

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, OCTOBER 20, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: DEVILS ARROW (1st) – LEILAUNI SUE (4th)

ace	

- DEVILS ARROW Chased rapid streaking winner when easily second best in comeback.
- TAKE CHARGE DANI Retreated in bulky field but prior debut encouraging; first time tag.
- PURPLE LU LU Flashes of ability with Jersey-breds and runner-up twice during summer.
- 4 COCKTAIL HUMOR Set up nicely for elongated sprint leading to final furlong in Delaware route

Race 2

- 4 GOLDEN PHILLY Repelled challenges then caught late by stretch-runner in game effort.
- CARA BLANCA Set pace when finishing behind top pick after Moore claimed; inside speed.
- LADY SRIRACHA Anticipated better last time but runs big race on occasion; threat on best.
- WHATTA WORLD Exits nice try with similar at Laurel; faded as heavy favorite in local outing.

Race 3

- JOEY THE FISH Full of run too late in tougher field after bad start; likely pace scenario helps.
- 4 UMBRAL Dueled then drew away from two-time winners and nearly always fires; key threat.
- LOVE LIKE CRAZY Hampered by early trouble when overmatched; testing stamina again.
- **2** ROMAN GODDESS New Yorker raced sparingly and taking plunge; merits attention this spot.

Race 4

- 8 LEILAUNI SUE Battled classier rivals last pair and aggressive drop for Pino-Sanchez combo.
- 4 BYEBYEJEALOUSEYE Ran into tigress in latest and good speed in several prior outings.
- BREEZETHRUTIME Possibility if disregard latest and prominent throughout in previous race.
- 2 C C GIRL Poor showing on turf when claimed but romped in earlier attempt on main track.

Race 5

- PEACH PERFECT Battled to final yards when Mosco took; fifth finisher won next time.
- BATTLING TIME Handles various surfaces and back in for tag; facing more frequent winners.
- PATTY CAKES Competing strongly but series of frustrating losses; won 3 of 5 local tries.
- CHELSEA WALL Pino barn 32% off claim and encouraging raise; seeks 13th career victory.

Race 6

- SONADORA GIRL Rushed to contention after eventful break after claim by Soto-Martinez barn.
- POPTHECHAMPAGNE RO Drops after re-claimed previously by Brown stable; likely flying late.
- DREAM CHASER Shook loose and lasted and steps up within same claiming tag; rail speed.
- ALYVIA'S GIRL Hard-earned score vs. two-time winners; steps up in class but down in price.

Race 7 8 J C'S LOVIN' LIFE – Fired all three outings including solid effort in "open" company last month. PEACEFULEZFEELING – Excellent speed again then finished behind top pick; one to catch. WONDERFUL CARLY - Dam won four stakes and full-sister third in 2024 Cathryn Sophia here. SILENT WRATH – Yet to run to debut backing and faded twice in lane; Lupe Preciado barn hot. Race 8 SMOOTH MOTION – Used up after ducking out at start; drops for third race since layoff. GAMETIME GLADIATOR – Crushed easier in impressive score after re-claimed by Ness. 10 OKIE DEN DEN – Nosed this spot by heavy favorite and hit board in 12 of 18 attempts. BOYS OF SUMMER – Rallied then faltered behind talented duo and runs his best locally. Race 9 8 CRAIGH NA DUN – Failed as 8-5 chalk this spot; overmatched prior try and brutal trip earlier. SWEET WINNER – Dueled throughout when ahead of top pick and conqueror ran good again. LORD SEABEE – Remote fourth in better company after claimed for \$20,000; makes 25th try.

EXTRASEXYMCSTEEMEE – Last few discouraging but competing cheapest ever; possibility.