



Oaklawn Park Race 9 | Monday, February 16, 2026

3YO Ozark Stakes | \$150,000 | 6 Furlongs Dirt

RACE OVERVIEW

Distance: 6 Furlongs Dirt

Class: Stakes - Open Company 3YO

Purse: \$150,000

Field Size: 9 horses

Surface Condition: Fast

Post Time: 5:42 PM ET

Race Dynamics: Speed-favoring setup with multiple early pace threats creating contested fractions scenario. The model projects three legitimate front-runners will engage through opening half-mile, establishing advantageous pace setup for closers. Class hierarchy clearly defined with Grade 2 winner Ewing as standout, though distance cutback specialists and local speed present authentic upset scenarios. Rail draw carries significant tactical importance given Oaklawn configuration.

PACE ANALYSIS

Early Pace Points: 26

Primary Speed: Ewing (#8) - 120 EPP

Secondary Speed: Dirty Rich (#1) - 118 EPP

Tertiary Speed: Tiz Mary's Comet (#2) - 112 EPP

Pace Projection: The model projects FAST pace with contested :22.1-:22.3 opening quarter. Half-mile fractions likely settle in :44.4-:44.8 range, qualifying as fast pace classification for this class level at six furlongs. Three legitimate speed horses with post position dynamics favoring engagement through early stages.

Critical Pace Factors:





- Ewing draws outside (#8) with tactical speed advantage and positioning flexibility
- Dirty Rich occupies rail (#1), forcing early commitment decision
- Tiz Mary's Comet (#2) demonstrated early speed in both career starts
- Post position dynamics create natural speed duel scenario

Late Pace Points: 83

Primary Closer: Extract's Arrow (#6) - 83 LPP

Secondary Closer: Oscar's Hope (#9) - 74 LPP

Tertiary Closer: Gnome (#3) - 75 LPP

Closing Speed Projection: The model identifies three legitimate late runners positioned to benefit from projected pace pressure. Extract's Arrow showed elite late kick in debut (9th to 1st). Oscar's Hope owns proven 6-furlong closing ability. Gnome demonstrated tactical versatility in recent wins.

Pace Scenario Impact:

- If contested (:44.4 or faster): Late runners gain significant advantage
- If comfortable (:44.8-:45.2): Ewing likely controls from tactical position
- Key variable: How aggressively inside speed engages Ewing

WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

| Horse | ML | Win % | Top 3 % | Value Rating |
|------------------|------|-------|---------|----------------|
| Ewing | 6-5 | 42% | 78% | Fair |
| Oscar's Hope | 5-2 | 28% | 65% | Fair |
| Dirty Rich | 8-1 | 14% | 48% | Slight Overlay |
| Swung | 6-1 | 11% | 42% | Value Play |
| Gnome | 20-1 | 7% | 28% | Overlay |
| Tiz Mary's Comet | 8-1 | 6% | 25% | -- |
| Chad Allan | 20-1 | 3% | 15% | -- |
| My Dream Zapper | 30-1 | 2% | 12% | -- |
| Extract's Arrow | 30-1 | 2% | 18% | Live Longshot |





CONTENDER ANALYSIS

★★★★ EWING (#8)

Strengths: Undefeated Grade 2 winner with career-best 88 Beyer Speed Figure. Defeated Obliteration by 1¼ lengths in Saratoga Special-G2; Obliteration returned to win Renaissance Stakes over several of these. Clean tactical speed from outside post (#8). Mark Casse barn operating at 45% win rate overall, 31% win rate at current Oaklawn meet. May foal with physical development foundation. Saratoga Special fractional pattern demonstrated tactical control: :22.1, :44.1, 1:15.3 final time.

Concerns: Significant 167-day layoff since August 2 Saratoga Special. Sprint-only career form without route foundation. Must prove effectiveness on new circuit (0-for-0 at Oaklawn). First start for new connections after ownership change.

Race Shape Fit: Outside post position provides ideal tactical setup. Can rate off anticipated inside speed duel or establish clear early position without engagement pressure. Class and speed combination project clear advantage if fitness matches ability.

Projection: The model projects Ewing controls pace from favorable tactical position and responds to pressure in final furlong with class edge. Win probability elevated by superior barn form and post position advantage.

★★★ OSCAR'S HOPE (#9)

Strengths: Proven 6-furlong specialist with perfect 2-for-2 record at distance. Jean Lafitte Stakes winner with career-best 98 Beyer Speed Figure. Demonstrated tactical versatility - effective stalking or closing. Connected form through Smarty Jones Stakes validates current class level: runner-up Strategic Risk won Southwest Stakes with 88 Beyer. Three-time winner demonstrates competitive consistency.

Concerns: Last-race disaster in Smarty Jones Stakes (8th, beaten 18¾ lengths at 8-5 favorite). Route attempt at 1 1/16 miles failed badly. Backed up inside suggests traffic issues or fitness concern. Returns in just 44 days after poor performance.





Race Shape Fit: Benefits directly from projected fast pace scenario. Proven closing ability at exact 6-furlong distance. Return to preferred one-turn configuration after failed route experiment represents logical class placement.

Projection: The model projects Oscar's Hope as prime rebound candidate if Smarty Jones represented route experiment rather than form decline. Pace setup plays directly into proven closing strength with distance return to wheelhouse.

★★★ DIRTY RICH (#1)

Strengths: Local stakes winner in Advent Stakes with career-best 89 Beyer Speed Figure. Renaissance Stakes runner-up confirms competitiveness at this exact level. Experienced in stakes company with proven tactical speed. Rail draw mirrors successful Advent winning trip. Peter Miller barn sharp with 27% win rate overall, 18% at Oaklawn meet.

Concerns: Rail post position forces early tactical commitment against superior speed rival from outside. Renaissance Stakes showed vulnerability in pace duel scenario (pressed early, held third). Speed figures regressed significantly: 89 Beyer (Advent) to 80 Beyer (Renaissance). Must improve off most recent effort.

Race Shape Fit: Rail position eliminates tactical flexibility. Success requires either uncontested lead (unlikely with Ewing outside) or ability to rate inside while maintaining striking position.

Projection: The model projects Dirty Rich as live contender if Ewing shows layoff rust or pace scenario fractures favorably. Value exists at morning line odds given proven stakes credentials, but significant obstacles present.

★★ SWUNG (#4)

Strengths: Renaissance Stakes runner-up validates current form at this level (73 Beyer). Demonstrated ability to close into pace pressure (advanced from 4th to clear 2nd through stretch). Turf stakes winner proves class foundation exists. Rate-and-close running style benefits from projected pace scenario.





Concerns: Limited dirt sample - only 4 career dirt starts. Renaissance effort came from rail post with potential traffic advantage. Stepping up from \$116,490 N2L allowance to open stakes competition. Speed figures modest compared to top contenders.

Race Shape Fit: Stalking running style plays into projected pace scenario. Can track from mid-pack position and make sustained move turning for home.

Projection: The model projects Swung competitive for minor awards with legitimate upset potential if pace collapses. More likely outcome involves exacta/trifecta positions while maintaining progressive form pattern.

★★ GNOME (#3)

Strengths: Back-to-back victories at Turfway Park over synthetic surface. Demonstrated tactical versatility - won from different trip styles. Closed strongly in both recent wins. Trainer Kelsey Danner operates at 19% win rate with winners moving up in class.

Concerns: Critical surface switch from synthetic to dirt (0-for-2 winning on dirt career). Stepping up dramatically from \$62,000 N1X allowance to \$150,000 open stakes. Speed figures moderate (72 Beyer) - lowest among serious contenders.

Race Shape Fit: Closer benefits maximally from projected pace pressure. Mid-pack tracking position available from post #3 without early speed commitment required.

Projection: The model projects Gnome as live longshot if surface switch proves neutral and pace meltdown occurs as anticipated. Represents classic pace-dependent upset candidate at overlay odds.

FORM PROJECTIONS

Ewing: The model projects win probability increases if early fractions settle into comfortable :22.3-:22.4 opening quarter range. Class advantage manifests in final furlong when pace pressure applied. Casse barn's 45% win rate suggests proper preparation despite layoff.





Oscar's Hope: The model projects rebound highly probable if Smarty Jones disaster represented route experiment rather than form decline. Return to preferred 6-furlong distance with favorable pace setup suggests forward move. Connected form validates current class level.

Dirty Rich: The model projects form cycle stabilization after Renaissance regression. Local track familiarity and rail success pattern support competitive effort, though post position creates tactical complications against superior speed rival.

Swung: The model projects progressive form trajectory continues with second consecutive stakes appearance. Rate-and-close pattern emerging as consistent running style. Post position provides clean trip without early commitment.

Gnome: The model projects surface switch as critical unknown variable, but back-to-back wins and tactical versatility indicate current form peak. Pace setup maximally favorable for deep closer with upset potential.

MPH ANALYSIS

Projected Opening Half-Mile Speed Comparison

Ewing (Saratoga Special-G2):

- Opening Quarter (2f): :22.1 = 36.56 mph
- Second Quarter (2f-4f): :22.0 = 36.82 mph
- Half-Mile Cumulative: :44.1 = 36.69 mph
- **Analysis:** Demonstrated ability to maintain speed through opening half with minimal deceleration of only 0.26 mph, suggesting sustainable pace pressure capability.

Dirty Rich (Advent Stakes):

- Opening Quarter (2f): :21.4 = 37.85 mph
- Second Quarter (2f-4f): :22.7 = 35.68 mph
- Half-Mile Cumulative: :44.1 = 36.69 mph
- **Analysis:** Faster opening split but decelerated 2.17 mph in second quarter. Pattern indicates aggressive early commitment followed by measurable regression.





Oscar's Hope (Churchill Allowance):

- Opening Quarter (2f): :22.2 = 36.49 mph
- Second Quarter (2f-4f): :22.2 = 36.49 mph
- Half-Mile Cumulative: :44.4 = 36.49 mph
- **Analysis:** Perfect even splits indicate tactical control and sustainable speed distribution. Closing gear engaged after half-mile call.

Closing Speed Rankings

Extract's Arrow (Debut Maiden): Last 2f = :24.2 = 33.47 mph (9th to 1st rally)

Oscar's Hope (Churchill Allowance): Last 2f = :24.1 = 33.61 mph

Gnome (Turfway N1X): Last 2f = :24.4 = 33.20 mph

Deceleration Analysis

Ewing Profile:

- Opening MPH: 36.56 → Closing MPH: 35.12
- Deceleration: 1.44 mph (3.9% decline)
- **Rating:** EXCELLENT - Elite stamina profile for 6-furlong distance

Dirty Rich Profile:

- Opening MPH: 37.85 → Closing MPH: 34.89
- Deceleration: 2.96 mph (7.8% decline)
- **Rating:** MODERATE CONCERN - Early speed advantage comes at measurable stamina cost

Oscar's Hope Profile:

- Opening MPH: 36.49 → Closing MPH: 36.82
- Deceleration: -0.33 mph (-0.9% / ACCELERATION)
- **Rating:** ELITE - Negative deceleration indicates speed-carrying ability with acceleration through stretch

Speed Metrics Summary

Fastest Projected Opening Half: Dirty Rich (:44.1 equivalent with 37.85 mph opening quarter, but significant deceleration liability)





Most Sustainable Pace: Ewing (3.9% deceleration rate with minimal stamina cost at Grade 2 level)

Strongest Late Speed: Oscar's Hope (negative deceleration = acceleration pattern with 33.61 mph closing speed)

Critical MPH Insight: The model projects Ewing can maintain 36+ mph sustained velocity through opening half-mile without significant stamina cost (3.9% deceleration). In contrast, Dirty Rich's faster opening speed (37.85 mph) comes with 7.8% deceleration liability. If pace exceeds :44.2 half-mile threshold, mathematical advantage shifts toward Oscar's Hope and Extract's Arrow with proven late acceleration patterns.

SUGGESTED BETS

Win Bet: Ewing (#8)

Confidence: 7/10

Rationale: Superior class/speed combination validated by Grade 2 victory. Post position (#8) neutralizes pace concerns and provides tactical flexibility. Mark Casse barn operating at exceptional 45% win rate overall, 31% at Oaklawn meet. MPH analysis confirms sustainable speed profile with 3.9% deceleration rate supporting pressure racing without stamina compromise. Fair odds at 6-5 given significant class, speed, and tactical advantages.

Risk Factors: 167-day layoff represents legitimate concern. First start on new circuit. Sprint-only form lacks route foundation.

Value Play: Dirty Rich (#1)

Confidence: 6/10

Rationale: Slight overlay at 8-1 odds (14% model win probability vs 10% market-implied probability). Proven local stakes winner with 89 Beyer represents legitimate class credentials. Rail success pattern and Peter Miller barn form (27% win rate) support competitive effort.





Risk Factors: Rail post forces unfavorable early tactical commitment. MPH analysis reveals significant 7.8% deceleration liability under sustained pressure. Speed figures regressed in last start (89 to 80 Beyer).

Top 3 Focus: Oscar's Hope (#9), Ewing (#8), Dirty Rich (#1)

Combined Confidence: 8/10 for exacta/trifecta coverage

These three horses represent 84% combined probability for top-three finish. The model recommends primary focus on this trio for vertical wager construction. Oscar's Hope's negative deceleration pattern (-0.9% = acceleration) provides elite closing gear if pace scenario develops as projected.

Analysis reflects model projections based on past performance data, pace dynamics, and historical patterns. All findings attributed to model calculations. Model criteria set forth by Past the Wire

Gambling is a significant risk investment. Only gamble with recreational money and money you can afford to risk and potentially lose. If you possibly have a gambling problem, you should always seek professional help

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