

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, DECEMBER 1, 2025 – FIRST POST 12:05 P.M.
Best Bets: AMBITIOUSLY PLACED (7th) - CAROUSEL QUEEN (9th)
Race 1
GET LIKE MIKE – Double-digit romp in second race after layoff and takes realistic next step.
GAMETIME GLADIATOR – Used up forcing pace in higher quality field; aggressive drop for Arce
B D SAINTS – Rebounded from poor showing with hard-earned score vs. odds-on favorite.
HE'S GOT SWAGGER – Slow fuse and humbled by smashing winner; competes cheapest ever
Race 2
OUR NOTION – Used up dueling in last but drops in for tag and removes blinkers for Ness.
FILLED WITH DESIRE – Pressed eventual winner this far in route; maybe better suited sprinting.
VINO GRAY – Ducked out at start losing best chance and closed well prior try; adding blinkers.
SUPERNOVA DREAM – Sire captured Hollywood Derby in brief career; must guess newcomer.
Race 3
WE MISS NEIL – Battled to final furlong in better version this spot; enough left to handle these.
STILLWATER MOON – Easily second best behind huge favorite; likely outside stalking trip.
WYATT HUNTER – Prominent to stretch at loftier level; hampered by stamina issues but threat.
DAVOLA – Hard used dueling in return when finishing well behind second selection.
Race 4
POWER AGENDA – Keeps firing over various surfaces and locations; capable of wiring these.
BACKTRACK – Plunges again in third outing since hiatus; cost \$32,000 in claim at Saratoga.
BIG BROWN SUGAR – Runner-up in three of last four races; good form with "double bug" up.
2 SHANGHAI SUPERFLY – Nine-year-old showed some interest in last but seen better days.
Race 5
MY KID SYD – Rallied behind easy winner after slow start and wide trip for higher tag.
CRACK THE CODE – Outrun twice since comeback but could recover against soft opposition.
PRIVATE CABANA – Third outing since absence and finished mid-pack in much quicker field.
PRINCE LUCAS – Hampered by gate antics last pair but shown ability at times when behaves.
Race 6

Race 6

- BORRACHO Nine-year-old with 20 victories and \$752,576 in bankroll takes plunge for Ness.
- TATUM Rapid gelding often changes barns and drops notch as danger for new connections.
- 2 CURLINS CRUZIN Weakened after chasing loose pacesetter when Pino took; faces pressure.
- SOPHIA'S PRINCE Game winner with perfect trip; logical next step with Williams aboard.

Race 7 AMBITIOUSLY PLACED – Terrific veteran with 18 scores on rare losing skid; drop aids rebound. POPOVER GAL – Speedy and game filly draws inside again; just behind top pick previously. GOLDIENESS – Captured fourth on 28 attempts and contributes to lively pace for new stable. KAREN'S HONOR – Offers closing kick on occasion but just 3-for-37 career; helpful pace set-up. Race 8 CONNOR'S CREW - Signs of talent both starts but failed as 7-5 chalk; blinkers, experience edge. FRANKIE COFFEECAKE – Sire captured five of six starts including Grade I sprint in New York. CAPITAINE – By son of top sire Into Mischief and Lynch barn excels with juveniles; many works. GOLD IN MY HANDS – Veteran sire Weigelia with ample success this season; few clues A.M. Race 9 CAROUSEL QUEEN – Cruised past rivals in best effort of career; ready to tackle even tougher. CENTRE COURT CHAMP – Terrific mare weakened late but returned bleeding; awesome on best MILA ROSE – Faded when claimed for \$62,500 in Keeneland return; Dunn barn having great year MAXIMUS ANGELICUS – Absentee formidable on best; Reid barn won three stakes Wednesday. Race 10 QUEEN WIGGY – Used up pressing smashing winner; might shake loose and knows how to win.

BUCKS SOME – Gained late when just ahead of top choice; 10-year-old mare won twice July.

UNION BELLE – Progressed as longshot when dropped within same tag; figures close on best.

BEDTIME STORY – Defeated lesser at Penn after competing over synthetic; 8-for-18 lifetime.