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Craig Donnelly's

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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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TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2019

Best Bets: JOYCEE'S SPIRIT (6th)-- ROANIE (7th)

Race 1

- 6** SQUARE THE CIRCLE – Victim of early trouble in classier company and making key third start after layoff.
- 3** LITTLE SIETE – Dueled long way against similar and frequently hits board; Lake won trio on Sunday.
- 2** MY MAN POTS N PANS – Just in front of top choice after breaking slowly when stretching out first time.
- 4** MARCH SCREAMER – Failed as odds-on favorite when changing barns but capable over various surfaces.

Race 2

- 7** INFIELD IS IN – Significant drop in claiming tag after defeating single-winners at Aqueduct; likely repeater.
- 6** LUCKY CLEMEN – Hampered by traffic problems on turn and conqueror romped again over weekend.
- 9** EASTERN FRONT – Nearly caught loose pacesetter and shown improved closing kick recent months.
- 5** TU EXAGERES – Competing better than odds suggest lately but often hurts chances at start.

Race 3

- 3** CHARMING INDY – Held on gamely and already proven effective this distance; finds cure for seconditis.
- 1** MAMBO AT THE GYM – Rallied behind top pick in shorter test; bulk of career racing over turf.
- 4** BELLY DANCER – Unruly loading when outrun by top selection this yardage; claimed by Dominguez barn.
- 5** NO DRINKING RULES – Possibility if disregard latest but yet to be tested at this distance.

Race 4

- 1** RETROGRADE – Several good efforts since layoff and recent conqueror ran big again on Saturday.
- 2** DON'T MAKE IT EASY – Outrun by top pick as favorite when PIno re-claimed for identical amount.
- 3** IRONCLAD – Difficult to like or ignore plunge after competing well with \$25,000 tag; won 12 of 34 starts.
- 5** HE'S COTTON – Pushed second choice to limit earlier and dangerous on best in wide-open race.

Race 5

- 4** STROLL ACTION – Dueled then drew away from speedy opponent in tougher version of this spot.
- 8** CHORITE – Earned narrow victory around two turns and creditable effort this yardage last month.
- 3** MARNESIA BIG GIRL – Humbled by smashing winner in muddy route and that rival won on raise Sunday.
- 9** NOTHIN BUT TROUBLE – Roughed early when no match for first pick but Dandy stable has them firing.

Race 6

- 5** JOYCEE'S SPIRIT – Easily second best in classier field after Soto claimed and makes third start of season.
- 6** CRYSTAL CLEAR – Runner-up to stablemate when nose in front of top pick despite very wide trip.
- 1** AWESOME ALAINA – Dueled throughout and finished gamely facing fresh challenger; facing elders.
- 3** GLORIOUS MYSTERY – Flashes of speed and ability in Florida and moves to Pino barn as possibility.

Race 7

- 3** ROANIE – Closer than anticipated in better company this yardage and handles these with similar showing.
- 6** DEERSTALKER – Advanced behind impressive winner and romped only try at this yardage.
- 1** CLASSIC LINES – Competed nicely with similar and chance for ground-saving bid after wide trips.
- 4** ALWAYSLOOKEYE – Used up chasing runaway winner this spot; could reach front early as threat.

Race 8

- 1A** HALITE – Strong effort in Laurel sprint and fired this spot locally before; edge in very competitive race.
- 6** PUMPKIN STAR – Plenty of heart and ability and Pino bought back soon as possible on \$10,000 jump.
- 5** TOTALITARIO – Terrific record in Maryland shown he fits with this kind; first local appearance.
- 3** LOVE IS YOUR NAME – Advanced behind runaway favorite this spot but might prefer sprinting.

Race 9

- 1A** GET THE W – Set up well for this yardage dueling between rivals long way in route; capable of wiring.
- 2B** GURT BOYS – Exits very solid field and shown powerful late kick in past; cost this much in November claim.
- 4** MR. ROMANCE – Flashes of interest when overmatched since claim but merits attention at square price.
- 6** SOUTH SEA – Outrun after awkward break and formidable here earlier; rare outing with claiming tag.

Race 10

- 1** LA BELLA PINA – Absent since taken for \$25,000 in October but speedy and holds major ability advantage.
- 10** GRAND BLUE HARBOR – Frequently in money but lone score from 24 attempts; clear sailing outside.
- 5** POINT LOOKOUT – Just half length behind as longshot when dropped to this spot; contested pace helpful.
- 2** MIDNIGHT CROSSING – New Yorker outrun last five starts but deserves consideration against this kind.