

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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MONDAY, JULY 7, 2025 - FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: YODEL E.A. WHO (6th) – TALIESIN (8th)

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- MALIBLUE Hard used pressing classier company but might shake loose early this level.
- MUNYHUNGRY Battled throughout in narrow loss when dropped to this spot; Solis barn hot.
- 2 EL MEDIANOCHE Recent claim won three of last four outings; remains eligible as 3-year-old.
- SAVE A PRAYER Latest discouraging but drops and couple solid efforts earlier for DeMasi.

Race 2

- 2 CHANNEL LOOP Set pace when easily second best to runaway winner; shorter time between.
- 4 HOLY KINGDOM Finished behind top choice in rare route try; very wide in previous sprint.
- SHE CAN SCAT Making third start since layoff and probable pacesetter stretching out.
- **8** J J'S HONOR Decisive score with soft opposition and likely forces pace this distance.

Race 3

- 2 AHSAD Re-claimed by Kirby barn where he excelled earlier; veteran making 99th attempt.
- POPPY'S PRIDE Speedy gelding competing cheapest ever after Padilla claimed back in June.
- FAST BOB Trailed on road trip after showing closing kick locally in return; always a threat.
- WE READY Keeps firing and scored after Pino claim in mud; leading rider Sanchez sizzling.

Race 4

- CINDY'S SONG Edged away after contested pace after arriving from Tampa for Rodriguez.
- 8 EXPECT TO BE READY Game mare lacked her best on muddy footing; often formidable.
- 5 CHELSEA WALL Rallied last to first at Delaware and Ness runner boasts 7 local victories.
- 2 HALEIGH B Faded after pressing pace at loftier level and romped previously; 8-for-25 career.

Race 5

- 2 IRISH WISH Back sprinting on main track and appears capable of leading throughout on best.
- DAVOLA Sidelined six months after competing at loftier levels; quick and need not be much.
- MATZOBALL MUHAMMET Claimed for twice this amount when tiring as 1-2 chalk in May.
- LORD SEABEE Just over length behind despite troubled trip; possibility despite 20 chances.

Race 6

- YODEL E.A. WHO Humbled by smashing winner on wet footing after winning four of prior five.
- DREAMING OF GERRY Improved dueling to stretch in race taken by closer; formidable in past.
- VALENZAN DAY Raced sparingly but terrific 10-for-24 lifetime; ships from Belmont for top barn
- TWENTYEIGHTTOTHREE Solid effort on occasion, yet to pass stamina test; merits attention.

Race 7 MAXIMUS MERIDIUS – Used up dueling in Grade 2 Carter after series of powerful efforts. WAX BOX – Failed to offer true measure in sloppy route after pair of big sprints; blinkers added. ROAN BURGUNDY - Scored few weeks ago despite bearing out badly in stretch; dangerous. GRAHMALAMADINGDONG – Never better and cruised past dueling leaders in impressive score. Race 8 TALIESIN – Proven ability to rate and bargain claim seeks third straight; romped this yardage. 3 HOW SWEET SHE IS - Rallied at Laurel after solid effort vs. frequent local winner; flying late. RACEY RUBY – Shelved since January after trio of decisive route scores; talented Pa.-bred. BURNER ACCOUNT - Returns home to main track where she has been perfect; fast work for this Race 9 SPEIGHTSTER RED – Amazing veteran scored again with speed to spare; seeking 16th victory. REAL MEN VIOLIN – Road warrior with ample ability but winless two years and just one-for-17. GOLDEN ICE – Offered good closing kick on wet surfaces since shipping from Kentucky. TRAFFIC MASTER – Captured pair of tight finishes recent months; remains eligible with tag. Race 10 TRACK OF MY TEARS – Speedy gelding crushed two-time winners and good form this distance. JIGSAW – Rebounded from dull road trip with another nice local try; must put it all together.

REMARKABLE MO – Signs of life against and lures Lopez; likely outside stalking trip.

ALWAYS GAMBLING – Moves turf to dirt and back in sprint; Laurel shipper likely gaining late.