

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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Best Bets: CREATIVE COPY (2nd) – TEMPTING LADY (7th)

Race 1

- LA TOURISTA Overmatched after layoff at Penn National; improves with significant drop.
- LUNA T Rallied then faded after absent four months; closing kick when at her best.
- GANGSTER RAP Poor showing in better field but moderate success in Texas and Oklahoma.
- 2 RAINBOW TROUT Slow fuse and sidelined since February; chance this level if ready.

Race 2

- CREATIVE COPY Set pressured pace long way after layoff and game filly 5-for-19 locally.
- CATTI LA BELLE Finished behind top choice when claimed again; hit board 9 of 12 this year.
- HEART LIGHT Pulled away decisively in confidence booster; threat gain for new connections.
- BUNNY BONUS Distant fourth behind pair above then sheds 13 pounds seeking progress.

Race 3

- END OF THE RAINBOW Prompted pace to stretch when showing some main track ability.
- NAPOLITAN Edged this spot as 8-5 favorite and need not be much with soft opposition.
- FAUX PAS Battled throughout with this kind and racing into shape again in 11th attempt.
- 2 WINBORI Raced greenly in stretch when making second start since return as longshot.

Race 4

- D DAY Used up early in talented field in race taken by stablemate; good effort at Keeneland.
- FULLY COMMITTED Made up ground this level after claim; less than length behind last three.
- FOUR DAYS EARLY Possibility if disregard last and prior try good; third race since return.
- **2** E T'S EVASIVE MOON Hampered by poor starts last pair and might put it all together.

Race 5

- MAXIMUS ANGELICUS Used up dueling as heavy favorite but softer route fractions can help.
- VAGUE Rallied behind top choice again and St. Lewis stable with some promising juveniles.
- ALYVIA MAVIS Rushed to contention after slow start when humbled by fleet newcomer.
- FUR ELISE Outrun on grass after hiatus and tries blinkers; third in compact debut field.

Race 6

- AU SOME WARRIOR Set pace long way after breaking through gate prior start; softer version.
- REELIN N DEALIN Never menaced behind smashing winner in better field; progress likely.
- REGALPAINS Victim of slow start on Pa. Derby undercard and extra distance might help.
- 4 OKIE DEN DEN Far behind following \$25,000 claim in debut; Uptowncharlybrown runners hot.

Race 7 6 TEMPTING LADY – Competed well twice when claimed in good Kentucky efforts; yardage suits. LADY SRIRACHA – Half-sister to Twisted Ride raced well at Laurel and puts blinkers back on. 8 DAISY BELIEVES – Flashed speed in debut then shelved since early July; should progress. 3 ANGEL OF HARLEM – Absent since August of last year but trained quickly at Presque Isle. Race 8 BANANA SPLIT – Cruised past full field on Meadowlands turf; excuse lone main track attempt. 4 SHE CAN SCAT – Prominent to final furlong in better field after claimed yet again; dangerous. LADY ROBO – Crushed maidens in 14th outing and avoids claim tag with renewed confidence. VANELLOPE – Narrowed gap again as favorite in softer field when adding Lasix; gets blinkers. Race 9 DAZZY – Chased formidable stablemate when easily second best after \$25,000 claim by Ness. XTRA EXTRAORDINARY – Bought for \$20,000 in solid field at Keeneland; fits with this field. REASSESS – Failed to offer true measure in Laurel mud and fired in five previous attempts. JODY'S RUBY – Captured Pa.-bred stake as juvenile but shelved since May; chance if ready. Race 10 SEPARATE WAYS – Rank early when overmatched in last and bore out prior try; realistic drop. DOS DE OROS – Improved this spot when putting blinkers on again; lone score in 16 tries.

SECRET SATURDAY – Disappointed at Charles Town but prior efforts good; fits this level. CHECKING BOXES – Faded as 7-5 chalk when claimed and faces early pressure again.