

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, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 - FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: RINGER CARD (8th) – AUGUSTINE RED (9th)

Race 1

- **5** AMATTEROFTIME Ten-year-old with \$727,999 in bank exits good effort in stake; major plunge.
- 2 SAINT MARCO Slow fuse but finished well this spot and contested pace to his advantage.
- 4 ARAK Speedy and determined and raced strongly in Jersey slop after Padilla-Preciado took.
- PIT BOSS Used up after hampered by early trouble and numerous good efforts previously.

Race 2

- GAMETIME GLADIATOR Re-claimed soon as possible by Ness barn and back on main track.
- CARCHAROTH Pursued huge favorite throughout and fired in both outings since hiatus.
- WE LIVE THIS GAME Crushed maidens on wet footing at Monmouth; handles various surfaces
- 8 RILEY'S ROCKSTAR Failed as always on off track but drops and flashes of ability in past.

Race 3

- WAMPANOAG CHIEF Quick shipper from Gulfstream tries dirt first time while adding blinkers.
- CHANGE YOUR NAME Narrowly beaten this spot at Monmouth when easily second best.
- KERNER Hard used early after layoff and cost \$25,000 in April; some progress anticipated.
- **2** FASTIDIOUS Signs of life at Penn in return but stamina issues persist; making 16th attempt.

Race 4

- **4** ZANDUHOC Rapid gelding led this far in longer test when Ness took; drops, one to catch.
- CHINESEIAM Ran into tiger this level when Kirby claimed and major threat with Lopez aboard.
- 2 SOLO IN PARIS Trailed then surged late behind lively fractions and ample early targets again.
- UNSWAYED Speed inside but lightly raced and faces severe early pressure from top pair.

Race 5

- LADY SRIRACHA Remote fourth in better field and should pounce with outside stalking trip.
- 4 NEIGHBELLINE Finished ahead of top choice and flattered when runner-up won easily in next.
- ROCK ME GENTLY Difficult wide trip in bulkier field and usually close with case of seconditis.
- WHATTA WORLD- Re-claimed by Breen stable at Monmouth; back on dirt as possibility.

Race 6

- 2 AHSAD Advanced in tough version this spot and much success in past for Kirby stable.
- DR BAYTER Closer than odds predicted in classy field and captured 7 of 25 outings.
- NO NO JOE Prevailed after hiatus as heavy favorite at Colonial; nearly always fires.
- MEGA CHARLIE Drops notch after dueling long way with routers; 19th start of season.

Race 7 FLUFF THE PILLOW – Battled repeat winner this spot and lone poor recent showing in mud. TAKEMETOTHEMOON – Very quick inside and determined effort in narrow loss; romped prior. RENEGADE SERENADE - Weakened behind top choice after forcing pace; in peak form. SHOULDHAVEBEENGONE – Mild rally as favorite with similar and winless nearly one year. Race 8 RINGER CARD – Raced sparingly but ample ability and significant drop; stable firing at 22% here MISSPENT – Captured three of last five outings including recent Jersey score when claimed. LEILAUNI SUE – Failed as heavy favorite in mud but impressed earlier on fast footing in May. 5 CALISA – Trounced maidens after layoff as longshot but likely tested against this kind. Race 9 AUGUSTINE RED – Disappointed at Delaware but decisive score locally despite traffic problems. CISCO KID – Trounced lesser after moving to Linder barn; dangerous again stepping up. DEVIL'S CAY – Dueled to late stages in last but trailed last local outing; Lopez back aboard. ACTION HERO – Offers strong closing kick on occasion and ample early targets might help. Race 10 CHECKITUP – Knocking on door this spot and should get beneficial inside journey from rail. DARVESH – Decent try sprinting after layoff and prevailed at similar yardage last season.

MENDELSFLY – Progressed in recent start and making key third race after layoff; fits nicely. HEY RIVER – Roughed early in compact Timonium field; shorter time between races a plus.