



Craig Donnelly's

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@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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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

Best Bets: MAIMO (4th)-- MISS AVALON (9th)

Race 1

6	SUPER FLEET – Scored as 4-5 chalk when taking plunge and logical next step for new connections.
1	MIAMI TIGER – Failed against quicker on road trips but runs big on occasion and threat this level.
4	SIDEWALK PROPHET – Hard-earned victory at Delaware following hiatus and fits well with this group.
2	DRUMMER DON – Slow fuse and long losing streak but should be gaining late as usual.

Race 2

4	ARRECIFE – Just 2-for-39 lifetime but takes realistic drop and could take advantage of contested fractions.
6	TRUE WISDOM – Faced tougher after layoff at Penn National; third outing since competing in Texas.
8	FOR THE ROAD – Trounced single-winners at Delaware for sizzling Pecoraro barn and frequently claimed.
1	HIDE THE CANDY – Roughed early in race taken easily by heavily-favored stablemate; speed along rail.

Race 3

4	TRAINFOURTYONE – Chased compact but quick group in return; \$50,000 claim back in route.
2	RUCKSACK – Stopped on Saratoga turf but romped locally in April; Handal barn fires when shipping here.
7	RAGE AWAY – Possibility if disregard latest; drops and romped in two previous outings.
6	FLAT OUT BEAUTIFUL – Wired maidens in decisive style after arriving from Kentucky for Zulueta barn.

Race 4

8	MAIMO – Battled throughout as Monmouth longshot after game local score; capable of leading throughout.
7	CHELIOS – Early excuse when overmatched on road trip and re-claimed from prior outing by Milian.
9	ADULATION – Far behind at Spa but takes significant drop moving to Moore barn as threat.
2	WE DID – Benefited from contested pace to win and claimed again; excellent lifetime record.

Race 5

3	CROWHEART BUTTE – Full of run late in sloppy debut after very slow start; experience and fast track aid.
1	THUNDERSHOOK – Outran top choice but failed as odds-on favorite; dangerous despite 10 chances.
5	BLACK LIGHT – Competed only once since November but hinted at ability and adding blinkers.
9	COMFORTABLY COOL – Heavily-backed and led to final strides when claimed from debut for \$30,000.

Race 6

1A	HONORABLE SERVICE – Regained closing punch in last and could take advantage of lively fractions.
2	FORGE – Plunges after costing twice this amount in June; Navarro barn clicking at 43% rate locally.
7	TRUSTING FRIEND – Narrowly missed when just ahead of top pick; terrific series of victories earlier.
5	CARDCOUNTER – Used up dueling in latest and drops notch but faces severe early pressure again.

Race 7

5	RUNS FOR LUCK – Eventful trip against repeat winner when Linder took in July; nearing half million in earnings.
4	DRAXHALL WOODS – Nine-year-old continues to fire and re-claimed earlier by Aristone; wide-open race.
6	FLEET GOLD DIGGER – Rebounded from poor showing with good effort at Delaware; handled these in past.
2	SUNSHINE WILD – Lasted against routers and changed barns for fifth time in last six starts; back in sprint.

Race 8

5	WON DOZEN BANKS – Easily second best behind streaking winner after crushing similar in previous start.
4	LONG MAY YOU RUN – Recent losses in stakes on dirt and turf; drops with amazing 16 lifetime scores.
8	NAVY COMMANDER – Set pace long way in route stake and impressed here sprinting last October.
3	BOYD CROWDER – Disqualified for interference on turf and claimed for \$25,000; also adept on dirt.

Race 9

1	MISS AVALON – Close up despite traffic woes in tougher field and stable had winner here on Sunday.
7	AWESOME SINGER – Far back in solid company after Ness re-claimed; nosed top choice in March.
9	MIDNIGHT BOUNTY – Freshened after failing twice on wet surfaces and bargain claim by Dandy earlier.
8	JEMROSE – Outrun at lofty allowance level after decisive score when claimed for \$20,000 in June.

Race 10

2	TARAFIRMA – Proven turf sprinter effective in front or from off pace and success over local course.
9	WILDCATTIN – Improving filly romped in lone turf attempt with this rider aboard; threat again.
3	STETSON GOLD – Victim of traffic woes at Penn National and offers speed inside as possibility.
1A	NTH DEGREE – Encouraging try in first turf outing and back in sprint where she chased rocket on dirt.

Race 11

3	POPIZAR – Exploded past easier and re-claimed earlier by Vega; hotly-contested pace in his favor.
10	SPLICETHEMAINBRACE – Led this far in high-priced claimer at Saratoga and impressed locally in past.
1	ADMIRAL LYNCH – Vied to stretch in Monmouth stake and rallied from behind in past for top stable.
7	STEAM ENGINE – Stopped in latest but successful vs. New York-breds; likely suited by yardage.

Race 12

3	ASK CHUCK – Often close this spot and could benefit from freshener; might shake loose and wire.
7	AIMED – Chased odds-on winner at Delaware following layoff; fitter now and serious contender.
8	NO MORE STRIPPERS – Drops to bottom again and likely to be gaining late with this kind.
2	OFFLEE CLOUDY – Absent since April but merits attention if ready; shows brisk half mile work.