

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: GET SET (10th) -- CISCO KID (11th)

Race 1

- YES MY LADY LINO Set clear pace this far in muddy debut in finish dominated by closer.
- BE MY QUEEN Quick filly began career with promise but sidelined since summer; rail speed.
- 2 INCAN MOON GODDESS Absent three months and yet to justify heavy support; threat on best.
- MOPSY Making debut at age four but worked half mile "bullet" earlier; guess with newcomers.

Race 2

- RON DON SCORESE Romped twice since Ness re-claimed and also effective on fast tracks.
- BALANTYNE Crushed easier again and Ramirez stable has them firing; late kick anticipated.
- VINE JET Failed to offer true measure in mud and drops notch with eight career victories.
- 5 LEVEL UP Possibility if disregard last when claimed again; double-digit score in October.

Race 3

- 4 HEAT ALERT Battled throughout when edged by Ness runner; drops notch at same distance
- BAD ADVICE Flashes of interest and much shorter time between races; lures Carmouche.
- 9 MAGICAL ROAD Rallied to front then outfinished as 1-2 chalk when claimed; merits attention.
- MUCHO MAGNIFICO Private purchase closed big gap in Woodbine finale; making 14th try.

Race 4

- 5 TARA'S TALENT Narrow miss this spot and appears ready to end losing skid for Moore barn.
- LADY ZETA Set pace when finishing just ahead of top pick; facing early pressure again.
- 2 ANNIEWORKSTOOMUCH Overmatched in New York after decisive local score; always fires.
- **8** PEARLS AND HEELS Game effort in blanket finish and pair of convincing wins earlier.

Race 5

- TAKE TIME TO DREAM Racing into peak form since layoff and prevailed twice earlier in N.Y.
- 2 JAVA'S LUCKY LADY Among several front-runners in field but often shown determination.
- DENALI RAE Shelved since voided claim in October but sufficient ability and threat if ready.
- 9 SHAKE IT BABY Ness filly drops notch but hampered by stamina issues; won only local try.

Race 6

- LOVEUMOM Easily second best this level in game try and capable of handling early pressure.
- 2 VICKY VALE Making steady progress and outdueled heavy favorite last month for Moore barn.
- MANDY'S MISS Overmatched last pair after surviving poor start in debut; fits with this kind.
- BURNER ACCOUNT Makes fifth attempt at different venues and adds Lasix as possible threat.

Race 7 SUMMARY JUDGMENT – Faltered with tougher in slop and most effective when reaches front. CATTI LA BELLE – Strong recent form and taking logical next step as threat; classy in past. MORE RANSOM – Led to late stages and conqueror ran big again last week; good local mark. RUMINT – Walloped lesser opposition last month and Ness stable on usual hot streak. Race 8 SNOW LAKE – Significant drop returning to sprint and extreme outside post biggest obstacle. WIKI LIO – Steady progress and defeated next-out winner last month; realistic next spot. 5 NAMORA – Numerous eventful trips and fits nicely with alert break; should be gaining late. 9 UNION BELLE – Edged in blanket finish this spot and claimed twice earlier; picks off rivals late. Race 9 TRADERS LUCK – Rapid gelding ultra-consistent and trounced rivals after frustrating losses. BORRACHO – Faded behind top choice after defeating same foe over similar footing previously. LIKE A SALTSHAKER – Terrific 17-for-40 lifetime but no match for top pick; yet to win locally. PRACTICAL COACH – Hard-hitting veteran upset slightly easier at Penn National; tested here. Race 10 GET SET – Used up against solid rivals in mile test at Laurel; powerful local score prior outing. YOUNG SQUIRE – Ample ability but tends to hurt chances at start; draws inside again but threat. MEET ME AT MUNDIS – Late rush behind favored Ness winner in November; claimed for \$32,000

Race 11

CISCO KID – Easily second behind streaking winner in best yet; overcame traffic woes prior try.

SUNDAY SPIRIT – Bargain claim seeks third straight but must adjust to sprint; barn heating up.

TRY HARDER – Bothered early when soundly outrun by top pick; chased streaking winner.

I FEELUCKY TONITE – Kept talented company lately and closer than odds predicted in latest.

PRINCE OF RAIN – Stretch-runner with ample ability but sidelined year; edged in local stake.