

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, APRIL 13, 2025 - FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: WILLFUL DESIRE (7th) – GOLDEN ICE (9th)

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- ROCK ME GENTLY Firing in every outing and appears capable of shaking loose and wiring.
- SHE TAKES CASH Absent three months since crushing single-winners; claimed 3 times Gulf.
- VANELLOPE Distant third after early bumping but romped earlier and should like distance.
- TELEPHONE LINE- Major threat if disregard latest and began career with impressive score.

Race 2

- WYATT HUNTER By son of great Into Mischief and dam won 9 of 21 races; encouraging works.
- 3 NEVER TILL NOW- Sharp despite trouble trips in two of three races since layoff; obvious threat.
- SAPPHIRE PRINCE Failed as 9-5 chalk at Penn after easily second best to rocket locally.
- CHILLING ZENSATION Flashed speed then taken up sharply on turn in debut; speed inside.

Race 3

- SKULL HONOR Exits series of good efforts at Gulfstream and switches to leading Ness barn.
- SUNNY MAGIC Dueled eventual winner to final furlong when trying blinkers; makes 12th try.
- GUNMAN JAYVO- Closed with rush after poor start in local bow; adds Lasix stretching out.
- **2** JUST CHEESY Soundly beaten by second pick in latest but prior outing stamps contender.

Race 4

- QUARTERFLASH Slow fuse but exits good try in better field after Turfway claim by Padilla.
- BEYOND A MILLION Frequently close but long losing streak and Pino claim tries blinkers.
- **4** BUNNY BONUS Chased pair of repeat winners and claimed again; 6-for-27 lifetime mark.
- MISS CHAMITA Chronic slow starter remote fourth after claim; very capable in past years.

Race 5

- DATHOSS Convincing score when claimed and excellent record with Paco Lopez aboard.
- TAP IN FORMATION Speedy gelding won decisively and suited by abbreviated yardage.
- SIX WHIPS Outrun by second choice when Gallimore took and retains "triple bug" Torres.
- PARDSY Just missed after setting pace in longer test and contributes to lively fractions.

Race 6

- CAPTAIN FANCY Battled throughout after hiatus at Keeneland when adding Lasix, blinkers.
- FRIDAY SURPRISE May have needed race after layoff when facing winners; good at Saratoga.
- MARVELOUS MO Absentee improved in second start and working quickly for return.
- CENTAUR CENTRAL Determined in narrow loss but had 10 chances; avoids tag this time.

WILLFUL DESIRE – Used up forcing pace in solid field at Aqueduct after romping three straight SNAPPY RIDE – Much closer than odds predicted last pair when rallying with tough Pa.-breds. AMBITIOUSLY PLACED – Terrific mare just keeps winning for Pino; likely tested in this field. Et's MOON MAIDEN – Poor showing after firing in four straight; ample early targets can help. Race 8 LIBERTE DE BAYEUX – Caught late as huge favorite; gelded since and tries two turns first time. DOUBLE YOUR MONEY – Excellent form since Dunn claim but series of frustrating defeats. REAL CONVICTION – Bargain claim by hot Solis barn won last three local routes; fits nicely. IKE'S GAMBLE – Fair try in compact field and humbled by second pick prior try; best needed. Race 9 GOLDEN ICE – Improving colt taken for \$40,000 at Keeneland and moves to sizzling Dunn stable. HUGGY – Overmatched in N.Y.-bred stake after \$75,000 buy locally; chance to control fractions.

THE TIRE MAN – Offered good closing punch to finally defeat maidens; logical next step.

Race 10		
3	SHE'SAROLLINGSTONE – Strong record at Laurel and competed well only local try December.	
7	PHOTO FINISH – Dueled long way when easy runner-up this spot; bottom of Ness barn exacta.	
6	BOSS LIKE BETH – Rebounded from dull effort when just two lengths behind with solid rivals.	
5	PEACH PERFECT – Game mare just keeps on winning and claimed from five consecutive starts.	

JADON'S HONOR – Progressed since using blinkers and late energy with good rivals sprinting.