

# **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: RIGHT WING RUNNER (8th) – KOHLER'S (9th)

## Race 1

- YOU'RE FOREVER Hampered by stumbling with similar; best when able to reach front early.
- **7** EVERHEART Dueled throughout when caught by stretch-runner late in game try; sizzling barn.
- SUNNY SIDE UP Rebounded from poor wet track outing in good effort sprinting on fast track.
- MERRYCHILL Led routers long way, likely better suited this yardage; must put it all together.

#### Race 2

- 2 BRINDISI Offered little after claim but back on bottom where he competed well previously.
- 4 HIDDEN PROMISE Easily second best to odds-on winner and often forms bottom of exacta.
- GEEBERT Veteran seen better days but retains some closing kick; 12 local victories.
- FLOAT ON Formidable in past but raced sparingly and idle since January; new management.

#### Race 3

- MY DEVILS CHILD Advanced wide behind huge favorite after layoff; progress anticipated.
- 2 WIZARD SERRAT Recently eligible to drop within same claiming tag; likely gaining late.
- HARLEY'S CHARLY Closer than odds predicted last pair and yet another closing threat.
- GOLDEN WILDCAT Just over one length behind in blanket finish after outrun by top pick.

#### Race 4

- FAST BOB Veteran might benefit from five months hiatus; classy in past and avoids claim tag.
- MUSICAL HEART Ten-year-old with excellent career mark and \$472,723; re-claimed in last.
- FULL CONTACT Victim of bad start when facing two-time winners; fourth outing since return.
- BIG BROWN SHOES Fair showing in seemingly softer version this spot; long losing streak.

## Race 5

- SIR ROB ROY Drops testing stamina first time and should handle soft maiden opposition.
- MAX FORWARD SPEED Chased runaway favorite in last and competed well in prior route.
- PEACE CRUSADER Probable pacesetter stretching out but 6-year-old question of stamina.
- ALPHADINI Drops again after remote fourth and can't dismiss yet adding blinkers.

#### Race 6

- ENFORCER Carried out badly attempting to rally into stretch; game veteran drops notch.
- KEITHSENDSHELLOOOO Prevailed last week when taken and back up claiming ladder.
- FIRST MONEY Good form last pair but hasn't sprinted since November; late kick likely.
- EDDIE W Nice effort on occasion and fits well this level for hot Solis stable and Pennington.

# Race 7 REE NEE'S SIX – Early excuse in better company and drops switching to Ness barn. PEARLS AND HEELS - Crushed cheaper in confidence booster when Pino claimed; dangerous. **TEMPEST RISING – Used up forcing pace with solid state-breds; may revert to rating tactics.** SUE ELLEN MISHKIN - Speedy mare faltered as odds-on chalk; Mosco claim 10-for-28 career. Race 8 RIGHT WING RUNNER – Set pressured pace when overmatched in Laurel stake; tigress locally. 4 MR. BOGAN – Much-improved gelding came again after brief stretch trouble; leading rider up. 2 LIGHT FOREVER – Good form at Gulfstream but might prefer turf; can rally from off leaders. 3 YARA'S QUEST – Rough trip after layoff at Laurel when adding Lasix; removes blinkers. Race 9 KOHLER'S – Powerful effort against streaking winner in return and progress anticipated. YOUNG SQUIRE – Brief traffic trouble at top of stretch against top pick; proving astute claim. ALCHEMIST – Excellent form sprinting and tries blinkers moving inside; deserves attention. UNCLE DAR – Rapid gelding shelved since July but ample ability and working quickly.

DOS DE OROS – Chased smashing winner in sprint and good effort prior outing at two turns. HEY RIVER – Used up dueling from outside post and moves to Pino barn; speedy contender. FAST PAYDAY – Closed well with similar last three and ample early targets to set up late kick. BULLET BREEZE – Broke slowly in sprint and contributes to lively pace while back in route.