

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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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025 - FIRST POST 12:05 P.M.

Best Bets: LATTA (6th) – ENFORCER (8th)

ace	

- AVES MAKIN' WAVES Frequently close and battled heavy favorite in tougher version this spot.
- STOUTHEARTED Offers inside speed and making key third start since layoff; should progress.
- SPLITTING STONES Step forward against repeat winner on wet surface; shorter yardage plus.
- 9 HOPPY TIME Pursued 2-5 chalk at Penn National and possibility if puts it all together.

Race 2

- 4 VANELLOPE Realistic drop after chasing pair of runaway winners; should overrun this kind.
- 5 LOVE LIKE CRAZY Dueled to midstretch vs. smashing Ness opponent; rallied off pace before.
- CHANNEL LOOP Never close when claimed for higher tag at Penn National; barn 21% 2024.
- 2 FLAG SONG FLYIN Led to final yards in slightly easier field; lone score from 20 attempts.

Race 3

- YOU'RE FOREVER Absentee with stamina woes in New York but could wire this group.
- 3 DARK DUTCHESS Appeared certain winner then caught late in another good effort this spot.
- ECHO LAKE Improved over wet footing as extreme longshot; handled fast track in past.
- NO FAKE Road warrior on losing streak and failed last pair at Charles Town; local bow.

Race 4

- 4 LIAM'S KISS Easily second best after dueling drop-down winner; part of exacta 11-of-18 races.
- AMALFI LADY Failed to offer true measure on wet surface but prior few tries encouraging.
- JOB'S NOT FINISHED Led throughout last week and seeking third straight for Caban stable.
- 2 ANGELIC STORM Not much lately but tests stamina again and likely closer to early pace.

Race 5

- PEACH PERFECT Responded well to plunge when claimed and taking realistic next step.
- HI HEELED WARRIOR Cruised to front in decisive score last week and major threat again.
- HEART LIGHT Game mare with several nice tries since return; edged this spot in mud.
- **2** SOLEMN OATH Failed to justify heavy backing recent outings; can't dismiss 8 time winner.

Race 6

- LATTA Hampered by early trouble as 3-5 chalk; impressed with acceleration in prior score.
- ZANDUHOC Crushed maidens in confidence booster and used up in blistering pace previously
- BUSTINO SANTINO Dueled throughout at Laurel in first try for Ness after competing in N.Y.
- DIRTY HARRY Speedy gelding making progress for Wyner barn but tested with this kind.

Race 7 ICONIC LEGACY - Exploded past slop rivals when voided claim month ago; capable of repeat. B B BAD – Veteran stretch-runner advanced behind Ness winners last pair; contested pace plus. 8 DREAM KNIGHT – Drops after overmatched in quality company since claim; fits better here. 4 THE JUDGE AND JURY – Success here in past and excellent 9-for-34 mark; likely gaining late. Race 8 ENFORCER – Chased streaking winner in last and numerous troubled trips last season. OLLIEMEISTER – Sharp in six consecutive starts and seeking third straight score as danger. GROUP HUG – Just three lengths behind this level for Ness-Sanchez combo; recent activity. THIS RUN'S FOR YOU - Solid effort on occasion then absent seven weeks since avoided claim. Race 9 3 QUERCUS - Pulled away after heated duel and chased tigress in stake at Penn National. MAXIMUS ANGELICUS – Disliked wet surface after impressive maiden romp; excellent field. OURDAYDREAMINGGIRL - Swept past capable rivals in decisive score; contested pace aids. LITTLE COCOA BEAN - Faltered after forcing pace in slop stake; overcame slow start in bow. Race 10 BAAFEED – Prone to early trouble and raced sparingly but major advantage in ability.

SWING OIL – Big effort at times and drops for bottom tag with ample early targets.

POWER AGENDA – Seen better days but speed along inside and shorter yardage might help.

ALMOND CIDER – Nearly upset huge favorite despite dueling throughout in game effort.