

# **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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TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:05 P.M.

Best Bets: SHE'S JUSTIFIED (7th) – WOULDJA COULDJA (8th)

### Race 1

- 2 AWESOME FORCE New York shipper drops and stretches out and likely to control fractions.
- TEXAS AIR FORCE Gained late in sprint and close earlier in Gulfstream route; soft company.
- 9 JOSH Failed to run to debut backing on wet surface; extra yardage and experience helps.
- MARINE PATROL Possibility if disregard latest; upset chance despite 15th attempt.

#### Race 2

- KERNESS Difficult to like or ignore plunge after idle two months; speedy and leading barn.
- 3 OLYMPIC ROMP Frequently claimed and runs big race on occasion; last couple discouraging.
- ZAP MOTION Weakened at short odds in mud but fired three prior outings since layoff.
- 2 MUCHO MACHO EDDIE Eight-year-old woke up as longshot in mud; merits attention.

#### Race 3

- SUNNY SIDE UP Dueled throughout this level in longer test; benefits from recent activity.
- 2 SWANS ISLAND Retreated as favorite when claimed again; fast track and blinkers can aid.
- **8** EMILY'S ON FIRE Absent several months but holds ability advantage; dangerous if ready.
- ANGEL OF HARLEM Used up early when humbled by smashing Ness stable opponent.

#### Race 4

- FAST PAYDAY Advanced behind tougher version this spot and middle move in prior defeat.
- YES POINT Faded after dueling when claimed at Turfway but Midwest shippers excelling here.
- DANCE A DINI Drops notch after remote fourth to runaway winner; possibility this level.
- RENEGADE SERENADE Hampered by stamina issues but smashing winner in September.

#### Race 5

- FENWICK JACK Powerful rally despite another slow start; sufficient early targets for late kick.
- 2 CLANCY O'TOOLE Walloped single-winners taking plunge and claimed; aggressive next step.
- DARVESH Late energy sprinting in return and back after one week stretching out again.
- HEY RIVER Weakened under pressure after arriving from Florida; likely capable of better.

#### Race 6

- WIZARD SERRAT Roughed early then rallied behind repeat winner; back around two turns.
- THIRSTY PAPPY Soundly beaten last pair but plunges as threat for high percentage stable.
- NOTABLE BOB Gained behind heavy favorite in sprint and rare attempt at this distance.
- 4 HIDDEN PROMISE Rebounded on fast surface sprinting and better suited this yardage.

## Race 7 4 SHE'S JUSTIFIED – Hard used dueling heavy favorite in improved try; dam earned 200k for Lake. ADDIEADDIEBOBADDIE – Encouraging effort in sloppy debut; kin to Bartlett and Pachelbel. GINGERSAYSCHILL - Strong rally in October debut at Penn National; lures Sanchez as threat. 8 QUEEN KHALEESI – Progressed over wet surface when just ahead of top choice; must consider. Race 8 10 WOULDJA COULDJA - Battled pair of talented newcomers at Aqueduct; powerful local debut. DADOO – Slow fuse but advanced behind heavy favorite again; stakes-placed at Penn National. 5 CAPTAIN WHINER – Half-sister to terrific Ninetyprcentmaddie sharp despite eventful trips. 8 SPUNDERELLA – Big effort after arriving from \$50,000 Kentucky claim; obvious contender. Race 9 HARRIGAN – Powerful move in decisive debut score despite steadying early; \$130,000 purchase. LET'SMAKEITADOUBLE – Blocked on turn then pulled away impressively when clear in bow. ALCHEMISM – Less than two lengths behind in stake after double-digit romp in maiden victory. ANALOG JONES – Far behind on road trips but back home where he romped at this distance. Race 10 NEIGH DUDE – Veteran with ample heart and ability; absent seven weeks since voided claim. AWESOME FOR SURE – Narrowly missed after changing barns again; conqueror ran big again.

JEBOLOGIST – Exits solid effort and frequently hits board; faces severe early pressure again.

HARLEY'S CHARLY – Bit difficult to guess but knows how to win; from 21% Soto-Martinez barn.