

Craig Donnelly's





We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

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, JUNE 4, 2019

Best Bets: MIDNIGHT POKER (7th)-- STRONG BREEZE (8th)

Race 1

- **DRAMATIZED** Hard used chasing rapid pacesetter in debut and should benefit from experience.
- FINN'S POSSE Advanced late when finishing ahead of top choice and improved for present connections.
- BILL'S MAFIA Progressed against heavy favorite on wet footing; far back in recent fast track tries.
- FIRST DEGREE BURN Sidelined since July and bulk of career over jumps and longer distances.

Race 2

- ALWAYSLOOKEYE Drops again for hot Zulueta barn and might survive early pressure this spot.
- OH K FUNNYBONE New Yorker moves turf to dirt and sheds 10 pounds dropping back to sprint.
- **DEERSTALKER** Disliked wet surface again but should be gaining late behind contested fractions.
- WHERESTHEBARBER Rallied behind top choice after twice changing barns locally; fits well again.

Race 3

- **DRUMMER DON** Failed to offer true measure on sloppy footing; prior try good and contested pace aids.
- **INFORMALITY** Wired two-time winners setting soft fractions and dangerous again with logical next step.
- **ROYAL HOLIDAY** Idle since changing hands again in March at Gulfstream; faced tougher in past.
- **GRAYMOND** Remote fourth after breaking slowly and crushed lesser in previous start.

Race 4

- CINCO Y CINCO Seen better days but still capable of firing this level at nice price; upsets in past.
- VIBE Dueled, rallied clear, then caught by favorite in good effort; Dandy stable has them firing.
- **3** SIR SIDNEY Faded on road trip following encouraging local outing; boasts seven local triumphs
- **REY CHEYNE** Returns from three road trips and possibility on best despite slow fuse.

Race 5	
2	MY CANDY FOREST – Plunges after competing two weeks ago; should regain speed with this kind.
11	AXE CAPITAL – Changed barns recently and racing into shape again; forces pace from extreme outside.
6	CHARITY STRIKE – All out to prevail at Delaware as huge favorite; making key third start since return.
4	INITFORTHELONGHAUL – Edged away from slightly easier to boost lifetime mark to excellent 9-for-31.
Race 6	
4	NATURAL WARRIOR – Lightly raced but big effort on occasion and should fire this spot if ready.
6	MARY COSTA – Wired similar and traffic woes in prior defeat; most effective when reaches front early.
5	NTH DEGREE – Exits pair of encouraging outings and dangerous with continued progress.
9	WHITNEY COVE – Prone to slow starts and wide trips but outside post might help; likely flying late.
Race 7	
2	MIDNIGHT POKER – Repelled several challenges then nailed at wire in huge effort; difficult to catch.
7	AMERICAN TALENT – Lacked true showing on wet surface after determined score following long absence.
6	DENNIS' DIAMOND – Distant fourth in slop after capturing three straight on fast tracks; speedy and game.
3	YEAH ROCKY – Clipped heels losing any chance behind top choice; upset factor despite losing streak.
Race 8	
8	STRONG BREEZE – Pursued, led, then weakened late in big effort at longer; best form of career.
9	XY SPEED – Battled throughout at Monmouth for Navarro barn in second start of year; obvious contender.
1	FLASH DRIVE – Rapid colt making third attempt in over year and shorter yardage should benefit.
11	TRADFEST – Led throughout surprising big favorite and prior loss in stake; must draw in from also's.
Race 9	
6	HOMEOFTHE LOMBARDI – Claimed by Ness from this spot when taking plunge; chased unbeaten foe previously.
2	ELIAV – Switches back to main track after competing with higher tags elsewhere; threat in soft field.
1	FONTANA DI ORO – Trailed badly in debut behind eventual stakes winner; drops and working quickly.
3	BLAZE A TRAIL – Sidelined since August but just missed in Indiana; likely to need a race,