

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, JULY 1, 2025 - FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: WYNN GIANT (5th) – LERETHA (6th)

Race 1

- 2 PROBATIONER Overmatched in route after crushing two-time winners sprinting; sizzling barn.
- 9 HOPPY TIME Gained late behind heavy favorite and humbled by smashing winner previously.
- Z'S SO GOOD Finished ahead of second choice but lone victory from 26 tries; shorter break.
- 4 PLANET Flashes of ability in tougher spots since arriving from Turfway; possibility this level.

Race 2

- WHAT A BLAST Chronic poor starter made strong move to contention; alert break the cure.
- HE'S A GOOD DANCER Improved effort vs. repeat winner this spot after Lupe Guerrero took.
- **4** DANCE A DINI No match for runaway winner in compact field at Penn; sharper in past.
- 3 SHOULDHAVEBEENGONE Used up dueling in slop but racing into shape again as threat.

Race 3

- SUE ELLEN MISHKIN Trounced slightly easier after Ness re-claimed; steps up within same tag.
- FROSTED DIAMOND Hard used setting pace in slop and drops seeking fast track relief.
- BETWEEN DREAMS Bit difficult to guess but runs solid race on occasion; 9 career victories.
- BOCA ROYALTY Veteran mare less than one length behind in softer version of this spot.

Race 4

- DREAM CHASER Drops and stretches out in third race following hiatus; wide-open event.
- 4 GUN RUNNIN' GAL Mild rally this spot after upset score previously; should be gaining late.
- BOSS LIKE BETH Back with routers but lone score recent months at Penn; must progress.
- DIVINE GRACE Last couple on wet footing discouraging but 9 time winner can't be dismissed.

Race 5

- WYNN GIANT Exploded past rivals aided by heated duel; retains Gonzalez with likely repeat.
- ARTISTIC REASON Rediscovered ability to defeat cheaper in mud; logical next step with Paco.
- FENWICK JACK Back around two turns and runs good races at times; merits attention.
- UNCLE IRISH Edged this level in another game effort and offers speed from outside.

Race 6

- LERETHA Battled throughout route with state-breds; set up nicely for elongated sprint.
- 4 GOLDEN PHILLY Ample ability but prone to early trouble; Arce claim formidable on lead.
- **2** GREYHOUND STATION Traffic excuses when distant third to repeat winners; logical drop.
- LOVE LIKE CRAZY Trailed throughout in Jersey after edged at Penn; lone win in 20 attempts.

Race 7 RUNANDSCORE – Consistently fires at various venues and distances since return, needs best. **CALIFORNIA TIGER – Claimed from quality Oaklawn meet and back in sprint; first time Ness.** 8 NINJA PRIZE – Very determined score when dueling throughout; outside stalking trip likely. 3 SOZE – Improved stamina to upset solid field and facing severe early pressure again. Race 8 MR SANDMAN – Long losing streak but significant drop; might regain confidence at this level. MY MAMBA – Improved gelding just over length behind in capable Laurel field; first local attempt PRACTICAL COACH – Classy in past and Pino stable 34% off claim; inside trip with Sanchez. 3 UP AGAINST IT – Amazing 9-year-old game as ever with 16 career scores; often changes barns. Race 9 9 JEANNE MARIE – Determined score after layoff with capable Pa.-breds; outside stalking trip. SHETALKSTOMUCH – Powerful stretch-runner proven bargain claim and ample early targets. CENTRE COURT CHAMP – Chased talented group after year's absence and 8 local victories. PLEASANT EMBRACE – Lightly raced but very talented; faded in Delaware stake after winning 4. Race 10 UNCAPTURED STAR – Nearly upset Aqueduct rivals after excellent Tampa form; avoids claim. LUCCHESI – Pulled away after dueling and taking logical next step; fired in four straight.

MR. GEORGIE – Easily second best behind huge favorite this spot; beat compact Penn field.

OKIE DEN DEN – Needs to better latest but often close earlier and Lopez back aboard.