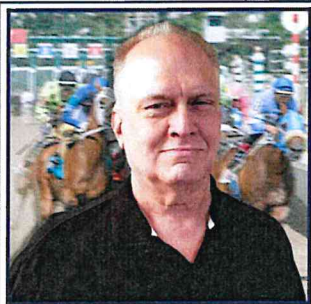




Craig Donnelly's

ANALY\$\$\$
@parxracing



Craig has been involved in horseracing for 50 years as a handicapper, journalist, linemaker and analyst. He began his career in 1969 handicapping the races for the Miami Beach Sun. Beginning in 1971 he began picking winners for the Philadelphia Inquirer, where he remained for 37 years. Craig has also been a linemaker for the Atlantic City Racecourse and The Meadowlands, where he was the program oddsmaker and television co-host for seven seasons.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: DEVILS ARROW (1st) – LEILAUNI SUE (4th)

Race 1

- 5** DEVILS ARROW – Chased rapid streaking winner when easily second best in comeback.
- 8** TAKE CHARGE DANI – Retreated in bulky field but prior debut encouraging; first time tag.
- 3** PURPLE LU LU – Flashes of ability with Jersey-breds and runner-up twice during summer.
- 4** COCKTAIL HUMOR – Set up nicely for elongated sprint leading to final furlong in Delaware route

Race 2

- 4** GOLDEN PHILLY – Repelled challenges then caught late by stretch-runner in game effort.
- 1** CARA BLANCA – Set pace when finishing behind top pick after Moore claimed; inside speed.
- 7** LADY SRIRACHA – Anticipated better last time but runs big race on occasion; threat on best.
- 5** WHATTA WORLD – Exits nice try with similar at Laurel; faded as heavy favorite in local outing.

Race 3

- 6** JOEY THE FISH – Full of run too late in tougher field after bad start; likely pace scenario helps.
- 4** UMBRAL – Dueled then drew away from two-time winners and nearly always fires; key threat.
- 1** LOVE LIKE CRAZY – Hampered by early trouble when overmatched; testing stamina again.
- 2** ROMAN GODDESS – New Yorker raced sparingly and taking plunge; merits attention this spot.

Race 4

- 8** LEILAUNI SUE – Battled classier rivals last pair and aggressive drop for Pino-Sanchez combo.
- 4** BYEBYEJEALOUSEYE – Ran into tigress in latest and good speed in several prior outings.
- 1** BREEZETHRUTIME – Possibility if disregard latest and prominent throughout in previous race.
- 2** C C GIRL – Poor showing on turf when claimed but romped in earlier attempt on main track.

Race 5

- 3** PEACH PERFECT – Battled to final yards when Mosco took; fifth finisher won next time.
- 7** BATTLING TIME – Handles various surfaces and back in for tag; facing more frequent winners.
- 4** PATTY CAKES – Competing strongly but series of frustrating losses; won 3 of 5 local tries.
- 6** CHELSEA WALL – Pino barn 32% off claim and encouraging raise; seeks 13th career victory.

Race 6

- 6** SONADORA GIRL – Rushed to contention after eventful break after claim by Soto-Martinez barn.
- 7** POPTHECHAMPAGNE RO – Drops after re-claimed previously by Brown stable; likely flying late.
- 1** DREAM CHASER – Shook loose and lasted and steps up within same claiming tag; rail speed.
- 10** ALYVIA'S GIRL – Hard-earned score vs. two-time winners; steps up in class but down in price.

Race 7

8	J C'S LOVIN' LIFE – Fired all three outings including solid effort in “open” company last month.
6	PEACEFULEZFEELING – Excellent speed again then finished behind top pick; one to catch.
7	WONDERFUL CARLY – Dam won four stakes and full-sister third in 2024 Cathryn Sophia here.
4	SILENT WRATH – Yet to run to debut backing and faded twice in lane; Lupe Preciado barn hot.

Race 8

3	SMOOTH MOTION – Used up after ducking out at start; drops for third race since layoff.
8	GAMETIME GLADIATOR – Crushed easier in impressive score after re-claimed by Ness.
10	OKIE DEN DEN – Nosed this spot by heavy favorite and hit board in 12 of 18 attempts.
1	BOYS OF SUMMER – Rallied then faltered behind talented duo and runs his best locally.

Race 9

8	CRAIGH NA DUN – Failed as 8-5 chalk this spot; overmatched prior try and brutal trip earlier.
6	SWEET WINNER – Dueled throughout when ahead of top pick and conqueror ran good again.
10	LORD SEABEE – Remote fourth in better company after claimed for \$20,000; makes 25 th try.
11	EXTRASEXYMCSTEEMEE – Last few discouraging but competing cheapest ever; possibility.

MAHONING VALLEY (Post 12:15)

FIRST RACE

3	Striking Lady	Houghton T D
1	Holiday Betty	Lebron V
6	Divine Silence	Fernandez V

SECOND RACE

2	Mizzen the Point	Bracho J A
5	Hello Sweets	Barbaran E
6	Miss Springsteen	Houghton T D

THIRD RACE

5	Probably	Diaz A I
1	Valid Connection	Haldar D J
6	Rufus	Parker D L

FOURTH RACE

4	Monterey Peninsula	Aviles Y
5	Stay Thirsty Amigo	Bracho J A
7	Fat Daddy	Martinez M L
6	Bad Little Beast	Chavez A 1

FIFTH RACE

4	Harvard	Crispin A
3	Supply Chain	Barbaran E
5	H C Holiday	Cedillo M
9	Dream Knight	Salazar Becerra

SIXTH RACE

6	Minister for Magic	Diaz A I
3	Rhumjar	Rivera L R
1	Trikitraki	Barbaran E
7	Boldness	Chavez A

SEVENTH RACE

1	Fiveclocksomewhere	Crispin A
4	Dreaming of Audrey	Barbaran E
2	Late Nite Lizzie	Bracho J A
6	Derby Day Kiss	Fernandez V

EIGHTH RACE

6	Wasabi Beach	Lebron V
9	Kickstart	Fernandez V R
5	Runaway Power	Salazar Becerra
4	A Van On the Run	Toledo J S

LAKE'S LUCKY PICKS

FINGER LAKES RACETRACK SELECTIONS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025

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	1	BERNING BEAUTY	BARN IS ON FIRE IN RECENT WEEKS
	2	AZ U CHASE ME	WELL SPOTTED AFTER WIN AT SARATOGA
	4	ICE TIME	WILL BE AT THE MERCY OF THE PACE
2	6	HAMILTON'S REASON	CAN IMPROVE TO WIN AFTER DECENT DEBUT
	7	CHIOKE	LOGICAL PLAYER AFTER RUNNING THIRD
	5	SAVAGE STATE	GETTING CLOSER AND SWITCHES PILOTS
3	6	FIERY HEART	COMES RIGHT BACK AFTER SUCCESSFUL ROUTE
	3	GOLDEN REIGN	RETURNS TO DIRT IN EASIER SPOT
	7	COACH BAHE	WILL BE TOUGH CUSTOMER IF BRINGS "A GAME"
4	7	SUNDAY'S CURRENCY	EXPERIENCE EDGE AND EXCUSE IN LAST
	9	ALMEZ	MUST BE USED AFTER PROMISING FIRST START
	1	BROKEN RECORD	WATCH THE BOARD ON THIS FIRST TIMER
5	5	SPIRITUAL LADY	WAS CLOSE IN FIRST LOCAL APPEARANCE
	9	QUEENS CAT	TALENTED FILLY MUST OVERCOME POST
	4	UNICORN CAKE	BOUNCES BACK AFTER DULL PERFORMANCE
6	9	FAIRWEATHERLOVER	MAKES AMENDS FOR LOSS AS FAVORITE
	1	SCARLETT QUEEN	MUST WORK OUT TRIP FROM RAIL AGAIN
	8	PRINCESS AZARA	NO EXCUSE IN LAST BUT CAN GET SHARE
7	5	ARK ROYAL	FACED BETTER MAIDENS IN NEW YORK
	6	CYBERBEAST	WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH OTHER PACE TYPES
	2	RAGAZZO D'ORO	COMPROMISED BY POOR BREAK IN LOCAL DEBUT
8	10	BACKWATER	SLIGHT EDGE COMING OFF LAYOFF
	7	I'M KIDDING	RAN SECOND IN ONLY FINGER LAKES START
	5	HAPPY'S SMILE	GAINED CONFIDENCE FROM MAIDEN WIN
9	2	CASCADE CRUISER	IN GOOD FORM AND TAKES FINALE
	1	VIKING WARRIOR	IS VYING FOR THREE IN A ROW HERE
	3	UTAMARO	HAS TO BE INCLUDED IN TRI'S AND SUPER'S

RACE # PLAY OF THE DAY
7 5 ARK ROYAL

RACE # BIG SPLASH – NICE PRICE!
3 3 GOLDEN REIGN

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.



Monday October 20 2025

(4:30)

Race 1 – 5-4-7

Race 2 – 3-8-1

Race 3 – 1-2-4

Race 4 – 2-1-3

Race 5 – 6-7-8

Race 6 – 6-3-1

Race 7 – 1-2-6

Race 8 – 2-3-6

Race 9 – 1-2-3

Race 10 – 1-3-5

Race 11 – 6-8-5

Race 12 – 4-3-5

Race 13 – 1-3-8

Race 14 – 4-8-3

Race 15 – 1-6-5

YONKERS (6:45)

The Empire Report – Monday, October 20, 2025 – Race Analysis

RACE 1 – (4) SMIFFYS TERROR N is used to taking on much better than these and that qualifier suggests he'll be ready to roll off the recent layoff– willing to give him a shot tonight against a field with no particularly sharp horses. (1) TWIN B DELUXE has been showing some wear and tear lately after a long, strong season – he's not at his best right now, but can still have a big say with the class drop and rail. (2) NANDOLO N was able to beat an easier field last week, and he's another that's clearly not 100% right now – still, it's hard to imagine him not being competitive from this spot. (3) THONG CONTROL drops a win off the bottom of his card after tonight and will look a lot better with a class drop next week – still a chance for a small piece tonight, though. (6) BONDI LOCKDOWN A has gone so many strong efforts this year that it was really surprising to see him get beat at the bottom level last week – tough draw moving back up 2 classes, but still a decent bomb for the bottom of exotics. (6) BRUTALLYHANDSOME A does his best work with a bit easier – chance for some minor spoils with an easy enough trip. (8) POP IT continues to race well since a freshening this summer but will need a lot to go his way to reach from out here. (7) COVERED BRIDGE would certainly be a surprise from out here the way he's been racing the last few months

RACE 2 – (6) SILKY CHOICE was ultra-conservative last week but even after sitting last the whole way, was still able to fly home through the stretch to be a tight 3rd on the wire – the 3YO beat his elders (in this class) two back, and may be able to do so again, if involved a little earlier tonight. (1) RENALDO N is 4 for 4 since arriving in the U.S., with 3 of those wins coming right here at Yonkers – he takes a big step up in class tonight (from NW2-4PM), but it feels like he should be able to handle it, especially with the rail draw and switch to Bartlett...the one to knock off. (2) ROYAL DESIRE has really matured as a 4YO and drops back down a notch after a solid 3rd last week – a close up trip could make him a legitimate player, and his price will definitely be juicy. (5) ESCAPE TO AMERICA came up just shy in his last pair, finishing 2nd both on the front end and from the pocket – his trip tonight is more unpredictable, and that has us leaning more to the top trio. (4) PEACE OUT POSSE feels like he's leveled off after a big recent run, but he gets a good draw to go along with some class relief, and that may help him find a better effort. (3) SOUTHWIND CELSIUS was a perfect trip winner 2 back, but no threat last week – minor spoils? (8) KINGSVILLE is very good right now, but may prefer to wait for a better spot before getting back to being aggressive. (7) DE ALERS TURN picked up a win and a 3rd in his last pair, but that has landed him higher up in class than he'd prefer

RACE 3 – (4) SPEAKER OF PEACE tried to leave from Post 8 despite a few others leaving to his inside, ended up (predictably) parked, and deserves a pass for last week's mile – he was on an excellent roll for weeks just prior to that, gets a good draw for another new barn, and could bounce right back tonight with an easier trip. (5) SMOOTH LOU finished up well last week after a less than ideal trip – he beat this class in early September (after just missing the week before that), and may have a chance for an upset with some racing luck. (3) CUT N RUN has become a solid player at this level after returning from a long layoff a few weeks ago – he's a logical threat here, but won't offer much value on top with that 9/5 ML price. (7) SOUTHWIND PETYR was really good when 3rd two back (from an impossible spot) then raced very well again last week, despite being used hard (up in class) – may have trouble overcoming tonight's draw, but still worth a look at that 20-1 ML price. (1) WALKINSHAW N moves back inside and he recently his board in 3 straight – decent value horse to include underneath in exotics. (2) DONTLIKEIT LEAVE feels like he's tailed off in his last few starts after a recent claim – needs to find his better form to be a player tonight. (6) THEMASKECRUSADR N has held form since moving up from NW2-4PM races and drops in for a tag tonight – not sure he'll be able to overcome the tough draw, though (and Bartlett does opt for #3). (8) HUNGER STRIKE has been stuck in several no-chance spots lately...this feels like another

RACE 4 – (1) ENDOFSTORY has battled inconsistency throughout the year but he can bring some very good efforts when on his game – he finished full of pace from a tough spot last week, and may be ready for a front end try again (his last 3 wins all came on the lead). (2) CATALPA RESCUE A won his first 4 starts in the U.S. but did come up a little short in his last, as the 1/10 favorite – his price will at least move up a bit, and he's more than capable of getting back to the winner's circle tonight. (6) AYE AYE CAPTAIN N has been a favorite of ours for a long time, and he's still on top of his game this late in the season – he may find himself in a tough spot tonight, but he's still worth considering if his price drifts up enough. (3) RACING RAMPAGE is having a "solid" season, though not nearly as successful as 2024 – willing to include him underneath. (7) DUNKIN was content to sit in the back last week after a miscue the week before – he may opt for another conservative trip tonight (after another bad draw), but he's also far too talented to NOT get at least a look at that 20-1 ML price. (4) COPPERFIELD was an excellent 2nd

last week but he moves up in class, loses Bartlett, and doesn't have the benefit of the rail. (5) PANETTONE HANOVER is obviously on a nice roll, but does figure to be hurt badly by tonight's big class hike

RACE 5 – (5) SOHO SANTORINI A has been sharpening but hit a speed bump when parked the mile last week – he still paced in 1:53.3 that night (despite never seeing the cones), and may be in a field where he can pull off a mild upset, with some better racing luck (6) SEASIDEESCAPE is a little hard to gauge off his Ohio form but he qualified nicely for our leading trainer (behind a classy import) and the connections have won more than their share with these types. (3) CHURCHVIEWFRANKL IR hasn't won locally since moving to this barn a couple of months ago but this is a field where he CAN do damage, if the race falls his way. (2) LUCAPELO A had some issue here on 9/29 but qualified back nicely after that – he wasn't at his absolute best in his starts prior to that, however, and may be a bit vulnerable tonight at a short price. (4) ON ACCIDENT ships in sharp from Monti and while he often gives a good account of himself here at Yonkers, he's 0 for 13 over the last 2 years– prefer to use underneath. (7) SPECULATING A drops to a level where he can probably contend for a victory...but he may need to wait for a better spot before that happens. (1) SPLASH BROTHER looked terrible in his last pair– waiting for better signs. (8) THE MIKI TAKER A has an impressive Down Under resume, but his preps suggest he may not be ready to fire his best just yet

RACE 6 – (2) MANFERNO looked like he might be going in the wrong direction but he quickly righted the ship with that dead-game long uncovered victory 2 back, followed by a tough trip 4th against the razor sharp REDWOOD HANOVER last week– we'll give him the narrow edge over a couple of other very sharp rivals (1) TRENDY TEEN is a big player week after week, and has been 1st or 2nd in 13 of his 20 local starts this year – he'll be a big threat tonight, as well. (6) VICIOUS had 3 wins and 3 seconds from his first 6 local tries before weakening a bit to 4th in his last– he's at a post disadvantage tonight, but could still be a major threat if things do go his way (3) ALL ALONE is another that has been very good start after start, but he's been doing it vs. easier – he'll need to prove that he can be just as effective vs. these better ones. (4) BOILING OAR has struggled too often this year to consider vs. this very strong group. (5) JMS FINAL TREASURE seems destined to be stuck in the back vs. this sharp crew

RACE 7– (6) REDWOOD HANOVER has looked super in his 2 local starts since joining our leading barn, crushing the competition, under wraps, each time – he steps up and lands outside, but still seems to be sharp enough right now to take another. (5) SOHO FIRESTONE A has been incredibly consistent all year long, and that includes last week's dead game front end score– he can race on or off the pace, and remains a legitimate threat. (3) VERDUN ends up with a variety of trips but fortunately for him, handles all of them – he paid fair prices when he won 2 and 3 starts back, and will likely offer a decent price once again...never a bad one to have on your tickets. (1) ALWAYS A THRILL draws the pole once more after just missing from the same spot in his last pair – would be no real surprise if this was the week he was able to get over the hump. (4) JAMAICAN ROCK A is just one of several imports these connections have exceeded all expectations with – he does feel at least a bit risky tonight as he has just one start in over 5 weeks, and that was his only “dud” since arriving in the U.S. – and Bartlett does opt for #6. (2) SWEET BEACH LIFE recently found his best 4YO form but still may be just a notch below a few of these

RACE 8 – (1) HEZA CHARTTOPPER A has enjoyed an outstanding year, winning 12 of his 27 local starts – he feels like he may be tailing just a bit (after so many big efforts), but it's not like he's been racing poorly – he gets a rare drop out of the Open, draws the pole, and that stamps him as the one to knock off. (5) COMBUSTION had good pace from a tough spot 3 back, charged home to win his next then had pace from another tough spot last week – license to pull off a mild upset if things go his way. (7) HOWLENTHEHILLS has upped his game recently, and comes into tonight off a 2nd to REDWOOD HANOVER 2 back (as the favorite), and a game front end score last week – brutal spot, but worth considering if you think Kakaley may take a shot at leaving. (3) TENZING BROMAC N may be a notch below these class-wise (based on his out of town lines), but tonight's driver change may offset that – couldn't blame anybody looking to give him a try. (2) MYULTIMATEBYRON A has been good lately, may trip out here and is certainly playable underneath, at a nice price. (4) AMERICAN DEALER N finally picked up his first win in a long time last week, but is likely going to be relegated to contending for a smaller piece vs. these. (6) HEMSWORTH N is listed on the bottom largely due to the poor draw, but he's always eligible to be rallying late

RACE 9 – (1) WINDSUN RICKY hasn't won in a while but he's tough as nails when in the right spot, and tonight's class drop and draw should make him a very dangerous player. (2) ULYSSES was an excellent 2nd in his local debut but just wasn't right in his next start, then grabbed a small piece the following week, after sitting last from Post 8 – he moves back inside, and his best effort could make him a threat tonight. (7) THIS IS THE PLAN is no longer the horse that banked over \$3M in his illustrious career, but this is still a level where he can do damage – doesn't feel

RACE 10 – 6-5-2-1

1-2-7-4