

# **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, JULY 24, 2024 - FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: HIDDEN CACHE (5th) -- KOHLER'S (11th)

# Race 1

- TEEWINOT PASS Overmatched in last but trounced cheaper previously; set up this yardage.
- ANGELUS WARRIOR Veteran exits big effort this distance; part of exacta in 19 of 44 starts.
- 9 GABE Speedy and faced classier in past; tired late in shorter test as 6-5 chalk with Lopez.
- HOTPOT Slow fuse but drops notch returning to sprint; Pino stable clicking at 23% locally.

#### Race 2

- PRACTICAL RACHEL Failed turf experiment but should regain closing kick with this kind.
- 9 ONTHISHARVESTMOON Used up chasing runaway winner; much shorter time between races.
- WINE GODDESS Some progress after roughed early with similar; lone win in 26 tries.
- 4 DOROTHY'S THE BOSS Faded before half mile following hiatus; very long losing skid.

#### Race 3

- LEVEL UP Pressed loose pacesetter when dropping; claimed by sizzling Irving Rodriguez barn
- SILENT MODE Finished ahead of top choice as longshot; crushed soft group at Penn National.
- RENEGADE SERENADE- Weakened on road trips but last local try encouraging in route.
- SHEER DOMINANCE Trailed after earky trouble on turf after romping in prior dirt outing.

## Race 4

- 2 JSK LUCKY'S PUSHPA Probably best when just missing despite poor break; changed hands.
- ANGELIC STORM Not much last pair but formidable at times and softer route fractions plus.
- 5 LIAM'S KISS Defeated even softer at Penn National and hot apprentice in Aguilar.
- FAR HEART Likely ability advantage but sidelined over year and might need this.

# Race 5

- HIDDEN CACHE Less than four lengths behind in better field and decisive score previously.
- **5** AKNA Dueled to final stages as favorite this level; chased smashing winner in prior start.
- **4** BOHEMIA BABE Rediscovered stamina in 31-1 shocker and taking realistic next step.
- THAT'STONY'SSISTER Primed for this yardage prompting pace in turf route; upset chance.

#### Race 6

- 2 SHADOW MAN Back on main track where he scored by double-digits vs. maidens last month.
- RABBIT Rallied behind contested pace when runner-up this spot; testing stamina again.
- 4 NOT THISTIMERANDY In too deep in latest but fired in seven prior starts; fits nicely this spot.
- KHOPESH Disappointed when taking plunge but showed route ability earlier at Gulfstream.

# Race 7 CONNELMAURA – Absent few months but should handle this kind if ready for Solis stable. DIXIE GROOVE - Keeps firing and closed well sprinting; good form in local routes as threat. SIRENETTA – Chased huge favorite in compact field; winless in 12 attempts this season. LULI'S DANCER – Often finished behind trio above but possibility with some progress. Race 8 CASTILLEJA – Better in past but drops again after Padilla-Preciado barn winning at 20% clip. OLD HEAD – Determined rally at loftier level and crushed three-time winners in prior outing. 9 HIGHTIME VALENTINE – Frequently close and sharp this level in latest; Castillo barn firing. CAPTIVATING CARA – Step forward when easily second best but lost all 7 tries this distance. Race 9 WHOOSH – Very slow fuse and had 16 chances but should regain finishing kick with these. BIAGIO – Flashes of interest over various surfaces and distances; weight off for this. A COMPLETE ANIMAL – Dueled to stretch before weakening in May debut; merits attention. PACIFIC STATES - Poor showing with wide trip but previous effort good; prior losses vs. better. Race 10 AMBITIOUSLY PLACED – Looking like old self after romping last pair; seeks 11<sup>th</sup> career score. SUMMARY JUDGMENT – Won and claimed in latest and serious threat with speed along inside. PEACH PERFECT – Game mare drops and boasts pair of double-digit scores this season. DIVINE ROMANCE – Outrun by second pick but weight shift in her favor; recent Laurel win. Race 11 KOHLER'S – Determined score despite constant pressure after layoff when adding Lasix. EDDIE W – Excellent form and shown versatility this season; improving and late kick likely. CHARLIE SHOWTIME – Just lasted to remain perfect after two starts; entered again with tag. SAVAGE DRAGON – Led to stretch in game try in first outing of year; progress anticipated. Race 12

JARLIAN – Primed for this in turf route and plunges to bottom tag; must put it all together.

LARGE – Chronic poor starter edged in latest and post farther out from rail proves helpful.

- **8** JEBOLOGIST Set pace then bore out at top of stretch last week in route; upset winner sprint.
- MAXIM MOMENT Dueled long way before yielding to heavily-favored closer; must consider.