

# 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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MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025 - FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: MISS RAUCUS (5<sup>th</sup>) – NEVER TILL NOW (8<sup>th</sup>)

#### Race 1

- FERRARI KID Failed in prior route attempts but could control pace in race void of other speed.
- YES POINT Claimed from three consecutive outings and often hits board with closing kick.
- THIRD WATCH Narrowed gap sprinting and 24-1 upset earlier but yet to excel in routes.
- 2 DARVESH Possibility if disregard last when roughed early, better form last season.

#### Race 2

- YOU'RE FOREVER Pursued winner throughout in solid try after Gallimore took; inside speed.
- SISTER EVE Competed better than odds predicted when close to top pick; prior losses routes.
- TREASURE PEACE Dueled to final furlong with similar but hampered by stamina issues.
- INDINI Wired maidens at Penn after long absence; fired in all three outings as threat.

#### Race 3

- WICKED CLOUD Poor showing in better company after overcoming early trouble vs. maidens.
- CALLIE RAE Good effort from extreme outside post when easily second best; moves inside.
- SPANISH GIRL Improved despite early bumping and often hits board but just 1-for-24.
- JAYCE AND LIAM Hampered by stumbling start and shoe repair prior to Penn setback.

#### Race 4

- CHIQUITA MOSCA Difficult to like or ignore plunge after voided claim but Pino barn sizzling.
- NAMORA Victim of poor start in last after crushing two-time winners previously for Ness.
- JOB'S NOT FINISHED Led under pressure before fading this spot; won twice during winter.
- DOROTHY'S THE BOSS Advanced behind heavy favorite but needs to put pair together.

#### Race 5

- MISS RAUCUS Remote third when dropping in good field; conqueror stepped up and repeated.
- GIANT'S AUDIBLE- Drops for new management after racing for higher tags against N.Y.-breds.
- BAD GIRL BETTY LOU- By son of top sire Into Mischief with some encouraging Fair Hill works.
- KIWI'S GOTYOURBACK Recent stallion Pat On the Back showing early promise; soft company

#### Race 6

- LIL SALLY Making progress and third behind newcomer and next-out winner this level.
- IMPERIO AZTECA Came up empty as 7-5 chalk when claimed for \$25,000; retains Sanchez.
- FIFTY NINE FIFTY Step forward adding Lasix at Penn and likely gaining late if ready.
- JUSTCALLMETWOSHOES Upset chance if throw out latest; close up at 31-1 in prior outing.

- MAJESTIC LION Failed to show true measure in slop and stretch-runner takes logical drop.
- TOP OF THE STREET Puts blinkers back on after claimed for more than twice this amount.
- IMAGINIZED Strong bid to front then caught late Ness winner; might continue progress.
- HEY RIVER Ample speed and third outing since hiatus; earlier success in Florida.

#### Race 8

- NEVER TILL NOW Brutal trip at Colonial when blocked and steadied repeatedly after layoff.
- BYRDE OF WAR Retreated in talented company and prior try encouraging; stable doing well.
- 2 DONNELLY'S HOLLOW Half-brother to rapid Pure Lure and talented Brilliant Chase; top barn.
- SIR ROB ROY Improved effort in last and avoids claim tag this time; making fifth attempt.

#### Race 9

- ET'S MOON MAIDEN Big effort when easily second best this spot; gains rare victory with Paco.
- COCOA'S VIVIAN Speedy mare racing into shape again and shorter distance in her favor.
- PACHELBEL Game and versatile mare humbled by smashing winner again; offers late punch.
- VALIANT MAJESTY Walloped easier when taken by hot Arce barn; shorter time between races.

#### Race 10

- ALMOND CIDER Continued gamely after constant pressure again and might wire from outside.
- 9 HIDDEN PROMISE Fired again with this kind and 8-year-old with 10 victories, quarter million.
- PARDSY Dueled then moved clear to late stages after hiatus; likely fitter now as major threat.
- SIR CUPID Prominent to stretch after layoff for new connections; chance with further progress.

# Saratoga (Post 12:00)

## RACE #1

**4- CASH N CHROME 4-1-5-3** Drop to the bottom could wake him up

## RACE #2

**8- MR COOL SEAEYRE N 8-6-5-1** Value play from post eight in a wide open race

## RACE #3

**7- JEWELS CUP 7-1-3-2** Two solid starts before breaking in last, fresh Beckwith

## RACE #4

**4- HERMOSO REY 4-5-3-2** Steps up off back to back romps

## RACE #5

**7- CARRERA HANOVER 7-3-5-1** Invader has faced better

## RACE #6

4- DELAYED HANOVER 4-2-3-5

Tired a bit late after making a big move in his first start back, edge

## RACE #7

2- PASSARINO 2-1-5-7

First timer out of the Beckwith barn, qualifier was huge

# RACE #8 3- WANIA 3-2-1-8 tor then these if he's ready

Faster than these if he's ready

RACE #9
1- CONSUS VICTORY 1-2-7-5
Steps up seeking a hat trick

RACE #10
2- MORNING EDITION 2-1-3-4
Coming off back to back eight holes

RACE #11

1ST

1- FLY DELTA 1-5-4-3

Big favorite again

RACE #12 **1- PAY ME TO KNIGHT 1-4-2-3**Should prove to classy for these

RACE #13
2- MATCH MY MIRACLE 2-1-3-5
Chance with a pocket ride

# **MAHONING VALLEY (12:15)**

- 1. 6-3-5
- 2. 4-2-6
- 3.7-2-3
- 4. 5-3-2
- 5. 6-5-4-2
- 6. 6-3-4
- 7. 2-3-5
- 8. 1-5-3

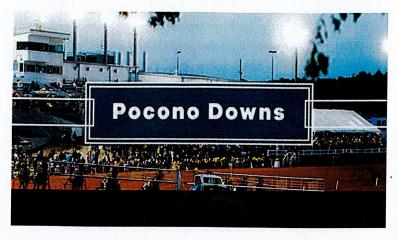
Best Bets: Race 6 # 6

Race 8 # 1

Oklahoma Joe

Banana Pudding

Pick 4 Play Race 5 2,4,5,6 / 6 / 2,3 / 1



## Pocono Downs (1:00)

1. 2-8-7

2. 5-2-7

3. 3-5-1

5. 2-3-6

6. 1-4-6

7. 8-5-4

14. 5-8-2

8. 3-6-5

16. 5-6-1

10. 2-4-5

Best Bets:

11. 3-4-7

Race. 1. # 2 Manofmanymuscles

Race. 6 # 1 Mr. Contestant

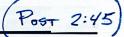


# Post 1:30

- 1. 6-1-8
- 2. 4-5-7
- 3. 5-2-3
- 4. 3-1-4
- 5. 2-3-7
- 6. 7-2-1
- 7. 2-6-5
- 8. 8-1-3

**Best Bet** 

Game 4. #3 Benny



# OAK GROVE The Players' Guide

**RACING • GAMING • HOTEL** 

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO TODAY'S RACES

#### Monday, March 31, 2025 • Race Day 3

Today's selections and commentary by: Ray Cotolo

#### **Full-Card Selections**

| WAS STREET |         |    |         |    |         |
|------------|---------|----|---------|----|---------|
| 1          | 2-1-7-4 | 6  | 2-1-3-7 | 11 | 2-6-3-1 |
| 2          | 6-2-4-1 | 7  | 5-2-1-8 | 12 | 5-4-6-7 |
| 3          | 4-5-3-7 | 8  | 2-3-6-5 | 13 |         |
| 4          | 1-4-6-7 | 9  | 1-4-2-9 | 14 |         |
| 5          | 5-6-8-2 | 10 | 6-1-3-7 | 15 |         |



#### **Pick 5 Ticket**

Race 3: 3,4,5 Race 4: 1,4 Race 5: 1,2,5,6,8 Race 6: 2 Race 7: 1,5

Total Stake: \$12.00 for \$.20

#### Race 1

#### 1 Mile / Pace • Open 2

(2) NUCLEAR went a big first-over mile to win as the favorite last out. He gets a better draw in a slimmer field, so he should have a better time getting away early. (1) DALE YEAH looked tight in the warmup last week but gradually loosened and ultimately went an okay race from a tough draw. Interested to see how he improves with the post switch. (7) BEACH VIBES surprised going forward last out and survived the duel essentially. Tough to take him though from this draw unless Atlee fires. (4) SPEAKING VOLUMES had one of the better performances from the Oke barn last week, but the draw likely places him as a minor factor.

#### Race 2

#### 1 Mile / Pace • NW 1 EXT PM CD Claiming

Secret's out now on (6) WESTERN TREVOR. We won't get 34-1 this time around, but this field is soft. As long as he's as energetic, he's a factor. (2) TONTO RETURNS showed surprising speed out of post 8 but only took a bad step to break stride in the turn. He could offer a great price here if the public is deterred. (4) ROCKNROLL DAKOTA just sucked along for a piece last out but maybe has more to offer with that start in her coffers. (1) ILLOUMINOUS was forced into a bad spot, but maybe with the pylon draw he can go forward this week.

#### Race 4

#### 1 Mile / Pace • NW \$6,500 L4 CD

(1) JK'S SHINING STAR grabbed some pieces by sitting off hot speed and now takes a big drop in class. This level better suits her and she gets a great post. (4) SEVEN HUNDRED romped as he was supposed to last out. Short price here, but logical. (6) OUT TO GET LUCKY held well chasing strong speed; he's another who should appreciate the class drop. (7) STUN GUN went an okay first race since the lame scratch last October. He may need a few more to really tighten but he can definitely get a share.

#### Race 5

#### 1 Mile / Trot • Maiden / NW 1 EXT PM LT

Oh boy. Okay. Well, someone's breaking their maiden today. I'm hoping it's someone at a big price because this race is impossible. (5) PRINCE OF ROYALS trailed a slow horse when in the second-tier and that cost him any chance in the race. He hopefully shows more now that he's on the gate. (6) VITO'S LADY comes from a barn that usually has them ready, but also it's a barn that tends to take money. Not sure how the 10-1 morning line holds. (8) NOBLE NADIA was good here last season and she may hold a development edge on many here. (2) TRU FORTUNE should go forward and that honestly is enough to do well here.

#### Race 3

1 Mile / Pace • Mini Series 1 - Claiming \$10,000 (Leg 2) (4) SHARK SOLICITOR reasonably folded from his first-over push last week. Perfect effort to maybe make him a competitive price? (5) DONTHOLDANYTHINBAK looked great scoring down and matched that with a solid rally for third from an impossible draw. He can build from that. (3) BAY BRUTE took back despite a keen warmup and finished with a flourish. He should again be involved, but whether he leaves or not is a question. (7) LUCKS ON TIME was great last out, but he tends to get hampered by bad post draws.

#### Race 6

1 Mile / Pace • Mini Series 1 - Claiming \$10,000 (Leg 2)
(2) PICKSIXKING scored like a machine and charged hard for a third-place finish last out. He looks like he's rekindled himself.
(1) MISSION COMMAND should be aggressive from this inside draw. He always held well against these lower levels last year.
(3) IDEAL BIG GUY can probably get away closer to the speed from this post draw. He may be the type who does best just following horses, so his big price is appealing underneath. (7) REVELRY could be the best of the rest since the minor spots may come down purely to attrition.

1 Mile / Pace • USHDC NW \$3,000 L4 Opt. Claim \$10,000 (5) SAULSBROOK MABEL lost by 15 lengths last time, yes. I can see that. But she chased fractions that would wipe out most in this field, so I take losing by 15 to be an okay sign here. Hopefully we can get 9/2. (2) JOYFUL LADY will go forward, but may not go all the way. She can at least go enough to land on the ticket. (1) DONTINVITEMEIN just took back from a bad draw last out, but maybe this time gets involved because she has a good draw? (8) SONIC STAR had a good late kick on the bigger track. If he can show some of that snap on the smaller oval, he can get a share.

#### Race 8

#### 1 Mile / Pace · Open

One driver in this race will be playing chess; the other five will be playing checkers. Problem though... I don't know which driver that will be. This is a race purely formed by their decisions. (2) TIP TOP CAT certainly is capable enough to hold his own at the top level. I worry that mile last week ate into him, but it also could've bravened him for a bigger effort. (3) MUSKATEER HANOVER got really good last season, but we do have to wonder if a short price is worth swallowing off the bench. (6) LOW RIDER can leave, and if he does, he's in a tough spot. But the draw kind of forces his hand to take back, which also places him in a tough spot. He's a good horse, but I wouldn't settle on a short win price. (5) LATER DUDES I imagine goes forward again. He's shallow speed though, so another I wouldn't settle for at short odds.

#### Race 9

#### 1 Mile / Pace • NW 1 EXT PM LT

(1) FOX VALLEY YORK looked sharp in spite of finishing flat in the season opener. Post switch should place him in contention. (4) SCRAPPY COMINGUP nearly lasted on a slow track. If speed holds stronger today, he'll be tough. (2) DOC'S STAR kept fighting despite veering wide off the bottom turn. He'll be a factor, but the price will be hard to take. (9) CHECKONWILLIAM GB had a lot of late pace and maybe can find a closer seat from the second tier.

#### Race 10

1 Mile / Pace • Mini Series 1 - Claiming \$10,000 (Leg 2)
Tough race. (6) DAKOTA JACK has the speed to get into the right spot, but I don't know if he'll last. If he's at least 6-1 he may be worth a few bucks. (1) ROLLINWITDAPONYZZZ can absolutely get into the right spot with this draw. His form is lackluster, but this field is iffy enough that he may be worth a stab. (3) WESTERN BOOTS will offer no value off his pylon-skimming rally. I worry he'll be forced to go a wide trip from this draw, which better places him in the underneath parts of the ticket. Moore may also loop them, though. (7) SNEAK ON BYE had some nice late pace that could bring him into the race from the outside post.

#### **Race 11**

#### 1 Mile / Pace • NW \$2,500 L4 CD

(2) NATURAL HISTORY left alertly and heavily outraced his odds last out while losing to a better horse in Clearchoice De Vie. He gets a great draw now, but the price will tank. (6) ISIT-LIKEITLOOKS looked lively finishing fourth last week, but the outside draw puts him into a tough spot. He should continue steadily improving. (3) COPPER TEEN made a bold quarter move that did not pay off, but he is fast enough to be a factor here nonetheless. (1) HEAVY PRESSURE lands on the gate and gets a chance at big odds to step forward off an honestly okay line.

#### Race 12

#### 1 Mile / Pace • Ky. Pref. NW \$4,000 L4 CD

(5) LETS FLIP ONIT went a big race at long odds to lose to a better horse. Shehan can easily get her nestled into a cozy spot again. This could set up perfectly for her. (4) WISE THINKING was loaded on a helmet, but lost steam when getting wrangled back in the backstretch. He gets a better draw and should be sharp. (6) JUST A START was solid against bottom level competition and should again try to go forward and last. (7) COUNTRY SQUIRE qualified alright and also was a consistent competitor over this track last season. Another sneaky one from the Vandervorts that could outperform his odds.

#### **SHEET STATS**

| 2025 STATS<br>(2 DAYS) | WINS   | TOP PICK | 2ND PICK | 3RD PICK | 4TH PICK | ALL<br>PICKS |
|------------------------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| # OF RACES             | 24     | 7        | 3        | 7        | 5        | 22           |
| WIN %                  |        | 29.17%   | 12.50%   | 29.17%   | 20.83%   | 91.67%       |
| RETURN                 | (\$48) | \$25.64  | \$17.98  | \$64.84  | \$74.58  | \$183.04     |
| ROI %                  |        | -46.58%  | -62.54%  | 35.08%   | 55.38%   | -4.67%       |
| AVG<br>RETURN          |        | \$3.66   | \$4.50   | \$9.26   | \$14.92  | \$8.08       |
| MEDIAN<br>RETURN       |        | \$3.50   | \$4.54   | \$6.78   | \$4.66   | \$4.66       |
| AVG ODDS               |        | 2.25     | 6.82     | 11.11    | 18.31    | 9.62         |
| MEDIAN<br>ODDS         |        | 1.31     | 6.36     | 8.33     | 20.93    | 6.07         |

# TURF PARADISE (3:55)

By Scott Ehlers

Race 1 8 Born in the Blood 6 Banquet 3 Marys Dynasty

Race 2 5 Sweet Fire Wes 6 Barbara 3 Rompe Corazonez

Race 3 2 JACKED UP went favored in his debut and did everything but win. He never got an early breather and he hopped at the start. Now he adds a full furlong, draws fine, and goes for a barn that is 33% with 2nd time maidens. Fun fact: four of six sibs beat winners. 8 EMPIRE WARRIOR is better of late and draws the attack post for the distance. New barn is 17% off the claim and the leading rider gets a leg up along with weight break. 7 GONE GREY ran OK off the layoff and is more likely than not to take a step forward second off the layoff. He draws fine and adds a full furlong.

Race 4 3 ITSALLGOODMAN ran OK off the layoff and that was going a tough 6 1/2 panels. This gelding showed promise as a 2YO and was even better as a 3YO. Works are well spaced and we like that Mojica stays put. The half furlong cut back should put this gelding just off the early pace and we know he can pass runners. His distance Tommy of 409 screams sprint. This gelding ran a Beyer top right before the layoff and we doubt that he is done improving. 5 JOE DON LOONEY might be quickest and at least has a shot at the front end. Recent figs are better than all so say hello to the favorite. 7 ULTIMATE gets in light and draws outside and both should help the trip. Current form is solid and this gelding has done most of his winning going this distance.

#### Race 5

8 BRUMBODOPPELGANGER drops into restricted company and draws outside. There is good pace in this race so this filly is either going to sit off the early pace or stalk the pace all from the outside. She has passed runners before. She gets in light with Americano up and said jockey is 24% for this barn. 6 SHESAYSHELLO is a pure sprint closer and she gets great race flow. Her figs are going in the right direction and now she puts four races together so we know she is feeling good. 1 BE AWARE can stalk so maybe that is an option. On the other hand, she just won gate to wire and now draws the rail. Team Diodoro are 24% with horses that won their last race. Connections turn this horse around in 11 days and that is often a good sign for them. A fast pace is still a worry if indeed the front end is wanted.

8 MOJAVE is feeling great and has a lot of speed. He draws outside main pace rivals which should help. He likes a shortened sprint and keeps Cruz who this horse likes. 6 EDDIE CROSSWIRE can stalk a nice trip. He just ran better and now tries this dirt for the third time. What if six furlongs was a tad far last out? If this gelding can break a bit better then that would be a big help. 5 CODE CHARLIE has good speed but has faltered in his last two starts. We think he needed his return try and that six furlongs was a tad far in his most recent. He goes third off the layoff and figures a decent price.

#### Race 7

7 MUSICAL DIVA found herself off the pace in her most recent and that is something that rarely happens. It is no surprise that she spit the bit early. That race darkens her form and perhaps that is why connections drop her in class. We think she is quickest today and that an early breather is more likely than not. Perhaps the jock switch to Lopez is telling as said pilot is 23% for this barn. 2 STANFORD HOLIDAY just beat first time winners and got a Beyer top of 43 in the process. Why can't she continue to improve? Added half furlong shouldn't be a problem and this horse is bred to love sprinting with her distance Tomlinson of 407. Alas, she won't be 22-1 again. 4 INEDANDREFINED drops in class and has hit the exacta on this dirt in 6 of 11 starts. She didn't break sharp in either of her last two starts which is concerning. The good news is that she turns around in seven days and that is a 33% for this barn.

#### Race 8

2 POKER ALICE tried the turf for only the second time last out and ran better. Now she puts three races together. The fresh face from SoCal wants the grass right back which we endorse. Team Perez is 16% with new runners and 27% on the grass. A stalking trip from this inside post rounds out the appeal. 1 MARINAS TINA likes this sod where she has hit the exacta in three of four starts. She can pass runners and figures a ground saving trip from this rail draw. Once again connections find a spot where this mare can't be claimed. 8 UNA PALABRA is a new turf horse. Her return try was solid and this barn is 20% second of this type of layoff. Team Silva Jr is 23% on the turf and 25% with their allowance runners.

Race 9 We have been waiting for **8 NORTHCUT \* Best Bet** \*\* to run a good race and it finally happened last out at 9-1. Connections waste little time finding this 9YO a race which we also like. They want this distance right back and that is another plus. Win rider stays put and this barn is 34% with horses that won their last race. 11 HORSE DOCTOR is a horse for course at 5-4-0-0. What if five furlongs was just too short last out? This gelding likes this distance at 4-2-1-0. Win rider returns in Americano and said jockey is 50% for this barn. 5 ABRAAJ MIRAGE returns off the short layoff and with a work in tow. This gelding is feeling great and likes this tricky distance.



# Western Fair Raceway Post - 5:50

#### SUGAR'S SELECTIONS -

#### Race 1

4 BANKING ON HUDINI begins a PICK 5

5 MVP MARCELLO is one to think about

2 GREENLIGHT GO top 3 potential here

#### Race 2 \*\* Best Bet \*\*

3 WHEELIN AND STEALIN for 4 in a row

5 MASS MONEY likely right there again

4 LIVINGITLARGE to be best of the rest

#### Race 3

5 DIAMONDS OR TWINE put her on top

8 KISS IT BETTER one to consider here

6 CREDIT KAWHI is a top 3 possibility

#### Race 4

1 OUR MAX PHACTOR N gets top call

2 BIG BULLY the Exactor factor again

3 FAVARO SEELSTER top 3 potential

| Race 5                              |
|-------------------------------------|
| 2 MASTERWORK can top this HI5 play  |
| 3 LOOKPROUD is more than capable    |
| 4 LUNAR HALO may grab a share here  |
|                                     |
| Race 6                              |
| 3 PRESTIGE SEELSTER starts a PICK 5 |
| 1 BELECHICK rail could help chances |
|                                     |

1 SHEPLAYSFORKEEPS put her on top

6 CAPTAINOFROCKNROLL top 3 play

2 SNAKE EYES HANOVER worth a look

**5 BLOSSOM ONTHEBEACH use in TRI** 

#### Race 8

3 LORD ANTHONY way down in class

2 TYPHOON STRIDE N is fitting in well

5 UP JOEYS CREDIT best of rest here

#### Race 9

1 DARKSIDE OF WICKED the rail helps

2 PSYCHO PATH just missed last time

3 TRIDENT SEELSTER top 3 possibility

#### Race 10

5 HAPPY NEIGHS now dipping in class

4 BRODYS SCRAPPER 71-time winner

1 GO NINE O the rail should help here



#### The Empire Report - Monday, March 31, 2025 - Race Analysis

RACE 1 – Well matched field in tonight's opener: (5) PRICELESS BEACH was no factor in a hot 1:51 mile 2 back but has otherwise taken 3 of his last 4 – he should be able to find a live trip here, and we'll give him the narrow edge. (3) CENTURY ENDEAVOR was a very sharp (big price!) winner 3 back, had no chance in his next then was an excellent first over 2<sup>nd</sup> last week – a good trip tonight makes him a very live player. (6) TWO FACED hasn't won in a while but he's raced very well in the majority of his starts – another that becomes a legitimate threat with the right trip. (4) IDRAINTHESWAMP A has hit board in 6 of his last 7 starts, and 7 of his last 9 – add him to the list of possible winners (and he figures to be a decent price). (2) SHAKESPEARE probably disliked sitting so close to the hot fractions last week and folded badly – he's eligible to bounce right back with a much better effort tonight, but he's facing a lot of sharp rivals here (1) TUFFENUFTOWEARPINK did win in this class not too long ago but others just seem much sharper right now. (7) LYRICAL GENIUS A probably needs an inside draw to be a serious player

RACE 2 – (2) SCRIBBLERS steps up to 50s after a pair of wins vs. the 40s...but the ease with which he earned those victories suggests that he may be sharp enough to beat these too! (1) TWIN B DELUXE can be forgiven for being unable to rally last week into the hot :27.3 final quarter – he's done plenty of good work this year, and we'll look for him to rebound with a big effort starting from the pole. (3) MULLINAX has been very sharp with cheaper lately, and steps up off a nice pocket win last week – he does have the back class to be a player with these too, but may be overbet after being installed as the 2-1 ML favorite. (4) DEETZY was an even 4<sup>th</sup> vs. better last week but did pick up wins (over cheaper) just prior to that – a good trip puts him in play for a piece tonight. (5) BB LUCKY BOY put together a pair of scary victories upon arrival from NJ but wasn't able to make his speed show work taking on the 50s last week – he may have that same trouble tonight (welcome back to Joe Bongiorno, returning to the driving ranks tonight). (6) GENTLE GIANT is good right now but may find himself a little too far back to seriously threaten this week. (7) RENAISSANCE DEO is another who fits well, but who may be post compromised

RACE 3 – (1) SURFSIDE BEACH has held form beautifully for a long stretch, but has been settling for somewhat smaller pieces lately (facing some tough competition) – this feels like a spot where Stratton may be able to handle him a bit more aggressively...perhaps with a chance to come out on top? (2) LAYTON HANOVER was a no threat 2<sup>nd</sup> last week but he did start from Post 8 and the winner was ultra well meant – he's had plenty of success here in the past, and remains a legitimate threat for tonight. (8) ROCKIN JUKEBOX seems likely to race conservatively from this spot and wait for a class drop (and better draw) next week...but IF the tote board suggests that he may be "live" tonight, you may want to consider him on some of your tickets. Both (4) YOROKOBI N and (5) WINDSUN RICKY are good right now and eligible to grab some smaller pieces here...but will need some racing luck to come their way for a chance at the top slot. (3) CADILLAC BAYAMA is much better than he was earlier in the year but still not close to his best...probably looking at only minor spoils. (7) SHAZAM BLUE CHIP is another that's well off his peak form, though racing "ok" at lower levels – tough spot for tonight. (6) GINGRAS BEACH will look more appealing over the next couple of weeks as a win and a 2<sup>nd</sup> will be coming off the bottom of his card

RACE 4 – (4) SOHO DOW JONES A (now 4-2-2-0 in the U.S.) has a nice burst of speed and he was able to use it perfectly last week, shaking free in the lane and charging by BLUE LOU into the :27.4 final quarter – Gingras gives him a vote of confidence (sticking with him over #1) and we'll give him the edge too. (1) HEZA CHARTTOPPER A was definitely a bit opportunistic last week, taking advantage of an early pocket breaker, tiring frontrunner, and somewhat indifferent VERDUN – that being said, he's now won 4 of his last 5 starts, and is 8-6-1-0 here at Yonkers – deserves plenty of respect from the pole, with Zeron taking over tonight. (3) HEZ ALLTHE RAGE N has been sharp for a long time, yet never seems to get much action at the windows – never a bad one for exotics, and maybe even on top? (5) I DID IT MYWAY hasn't had much success in a handful of local starts, but that was for a different trainer – the 6YO does have 30 career wins and nearly \$1.4M on his card, and his last couple at PcD suggest he may be a player here too. (7) NANDOLO N has been terrific his year but he'll likely be coming from last tonight, and Bartlett did opt to drive #2 – maybe he can rally for a piece? (2) THE IDEAL DANCER A has been a very steady performer since joining this barn last year but his last was a little dull, and he may prefer to be in just a bit easier. (6) FUNATTHEBEACH N is feeling good right now, but the class jump and poor post may slow him down a bit

**RACE 5** – MGM Borgata Pace, Leg 1: (4) CHARLIE MAY has been prepping nicely for this series at Pocono (for his new barn), and ships in off a sharp front end 1:49.1 score – he's certainly no stranger to half mile tracks, and was 2<sup>nd</sup> here in The Messenger in 2021 (and sent off favored in the Aria Pace, in 2022) – he gets a good draw, Dave

Miller is in to drive, and we'll give the \$2.2M earning homebred top billing tonight. (6) VERDUN looked like his best self as he powered the by the field with authority 2 back, and probably would have won last week as well, had Lachance not waited until the final turn before letting him pace – he'll need a little trip luck with the bad draw, but he's absolutely worth using if the price is decent. (3) CHASE H HANOVER changed barns to start the new year and has hit board in all 7 starts – he makes his first local start of the year tonight, and seems more than sharp enough to have a major impact. (1) HUNTINTHELASTDOLAR was a winner in his last 2 local starts and is 4 for 5 overall here at Yonkers – hard to gauge just how ready he is off that one tightener in NJ, but he can have a say here if ready to bring his best. (2) SHERLOCK N is unproven against these types but his sharp connections felt he was good enough to enter the sentence and he's actually looked good in his last pair, when allowed to relax and rally – maybe a good bomb for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>? (7) HELLABALOU had a rough (overall) season in 2024 but still was able to win this series for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row – not sure he's sharp enough right now to beat these from out here, but you wouldn't want to dismiss the reigning champ too quickly, either. (5) JANELLE GRANNY was heavily supported and a very sharp winner vs. easier last week, but will still need to prove he can hang with these tougher ones. (8) CARABAO A is coming around, and so is his barn – brutal spot for tonight, though

RACE 6 – MGM Borgata Pace, Leg 1: (7) COACHES CORNER conceded at the start in his first start of 2025 (in NJ) but that race should serve as a useful tightener as he was only beaten by a couple of lengths – after going 7 for 7 here as a 3YO he really elevated his game as a 4 year old last year, putting together an outstanding 25-7-11-3 season, banking \$645K— willing to give him a try tonight, even from out here. (4) FOR ONCE INMY LIFE has been hitting on all cylinders out of town for a long time, and was a winner in his only local start as well – hard to leave him off your tickets in his current raging form. (5) HEMSWORTH N was a surprise leaver in his first start of the year but tired badly – it must have tightened him up, though, as he did kick home full of pace last week…decent bomb for the bottom of exotics. It's hard to say (3) PLEASELETMEKNOW had a "bad" year in 2024 (he earned \$236K) but he did seem to disappoint as often as he delivered – hard to say how tight he'll be, even after the 3 qualifiers. (1) FINVARRA A has been a model of consistency this year, and gets another good draw – could be enough to help him take home a minor share. (2) DUNKIN can be forgiven for last week's miscue (he'll do that at times) but the fact that he's still winless this year is a bit more of a concern – not ready to use him on top at this point. (6) LYONS STEEL should appreciate the switch to Gingras but still seems up against it with these

RACE 7 - MGM Borgata Pace, Leg 1: (8) HUMBLE A was crushing NW2-4PM fields with ease last Fall – he took a big step up on 11/19 and trounced a much tougher NW20000 field (from Post 7), won the 3-5YO Open the next week, beat another strong NW30000 field after that then concluded his year with a win in the Preferred at The Swamp – his 2 qualifiers suggest he'll be ready right off the bench and more significantly, Bartlett takes him over #3, despite Post 8 – we'll hop on board too. (3) AARDIES FLASH N threw an unexpected clunker last week, but has otherwise been a solid player – can bounce back and have a big say here, even if Bartlett opts for #8. (4) HIMSE LF N was one of a few from the barn to perk up last week, 2<sup>nd</sup> best to the favored front end winner – if he steps up his game a little ore tonight, he can make some late noise. (1) ACT FAST hasn't found his best form yet in 2025 and his efforts here last year were mixed – has to at least have a chance at a piece tonight, though, starting from the pole. (2) WISH YOU WELL was tiring last week before the stretch miscue, and he's a 4YO taking on top older foes – minor spoils? (7) VENTURESOME ARDEN N hasn't been "bad", but he also hasn't been close to last year's top form – 3 weeks off and Post 7 are a couple of more obstacles he'll need to overcome tonight. (6) CHURCHVIEWF RANKL IR's only win this year came on the lead in NW10000 – hard to like his chances from this spot. (5) CAMA RA MOMENT just seems buried against these.

RACE 8 - MGM Borgata Pace, Leg 1: (3) DESPERATE MAN has enjoyed incredible success at Yonkers the past 2 years, going 19-15-1-3 (ironically, one of his BEST efforts was in last year's Borgata, a race that he lost!) – hard to be 100% certain that he'll be ready to win off the 3 qualifiers, but history says he will be. (6) MOSSDALE BEN N hails from connections that are no strangers to Borgata success, and the import has done nothing but impress in his 4 U.S. starts (all wins, as he shot right up the class ladder) – he does get a bad draw, and has thrown some bad steps at times…but still deserves plenty of respect tonight, and likely all through the series. (4) ITS A ME MARIO qualified back sharply then charged home full of pace for 2<sup>nd</sup> in his seasonal debut – definitely a chance for a good piece here, and possibly a chance at the upset should the top two falter. (2) AMMO has upped his game since changing barns 4 starts back, and is very playable in exotics. (1) MY ULTIMATE BYRON A was dull last week but racing off a bad date – he's a viable longshot for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> from this spot. (5) BLAZING HOME N feels a bit below the top ones in here, and seemingly looking at only minor spoils. (7) COMBUSTION qualified impressively but has to prove that he can bang heads with these top performers

RACE 9 - MGM Borgata Pace, Leg 1: (8) MIKI SHAN N is unproven against these types in the U.S. but his two local victories (one on the lead, one charging from off the pace) suggest that he might be a good fit – he catches a somewhat suspect division, and may be able to come out on top (even from Post 8) if Bartlett can work out a decent trip. (5) WHY NOT NOW qualified sharply for his 2025 return, kicked home full of pace from an impossible spot in his seasonal debut then was a game, well-backed front end winner last week– he had a disappointing 4YO campaign so we'll see if he can be a bigger player in '25. (1) TYPHOON BANNER N was handled aggressively last week but tired badly – not the effort his connections were hoping for heading into the series, but he's too talented to ignore from this spot. (4) ADMIRAL HILL (back on Lasix) has the ability to be a player in this series, but did look a bit short in his qualifier – may need a start or two before we see his best. (7) BINGE ON YANKEE was doing good things but was scratched injured from his last, and now draws Post 7 for the first leg of the series – feels a little iffy for tonight. (2) HUNGRY ANGEL BOY won 3 of 4 in an abbreviated 4YO campaign, and just hasn't been in top form since returning for his 5YO season – prefer to just observe, for now. (6) ROCKNROLL RUNA A has earned nearly \$700K but the 8YO veteran does seem well off his top form these days. (3) BIRTHDAY would be a surprise, based on his 2 starts (so far) this year

RACE 10 – Something clicked for (8) ALWAYS A THRILL 4 starts back at Pocono and he hasn't lost since (and that includes going off at 1/5 vs. DUNKIN last start, and beating him handily) – probably wouldn't want to bet the rent money on him tonight (at a short price, from Post 8), but it would be hard NOT to give him top billing, in his current raging form. (2) BLUE LOU couldn't hang on after cutting the mile last week but he did kick home in a snappy :27.3, losing only to a very sharp SOHO DOW JONES A – definitely a very live player once more. (4) SMI FFYS TERROR N roared home to victory in the lane last week, and is capable of handling tonight's class jump – not sure he'll get a good enough trip for a chance to win it, but he can surely rally for a nice piece. (1) QUALITY BUD would prefer to be in easier but he's solid right now, and the good draw could keep him close enough to take home a share of this. (5) LUCAPELO A would look better one level down, but an easy trip could help him grab some minor spoils. (3) SANTANA HANOVER struggled with tougher in his first couple of starts this year but still catches some tough ones tonight, even dropping in class – not ready to hop on his team just yet. (7) ORLANDO BLUE A is 4 for 6 this year but he's missed a month since the last claim, and draws poorly in a good field (adding Lasix) – sticking with others tonight. (6) VENGEANCE BLUE CHIP takes on older as he begins his 4YO campaign

RACE 11 – Tough race! (2) SPLASH BROTHER was racing off a bad date last week but kept trying hard and wasn't a bad 3<sup>rd</sup> behind a pair of nice horses – he drops right back in the box, and may get to control the action tonight – one of several with a real chance to take this, (6) WALKINSHAW N was once of several in the barn to come alive last week, and he certainly did so in a big way – he's more than sharp enough to handle the class jump, but it'll all boil down to what kind of trip he lands on. (7) ULTIMAROCA took NO \$\$ last week (8 hole) and never got close – he drops tonight and while he draws poorly once more, he MAY take a shot at leaving here – becomes a player if that happens. And if HE doesn't leave, perhaps (8) WHATS STANLEY GOT A will – he's been struggling lately, but this is a spot where you can at least look for a possible wake up call. (1) BRAKE AHEAD raced a little better last week and may land on a good trip tonight – chance for a piece. (4) KOMODO BEACH makes his 2<sup>nd</sup> start off the layoff and was no factor at all last week – perhaps the tote board will offer some clues? (5) MYSWEETBOY MAX used all of a perfect trip to beat softer 2 back, but will need to elevate his game to threaten these. (3) CASINO ACTION N gets some post relief, but others in here just seems sharper right now

RACE 12 – (2) MISSED THE TRUTH A could be a good value play in the finale – it wasn't long ago that he was just missing to the likes of SMIFFYS TERROR N, SURFSIDE BEACH, etc., and this is definitely a much easier spot – if he lands on a good trip, perhaps he can pull off an upset? (6) ROCKMYSTER N is winless in his 7 local starts but showing better signs in his last couple – another that could be offering some decent value here. (1) VICI seemed headed for his first victory of the season last week but he was nipped late by #8 (as the 1/5 favorite) – he may be able to make amends here, but another short price is looming. (3) TAIPO N showed some promise here last winter after arriving from Down Under – he took some time off, and returns from PcD off a close 2<sup>nd</sup> last week – possible, at least for exotics. (4) ESCAPE TO AMERICA fits with these, but was 0 for 11 here last year – maybe use underneath? (7) CAVIART SARGENT came up 2<sup>nd</sup> best to repeated SPEED MAN N two back then got up at the wire for pocket win last week – would have liked his chances a lot better with an inside draw, though. (8) AMERIT RIC nipped #1 last week, but that was with a pocket trip – looking at a much tougher journey from Post 8! (5) RAY RAY may have trouble getting in play tonight.

## **AUSTRALIAN RACING ROSEHILL - POST 9:35**

#### RACE 1- 11/2/4/1/10 11 EVERYONE'S A STAR

· Both runs this prep encouraging · Ready to peak, extra distance ideal

#### RACE 2- 10/2/1/5/3

- 10 SAVVY HALLIE
- · Powered to the line last start in key lead up
- Up to 7 furlongs ideal Lightly weighted, strong speed will suit

#### RACE 3- 4/11/2/8/5

#### 4 KING OF THUNDER

- Strong win last start, progressive stayer
- Group 2 placed last prep, classy type
- · Mile and a quarter ideal, J Mac on

#### RACE 4- 1/6/4/7/3

#### 1 CEOLWULF

- Excellent 3rd in group 1 last Saturday
- Quick back up a positive
   Mile and a quarter ideal, class runner

#### RACE 5- 14/7/9/15/12 14 HARLEM QUEEN

- Finished strongly for 3rd fresh, fitter
- Very classy filly, came a long way last prep
- · Light weight, sharp turn of foot, value

#### RACE 6- 1/7/2/5/6

#### 1 TREASURETHE MOMENT \*\* Best Bet \*\*

- Won 6 straight races, very classy
- Oaks winner last year, D Lane 4/4
- Up to this trip suits, best bet of the day

#### RACE 7- 3/8/7/13/2 3 UNCOMMON JAMES

- Excellent 3rd in group 1 Galaxy Saturday
- · Quick back up and extra trip both positive
- · Ready to peak 3rd up

#### RACE 8- 1/2/11/3/4 1 DUBAI HONOUR

- World class Haggas horse resuming
- Won QE group 1 here 2 years ago
- · Excellent 2nd HK group 1 latest

#### RACE 9- 2/4/8/7/6 2 AMENABLE

- Barnstorming run fresh, fitter
- Group 1 2nd last year, talented type
- · Distance perfect, well drawn, value

#### RACE 10- 4/7/6/1/2 4 KIBOU

- · Excellent 2nd in deeper benchmark fresh
- Fitter, trialled brilliantly prior
- Bold front runner, value

#### BEST BET RACE 6-1 TREASURE THE MOMENT

VALUE BETS

RACE 5-14 HARLEM QUEEN

RACE 10-4 KIBOU