

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, JULY 14, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: TIGGY THUNDER (1st) – EGO MAN (2nd)

Race 1

- 7** TIGGY THUNDER – Encouraging rally in muddy debut and should benefit from experience.
- 1** INSTANT VISION – Signs of interest in tougher fields and main threat despite eight chances.
- 8** SHE'S JUSTIFIED – Victim of early trouble at top maiden level and good speed this level.
- 2** EDGE OF THE BLADE – Closer than odds predicted at Monmouth; outrun by third pick locally.

Race 2

- 5** EGO MAN – Classy veteran with 12 victories claimed for this amount; outside stalking trip.
- 4** JEWELS IN THE BAY – Re-claimed soon as possible by Arce barn and shorter yardage a plus.
- 2** NUEDORF – Used up dueling when Pino took back and dangerous when able to control pace.
- 1** POPPY'S PRIDE – Failed at short odds again and claimed from last four races; speed inside.

Race 3

- 4** JESS'S MOMENT – Narrowed gap in sloppy sprint after just missing this spot in prior route.
- 1** MISS JONES – Crushed maidens when adding Lasix then absent four months; threat if ready.
- 6** VICKI VALE – Trained when overmatched after upset previously; remains eligible with claim tag.
- 3** MOMMA PIC – Flashes of interest with similar; possibility if puts it all together at square odds.

Race 4

- 6** DR BAYTER – Nearly always gives his best and returns to amount of claim with Castillo back up.
- 5** ALILNALOT – Speedy gelding walloped three-time winners and likely one to catch again.
- 1** BALANTYNE – Prominent throughout vs. repeat winner at Monmouth; Ramirez barn at 20%.
- 3** THIRSTY PAPPY – Dueled entire trip in game try just six days ago; stretching out again.

Race 5

- 4** ZOPPI FISCHBEIN – Failed to offer true measure in mud and re-claimed by Padilla stable.
- 3** NIMMO – Back on main track and drops; romped locally with Lopez aboard in April and February
- 7** FLUFF THE PILLOW – Edged this spot when claimed after easy score at Laurel; obvious threat.
- 6** HEAT ALERT – Realistic drop after outrun again but series of strong efforts earlier in year.

Race 6

- 1** NEW DIAMOND – Gulfstream invader from winning barn and should handle soft opposition.
- 2** CLASSIC MYSTERY – Proven she fits against this kind and Solis stable has them firing.
- 4** SILVER CITY KITTY – Solid effort this spot when adding blinkers; Lupe Guerrero barn at 18%.
- 6** BE MY QUEEN – Rapid filly easily second best to smashing winner and likely one to catch.

Race 7

5	BORRACHO – Ran into tigress in latest and amazing 9-year-old with 18 career victories.
4	FINAL SHOT – Yet another veteran with ample ability and excellent record with Lopez up.
6	WHISKEYROMEOSIERRA – Back home and gives formidable effort at times; aggressive drop.
3	GUAPONESS – Chased runaway repeat winner when claimed for this amount; likes to win.

Race 8

3	CALIFORNIA TIGER – Often claimed for high tags at top meets and switches to Ness barn.
4	PRAETORIAN GUARD – Wide trip behind pair of classy sprinters; long losing streak but fits well.
5	JUST STEP ON IT – Used up after soundly bumped early and runner-up in Smarty Jones 2024.
2	MR. BOGAN – Fired in eight straight and determined score with slightly softer company.

Race 9

7	GOLDIENESS – Overmatched in slop and big effort for higher tag previously; finds proper spot.
8	ERIN'S ENTHUSIASM – Back sprinting where she wired with Lopez earlier; 12 career victories.
2	AVATAL HERO – Led throughout in route edging rival which won last week; rare sprint outing.
3	WAITWAITDONTTELLME – Claimed by 38% Pino barn when failing as odds-on chalk this level.

Monticello – 12:10 - BY Lucky Lou

Monticello – 12:10 - BY Lucky Lou

1. 4-3-2

2. 4-2-5

3. 2-4-7

4. 5-3-1

5. 2-4-6

6. 1-5-7

7.5-4-1

8. 1-2-6

9. 1-2-5

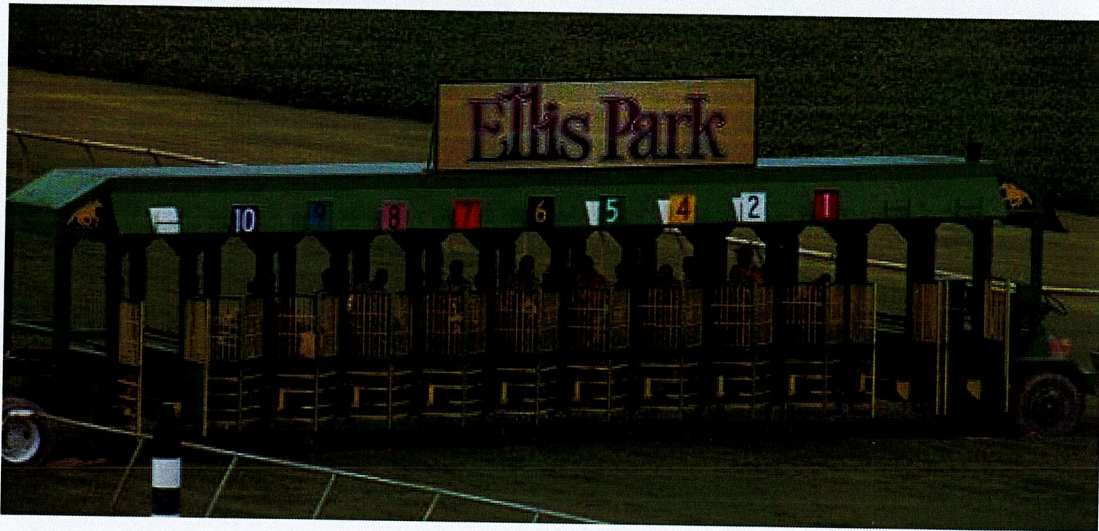
10. 2-3

11. 4-7-3

Best Bets : Race 8 # 1. Sister Lo

Race 9. # 1. Believe In Angels

ELLIS PARK (POST 12:50)



Race 1

#5 Good Bali

#6 Anthonian

#8 Morunning

Race 1 selections: 5-6-8-7

Race 2

3 Integrity

#8 Glory Me

#9 Hot and Dangerous

#7 Search Party

Race 2 selections: 3-8-9-7 #3 Integrity (5-1) looks ready to win his first start for trainer Brendan Walsh, who has compiled a respectable 6-for-37 (16%) record debuting two-year-olds in dirt sprints at Ellis Park since 2020. A son of juvenile Grade 1 winner Maxfield (who is siring 22% winners from first-time starters), Integrity enters off a sharp work tab capped off by a swift half-mile from the Keeneland starting gate in :47 1/5.

Race 3

#6 Travaille

#3 Red Rose Rockin

#7 Mariposa de Pista

Race 3 selections: 6-3/7-4

Race 4

#5 Explosively

#6 Where's Randy

#7 Interlock Empire

Race 4 selections: 5-6/7-4

Race 5 #6 Oak Alley

#12 Les Is Best

#1 Dancing Eyes

Race 5 selections: 6-12-1/3

Race 6

#1 Uncashed

#8 Get Her Number

#9 Payne

Race 6 selections: 1/8-9/3

Race 7

#11 Dashin' Diva

#1 Hi'aka

#3 Stormy Paradise

Race 7 selections: 11-1-3-12

Race 8

#6 Miracle Worker

#5 Ajaayb

#2 Regal Rey

Race 8 selections: 6/5-2-9

Race 9

#4 Steel Venom

#8 Hamlet

#13 Kulapat

Race 9 selections: 4-8-13-5-1



POST 12:50

1. 7-4-6

2. 5-4-2

3. 6-4-3

4. 3-1-2

5. 5-6-3

6. 5-1-3

7. 1-5-6

8. 2-8-4-1

Best Bets : Race 6 # 5 Belle Bottoms

Race 7 # 1 Watchoutweaver

Pick 3 Play : Race 6. 5 / 1,5 / 2,4,8

LAKE'S LUCKY PICKS

FINGER LAKES RACETRACK SELECTIONS

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025

(1:00)

Lake's Lucky Picks uses years in the business and a horse sense to regularly track runners, see trends, and watch each race — providing you with greater insight!

RACE	#	HORSE	COMMENT		
1	4	DIVA BANKER	SLIGHT EDGE IN CLAIMING SERIES EVENT PERFORMED WELL IN BOTH STARTS OF 2025 HAS FACED BETTER IN THE PAST		
	5	THIN LEGS			
	2	JACKSON AVENUE			
2	3	HOLIDAY JAZZ	HAVE TO ACCEPT THE SHORT PRICE SOMEBODY HAS TO BE SECOND SHOULD IMPROVE IN SECOND 2025 START		
	5	IN TRAFFIC			
	4	R GIRL FAITH			
3	1	VEHEMENTE	VYING FOR FOUR IN A ROW HIGH PROFILE CONNECTIONS HAVE TO BE USED LOGICAL TOP THREE CONTENDER IN OAKS		
	2	LOTTIE MARGARET			
	3	VALTELLINA			
4	2	ADMIRAL MO	GETS IN LIGHT AND CAN HANDLE THESE THE SPEED ON THE RAIL MUST BE CAUGHT LATE RUNNER IS AT THE MERCY OF PACE		
	1	TWO THIRTY A.M.			
	3	FLYING IN STYLE			
5	4	CAROL T	NY INVADER HAS BEEN CLOSE VS TOUGHER GETS TESTED AFTER CRUSHING MAIDENS CAN HOLD ON TO LAND IN SUPER AT A PRICE		
	8	GOODYS GIRL			
	2	WORLD BANK			
6	6	COACH BAHE	VERSATILE GELDING WINS IF BRINGS "A GAME" TANGLED WITH RICHER COMPETITION UNDERNEATH TYPE MUST BE INCLUDED		
	7	MR. EINSTEIN			
	5	WINNING DRIVE			
7	1	TRAIN THE TRAINER	TAKES THE DERBY IF HANDLES EXTRA YARDAGE HAS BEEN COMPETITIVE AGAINST NY-BREDS OFF THE MAIDEN WIN BUT STILL NOT OUT OF IT		
	2	CALLING CARD			
	4	HIT THE POST			
8	1	JAK N BURNY	TOP LOCAL SPRINTER WILL HAVE TO EARN IT WILL NOT MAKE IT EASY FOR THE TOP CHOICE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF QUICK EARLY PACE		
	5	FACTUALLY CORRECT			
	3	ROTKNEE			
9	1E	MURPHY ENTRY	BOTH RIVALS ARE THREATS TO TAKE FINALE MOVES UP OFF CLAIM BUT IS A CONTENDER LOOKED LIKE HIS OLD SELF BEATING EASIER		
	2	CAN'T BEAT ME			
	3	OLD MAN WINTER			
RACE	#	PLAY OF THE DAY	RACE	#	BIG SPLASH – NICE PRICE!
2	3	HOLIDAY JAZZ	5	2	WORLD BANK

The selections are purely recommendations and success is not a guarantee.

Track conditions, scratches, and other factors can affect the way the selections would be made.

Bet with your head, not over it.

INDIANA GRAND - POST 2:10

FIRST RACE

1	Forever Greedy	1-4-3-5
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SECOND RACE

1	Hard Scholar	1-2-3-4
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THIRD RACE

1	Spoke Pedroza M Jr	1-5-6-2
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FOURTH RACE

3	Airforce Lightning	3-1-2-6
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FIFTH RACE

7	Classic Claire	7-2-1-9
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SIXTH RACE

5	Dauwe	5-7-1-9
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SEVENTH RACE

5	Yes Indeed	5-3-6-4
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EIGHTH RACE

9	Kitodan	9-3-7-5-4
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NINTH RACE

5	Hf Liza Jane	5-1-2-7-14
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GET FREE PAST PERFORMANCES FOR TODAY'S CARD

OAK GROVE The Players' Guide

RACING • GAMING • HOTEL YOUR COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO TODAY'S RACES

Monday, July 14, 2025 • Race Day 36

Today's selections and commentary by: *Ray Cotolo*

Full-Card Selections

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



Pick 5 Ticket

Race 4: 1,4,6,8
Race 5: 5,6,7
Race 6: 5
Race 7: 1,2,3
Race 8: 1,3,4
Total Stake: \$21.60 for \$.20

Race 1

1 Mile / Trot • KYSS 3YO Colts & Geldings Consolation

(3) VUGOO got rough over the wet track last time, but he should stay smooth if he gets a fast track. This is a light bunch too, so his kick could get him a great piece. (4) GLOBAL SENSATION was one of a few who could close on the wet track last week. We'll see if going against the possible bias translates to a strong performance early, but he likely takes a lot of money here. (5) SKY LEGACY stayed flat last time and could mount a more menacing challenge against the consolation bunch. (1) ONEMORE VOLO gets a good draw and usually also works tactical trips. He'll get a check.

Race 4

1 Mile / Trot • KYSS 3YO Colts & Geldings FINAL

After extensive calculations, diagramming and scheming, I have come to the conclusion that (1) MY DEGENERATE is the most likely to land in the prime spot of the speed. This will be a charge to the first turn, and the pylon post just gives him the best chance to work the most opportune trip. (4) HERECOMESDAJUDGE offers plenty of speed and may be able to last for a good chunk. (6) YANNICK G KEMP should find a live tow to take a stab at decent odds. Same for (8) YO SHELDON, who also likely will appreciate a faster surface.

Race 2

1 Mile / Pace • USHDC NW \$3,000 L4 CD

(3) RAZOR'S EDGE appears to have a fairly strong motor. Most of the others in this field waver, so his potential to steamroll here holds great appeal. His last win confirmed it. (4) DRAGON PERFECT may also punch through as others tire. He has a solid move, but some others in here look like they can outkick him. He'll need to have some sort of jump to win. (2) NORMANDY BEACH likely goes forward off that confidence-boosting win. He either goes down with the speed or is left to work a comfortable trip. (6) KISSINBYTHEBEACHES may outfoot everyone or he may not. If he doesn't, then he'll only be fighting for a share.

Race 5

1 Mile / Pace • KYSS 3YO Colts & Geldings Consolation

(5) BOURBON COUNTY had energy to offer from a good trip last time, but also had too much traffic to navigate. He most likely lands in a good spot, but there also is a part of my gut that says he's first over in this race. I don't know which to believe. (6) MAKING HISTORY probably has the most ability, but the draw is tough and the sick scratch raises questions. That said, his talent probably still throws him in the mix. (7) BANDERAS got a great tightening effort over the goo last time. While the draw is bad here, he should be sitting on a good effort. (2) STRANGERINTHENIGHT will try for a ground-saving trip that should place him in the vertical gimmicks.

Race 3

1 Mile / Pace • KYSS 2YO Fillies Consolation

I'm not giving up on (4) NAUGHTY SEASTAR yet. She gets aggressive hands from Gingras now, so this should be a time where she rolls if she ever will. (2) HEARTOFTHE SUNRISE raced from a tough spot on debut but should take a step forward in start two. (1) NASH will take play because she finished best in the best division, but I'm not convinced she stands that much higher than the others yet. (5) RUBY VUITTON was Miller's choice, but she can improve in an easier spot.

Race 6

1 Mile / Trot • KYSS 2YO Fillies FINAL

(5) JAILBIRD JOG just has raw ability. A. Mac has yet to truly unleash her, so we'll see how much of the reserve gets used here. (1) AVENZEE was the only one making any progress in her division last time. She gets a great post and should be better for that effort. (3) COUNTRY GLIDE went a huge mile while staying flat. She was never getting by JAILBIRD JOG last time, but she showed she can contend at a price. (4) SETYOUR-SIGHTSHIGH will likely be the second choice here and could do well, but other prospects offer more appealing odds.

Race 7

1 Mile / Pace • KYSS 3YO Fillies Consolation

(3) RONSTADT had no chance to get into the race from a wide draw last time, but now she gets a post where she should use her speed to get into a striking spot. (2) HIP SHOT is likely the one to beat. She'll also appreciate the class relief, but this again is a race where there is no true standout. (1) DURATION is Zeron's choice despite back-to-back wacky races. She obviously went too fast last time, but I'm curious what rebound could be in store if she got through her jitters in the preliminaries. (5) WUNDERKINDBLUECHIP should factor more against this group, but she's likely an exotic player unless Atlee decides to blast.

Race 8

1 Mile / Trot • KYSS 3YO Fillies Final

Dex did pick off, but (3) KNGTSTLKRS PISTOL lands into a much better spot this time and also could have been impacted by the front-favoring wet track last time. As long as she can be close to the speed and have a shot at a target, she'll give an honest try. (1) CLARISSA W has plenty of fight and is also super handy. Inside draw gives her plenty of options, but she won't offer the same price appeal. (4) ADMIRING sped home under wraps to victory last time. There is a chance she could cross down and wire this bunch again, but I'm inclined to think the final should be more contentious than her prelim division. (5) SUPER FREAK should offer good odds for the underneath spots. She could work a great trip.

Race 9

1 Mile / Pace • KYSS 2YO Colts & Geldings FINAL

(4) FUNKY BUDDHA did have speed to close into last time, but he also validated his strong runner-up effort from two starts ago with his win last out. He seems like a legitimate contender who doesn't need a particular setup. (2) WHAT NOOO WAAAY maybe got fixated on his target Papi Rick last time, but off that trip he should've fired a little more. He has room to go a much improved mile, but don't settle on him if he again is an odds-on chalk. (6) CLOUSEAU has a good brush in his toolkit, but the outside draw likely has him closing late with ground still to recoup. (3) THIAGO HANOVER was much better last time. He'll be a price for the underneath spots unless this race really falls apart.

Race 10

1 Mile / Pace • KYSS 3YO Fillies FINAL

Wearing my heart on my tip sheet. (5) UNREASONABLE should offer good odds while against a legit filly in (7) ODDS ON CHESAPEAKE. The latter could just speed away, but UNREASONABLE has an insane closing kick and should be worth the bet. (2) CAVIART DELIGHT was another who managed to close in the slop last week, so maybe she really progresses off that effort. (4) RECKLESS ABANDON has a tricky trip to work, but she at least should get a good check.

Race 11

1 Mile / Pace • KYSS 2YO Fillies FINAL

(1) CAVIART DAISY has gears at this point in her career others do not seem to possess. She also gets a terrific draw to just bide her time and strike. (5) KISSIN IN THE DARK could work into a productive spot to get a great chunk of the purse. (8) BARBUDA BELLE likely is the second-best in this field, but the outside post requires her to either do tremendous work or hope that the race falls apart. I think she can do work, but she likely is racing for second then. (4) ETERNAL BLUSH had no response to CAVIART DAISY after setting fast fractions last time. She maybe performs better with a different trip, but she looked quite exposed when beaten. Definitely more of an underneath use at this point.

Race 12

1 Mile / Pace • KYSS 3YO Colts & Geldings FINAL

I don't necessarily want to settle on (7) HARRISBURG HEIST with this wide setup and all this speed inside, but he also may just be faster than everyone in this field. He can leave, take back and make a move in whatever way Yannick wants, and that flexibility probably is what makes him a respectable favorite. (3) SPECIAL SELECT had too much sloppy ground to cover last time and settled for a wrapped-up second. He's the most likely to capitalize if the race collapses. (2) CAPTAIN ARTUROVICO affirmed the restrained speed he showed in prelim one with an upset win last time. If he's given a chance to make a move, he should hold his own. (6) AYEAYE CAPTAIN DEO went a big mile last time, but possibly was a no-excuse second. He'll take play again and should go a solid mile, but he's probably an underneath key for me.

Race 13

1 Mile / Trot • KYSS 2YO Colts & Geldings FINAL

(7) ENDURANCE unleashed a track-record performance without being asked in just the second start of his career. He has a tremendous engine others will probably struggle to match. (3) SILVERSTEIN emerged from the pack to take second in that track-record mile last time, so he could offer good odds as someone who likely will have to fly from the tired fold again. (2) KOUNTRY TAB has been good in both of his starts, winning only by doing what was needed in the last preliminary. He possibly offers more. (8) SAN PATRICIO has been great to start his career, but the outside draw forces him to do a lot of work early that ENDURANCE can probably do better. Unless he's sitting on more in the well, he'll be short odds while trying to grab as good an underneath chunk as possible.

RACE 1

1st: (3) KITTY OF WAR – ships in from Finger Lakes after a strong second two starts back going six furlongs on a tiring track. Daughter of Fog of War should appreciate Tapeta where his natural speed will carry farther.

2nd: (7) SPANISH CARA – ran well on a synthetic track in Ireland in her second career start. Since coming to America, she raced mostly on the turf in California. In her PID debut, she showed speed for a half mile against much better company.

3rd: (5) STRAWBERRY SKY – could not overcome post 11 last out here and was forced to race wide at long odds.

RACE 2

1st: (4) UPPITY UP – horse for the course beat similar here last season going two turns. Off until June, she showed speed going six furlongs then raced evenly going two turns against one class better. Gallardo rides back.

2nd: (6) TRAUMARAMA – raced mostly on dirt and turf but came here and was a good third in his PID debut at the age of 11. She came back with a decent second last time out and makes her third start off the layoff.

3rd: (1) BOURBON BLAST – horse for the course drops down a notch in class for Lance Stokes and gets Scott Spieth.

RACE 3

1st: (2) CRANK IT UP – daughter of Frosted makes her PID debut for Todd Beattie who wins 39% first start after being beaten as the favorite. Gallardo should be able to work out an inside trip from post two.

2nd: (6) NUN GIMEL HAY PO – lost all chance when he hopped at the start and found himself behind 11 other horses. She did get up for third then came back and raced evenly as the lukewarm favorite.

3rd: (5) FLASH FREEZE – first-time starter from Tim Hamm who wins 12% with his debut runners and 16% debuting against these.

RACE 4

1st: (2) PALACE REVOLT – was an even fourth in his seasonal debut going this distance then ran evenly again going two turns against this maiden claiming level. Tim Hamm wins 23% going long to short and gets Morales.

3rd: (5) HOPE SHE COMES – still a maiden after 17 tries and 16 of them came here. She did nothing in her seasonal debut and now moves up a notch in class. If she is going to improve, second time off the long layoff will be it.

3rd: (1) FAST LEARNER – has run here in the past without winning and might have enough gate speed to keep up early.

RACE 5

1st: (7) TAP THE SKY – showed high speed to the final yards two starts back against better then tired after making a decent middle move. He drops down to the bottom for Teresa Connelly who wins 16% with her route starters.

2nd: (8) SANDY LANE KITTEN – missed by a neck in his PID debut here at the age of 10 then held well the next out. Last out, the son of Kitten's Joy was outkicked after setting a dawdling pace. Juan Arriagada wins 29% on synthetic tracks.

3rd: (4) KING NATE – finished up last season with a win against this level then ran evenly here his last two starts.

RACE 6

1st: (3) CRACKING CONNOR – rallied for third in his career debut after being shuffled back from post one. Miguel Clement wins 21% with his maiden starters and he should break better with experience and blinkers added.

2nd: (1) THE FED'S PLOT – did little in his first three career starts on turf then came here and raced evenly. He improved greatly last out and should be able to work out an inside trip with Gallardo – 27% with his route mounts.

3rd: (6) AND THATS MY STORY – still a maiden after 11 tries but his second two starts back looks to be good enough to beat these.

RACE 7

1st: (7) BURNIN TURF – ran poorly two starts back against much better in his PID debut but then dropped down and went gate to wire. The outside post should not be a problem and Pablo Morales rides back – 4 for 10 riding for Arriagada.

2nd: (2) CASHIER CHECK – was soundly beaten in his first start off the claim by Scooter Davis but then dropped down and held on for second. Davis wins 44% first start after being beaten as the favorite and 29% going long.

3rd: (1) PEMAQUID PETE – horse for the course has won 14 times here and could be hard to catch from post one.

RACE 8

1st: (4) BUCCHINI – raced evenly in her first two career starts last year on the Tapeta at Gulfstream. She came back there with a good second there and makes her first start in 268 days. Daughter of good synthetic-track sire Bucchero gets in light.

2nd: (5) RAVEN DANCE – was beaten about 50 lengths in her first four career starts which came on dirt then she was a good second here in her PID debut. Todd Beattie wins 25% with his overall synthetic-track starters.

3rd: (8) ROCK TUNE – has six placings in seven starts here the past two years and looks to be the best of the rest.



PRAIRIE
MEADOWS

(5:00) **Monday**

1. (4) Lookin Famous Df- coming in from Remington Park and fresh off of a two month layoff. Liked his last work. (4,1,6,2)
2. (6) Cutting Edge- interesting placement stretching out to 870 yards. Like his price.(6,4,3,5)
3. (5) Jesstrong Corona- strong performance last time out. In the money, three out of the last four.
(5,3,2,4)
4. (4) Blackberri Smoke- cutting back and with a better start than the last could finish strong.
(4,2,6,8)
5. (4) Grey Street- 2nd off of the claim with a solid effort last time. He will be coming late.
(4,5,1,2)
6. (4) Brownstone- I believe the 6 furlongs is better suited for him. Look for him to be picking it up late.
(4,3,5,1)
7. (3) Goldys Lock- she keeps knocking on the door at this distance and keeps getting wide trips. If she levels off inside, she could win. (3,4,2,5)
8. (6) Chrome Racer- dropping in here and with a good stalking trip, she could find the winners circle. Six for nine in the money at this track (6,7,5,3)
9. (5) Surprise Road Trip- cutting back and I like the pace set up for stalking and pouncing late.
(5,1,4,7)
10. (2) Hola Joey- his last two races set the stage in here. He just improves every time he steps on the track. (2,4,3 6)
11. (7) R N B Baby- she appears to be the most consistent runner in this field. Jock change could make the difference. (7,1,3,2)

LOUISIANA DOWNS



◆◆◆◆◆ *Celebrating* ◆◆◆◆◆

50 YEARS OF RACING

Post 5:05

1. 2-6-3

2. 7-2-5

3. 2-1-3

4. 1-5-6-3

5. 5-1-3-6

6. 1-6-9

7. 6-3-1-7

Best Bet

Race 5 # 5 Mariah's Candy

YONKERS (6:45)

The Empire Report – Monday, July 14, 2025 – Race Analysis

RACE 1 – (1) SHAKE IT is just insanely sharp right now, crushing the 40s the last 2 weeks with absolute ease – his run started about 2 months ago down at the \$20K level, and he's just gotten even sharper at these higher levels – he gets a new pilot tonight, but Kelly is off to a good start since arriving at Yonkers, already picking up 8 wins. (3) CENTURY ENDEAVOR already has 7 wins this year but got his doors blown off by the winner's brush last week – he'll be a decent price tonight if you think he can bounce right back, and avenge that last defeat. (4) NUTTIN BUT FINESSE took a couple of starts to find his form (after missing almost a year!) but really started to click in his last few, and returns from PA in very sharp form – could easily grab a good piece tonight. (8) MIND HUNTER was a solid front end winner over easier 3 back, came up with an excellent 2nd from Post 7 in his next, then was excellent again last week, despite a very tough 8 hole journey – he's sharp enough to be a player here, but will need plenty of trip luck after another horrible draw. (7) LYRICAL GENIUS A hasn't won in a while but somehow finds a way to hit board every week, even from terrible spots – good bomb for the bottom of tris and supers. (2) WOODMERE ROLLNPOP has 16 wins over the last 2 years (mostly in Canada) but does seem a bit on the cheaper side – he'll have to prove he can compete with these tougher ones. (6) SLING SHOCK is 0 for 14 at YR this year, but hit board in a lot of those starts – Post 6 may slow him down a bit. (5) CURBSIDE PICKUP won his first 2 starts off the barn change but then struggled in his next 4 – waiting for better signs.

RACE 2 – (4) FLIP MY CHIP buried the field (this class) 3 back and was claimed that night – he moved up to 40s the next week and was an excellent 2nd (7 hole) behind the streaking SHAKE IT...he had license to tire last week after getting really roughed up early on (as the favorite), but he drops back down to 30s tonight, and his barn picked up a pair of wins on Sat. night – the one to beat. (1) GRETZKY THE GREAT returned from an 8 month layoff on 6/30 and went a huge mile to score the 13-1 upset – he immediately reverted to bad habits in his next, however, going offstride before the start – if he minds his manners tonight, he could be a player once more. (3) TOPVILLE SOMEBEACH appreciated the easy trip last week and finished well for 2nd – his barn has been particularly strong lately, so perhaps he can take home another good piece tonight. (5) MUSIC HALL is a tough call – he drops back down to a level where he won his last 3 starts, but it also feels like he's fallen off form...it would be no surprise to see him perk up tonight, but you'll still want a decent price to consider him on top. (2) PINE BUSH ITALIANO has some better efforts lately but it's still hard to ignore his 31-0-1-1 local slate! (7) THUNDER HUNTER JOE was sluggish in both starts since the recent claim, and now starts from Post 7 – leaning elsewhere. (6) EMINEM HANOVER just has too many recent duds to consider right now, especially from a bad post

RACE 3 – (3) AYE AYE CAPTAIN N hurt his chances significantly after making a brief miscue into the first turn last week, but still raced pretty well under the circumstances (first over into the sizzling :54 final half, and still not far off 2nd) – his prior two were both very sharp, and he could benefit here by being allowed to relax early – better price tonight for those willing to stay on his team. (1) WHICHWAYTOTHEBEACH has nearly \$900K on his card and arrives at Yonkers off a blowout win at Buffalo (preceded by several solid Canadian lines) – the classy 7YO actually won a Borgata leg here in 2022, and raced in the Aria in 2023...figures to be a very big player from the pole, though he'll also likely be overbet. (4) SHAKESPEARE has won 3 of 5 starts since recently changing barns and his last victory was pretty powerful (even if helped by a hot early pace) – his best effort could put him right in the mix. (2) HP MOMENTUM was moving up 2 classes (off a bad date) last week but was able to convert a perfect trip into a 34-1 stunner...gets another good draw, and may be sharp enough to contend for a good piece here too. (6) HI CKFROMFRENCHLICK has 2 recent 20-1 victories and almost pulled off a 36-1 shocker 4 back – if he can leave quick enough to grab himself a trip, he may be able to add some value to the exotics. (5) NIGHT HAWK recently had a nice run but it feels like he's cooled off in his last few starts – leaning elsewhere. (8) SWEETHOMEA LABAMA N has sharpened for sure, but the combination of the class hike AND 8 hole figures to slow him down tonight. (7) FUNATTHEBEACH N was no factor in his last pair, and draws poorly tonight.

RACE 4 – (1) TWIG returned to his favorite barn last week and was undeterred by both the move up to 40s and Post 7, still turning an excellent effort to be 2nd to the razor sharp SHAKE IT – avoids that foe tonight, draws the pole, and they'll have him to catch and beat. (3) JUST ENUFF STUFF has been finishing well in all of his recent starts – solid chance for a good piece here...and maybe even the top slot if #1 doesn't bring his best. (4) SIX DEGREES is one of several horses recently added to this barn to see their games pick up considerably, right off the bat – he comes into tonight off a pair of 2^{nds} to blowout winners, and has definitely earned plenty of respect. (5) WALKINSHAW N was hurt by both a shuffle and chasing a hot early pace last week – this is a tough spot, but he

may offer a decent late rally if things go his way. (2) MACH N CHEESE was used too hard to the quarter last week and it hurt him late – he's not on his best game right now, but an easy trip could help him grab some minor spoils. (7) RENAISSANCE DEO is 0 for 12 here this year and just 1 for 19 overall – the terrible draw won't help his cause. (8) SCRIBBLERS has been having trouble finishing his miles, even in the race he won – faces a tough task starting from out here. (6) JIMMY CONNOR B has been better lately, but may need to be in a bit easier

RACE 5 – (3) SWEET BEACH LIFE had a terrific 3YO season, banking \$371K (including a win here at Yonkers, in the Messenger Stakes) – it took him a couple of starts to get rolling at 4, but he soon turned in a couple of close 2nds behind classy DIEGO N, just missed to CHIMICHURRI N two back then was a blowout 1:51.4 winner in his last – solid chance to make it 2 in a row. (1) MANFERNO has certainly thrived since recently joining this barn, beating a pair of sharp, prolific winners in his first 2 local tries – he hardly embarrassed himself in the Open last week, and looms a legitimate danger dropping down, and drawing the pole. (2) THE IDEAL DANCER has been stuck on smaller pieces for a while and is probably looking at a similar fate tonight vs. the top two...good spot to take home another nice chunk, though. (6) CARABAO A appreciated the class drop and pocket trip last week, picking up his 3rd win of the season – he figures to be coming from too far back tonight, but may be able to rally for a piece with his usual late kick. (7) FINVARRA A has enjoyed a terrific season so far but does feel like he may be a bit off his top form...tonight's draw isn't going to help. (5) STELLAR YANKEE has held form beautifully in a recent climb up the class ladder but will need a lot of trip luck to make his presence felt tonight. (4) SHERLOCK N hasn't looked sharp in his last few, and Stratton opts off for #5. (8) VICI has been very solid for weeks/months, but faces an uphill battle trying to get into the hunt tonight

RACE 6 – (7) MULLINAX disappointed in his first start off the claim but quickly started to sharpen for our leading trainer, and is now in absolute career form – his last pair have been visually sensational victories, and Bartlett elects to stick with him tonight, despite Post 7...so will we! (1) MY ULTIMATE BYRON A is one of many from this barn that suddenly came to life over the last couple of months, and this guy has held that form beautifully – he was absolutely flying through the lane for 4th last week, and now moves all the way inside...chance for a mild upset. (3) HEZA CHARTTOPPER A was unable to get in play from the back in last week's Open but that was on the heels of 2 front end jogburgers – an easier trip tonight puts him right back into the mix. (4) RACING RAMPAGE has never quite gotten back to last year's "top" form, but he's been a steady weekly player over the past couple of months – prefer others on top, but can see him grabbing a piece, with a good trip. (5) JUMPINGJACKMAC N arrives from Down Under with quite a resume, closing in on \$700K in earnings and still racing in Group 1 events this Fall – he shows a solid prep for a trainer with a barn full of top performers, but he MAY need a start after drawing into this sharp field...perhaps check the tote board? (2) TWIN B POWERBALL was able to hang on for 2nd last week behind runaway MULLINAX, but may have trouble replicating that effort in this tougher group. (6) TOBINS CHESTER seems a bit buried in this spot.

RACE 7 – (7) DESPERATE MAN's night was made much easier last week when CHASE H HANOVER broke before the start, allowing him to make an easy lead, and wire the field (despite 23 days off) – he lands outside again, but should still be able to work out a pretty manageable trip...we'll stay on board this winning machine, especially since he probably won't be favored. (1) HUNTINTELASTDOLAR was stuck with Post 7 off a bad date last week, but still put in a useful effort for 4th – he won his previous 3 Invitationals, and was a player all through this year's Borgata Series – very dangerous here, but also may end up a bit overbet. (3) SOHO FIRESTONE A has proven himself at this top level, especially when he lands on a good trip – solid chance for a good piece, and could be waiting in the wings should the top pair falter. (2) AMERICAN DEALER N has used easy trips to pick up SIX seconds from his last 7 starts – still prefer a few others, but obviously it would be no surprise to see him grab a decent share. (4) DIEGO N was somehow able to take a solid field to the half in :58 seconds last week (racing for \$30K!), and they might as well have put the "OFFICIAL" sign up at the half – it's unlikely that he'll see such a favorable trip tonight, however. (5) STREET HAWK took off the gate in that DIEGO N mile last week and never had any chance of getting in play – faces a tough trip tonight, as well. (6) HIMSELF N figures to get away last tonight – wait for a better spot.

RACE 8 – (3) LAYTON HANOVER was no match for SOHO DOW JONES A when 2nd to that one last start, but he definitely had a much tougher trip – gets the post advantage this week, should be a decent price, and we'll give him a chance to turn the tables tonight. (6) SOHO DOW JONES A went a very sharp mile on 6/30 (with a tough trip, off a bad date), so it was no surprise to see him dominate his rivals from the rail last week (dropping in class) – he's more than capable of stepping up and beating these too...but the possibility at least exists for a tough trip, and

he'll likely be a pretty short price (he was Bartlett's choice of SIX in here)! (7) T H TYSON showed ability at 2 but then made just 2 starts as a 3YO – he's been making up for lost time since returning at 4, and shows some very nice recent efforts out of town...has to be worth at least a look at that 20-1 ML price, even from Post 7. (1) THE BIGBOSS A picked up a win, 2nd, and 3rd in his last 3 starts but the recent import is still a bit of a question mark regarding his upside – would be no real surprise here, but you'd still want a "fair" price to try him on top. (4) LOUS WORLD was a solid 2nd from the pocket to a currently very sharp ALL CLASS two back, but struggled in his last – could have a say here if he bounces back to that better form. (5) SEMI TOUGH did a nice job (somehow) holding 2nd to SWEET BEACH LIFE last week but he faces a solid field tonight, and may end up with a less than stellar trip from this spot. (2) ORLANDO BLUE A appreciated the class relief at Tioga the last few starts but is likely looking at just minor spoils against this much tougher crew. (8) COPPERFIELD made the most of a tough spot when 2nd in his YR return last week, but he lands all the way outside tonight, and Bartlett opts for #6.

RACE 9 – (7) LYONS BENJAMIN came into his last riding a 4 race winning streak but just couldn't hang on (at 2/5), after being used pretty hard – he was reclaimed by the barn for whom he jogged on 6/7, and reunites with Buter (for whom he recently won back to back starts) – his price will be much better tonight, and we'll give him the narrow edge in a very competitive finale. (3) WELL THATS MARKY made two moves from Post 7 last week (vs. the top choice) and was still an excellent 3rd – he's very good right now, and looms a very legitimate threat. (1) WHY TOMORROW RAY is right in the mix every week, and will surely attract plenty of attention going from Post 8 to the rail – he also has been coming up a little light at the end of his recent miles, and may find himself a bit vulnerable tonight, as well. (5) AMERTRIC got a better draw, a MUCH better trip, and was able to capitalize last week with the \$13.80 victory – would hardly be a surprise tonight, but he may not be quite as fortunate with his trip. (2) IM THE PRINCE can be pretty inconsistent, but he's a dangerous player when he brings his best effort – not a bad one for longshot fans. (4) BLUE COLLAR MAN almost pulled off a wire to wire 29-1 upset in his local debut – he steps up to face tougher tonight, but has at least some appeal with that 20-1 ML price. (6) HARD TO CATCH is a reliable player in this class but tonight's draw could leave him too far back to really threaten. (8) THAT DOG WILL HUNT will be hard pressed to get in play from out here.



Assiniboia Downs

GAMING & EVENT CENTRE

POST 8:30

Race 1 Rolling Double/.20 Pick 3/.20 Superfecta/.20 Triactor/Exactor

Program #	Horse Name	Jockey M/L	Comments
3	Tree Hugger	Damario Bynoe 7/5	Call in a close one.
2	Not True	Ciera Pruitt 9/5	The main rival.
4	Unarmed	Dario Dalrymple 3/1	Must be respected.

AT THE WIRE: 3 - 2 - 4 Horse to watch: 1 Bubbly Talkin

Race 2 Rolling Double/.20 Pick 3/.20 Superfecta/.20 Triactor/Exactor

Program #	Horse Name	Jockey M/L	Comments
6	Miss Charge It Prayven	Badrie 2/1	Gets the call tonight.
2	Almost Got Lucky	Antonio Whitehall 5/1	Chance at a price.
5	Just a Pose	Mathew Bennett 5/2	On a winning streak.

Race 3 Rolling Double/.20 ASD Jackpot Pick 5/.20 Pick 3/.20 Superfecta/.20 Triactor/Exactor

Conditions: \$50,000 Derby Trial Stakes for Three Year Olds 1 Mile

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|---|-----------------|----------------|------|-------------------------|
| 3 | Take Charge Tom | Rasheed Hughes | 2/5 | Formidable invader. |
| 2 | Dominant Spirit | Prayven Badrie | 4/1 | Arrives in good form. |
| 4 | Acknowledge | Damario Bynoe | 10/1 | Longshot with a chance. |

AT THE WIRE: 3 - 2 - 4 Horse to watch: 1 Just Trust Me

Race 4 Double/\$1 Pick 4 (\$50K Guaranteed) /.20 Pick 3/.20 Superfecta/.20 Triactor/Exactor

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|---|-----------------|--------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 5 | Sporting Star | Shavon Townsend | 7/5 | Makes seasonal debut. |
| 4 | Mystery Dance | Damario Bynoe | 2/1 | The one to fear. |
| 1 | Thatswhathesaid | Neville Stephenson | 6/1 | Grabs the show. |

AT THE WIRE: 5 - 4 - 1 Horse to watch: 7 Frankly

Race 5 Rolling Double/.20 Pick 3/.20 Superfecta/.20 Triactor/Exactor

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|----|------------------|---------------------|-----|------------------------|
| 3 | Fearless Soldier | Guillermo Rodriguez | 2/1 | Arrives in top form. |
| 10 | Judo | Prayven Badrie | 3/1 | Can be a problem. |
| 9 | Blazing Bo | Antonio Whitehall | 6/1 | Could wake up in here. |

AT THE WIRE: 3 - 10 - 9 Horse to watch: 1 Malibu S S

Race 6 Rolling Double / \$1 Classic Hi-5/.20 Superfecta/.20 Triactor/Exactor

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|---|------------------|---------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Will the Thrill | Renaldo Cumberbatch | 5/2 | Call in a scramble. |
| 6 | Dragon Drew | Ciera Pruitt | 4/1 | The one to catch. |
| 3 | Charming Charlie | Sven Baroop | 2/1 | Class drop will help. |

AT THE WIRE: 1 - 6 - 3 Horse to watch: 2 Wickedblackbullet

Race 7 \$1 Classic Hi-5/.20 Superfecta/.20 Triactor/Exactor

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|---|----------------|---------------|-----|----------------------|
| 6 | A Lot of Verve | Ronald Ali | 5/2 | Can arrive on time. |
| 8 | Mister K | Arthur Budhu | 4/1 | The one to hold off. |
| 4 | Tiz Lord | Damario Bynoe | 7/1 | Grabs the show. |

AT THE WIRE: 6 - 8 - 4 Horse to watch: 5 Imperial Hornet