello favorite. 2 NEON LIGHTS just won when first on this sod. He draws inside main pace foes. Any chance the other speeds let this guy go in the early running? We have seen it before. Team Evans is 27% with horses that won their last race.

Race 5

1 ACCIDENTAL GENIUS looked like a new route horse only 3, 4, and 5 back. His last two starts are just poor but he was trying Santa Anita for the first time and then the turf last out. This is obviously a much better spot. We like this rail draw as this horse ran great from there in both starts when doing so. Recent works are just right but we are curious as to price. 6 FOR A LAUGH was facing tougher before coming here. That recent turf try was rock solid but can this horse hold his form with the switch to the dirt something he has yet to try? Trainer stats are solid across the board and Mojica often rides for this barn. 5 BROWNSTONE just missed going a mile at Oaklawn and that was versus special weights so there is some talent here. His local dirt sprints are solid and maybe he just didn't care for the grass last out. A recent work can't hurt and team McFarlane is 16% in routes.

Race 6

2THE SCENT ran OK last out but these are just easier. This guy should love a shortened sprint with his distance Tomlinson of 432. His best effort to date have come going 5 1/2 furlongs (2 and 5 back). This guy has some tactical speed to help the trip and draws fine. 1SHUDDER has hit the exacta going this distance in three of four races. His return try was solid and he is often double digits. 3OBSIDIAN GOLD just finished second at 33-1? Why can't he put good races together? He returns right on time and keeps Krigger.

Race 7

6LOVEABOVEANDBEYOND just loves her new barn and has now won five in a row. Turf or dirt or long or short just doesn't seem to matter. This mare loves this distance at 8-4-1-2. Once again connections find a spot where this 5YO is protected. The absolute one to beat once again. 8ZELAIA ran evenly off the layoff when 2nd at 3-1. This horse has never missed the exacta on this dirt. Yet to try this tricky distance though but she does draw the attack post. 1DON'T TELL HYDEE likes this distance and surface. She has speed and there isn't a ton of zip in here. The rail draw is tricky but with a good break this mare should be forwardly placed. Corbett sticks with our top pick but that was expected and Cruz has ridden this mare before.

Race 8

BEST BET 1 ELEGANT BELLA is by a 16% debut turf sire. Her dam went 22-6-2-4 on the sod and earned a nice 138K. This is her first grass foal. Turf Tomlinson is a very good 352 and her distance Tommy of 318 isn't half bad either. We like this rail draw on the stretch-out and this filly puts three races together. We are expecting a great price as dirt tries to date are poor. 4 FLATTERMEINCOURT just missed in her only turf start and it came here going two turns. Her return try was solid and you get Diodoro in your corner. The one to beat, right? 9 INXPRESS has figs going in the right direction. Her turf debut two back was very good. If she wants the front end then there is some other speed in here.

Race 9

7 PEDRO PEREZ gets in light and has some speed. Form cycle hints at better and the leading rider takes over. Added half furlong helps theft chances if indeed this 7YO wants the front end. 9 PEPPER JACK won sprinting at the Fair Grounds only four back. He didn't get much play two back in local debut but perhaps he wasn't acclimated to here. Not sure why this gelding didn't like the turf last out. New barn is 9% with recent acquisitions. 1 YOU ENJOY MYSELF tried a tough distance off the layoff. He cuts back a full furlong and that is a better fit (8-1-3-0). He has run well from the rail before.

Miami Valley (Post 4:00)



1. 3-8-9

2. 10-4-7

3. 1-7-3

5. 2-1-7

6. 2-6-9

8. 9-3-5

9. 5-8-2

11. 9-2-7

12. 1-8-4

14. 4-2-9-6

Best Bet Race 2 # 10 Kd's Mik



Western Fair Raceway Post – 5:50

SUGAR'S SELECTIONS –

Race 1

4 DEALIN WITH DEWEY begins a PICK 5

6 R ROYAL PORT solid qualifier; beware

7 GOLD EDITION tougher post this time

Race 2

4 BETTIM ALIVE can start up the PICK 4

6 THEJACKOFDIAMONDS worth a look

3 ROMAN ROCKET could surprise here

Race 3

3 PLAYFULL ELEGANCE against easier

1 CHAMPAGNE BETTINA the rail helps

4 TEXACO MAN he's always in the hunt

Race 4

8 ARUNDEL HANOVER very nice debut

7 BUZZ LIGHTYEAR last to first in latest

3 DANCE CAPTAIN is a top 3 possibility

Race 5

6 LA SUN CONTROL big win here 03/04

3 SIR A he's been knocking on the door

7 HEZA HANDY MAN may grab a share

Race 6

5 SINCERELY solid fourth in her debut

6 ROSIE BEACH may be a player here

3 PLAYFUL MOLLY one to think about

Race 7 **Best Bet**

1 PETRO ANGEL can start this PICK 4

3 LEADING RESOLVE Exactor factor

5 FINAL DREAM is a top 3 possibility

Race 8

6 WHEELIN MY BENTLEY can repeat

3 INSANITY he's just fine with these

2 GLOBAL NEWS for best o f the rest

Race 9

2 P L OLIVER nowhere to go in latest

1 DOCSPHILLYCHEESE inside helps

7 WRY now assigned an outside post

Race 10

3 SPORTSLINE is fitting in well again

5 FILLY WATCHER worth a long look

8 PEBBLE BEACH PRO a top 3 threat

NORTHFIELD - POST 6:00



Race 1 9-6-8-5

Race 2. 6-3-5

Race 3. 5-4-6-8

Race 6. 4-3-5

Race 8. 4-3-1

Race 10. 4-10-6

Race 12. 4-7-2

Race 14. 1-7-9

Race 15. 2-3-6-1

BEST BET

RACE 10 # 4 SILENCETHEWITNESS