

# **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.

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WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21, 2024 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: FAST MOTION (2<sup>nd</sup>)-- BARTLETT (8<sup>th</sup>)

# Race 1

- LOST LOVE Limited success at top meets elsewhere; moves to Guerrero barn vs. soft rivals.
- ALMA BRILHA Chased numerous runaway winners this season; often forms bottom of exacta.
- 8 CALLIE RAE Moving nicely when clipped heels and lost rider; stretching out again.
- LADY AETHELFLAED Finished behind second pick when voided claim; prior loss small field.

# Race 2

- FAST MOTION Outdueled next-out winner in better field and should shake loose early.
- SUNDRIA Significant drop after very poor start; making third start since layoff.
- AMY MULE Narrowed gap again at Monmouth but likely very slow fuse this yardage.
- 2 ONE OF THE ONES Overmatched in last and romped previously when claimed; fits nicely.

#### Race 3

- 2 JSK LUCKY'S PUSHPA Usually close and exits solid score around two turns; likely repeater.
- CLOUDY TIMES Trounced easier group last month and main threat with logical next step.
- BOHEMIA BABE Often quick and sprang 31-1 upset earlier but hampered by stamina issues.
- GORMLEY GIRL Competed well in routes but winless locally and at this distance.

#### Race 4

- MELODY'S KISS Bold move on turn when crushing maidens; third race following hiatus.
- FANCY SCEPTER Drops after far back twice on turf since return; removes blinkers.
- 4 LIL' LATE LUCK Humbled by smashing winner and often hits board but just 1-for-21 log.
- 2 KHOZY COLBY Fair showing when claimed as beaten 6-5 chalk; success in past elsewhere.

# Race 5

- MAJOR CAM Advanced strongly when easily second best to heavy favorite; ends loss streak.
- 2 I'M NOT A BABY Rebounded from poor showing with decisive score against single-winners.
- MISTER MOORE Far behind in Jersey after fair try behind top pick locally; must progress.
- **5** CARNIVORE Outrun last three and rarely justifies heavy support; two victories from 40 tries.

# Race 6

- HE'S INCREDIBLE Difficult to like or ignore plunge for terrific veteran with 17 lifetime scores.
- SEA TRIDENT Very popular at claim box but failed to fire with lesser last month; threat on best.
- 3 LIBERTY STAR Never involved at Monmouth but several strong local outings stamp danger.
- JOVA Better in past and show fuse this distance; needs help with contested fractions.

# Race 7 DESIGNATED – Close with similar despite very wide trip and ample early targets appears plus. DIANE'S MERLOT – Weakened under pressure in longer test and familiar with runner-up role. KOKOPELLI GIRL – Speedy filly shown signs of progress and poses upset possibility. EMILY'S ON FIRE – Eliminated by stumbling start this spot after wiring maidens previously. Race 8 BARTLETT – Impressive romp after nine month's absence and tackles tough opponent this spot. TALKIN PHAROAH – Rapid gelding just missed in very game effort; serious threat from inside. MUST BE LOVE – Close in blanket finish at Laurel after handling softer locally for leading barn. TOP OF THE STREET – Hard-earned score with slightly easier; Dunn stable clicking at 30%. Race 9 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN – Big effort at Delaware after layoff and deserves nod if switched to dirt. ELOQUIST – Hampered by traffic problems in another strong outing; entered for dirt only. AMITY ROAD – Improving for present connections and exits double-digit score at Penn. LAYTOWN – Game gelding handles various surfaces and excellent record for Solis stable. Race 10 JEEPER – Major plunge after absent couple months; holds obvious ability advantage for Ness.

SECRET ALLIANCE – Strong wide bid against more numerous winners; key threat this spot.

RUNYONESQUE – Hit board four straight and stretching out again; must put it all together.

UNCLE WATER FLOW – Overmatched last pair after decisive score earlier; should be flying late.