



Craig Donnelly's

ANALY\$IS\$
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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, OCTOBER 8, 2024 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: SUMMER'S GIFT (8th) – MEMORY BOUQUET (9th)

Race 1

- 2** THE BEARRISH ONE – Exits much tougher version this spot and success with blinkers off.
- 1** MIDNIGHT GETAWAY – Distant third in compact but quick field; outran top pick once before.
- 7** DREAM KNIGHT – Fits nicely but failing to justify heavy support; outside stalking trip.
- 3** SHADOW BOX – Possibility if disregard last; probable pacesetter with stamina issues.

Race 2

- 1** STAR OF CAESAREA – Closed well when easily second best behind Penn National shipper.
- 2** AVES MAKIN' WAVES – Showed speed at Monmouth but remains maiden despite 21 chances.
- 3** OPTIMISTIC NATE – Plunges after coming up empty again; likely needs to shake loose.
- 7** MARINE PATROL – Poor form but gelded and puts blinkers back on for new management.

Race 3

- 4** STARLORD – Realistic drop returning to sprint and should overrun soft opposition.
- 2** WHOOSH – Lacked rally at two turns after mild rally in longer sprint; making 22nd attempt.
- 3** VOY Y VENGO – Dueled this far in route after competing exclusively on turf and synthetic.
- 6** MIDHEIRFLYINHIGH – Soundly beaten at Monmouth after career began at top N.J.-bred level.

Race 4

- 3** B B BAD – Back home from trio of road trips and logical drop; should be flying late this level.
- 1** LIBERTY STAR – Upset heavy favorite after Flores-Coba claim and lures Lopez as threat again.
- 4** GEEBERT – Poor showing when re-claimed by Mosco barn where he achieved success in past.
- 5** AGGRANDIZE – Winless this season but faced quality rivals in past; upset possibility.

Race 5

- 2** SECURED LANDING – Firing every time and outdueled rival from Saratoga this distance.
- 1** WAR MASTER – Used up forcing pace after poor start at Laurel; romped twice to begin career.
- 7** BOBBY THE TANK – Humbled by smashing winner after slow break; wired this yardage at Spa.
- 3** I FEELUCKY TONITE – Gradual gain behind Ness barn winner; hard-earned score prior try.

Race 6

- 5** WOOHOO JACKIE BLUE – Rallied behind winning stablemate on Pa. Derby undercard; back rte.
- 2** SHE'SAROLLINGSTONE – Broke slowly at Laurel but consistently close; third race since hiatus.
- 4** FLASHNDYNAMITE – Nine-year-old mare with 19 victories not at best lately but always threat.
- 1** STASSI – Trailed tougher first local attempt; closer than odds predicted in prior outing.

Race 7

2	ARROW SPEED – Led throughout at Delaware after Ness claim and well-spotted again.
4	MELT WITH YOU – Fair effort in solid field and outran top pick previously; Ness barn exacta.
5	EDDIE W – Last couple discouraging but showed ability and determination earlier this oval.
6	HERMOSO HOMBRE – Some good form since arriving from Gulfstream but must better latest.

Race 8

7	SUMMER'S GIFT – Terrific speed again to remain perfect since comeback; might rate outside.
3	AEGEAN SEA – Crushed lesser group when claimed; runner-up next romped last week.
1	CONFIRMED STAR – Talented and versatile filly sharp in stake and overcame trouble prior try.
2	MIDNIGHT IN ALASKA – Idle since terrible trip on turf; very quick and back on main track.

Race 9

10	MEMORY BOUQUET – Back sprinting on dirt and formidable on best; top Penn National barn.
4	DARK TIMBER – Long losing streak and tends to weaken final yards but threat this level.
9	URNSANDCONDITIONS – Chased good opposition at Monmouth after winning pair earlier.
6	EDDIEMUSH – Appears in peak form and recent Castillo barn claim; chance to surprise.