

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 29, 2025 - FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: MISSPENT (5th) – DYLAN'S RUBY (7th)

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- RAVENITE Stretching out with likely speed inside in first stamina test; fires at square price.
- WONDERFULVENEZUELA Faced vastly tougher after claim and showed route ability prior try.
- FIFTY NINE FIFTY Closed big gap with similar and sufficient early targets aids late kick.
- **12** JOYFUL JOYCE Moves turf to dirt and takes plunge; stakes-placed here last December.

Race 2

- TESTED Significant drop and proved main track prowess in Louisiana; stalks from outside.
- 4 ENCRYPT Rallied very wide then went evenly as 3-5 chalk this spot; often bottom of exacta.
- SKULL HONOR Good effort after claim behind Colonial invader; usually hits board.
- 2 CARCHAROTH Stretching out again while shedding 10 pounds; often close but one-for-25.

Race 3

- BIAGIO Speedy gelding faced better much of career and Pino stable 32% after claim.
- MAX FORWARD SPEED Crushed single-winners after slow start when taken for this amount.
- REAL BLUES Edged as odds-on chalk in blanket finish when Rosado claimed from this spot.
- I CAN DO MAGIC Battled throughout again and Lupe Guerrero barn having excellent year.

Race 4

- 5 SO SWELL Hampered by stumbling start and close up in series of prior races; overruns these.
- MOLLIEWANTACRACKER Pressured throughout in narrow loss in route; rare sprint attempt.
- LEVIOSA Veteran with 11 victories but shelved since June; wired compact group at Penn.
- FROSTED DIAMOND Changed hands again and come progress necessary; sharp earlier.

Race 5

- MISSPENT Game effort with tougher group and conqueror ran big again; adding blinkers.
- GOLDEN PHILLY Speedy filly fired four straight and part of exacta in half of 18 attempts.
- SILVER CITY KITTY Hard used early when finishing behind second pick; adds to quick pace.
- 2 WESTERN WOMAN Sidelined since winning with Carmouche aboard here in April; fast works.

Race 6

- MAILATA Excuses but signs of ability in both starts; tries route, blinkers, lures Sanchez.
- 2 LORDEN'S PRIDE Rallied strongly behind impressive winner when trying route first time.
- COST EFFECTIVE Over 21 lengths behind in Spa debut but winner comprised 17 3/4 lengths.
- 8 HANDSOME LINC Dueled and continued gamely in sprint; prior route attempt on Spa turf.

Race 7 DYLAN'S RUBY – Handles various surfaces and drops to ideal spot; both scores achieved here. PIRATE – Rebounded from poor showing with solid effort when easily second best; prefers lead. EL TINMARIN – Appears to prefer turf but Ness runner usually fires and won after Colonial claim. CHAIN LIGHTNING – Good form at Penn but absent since June and switches to Tyler Servis. Race 8 TATUM – Rapid gelding seeks fifth score of season and should break alertly from outside post. FAST BOB – Stretch-running veteran rallied just ahead of top pick; lively pace scenario helps. LIBERTY STAR – Ample heart and ability and voided claim two months ago; can't dismiss. AL AMEEQ – Chased streaking winner in Delaware finale; handles different yardage and footing. Race 9 MAXIMUS MERIDIUS – Multiple stakes-winner dueled and held on gamely vs. formidable rival. TWISTED RIDE – Returns home after pair of big efforts at Laurel; rare losing streak but threat. SMOOTH B – Terrific 10-year-old with over million in earnings back on dirt; 8 local victories. BERNIE'S MITTS – Dueled long way with routers and likely better suited this yardage; hot barn. Race 10 BOURBON AFICIONADO – Overmatched after layoff at Delaware; should regain closing punch.

BOB JOHN RAY - Back on dirt where he won two races in Jersey; competing cheapest ever. HUMBLE JOE – Exits good effort but lost seven straight this spot; 3 scores in 42 attempts.

NIMMO – Determined score vs. two-time winners; needs to put pair together for another upset.