



Craig Donnelly's

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@parxracing



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, APRIL 8, 2024 — FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: SOUPER FLY OVER (8th)-- YES SIR COLONEL (9th)

Race 1

3	JEEPER – Determined effort in narrow loss this spot when easily second best in first try for Ness barn.
1	RUSH CENTER – Last three defeats on wet surfaces and loss of rider; rebounds on fast track from rail.
9	MIDNIGHT AWARD – Outran bulky field at Turfway when claimed; initial attempt on conventional dirt.
4	SCAMP WALKER – Best effort in December and needs to progress after pair of fair showings.

Race 2

9	RUDY ROD – Stretch-runner with ample early targets and captured this spot in January; can overrun these.
2	CRYPT – Claimed from last seven outings, three by Carlos Guerrero stable; pair of scores with Adorno.
1	R GOODTIME CHARLIE – Possibility if disregard latest; speed along inside posing threat.
6	DIXIE CANNONBALL – Speedy shipper from Penn National much closer than odds predicted for higher tag.

Race 3

3	THE GRAYT PUMPKIN – Sharp try following hiatus and could gain maiden victory in 21 st attempt.
5	T'WAS THE NIGHT – Signs of progress lately and edged in game effort against similar two weeks ago.
7	WRIGLEY RESERVE- Humbled by runaway winner as odds-on chalk when dropped to this level.
8	BROKENHEARTED – Dueled this far before yielding to Parx invader at Penn National; yardage suits.

Race 4

1	SOCIAL GROUP – Battled throughout in longer test and appears lone speed from rail with hot pilot.
8	FINALIST – Bit difficult to guess but plunges after poor showing; best in past when offering speed.
3	ICY STORM – Narrowed gap on wet surface behind top choice; racing into shape after layoff.
2	CAUSALISTIC – Upset on road trip with closing kick but just one-for-16 over local course.

Race 5

4	SUNSHINE HARRY – Hampered by early trouble when facing tougher; sharp in prior try after hiatus.
6	MARVELOUSMOONDANCE – Gained late behind Maryland invader; bottom of exacta 14 times.
11	GAMERUN – Prone to excuses but always chance against this kind for high percentage stable.
7	BOOK MARKER – Just missed in blanket finish against state-breds; moderate success here in past.

Race 6

7	MOON AT NIGHT – Unlucky behind smashing winner in route and should appreciate extra distance.
2	ALMA BRILHA – Drops after remote fifth in bulky field and showed route prowess earlier.
5	DRIVEN TO SUCCESS – Roughed early in sprint and finished well in prior sprints; merits attention.
8	SUMMERATTHESHORE – Competed nicely despite wide trip elsewhere and one solid local outing.

Race 7

4	MAKABIM – Rallied behind odds-on winner this level; erratic but capable of overrunning these.
9	WIZARD SERRAT – Failed to offer true measure after early problem in return; formidable here last year.
6	CITY RAGE – Competed only once since October but classy in past and one to catch if ready.
7	ASSEMBLY POINT – Used up forcing pace when finishing behind top choice; prior losses at Laurel.

Race 8

2	SOUPER FLY OVER – Big effort in seemingly better version this spot when looking like old self again.
1	PERFECT SILENT CAT – Aggressive drop and moving from extreme outside to rail as major threat.
4	PETULANT DELIGHT – Retreated on wet surface again and best recent form over fast surfaces.
9	TYCOON – Stopped badly in route but can't dismiss this level and distance as possibility.

Race 9

3	YES SIR COLONEL – Pair of explosive rallies this season following claim and sufficient early targets.
2	KINGSVILLE – Nine-year-old defeated full field with strong closing kick and figures close again.
4	LITTLE DEMON – Gave up early in latest but just over two lengths behind top choice previously.
7	VINE JET – Classy in past and trounced cheaper when claimed again; excellent 7-for-23 career.

Race 10

3	THIRSTY PAPPY – Early trouble behind smashing winner in last and fired all four local starts.
7	LAYTOWN – Very consistent and victim of severe early trouble in last; shorter break between outings.
8	MADISON LUVS DUKE – Moves to Ness barn and Turfway shipper excelling locally; must be considered.
10	RERALLY – Blocked and steadied repeatedly when claim again; determined gelding tested here.

Race 11

1	REX KWON DO – Eliminated by severe trouble in early stages and appears capable of upset from inside.
9	LIAM'S BLUE MOON – Pressured throughout last pair in narrow losses this spot; likely hard to catch.
2	CADDY MAN – No match for smashing winner in tougher version this level; conqueror ran big again.
6	SUMMER ASH – Stretch-runner nearly always fires hitting board in 11 of last 12 outings; needs pace set-up.