

# **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, OCTOBER 1, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: COALVILLE (7th) – MARTY'S MAGIC (9th)

# Race 1

- 2 SPIT THE BIT Significant drop stretching out again and maiden victory earlier at Gulfstream.
- FULLY COMMITTED Faced tougher at Monmouth and already shown route prowess locally.
- 4 EL DOLLAR Much improved effort in game try as longshot this spot; threat with similar effort.
- 8 UNION PURRFECTION Runner-up to heavy favorite in compact field sprinting when claimed.

# Race 2

- SO SWELL Stretch-runner getting close and should overrun soft group in 19th outing this year.
- 3 QUEEN WIGGY Hard-earned score when taking plunge for leading Penn stable; main threat.
- SECRET TEMPTATION Absentee competed primarily in routes; frequently close with similar.
- 4 MISS M M Much sharper in past but can't dismiss yet against this kind; might prefer turf.

# Race 3

- 4 UMBRAL Consistently fires and very game in narrow defeat; Padilla-Preciado barn at 30%.
- BREEZY DANCE Quick filly won earlier route after hiatus with Torres aboard; facing pressure.
- LUCKY OPPORTUNITY Prominent throughout when less than two lengths behind top pick.
- 2 SUNNY SIDE UP Likely pacesetter but stretching out and hampered by stamina issues lately.

#### Race 4

- 8 PLEASANT DREAMS Competed only once since January; hard to like or ignore plunge.
- FROSTED DIAMOND Claimed from sprint three weeks ago; possible pacesetter in route.
- FAST MULE Slow fuse but advanced late this spot; chance with favorable pace set-up.
- MOLLEWANTACRACKER Overmatched in comeback but plunges and capable in past.

# Race 5

- NUEDORF Absent nearly three months after decisive score; perfect for Pino-Sanchez combo.
- LUCKY DUDE Pushed heavy favorite to limit this spot; lone poor recent try on muddy surface.
- B B BAD Ended long losing skid when claimed and hit board in 35 of 56 career outings.
- AMAZING WOO Contributes to lively fractions but weakened behind pair above recent starts.

#### Race 6

- DISCO FLASH Speedy filly just failed to last when back to dirt; extra yardage possible obstacle
- 4 DON'T LISTEN –Absent since taken for more than twice this amount at Monmouth; threat if fit.
- BOSSY KATE Tired after dueling top choice for hot Miguel Rodriguez barn; fast track plus.
- **2** GREYHOUND STATION Last couple discouraging but takes plunge and can't dismiss yet.

# Race 7 COALVILLE - Prominent this far with tougher field in route; adjusted well to sprint in past. ORTHO STAR – Another good effort this spot after claimed again and works out inside trip. CHRIS'S REVENGE - Good speed in Colonial turf route and earlier score Aqueduct turf. GO YOSHIDA – Chased runaway winner after early roughing in Jersey; weight off for this. Race 8 LADY SRIRACHA – Anticipated better last time but could rebound with helpful pace set-up. 8 SILVER CITY KITTY – Improving and speedy filly finished ahead of top pick; beat bulky field. 4 GOLDEN PHILLY – Lone member of field with four victories and remains eligible as 3-year-old. 3 MILDOON – Rallied from last to first to defeat Jersey-breds in slop; retains Vargas as threat. Race 9 10 MARTY'S MAGIC – Excellent speed when easily second best after Pino took; can stalk outside. THE KING CHEEK – Re-claimed by Ness where he achieved much success in past; leads inside. AZTEC – Long losing streak but sufficient ability and Padilla barn 22% off claim; upset chance.

BATTER UP BUD - Slow fuse and stepping up but claimed back by Tzortzakis barn; possibility.