



Craig Donnelly's

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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, FEBRUARY 18, 2026 – FIRST POST 12:05 P.M.

Best Bets: GOTTA GUY (8th) – SHADOW SURGE (9th)

Race 1

5	REAL TALENTED – Used up dueling eventual winner in sprint and likely to shake loose early.
4	THREE POINT STRUT – Flashes of interest and drops notch; moderate success Finger Lakes.
8	COALVILLE – Closed gap outside this spot when rebounding from poor showing in sprint.
3	SHEER DOMINANCE – Chronic slow starter passed entire field to upset last; logical next step.

Race 2

5	ZEN DREAMS – Distant runner-up to heavily-favored stablemate at Laurel; best in 14 th attempt.
7	CANDOTHIS – Nearly always close with similar and testing stamina first time; leading rider up.
8	ACT OF FAITH – Very wide in good effort and also stretching out; best effort on wet surface.
3	CITY BROAD – Forced pace sprinting and making key third start since hiatus; barn recent score.

Race 3

2	CALISA – Lightly raced but faced vastly tougher company and should overrun these.
4	BYEBYEJEALOUSEYE – Set pace in solid field after switching barns; takes aggressive drop.
5	NEZY'S GIRL – Trounced maidens on final day of year and dangerous again this spot.
1	ROZZYROO – Delaware shipper offers speed inside and competing cheapest ever.

Race 4

6	THEGODDESSOFSNAKES – Plunges after poor try when claimed for twice this amount.
7	HI HEELED WARRIOR – Remote third this spot but runner-up scored next time; late kick at times
1	BEYOND A MILLION – Hampered by traffic woes after hiatus in sprint; 9 time winner in past.
3	MISS CHAMITA – Absent since narrowing gap in November and needs aid of pace set-up.

Race 5

6	YO YO CANDY – Obvious ability advantage but difficult to like or dismiss plunge after layoff.
9	MAGICNTHEMOONLIGHT – Seen much better days but still quick and likely one to catch.
5	AMAZING WOO – Formidable last summer and latest encouraging; stablemate of second pick.
2	DITHER – Came up empty for higher tag last month and sharp this spot in prior outing.

Race 6

7	LINO AND ME – Bid then weakened as 4-5 chalk this spot and close up troubled trip previously.
8	EVERHEART – Prominent throughout again and fired both attempts around two turns.
1	ZONING ORDER – Broke very slowly when distant fourth and making third start since hiatus.
4	FAYTASTIC – Closed gap despite very wide rally and pair of victories in earlier routes.

Race 7

10	SAUCY HAM – Rallied late behind loose pacesetter in sprint and edged in earlier route.
9	LOOKIN WILD – Sharp twice as longshot since return showing route prowess; fits nicely.
7	GOD IS LIFE – Narrowed large gap when easily second best for higher tag; needs set-up.
3	ROCKET NIGHT – Led to final yards and serious contender; numerous losses at short odds.

Race 8

1	GOTTA GUY – Faded in tougher field but rallied last to first in dead-heat in November.
2	ATROCIOUS – Just up when claimed for higher amount after humbled by top pick previously.
6	LIGHT MY WAY – Keeps firing and pulled away after dueling; takes realistic next step.
3	MORETHANAFEELING – Responded nicely to major drop this yardage; stepping up again.

Race 9

2	SHADOW SURGE – Roughed early when in too deep at Aqueduct; impressive romp locally.
5	CHANCE – Rallied off pace to win Laurel route and crushed rivals only local attempt.
1	LIBERTE DE BAYEUX – Strong move to front then no match for winner this spot December.
7	A VOTRE SANTE – Improved gelding chased 11-time winner two weeks ago and fits well here.

Race 10

2	AUGUSTINE RED – Battled repeat winner after slow start; hard to like or ignore plunge.
11	THIS RUN'S FOR YOU – Offered wide advance against favored winner this spot; late kick again.
5	POGI – Rallied through traffic proving he fits with this kind; just 4-for-44 but often hits board.
8	FAST BOB – Veteran with slow fuse but drops notch with sufficient early targets for stretch bid.