

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: FAST BOB (1st) - DESIGNATED (4th)

Race 1

- FAST BOB Looked like old self crushing rivals with powerful closing kick; veteran keeps firing.
- 4 SHADOW BOX Used up dueling heavy favorite two weeks ago; chance to shake loose.
- **8** MUSICAL HEART Good effort with capable routers and threat if adjusts to sprint for Abrams.
- MISCHIEVOUS JUAN Hard-earned score in bulky Delaware field; moderate local success.

Race 2

- JURADICIAL Battled vastly quicker last week after layoff in local bow; good form in Indiana.
- AKNA Decent try with similar but numerous chances this spot; prior outing encouraging.
- **2** GORMLEY GIRL Good speed in recent routes but winless in 18 local attempts; might get part.
- MISS ALEX Closer than anticipated in last but lost all 54 outings over fast surfaces.

Race 3

- 5 SUMMERSATTHESHORE Used up chasing impressive winner and faced classier prior races.
- LOUELLA STREET Controlled pace when one length behind in blanket finish this spot.
- **2** BYTHENUMBERS Improved with late rally after outrun by top pick previously; needs set-up.
- RUMINT Stretches out after soundly beaten in sprint; usually receives heavy support.

Race 4

- 3 DESIGNATED Responded well to drop cruising past foes with late kick; claim keeps Wolfsont.
- 9 BRIGHT KOHANA Weakened after pressing pace this level; prior score with Lopez aboard.
- MOONLIT MAGIC Overmatched in last after capturing prior two starts; speed along inside.
- 5 SURVIVAL ROSE Narrowed gap with similar and frequently close; best effort necessary.

Race 5

- THIS RUN'S FOR YOU Solid effort sprinting when Lake claimed; showed route ability in Jersey.
- MELT WITH YOU Trounced two-time winners at Laurel after pair of local losses; lures Lopez.
- TIME TO CRUISE Remote third as 6-5 chalk vs. state-breds at Penn National; rare losing skid.
- **2** EPIC LUCK Trailed badly when claimed for \$25,000 by Esteban Padilla barn, clicking at 20%.

Race 6

- 3 AMBITIOUSLY PLACED Seeks fifth consecutive victory after re-claimed earlier by Pino stable.
- FLASHNDYNAMITE Nine-year-old mare with 19 victories dueled long way; race won by closer.
- PRINCIPIA Very quick and second outing since Ness claimed; rated off pace in Monmouth win.
- WOOHOO JACKIE BLUE Versatile mare back on dirt seeking third in row; outside stalking trip.

Race 7 VILLANITO – Walloped routers taking drop when claimed; set up nicely for this distance. AWESOME FOR SURE – Game gelding up in time as 4-5 favorite when claimed again; dangerous OCTOBER BLISS – Decisive score with routers when claimed from initial local try; threat again. RUMAWAY - Stretch-runner often competes better than odds predict; extra yardage seems plus. Race 8 TALKIN PHAROAH – Lightly raced but extremely quick and capable; wires from inside if ready. ICONIC LEGACY – Dueled to final furlong in game route effort; impressive earlier in sprint wins. WHAT DOES IT TAKE – Battled heavily-favored stablemate in game try; early pressure again. NAVY RULES – Overcame brief traffic problems when firing again; taking logical next step. Race 9 IN SPADES – Bargain claim by Dunn barn competed well with similar and determined efforts. JASPER'S PRIDE – Edged in talented field at Delaware and ample success during Jersey meet. CAPITAL IDEA - May have needed first race since April at Monmouth; fifth in Grade III Gotham. IT'S GAME TIME – Repelled long challenge and lasted to boost career mark to 17-for-84. Race 10 ROAD CALL – Lagged far behind then closed with rush in improved try; fires at square price.

- ZIHUATANEJO Takes significant drop but lone victory on turf; rare attempt sprinting.
- MY BROTHER CHARLIE Frequently close but several losses at short odds lately; possibility.