

# **Craig Donnelly's**





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.

Sponsored and Distributed by the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horseman's Association

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: BEARLY WORKING (6th) - ALANI (8th)

### Race 1

- DR BAYTER Forced pace long way in Jersey route and won trio of sprints in Florida.
- 4 CHASING STARDOM Tired late after pressured lead as 8-5 chalk this spot; speed to threaten.
- RABBIT Flashes of interest and finished just one length behind second pick after Pino took.
- 9 WARRIOR'S VOW Even effort with better and shows closing kick at times; fits this level.

#### Race 2

- CABRA CHICA Plunges after eventful trip as favorite and romped in prior try; barn 26% 2024.
- OLD HEAD Disappointing try when claimed for fifth time this year; dangerous on best.
- **2** ERIN'S ENTHUSIASM Gained late in "open" company when adjusting to sprint; 9 victories.
- **8** BOCA ROYALTY Weakened after showing improved speed; remains capable at age nine.

#### Race 3

- CARBONITE Significant drop seeking to end long losing streak; rail been helpful recent weeks.
- 8 AWESOME FOR SURE Cruised past rivals with perfect trip; stays eligible as three-year-old.
- 4 YOUBETTERBEJOKING Overcame early roughing with late kick in second outing since hiatus.
- NUEDORF Usually close and most effective when reaches front early; failed at short odds.

#### Race 4

- AARAJ Overmatched at Laurel after sharp local effort in classier field; sheds 11 pounds.
- FUEGO SOS Speedy gelding weakened as odds-on chalk but shorter time between races plus.
- 8 RUMAWAY Remote third in route after rough trip after layoff previously; sneaks into trifecta.
- TRAVEL GUIDE Drew away decisively but DQ'd for whip violation during stretch run.

## Race 5

- BRILLIANT CHASE Seen better days and difficult to like or dismiss plunge; \$330,047 in bank.
- 5 OLYMPIC ROMP Chased tougher after hot barn claimed; terrific 10-for-27 over this track.
- LORD WINSALOT Pressed pace for three quarters at higher level; likely speed from outside.
- **2** DOCTOR DOOM Absent over three months but capable in past; just 3-for-42 lifetime mark.

#### Race 6

- BEARLY WORKING Dueled then pulled away in impressive debut; 2nd finisher next romped.
- TIZ RACE DAY Stablemate of top pick claimed at Delaware; crushed local rivals in February.
- **2** ELL GRAY Switches to main track at helpful abbreviated yardage; threat with Lopez aboard.
- NEIGHBELLINE Good effort this spot in return and possibility with further improvement.

# Race 7 SWING OIL - Battled to final stages in better field and pair of decisive scores in June. MY MAN WOODY – Recent conqueror ran big again and should fire again for new management. RAISEDAROOFCHARLIE - Closer seeks third straight with logical next step; hot "bug" aboard. MINXZHIPPSDONTLEYE - Steps up in claiming tag but possibly down in class for new stable. Race 8 ALANI – Prepped after layoff on turf after solid efforts on dirt; capable of shaking loose early. WINE AND ROSES – Chronic poor starter but powerful closing kick last pair since blinkers on. PATTY BROWN EYES – Disliked turf after chasing tough opposition on dirt in New York. POETIC FURY – Excellent sire Violence developed early winning pair of stakes as juvenile. Race 9 FIGHTERTOWN – Showed ability to rate off pace defeating frequent winner; ample early targets. THE KING CHEEK – Pulled away with energy in reserve when voided claim; renewed confidence. DYLAN'S RUBY – Narrowly missed in game try after hiatus; speedy and tests stamina again. AMATTEROFTIME – Nine-year-old drops and captured June stake at Monmouth as longshot. Race 10 MY BROTHER CHARLIE – Versatile and improving gelding back in sprint; stable heating up. MY BOY TULLIO – Roughed early in latest and outran top pick previously; merits attention.

BULLET BREEZE – Claimed by high percentage barn in return; likely better suited this yardage.

STAR OF CAESAREA – Overran maidens behind contested fractions; realistic next step.