

# **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 27, 2025 - FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: WIFFLEBALL (2<sup>nd</sup>) – BUTTER KISSES (4<sup>th</sup>)

### Race 1

- RIVER'S GAMBLE Early trouble when overmatched; re-claimed by Wyner barn in prior outing.
- DARVESH Hard used early in finish dominated by stretch-runner; improved form since return.
- PRIME MOTIVE Close up in bulky field at Delaware and keeps firing elsewhere; lures Sanchez.
  - GET LIKE MIKE Shelved since voided claim in July; switches to Pino stable as threat.

#### Race 2

- 2 WIFFLEBALL Runner-up to Churchill repeat winner at Laurel and determined effort locally.
- TRULLI WARRIOR Trounced maidens in 12<sup>th</sup> attempt in confidence booster for 33% stable.
- FRIDAY SURPRISE Speedy colt overmatched in pair of stakes; drops in for tag first time.
- REELIN N DEALIN Solid effort with slightly easier company; re-claimed by Linder earlier.

#### Race 3

- 2 SOLEMN BEAUTY Yet to compete on turf but faced vastly better in New York with excuses.
- ROSIES PINOT Prominent throughout in turf dash at Meadowlands; stamina tested again.
- ASTRID Signs of interest at Delaware and tries route in third start; adds to contested pace.
- IN THE BIZ Remote fourth in compact field and tries two turns; some progress necessary.

#### Race 4

- BUTTER KISSES Improving filly closed strongly despite wide trip in tougher version this spot.
- KATE'S LOVE Finished behind top choice but keeps firing on main track here and in Jersey.
- 2 CAPTAIN WHINER Wide trip when failing at short odds with state-breds; kin to top runners.
- SWEET DISTRACTION Surprised maidens at 40-1 in 25th attempt; tested with this kind.

#### Race 5

- COJELO PA TI Battled to final furlong at loftier level and won 4 of 9 outings this season.
- DEPOLI Rushed to contention after slow start in solid effort but on extended losing streak.
- BANJO Offers speed inside and handles various surfaces but case of seconditis recently.
- LUCCHESI Absent over four months since decisive score and often close with finishing kick.

#### Race 6

- PREACH IT WARRIOR Set rapid pace before tiring when claimed by Padilla-Preciado stable.
- HEY RIVER Pressed heavily-favored winner sprinting and both victories at this distance.
- FULLY COMMITTED Defeated single-winners in convincing style and takes logical next step.
- 2 AUDEN Far behind last pair but returns to main track where he prevailed at Monmouth.

## Race 7 8 HOT ROD RUMBLE – Used up dueling in race taken by closer; might shake loose and wire these. CARBONITE – Progressed last pair and unlucky in prior defeat but ages since last victory. UP AGAINST IT – Nine-year-old with 19 victories shelved since July but dangerous if ready. 5 CATCH MY VIBE - Closer than odds predicted in latest and possibility with further improvement. Race 8 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN – Stumbled at start at Laurel after local loss in stake; racing into shape. HOULTON – Excellent form elsewhere and returns to tag of April claim; won with Carmouche. MARGIN OF AIR – Game veteran with 12 victories often claimed and much local success in past. HOKU – Rallied from last to first in convincing score; dangerous again with similar effort. Race 9 8 CHACHACHING – Nearly perfect here since arriving from Kentucky and takes realistic next step. MAD BANKER – Runs big race on occasion and upset winner last local try; fits nicely again. CISCO KID – Just missed in sprint but yet to prove route prowess; likely speed this distance. CALL ME FAST – Faltered as 8-5 chalk and \$50,000 Spa claim on long losing streak. Race 10 KHOZANALL – Back on dirt and removes blinkers with speed inside; many possibilities in finale.

GRUENE HALL – Absent since June and takes plunge returning to sprint; key threat if ready.

CANDOTHIS – Less than three lengths behind after year's absence at Delaware; should progress SUPERSONIC BETTY – Closed big gap after slow start with lesser in debut; needs alert break.