

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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TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024 - FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: SECRET PATH (4th) -- ICONIC LEGACY (8th)

4	PRINCE COLTON - Determined score in recent outi	g and perfect locally around two turns.
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- CHECK MY SIX Failed turf experiment but strong prior form on main track as threat.
- 2 DANCE A DINI Returns to preferred surface where he won decisively last month; fits well.
- 9 THE GATEKEEPER Rediscovered speed and ability when responding nicely to plunge.

Race 2

- SHACKLEFORD COUNTY Rallied strongly behind favored winner after layoff; can progress.
- 2 SENSE A MILLION Advanced late behind top choice and another 10-time winner during career.
- LIPLOCK Signs of interest lately on turf and dirt and sheds five pounds as possibility.
- 4 SHE'S GOT GAME Probable pacesetter hampered by stamina issues; needs to shake loose.

Race 3

- 4 EDGE OF GLORY Weakened as huge favorite when dropping again; facing soft opposition.
- MAJOR CAM Narrowed big gap when finishing ahead of top pick; needs alert break from rail.
- MISTER MOORE Hard used dueling again in sprint and likely pacesetter with softer fractions.
- 8 CARNIVORE Numerous losses at short odds but showed ability in past; can't dismiss yet.

Race 4

- SECRET PATH Determined try against streaking winner when claimed from this spot; Lopez up
- PIT BOSS Rebounded from poor showing with 26-1 surprise following claim by Arce barn.
- 2 ROMAN EMPIRE Crushed easier in strongest outing in ages; chance despite major jump.
- SHERIFF RONNIE Four-time winner this year idle couple months since dull effort in mud.

Race 5

- VITAEMI Looked bit like old self when battling throughout last; 9-year-old with 13 victories.
- **8** LEAN ON E Veteran altered usual running style and closed well in recent races; key threat.
- PEYTON'S COLLEGE Seeks third straight score with Martinez up; realistic next step.
- MATTY BO Speedy filly dueled to final yards with similar when claimed; softens front-runners.

Race 6

- SCAMP WALKER Competed well despite breaking poorly again; Padilla-Preciado barn firing.
- MY MAN WOODY Finished one length in front of top choice with better trip; romped in April.
- 3 CHECKING BOXES Drops after weakening in stretch again; needs to reach front early.
- MILAGROSO Likely to be gaining late but lone victory from 27 tries; some progress needed.

Race 7 2 LOVE TO EAT – Set pace before humbled by favored Oaklawn invader; shorter yardage a plus. TEMPEST RISING – Good form since Mosco claim and finished just over length behind top pick. FROSTED DIAMOND - Roughed early with similar and prior two races encouraging; hot rider. PRINCESS CUPID – Gave up early when overmatched in comeback; speedy and logical drop. Race 8 8 ICONIC LEGACY – Trounced lesser in impressive style when Lake claimed; can handle raise. EGO MAN – Very game effort when edged by pair of closers after battling throughout this spot. FAST BOB – Veteran stretch-runner closed strongly when rebounding from poor try; dangerous. JW'STRICKYMISCHIEF - Controlled early and battled when collared; just 4-for-66 lifetime. Race 9 9 FIRE PIT – Chased heavily-favored experienced rival when easily second best in Laurel debut. CHILL BOSS – Half-brother won and placed in numerous stakes; sire gets some quick ones. THE TIRE MAN – Remote third in bow but should benefit from experience vs. many rookies. ANALOG JONES – Working quickly over track and sire finished first, DQ'd in Kentucky Derby. Race 10 YESTERNIGHT – Dueled long way in talented and bulky field after layoff at Churchill; fired locally AOIFE'S MAGIC – Unlucky on turf and prior try possibly best yet; Parx Horse of Year gets Lasix. MIA TOSCA – Shown talent and versatility winning long and short recently; quick return to claim. BENEATH THE STARS – Absent nearly three months since Ness took for \$40,000; back on dirt. Race 11

ADERO – Dueled odds-on winner to late yards and prior loss in graded stake; capable and game
BESTSUGARDADDYEVER – Romped at Laurel after outrun by top pick locally; 6-for-13 lifetime.
WINDSOR GOLD – Big effort after shoe repair when Moore took for \$40,000; retains Wolfsont.

IRISH CORK – Failed to solid stake on road trip but back on Lasix and much success locally.

Race 12

DALTON – Set up well for elongated sprint when prominent long way in route; drops after claim.

DIXIE'S TWO STENTS – Slow fuse but significant drop competing cheapest ever; lures Lopez.

RUNYONESQUE – Versatile lately but exits series of frustrating losses at this level for Guerrero.

CONNECTING – Keeps firing and trounced two-time winners with perfect trip; yardage suits.