

# **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, OCTOBER 30, 2024 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: OLYMPIC ROMP (1st) - NEW COMMISSION (9th)

# Race 1

- 8 OLYMPIC ROMP Cruised past rivals in impressive score 9 days ago; retains "bug boy" Otero.
- HIDDEN PROMISE Easily second best when finishing ahead of top pick; speed from outside.
- 9 COPPERHEAD CREEK Roughed early behind runaway winner in sprint; success this yardage.
- PIT BOSS Faded after unruly in gate and takes significant drop to level of June claim.

# Race 2

- LOVEUMOM Led throughout when responding well to drop; likely difficult to catch again.
- BITCOIN BABY Survived pressure to defeat bottom maidens; taking realistic next step.
- **2** EXHALE Remote fourth after slow start at Delaware; outdueled second choice locally.
- FEROCIOUSNESS Stablemate of top pick dull in latest and takes realistic drop with Sanchez.

# Race 3

- RACEY RUBY Proven route ability and crushed maidens when claimed again; well-spotted.
- MIKEY'S SONG Overmatched last pair and logical drop; might revert to rating tactics.
- MY BLESSING Eventful trip on turf and handles various surfaces; second attempt on dirt.
- **2** DAME CATHERINE Battled throughout at Meadowlands and claimed three times Monmouth.

#### Race 4

- ALYVIA MAVIS Hard used early with tougher at top maiden level; prior outing encouraging.
- ESROH Ample preparation at Delaware and by top Maryland sire Great Notion; must guess.
- CAROLYN DORIS Soundly beaten by top choice and yet to justify heavy backing for top barn.
- PADDY'S GIFT Disappointing try when dropping and best effort three races ago in debut.

# Race 5

- LAMASCO- Faced classier in past and re-claimed by Pino barn; good record and stretching out.
- DANTASTIC Closed gap in sprint and raced sparingly in past but returns in just 13 days.
- PRINCESS SOPHIE Game mare with sufficient ability but absent four months since score.
- HI HEELED WARRIOR Good effort in blanket finish last week; steps up within same claim tag.

# Race 6

- SHOULDHAVEBEENGONE Bit difficult to guess but decisive romp last month and rail speed.
- ZAP MOTION Speedy gelding with obvious ability advantage; plunges after shelved 7 months.
- **7** DUDLEY DICKERSON Frequently hits board and good try in softer version of this spot.
- 2 WYNN GIANT Flashes of interest but many chances this level; merits some attention.

# Race 7 OURDAYDREAMINGGIRL – Just missed to another newcomer in big try when easily second best CARAVAGGIO'S SONG – Sire was champion in Europe and undefeated as juvenile; nice works. CAPTAIN WHINER – By rapid sire and half-sister to multiple stakes-winner Ninetyprcentmaddie. ANGEL OF HOPE – Dueled then faded behind top choice as favorite; best try as debut longshot. Race 8 POWER AGENDA - Looked more like old self in game score with lesser; inside speed plus lately. DATHOSS – Ample ability and crushed rivals this spot in July; serious contender if ready. DARK TIMBER – Solid try despite constant pressure but winless this year with stamina woes. SIX WHIPS – Determined effort to defeat 18 time winner for lower tag; fits in competitive field. Race 9 4 NEW COMMISSION – Benefited from time off in dominating score; should handle slight raise. RON DON SCORESE – Veteran takes aggressive drop for Ness barn and boasts 12 victories. ASSEMBLY POINT – Tired in late stages again but ran big race in August; upset possibility. JACOHARE – Ran into tiger in latest and captured two of last four starts; dangerous on best. Race 10 HOLDTHEFLIGHT – Anticipated better last out but rough trip previously; re-claimed by Pino barn MY DEVILS CHILD – Drops again and might regain finishing kick this level with Haddock aboard. MILTON THE MONSTER – New York shipper hits bottom after earning \$352,560, some locally.

CADDY MAN – Improved try behind huge favorite and possibility with further progress.