

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, NOVEMBER 12, 2025 - FIRST POST 12:05 P.M.

Best Bets: ROB THE RICH (5th) – BELLA QUEEN (9th)

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- BROWNEYEDVALENTINE Chased heavy favorite after 9 month's absence when adding Lasix.
- 2 HURRICANE JANE Excellent speed before weakening in route; threat despite 18 chances.
- SELVAGGIA Slow fuse but narrowed gap behind top choice; extra distance might help.
- HOPE SHE FIRES Remote third for higher tag in first local try; most losses on Colonial turf.

Race 2

- 2 VANZZY Plunges after fading in tough field but enough left to handle this kind for Pino barn.
- MAC DADDY TOO Fair showing in sprint when Ness took and takes another stamina test.
- **8** WARRIOR'S VENDETTA Claimed for twice this amount after hiatus but ages since last score.
- 4 MIDNIGHT AWARD Significant drop but bulk of success on turf; handled dirt route earlier.

Race 3

- 4 ELOPER Rallied well with similar after shipping from Gulfstream and progress anticipated.
- SILVER CITY KITTY Used up dueling better recent outings but fits nicely with this kind.
- 2 WILD GIRL Faded when overmatched on road trip after 17-1 surprise locally prior start.
- DELICATE Yielded as 1-2 chalk when taking plunge and claimed; 10 pounds off for this.

Race 4

- HOT ROD RUMBLE Engaged in heated duel and battled to final yards; shorter distance plus.
- 2 POWER AGENDA Switches turf to dirt and wired lesser at Penn; faces early pressure again.
- 4 BIG BROWN SHOES Frequently close but lost all 15 attempts this year, many in this spot.
- CLEVER TIGER Sufficient ability but sidelined year and might need race; merits attention.

Race 5

- ROB THE RICH Walloped easier at Penn and rough trip prior try here; seeking 15th victory.
- ENGLISH PAINTER Returns to level of claim and changed hands in 5 prior attempts.
- HE'S A GOOD DANCER Used up chasing loose pacesetter in solid version; just up previously.
- DEPLANE Flashes of interest but failed with lesser and some improvement necessary.

Race 6

- MAVIS'S PRINCE Early zip and plunges from top maiden ranks as gelding first time.
- 3 JOSEPH POTATO Poor start in debut on Colonial turf; gets blinkers for new management.
- 2 SPECIAL MAN Trailed debut with vastly quicker; can't dismiss yet with addition of blinkers.
- MI HERMANO Rookie reveals little in works but needs not be much; Arce barn clicks at 18%.

Race 7 8 ADIOS JERSEY – Dueled repeat winner to final furlong and takes plunge; outside stalking trip. ONE IMPROBABLE – Battled heavy favorite in good effort this level; major threat same yardage. FRIDAY SURPRISE – Difficult to like or ignore plunge and two of last three losses in stakes. CARCHAROTH – Often close and back with sprinters but lone victory from 26 outings. Race 8 AMORE D'ORO – Upset chance if throw out latest; impressive score earlier and back in route. GAMETIME GLADIATOR – Hard-earned score after claim and dangerous seeking third in row. 4 PIRATE – Edged away from slightly softer and seems most effective when reaches front early. 8 HEY PORTER – Veteran stretch-runner no match for runaway winner but keeps on firing. Race 9 8 BELLA QUEEN - Rallied nicely despite stumbling start; just missed prior pair this level. CONFIRMED STAR – Eliminated at start in stake and boasts series of strong efforts previously. HOLD YOUR BREATH - Versatile filly tried various surfaces and distances; won debut locally. DEWEY DOIT – Appears in peak form and competing better than odds predict; can't overlook. Race 10 DUCALE – Sharp drop after disappointing try; cost only \$10,000 in Ellis claim, should rebound.

FAST BOB – Veteran with slow fuse but strong closing kick and shows 10 local victories.

NANCY MADE MY DAY – Plenty of fight when claimed from local bow and can be rated.

POGI – Seen better days but claimed by Pino and excellent form during Monmouth meet.