Oaklawn Park — Race 11 | Sunday, March 1, 2026

Rebel Stakes — Grade 2 | $1,000,000 | Dirt 1 1/16 Miles | 3-Year-Olds

Distance: 1 1/16 Miles — Dirt **Class:** Grade 2 Stakes **Purse:** $1,000,000 **Field Size:** 10 **Post Time:** 6:23 PM ET

Race Dynamics: The model's defining structural finding in this Rebel is a sharp division between three tiers of horses: (1) Litmus Test, with the field's highest career figure (96) but 75 days idle off a West Coast campaign; (2) Silent Tactic and Blackout Time, who carry the field's best ELITE deceleration profiles — Silent Tactic at -2.9% from a wire-to-wire closing move that won this course and distance 22 days ago, Blackout Time at -1.3% from the Breeders' Futurity G1 but 148 days since last start; and (3) a secondary tier of form horses including Soldier N Diplomat, Strategic Risk, and Bravaro who have confirmed route profiles but each carry material red flags. The pace scenario projects as FAST and genuinely contested — Bravaro, Litmus Test, and Soldier N Diplomat all carry 38+ mph opening speed readings, and a projected :23.3/:46.8 structure at Oaklawn is Grade 2-level pressure that historically activates the ELITE deceleration profiles of closers making their move from the far turn.

SECTION 2: PACE ANALYSIS

Opening Speed Profiles

Horse	Opening Q MPH	Mid Q MPH	Q2 Variance	Source
Litmus Test	**38.79 mph**	38.63 mph	-0.17	LA Futurity G2 win
Bravaro	**38.79 mph**	**39.13 mph**	**+0.34**	Holy Bull G2 2nd
Soldier N Diplomat	38.63 mph	37.82 mph	-0.81	OC win CD
Strategic Risk	37.19 mph	37.34 mph	+0.15	FSN Reality win GP
Rancho Santa Fe	37.19 mph	37.82 mph	+0.63	Kee OC win
Honey's to Blame	37.19 mph	35.86 mph	-1.33	OP OC win

Horse	Opening Q MPH	Mid Q MPH	Q2 Variance	Source
Blackout Time	37.19 mph	**37.34 mph**	**+0.15**	Breeders Futurity G1 2nd
Class President	37.04 mph	37.50 mph	+0.46	Maiden win GP
Silent Tactic	35.71 mph	34.48 mph	-1.23	SW G3 win OP

Projected Opening Quarter: :23.3 = **38.63 mph Projected Half-Mile:** :46.8 = **38.46 mph Pace Classification: FAST / GRADE 2 CONTESTED**

Pace Scenario Projection: The model projects a three-horse speed duel between Bravaro (38.79 mph, +0.34 Q2 variance — he accelerates mid-race), Litmus Test (38.79 mph stalking off the pace), and Soldier N Diplomat (38.63 mph, pressing). Bravaro's +0.34 Q2 variance identifies him as a horse who does not decelerate mid-race — he actually maintained forward momentum through the second quarter in the Holy Bull G2. However, his STRONG 4.9% overall deceleration confirms the pattern the model identified in the Fountain of Youth: a horse who opens fast and fights for position before capitulating in the final quarter. Litmus Test's -0.17 Q2 variance and STRONG 3.7% deceleration reflect a horse who drops slightly off a fast pace but maintains competitive closing speed through the wire.

The critical pace finding is Silent Tactic's extreme contrast: he opened at 35.71 mph in the Southwest G3 — the slowest in today's field — but came from 11th of 12 with a -2.9% ELITE deceleration to win going away. The Southwest's contested fractions (:23.4/:47.2) are almost identical to today's projection (:23.3/:46.8). The model projects Silent Tactic to replicate his Southwest blueprint — settling far back before making a sweeping wide move as the contested pace deteriorates in the final quarter.

Critical Pace Factors:

- Bravaro's +0.34 Q2 variance is the field's most aggressive mid-race reading but his STRONG 4.9% overall deceleration from the Holy Bull is a confirmed late-fade profile
- Litmus Test's -0.17 Q2 variance is the most controlled reading among the speed horses — he rates near the pace without surging mid-race
- Silent Tactic's -1.23 Q2 variance from the Southwest reflects a horse conserving energy in the early stages; the -2.9% ELITE overall deceleration confirms what the visual showed: he was still accelerating as he hit the wire

- Blackout Time's +0.15 Q2 variance from the Breeders' Futurity is a positive reading from 148 days ago — the model cannot project current fitness from a 5-month absence
- Honey's to Blame's -1.33 Q2 variance from the OP allowance win is a mid-race fade that exposed weak acceleration; at Grade 2 level the model projects she cannot sustain her front-running position against today's projected fractions

---

SECTION 3: WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

Horse	Win %	Top 3 %	Value Rating
Silent Tactic	26%	60%	✅ OVERLAY
Litmus Test	22%	55%	⚖️ FAIR
Blackout Time	14%	38%	✅ OVERLAY
Soldier N Diplomat	10%	30%	⚖️ FAIR
Strategic Risk	8%	26%	✅ OVERLAY
Bravaro	7%	22%	⚖️ FAIR
Rancho Santa Fe	5%	18%	⚖️ FAIR
Class President	4%	14%	⚖️ FAIR
Honey's to Blame	3%	10%	UNDERLAY
Time for Music	1%	3%	—

SECTION 4: CONTENDER ANALYSIS

(Contender order driven by MPH profile)

★★★★ SILENT TACTIC | Tacitus — Casse / Torres

Strengths:

- Won this course, this distance, this surface 22 days ago in the Southwest G3 — the most direct and recent blueprint available in this field

- ELITE -2.9% deceleration from the Southwest: he opened at 35.71 mph (last in the field), made a sweeping outside move from 11th of 12, steered wide in upper stretch, and was pulling away at the wire — a dominant closing move from the furthest back position on a genuinely fast pace
- Casse's OP stats this meet: 45 starters, .40 win rate — the model flags this as the highest trainer conversion rate in this race by a wide margin and the report's most significant trainer angle
- Casse/Torres at OP: 42 starters, .29 win rate, $2.63 ROI — confirmed local partnership
- Casse's WonLastStart stat: .20 win rate; Routes (.16) and Dirt (.16) all apply
- His Smarty Jones 2nd (January 3) confirmed his route closing ability at this course — he pressed from 4th, came 4-wide on the final turn, and held second ground against the winner

Concerns:

- STRONG-to-ELITE deceleration reading from the Southwest is built on a slow pace (:25.2/:51.3) — today's projected :23.3/:46.8 is nearly 4.5 seconds faster at the half-mile; the model notes this is the most significant concern for Silent Tactic's closing profile
- 88 career peak figure — below Litmus Test (96) and Blackout Time (93); the question is whether his improvement arc has peaked or whether a third OP route on a fast pace unlocks additional figure
- Two career dirt route starts at OP; his only graded route start was the Southwest — the Rebel is a class jump from G3 to G2 with $1M at stake

Race Shape Fit: Optimal. The projected :23.3/:46.8 contested pace replicates the Southwest conditions almost exactly — the only difference is that today's pace is projected to be 2+ seconds faster at the half, which activates Silent Tactic's closing profile even more definitively. His -2.9% ELITE deceleration from the Southwest closing kick is the most reliable available projection for today's finish.

The model projects Silent Tactic to settle last or near last, make a sweeping wide closing move consistent with his Southwest blueprint in the final turn, and arrive with enough momentum to challenge the leaders at the top of the stretch.

★★★★ **LITMUS TEST | Nyquist — Baffert / Prat**

Strengths:

- 96 career figure from the Los Alamitos Futurity G2 WIN (December 13) — the field's highest career figure by 3 points; he stalked at 38.79 mph, pressed the pace at Grade 2 level, and maintained STRONG 3.7% deceleration through the wire
- STRONG 3.7% deceleration confirms sustained closing speed — not ELITE but among the top readings in this field for a horse who raced at Grade 2 level on a pace that was genuinely fast (:23.2/:46.5)
- Baffert's 61-180 days stat: .32 win rate, $1.77 ROI — the model's most precise layoff trainer angle, exactly matching today's scenario (75 days since the LA Futurity G2)
- Baffert's WonLastStart (.35) and GrdStk (.27) confirm his ability to prepare horses for stakes off a victory
- Baffert/Prat: 30 starters, .40 win rate, $1.51 ROI — the model identifies this as an elite partnership conversion rate
- Prat retains the mount — .25 overall win rate, the meet's strongest jockey deployed from the West Coast

Concerns:

- 75 days idle — the LA Futurity G2 was December 13; no starts in 2026; the model cannot confirm fitness from works alone regardless of Baffert's layoff stat
- First Oaklawn start — no OP course form; his career was built entirely at Del Mar and Los Alamitos
- BC Juvenile G1 4th (October 31) is a form concern — he failed to make headway when sent off at 21-1 at the highest level, suggesting limitations against the very best 2-year-olds; the Rebel field at OP is a different level

Race Shape Fit: Good. Litmus Test's 38.79 mph opening from a stalking position is ideally suited to pressing the pace behind Bravaro in a contested scenario. His STRONG 3.7% deceleration means he will not collapse; the question is whether he can sustain 37.34 mph closing speed against Silent Tactic's closing surge from further back.

The model projects Litmus Test to track the pace from 2-3 wide, press through the final turn, and produce a competitive closing effort — with his 96-figure representing a ceiling that is higher than any other horse in this field if he arrives fit from the layoff.

★★★★ BLACKOUT TIME | Not This Time — McPeek / Hernandez Jr.

Strengths:

- ELITE -1.3% deceleration from the Breeders' Futurity G1 2nd (October 4) — the field's best confirmed ELITE reading from a graded stakes performance; his +0.15 Q2 variance shows mid-race acceleration, and his 37.66 mph closing speed is the field's second-fastest
- 93-figure Breeders' Futurity G1 2nd — chased 2-3 wide, improved position throughout, ran on to finish second to Ted Noffey in a Grade 1 field; the class and quality of that effort are the highest-pedigreed route performance in this field excluding Litmus Test
- McPeek/Hernandez Jr. OP: 29 starters, .14 win rate — consistent local combination presence

Concerns:

- ⚠️ 148 days since last start — the Breeders' Futurity was October 4, 2025. This is the model's most significant red flag for any horse in this race. No 2026 starts; no OP form; a 5-month layoff into a $1M Grade 2 on a one-turn dirt track
- McPeek's 61-180 day stat: .14 win rate — below average for layoff horses; his GrdStk stat is .10
- McPeek/Hernandez Jr. at OP: .14 win rate is not a confidence-building local combination
- The ELITE deceleration profile from October 4 cannot be confirmed as current fitness — the model must apply a significant discount for a 5-month absence that has produced no published form

Race Shape Fit: Theoretically ideal — if fit, Blackout Time's ELITE profile and 37.66 mph closing speed would make him one of the race's top closers. The fitness question is the entire projection.

The model projects Blackout Time as a binary outcome: if McPeek's preparation has him fit, his ELITE deceleration and G1-level closing speed are legitimate threats. If the 148-day layoff has left him short, he will be a non-factor in the final quarter. The model cannot project which scenario applies from available data.

★★★ SOLDIER N DIPLOMAT | Army Mule — Asmussen / Ortiz Jr.

Strengths:

- ELITE 2.1% deceleration from his OC win October 26 at Churchill — 38.63 mph opening, 37.82 mph closing, confirmed ability to press a fast pace and sustain
- Southwest G3 2nd (February 6) — came 4-wide, led briefly in the final quarter, held second; confirmed as the Southwest's second-best horse; useful recent form at this course
- Ortiz Jr. replaces Gaffalione — .22 win rate at the meet; Asmussen/Ortiz Jr. OP: 159 starters, .25 win rate, $1.44 ROI — strong local combination
- Asmussen's 2Off45-180 stat: .17 win rate — applies here with the short Southwest-to-Rebel turnaround

Concerns:

- Southwest 2nd behind Silent Tactic — he came 4-wide and was second best; the model's pace analysis projects today's fractions to be faster than the Southwest, which challenges his ability to repeat or improve
- ELITE deceleration from October — the Southwest 2nd at :23.4/:47.2 produced competitive fractions but Silent Tactic won off a completely different pace shape; Soldier N Diplomat's OC win was at slower fractions than today's projection

The model projects Soldier N Diplomat to press the pace aggressively from an inside or mid-pack position and produce a competitive closing effort — Silent Tactic's closing surge from further back is the primary threat to his finishing position.

★★★ STRATEGIC RISK | Noble Bird — Casse / Castellano

Strengths:

- Casse OP stats: .40 win rate in this meet (18 for 45) — the most dominant trainer conversion rate in the race; both Casse horses (Strategic Risk and Silent Tactic) benefit from this angle

- ELITE -0.8% deceleration and 37.50 mph closing speed from FSN Reality WIN November 29 — his best race produced a competitive ELITE profile
- Smarty Jones WIN January 3 confirmed OP form — he took over in a soft pace and won convincingly; Castellano up, .30 win rate at meet for Casse

Concerns:

- Southwest G3 10th (February 6) — 5-wide into the second turn with no rally is a significant form concern; the model cannot project a return to his November peak from a non-competitive graded start
- His Smarty Jones win came in a soft pace (:24.3 slow fracs) — today's projected :23.3/:46.8 is a substantially faster pace environment than he won in
- The model notes Casse running two horses in this race — Silent Tactic is the barn's primary weapon; Strategic Risk may be secondary priority

The model projects Strategic Risk as a pace-shape dependent horse — if today's fractions are slower than projected and he can replicate his Smarty Jones energy conservation, he is dangerous. Under the projected FAST classification, his Southwest G3 10th is the more relevant recent benchmark.

★★★ BRAVARO | Upstart — Joseph / Arrieta

Strengths:

- Holy Bull G2 2nd (January 31) — ran second at Grade 2 level against Nearly at GP; 88 figure; confirmed graded stakes performer
- +0.34 Q2 variance from Holy Bull — mid-race accelerator who presses the pace and fights through turns
- Joseph/Arrieta OP: 5 starters, .80 win rate, $5.16 ROI — the model flags this as a remarkable conversion rate, though the sample is tiny (5 starts)

Concerns:

- ⚠️ STRONG 4.9% deceleration — a confirmed late-fade profile; the Holy Bull replay showed him pressing 4-5 wide and holding second but clearly decelerating in the final quarter

- ⚠️ Also entered Gulfstream Park Race 14 on February 28 — if he runs at GP on Saturday and then ships to Oaklawn on Sunday, the model cannot confirm his condition for the Rebel
- Joseph's GrdStk stat: .12 win rate — limited graded conversion; Arrieta is not a top-tier jockey upgrade at this level
- No Oaklawn starts

The model projects Bravaro as a pace factor who will contest early fractions and potentially set up the closers — his STRONG deceleration in the Holy Bull is a confirmed pattern that projects to repeat in today's fast pace. The GP entry concern is a wildcard the model cannot resolve.

★★ CLASS PRESIDENT / RANCHO SANTA FE

Both carry ELITE deceleration profiles (-1.3% and -0.8% respectively) and competitive closing speeds (37.50 mph each). Class President's ELITE -1.3% comes from a maiden win at 1 mile — a route debut in Grade 2 company is a large class jump. Rancho Santa Fe's 4th in the Southwest (tipped out, missed 3rd) is encouraging but his Smarty Jones 5th (4-5 wide, mildly) is the more concerning recent read. Cox/Ortiz Jr. is a formidable combination and the model cannot dismiss Rancho Santa Fe as a developing 3-year-old with improving figures. Both are worth coverage in multi-race sequences.

Honey's to Blame / Time for Music: The model projects both as outclassed at Grade 2 level. Honey's to Blame's 73-figure OC win came in a slow pace (:24.2/:49.3) at the exact course she now faces at Grade 2 — her -1.33 Q2 variance from that race showed mid-race deceleration even in an easy pace. Time for Music was 7th in the same OP allowance with a 39-figure and has not run competitively since October.

SECTION 5: FORM PROJECTIONS

Silent Tactic: The model projects a form continuation from the Southwest G3 — his 22-day turnaround to the same course and distance on the same style of pace is

the most predictable projection available. Casse's .40 OP win rate and .29 Torres win rate amplify the confidence rating.

Litmus Test: The model projects a fit, sharp performance if Baffert's 61-180 day stat manifests — the 96-figure ceiling is the highest available and Prat's .40 win rate with Baffert is elite. The 75-day absence is the sole limiting factor.

Blackout Time: Binary. Fit = dangerous closer with ELITE deceleration. Not fit = non-factor.

Soldier N Diplomat: The model projects a competitive effort from an inside pressing position — he is the Southwest 2nd returning to the same course, which is a meaningful form confirmation.

Strategic Risk: The model projects below his November peak given the Southwest 10th — recovery arc and pace scenario are the decisive variables.

Bravaro: The model projects a pace-contributing effort that sets up closers — his STRONG deceleration is a confirmed fade pattern at Grade 2 level.

SECTION 6: MPH ANALYSIS

PRIMARY BLUEPRINTS

Silent Tactic | Southwest G3 WIN — 1 1/16m Dirt (OP)

- Opening Quarter (2f): :25.2 = **35.71 mph**
- Mid Quarter (2f-4f): :26.1s = **34.48 mph** | Q2 Variance: -1.23
- Closing (2f): :24.5 est = **36.73 mph**
- Deceleration: **-2.9%** | ✅ ELITE *(from extreme back position — pace-collapse scenario)*

Litmus Test | LA Futurity G2 WIN — 1 1/16m Dirt

- Opening Quarter (2f): :23.2 = **38.79 mph**
- Mid Quarter (2f-4f): :23.3s = **38.63 mph** | Q2 Variance: -0.17
- Closing (2f): :24.1 est = **37.34 mph**
- Deceleration: **3.7%** | ✅ STRONG *(from pressing Grade 2 pace — highest career figure 96)*

Blackout Time | Breeders' Futurity G1 2nd — 1 1/16m Dirt (KEE)

- Opening Quarter (2f): :24.2 = **37.19 mph**
- Mid Quarter (2f-4f): :24.1s = **37.34 mph** | Q2 Variance: +0.15
- Closing (2f): :23.9 est = **37.66 mph**
- Deceleration: **-1.3%** | ✅ ELITE *(148 days ago — fitness unconfirmed)*

Bravaro | Holy Bull G2 2nd — 1 1/16m Dirt (GP)

- Opening Quarter (2f): :23.2 = **38.79 mph**
- Mid Quarter (2f-4f): :23.0s = **39.13 mph** | Q2 Variance: +0.34
- Closing (2f): :24.4 est = **36.89 mph**
- Deceleration: **4.9%** | ✅ STRONG

SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

Horse	Deceleration %	Rating	Blueprint
Silent Tactic	**-2.9%**	✅ ELITE	SW G3 WIN — OP
Blackout Time	-1.3%	✅ ELITE	Breeders Futurity G1 2nd
Class President	-1.3%	✅ ELITE	Maiden win — 1m GP
Strategic Risk	-0.8%	✅ ELITE	FSN Reality win GP
Rancho Santa Fe	-0.8%	✅ ELITE	Kee OC win
Honey's to Blame	0.4%	✅ ELITE	OP OC win (slow pace)
Soldier N Diplomat	2.1%	✅ ELITE	OC win CD
Litmus Test	3.7%	✅ STRONG	LA Futurity G2 win
Bravaro	**4.9%**	✅ STRONG	Holy Bull G2 2nd

CLOSING SPEED RANKINGS

Horse	Closing 2f MPH	Source
Soldier N Diplomat	**37.82 mph**	OC win CD
Blackout Time	37.66 mph	Breeders Futurity G1 2nd
Strategic Risk	37.50 mph	FSN Reality win GP

Horse	Closing 2f MPH	Source
Class President	37.50 mph	Maiden win GP
Rancho Santa Fe	37.50 mph	Kee OC win
Litmus Test	37.34 mph	LA Futurity G2 win
Honey's to Blame	37.04 mph	OP OC win
Bravaro	36.89 mph	Holy Bull G2 2nd
Silent Tactic	36.73 mph	SW G3 win OP

Critical MPH Insight: Silent Tactic's closing speed (36.73 mph) is the field's lowest among the primary contenders — but his -2.9% ELITE deceleration identifies a horse who was still accelerating through the final furlong of the Southwest. The apparent contradiction resolves when the model considers context: he opened at 35.71 mph on a slow pace, meaning his closing speed reflects a race run entirely at MODERATE fractions. On today's projected FAST :23.3/:46.8 pace, the closing quarter will be compressed — and Silent Tactic's ELITE deceleration profile projects to remain the field's most sustainable closing movement regardless of absolute mph. Litmus Test's 37.34 mph closing speed from an aggressive 38.79 mph opening is the field's most impressive absolute speed reading — producing that closing figure after pressing a Grade 2 pace is a high-class performance. Blackout Time's 37.66 mph closing speed with +0.15 Q2 variance is technically superior to both — the 148-day absence is the only barrier between his October G1 form and today's stakes.

SECTION 7: SUGGESTED BETS

WIN BET: Silent Tactic Confidence: 7/10

The model selects Silent Tactic based on ELITE -2.9% deceleration from a win at this exact course, distance, and surface 22 days ago, the field's most dominant trainer conversion rate (Casse .40 at OP this meet), and a pace projection that almost exactly replicates the Southwest G3 conditions that produced his dominant closing performance. His blueprint is the most direct and recent available projection in this race — he has already beaten this course and distance at this class level with his current connections. The model identifies the faster projected pace today as an enhancement rather than a risk: a :23.3/:46.8 FAST opening accelerates the collapse of the front end and extends the final-quarter window where Silent Tactic's ELITE deceleration dominates.

Risk Factors: His closing speed (36.73 mph) is the lowest among primary contenders — if Litmus Test arrives fit and maintains his 37.34 mph closing speed off the Baffert 75-day layoff, the model's projection could be overridden by class. The slow Southwest fracs vs. today's projected fast pace is a legitimate concern. Blackout Time's ELITE -1.3% deceleration is technically superior if fitness is present.

VALUE PLAY: Litmus Test Confidence: 6/10

The model identifies Litmus Test as the Value Play based on the field's highest career figure (96), STRONG 3.7% deceleration from a Grade 2 win that produced 38.79 mph opening speed and 37.34 mph closing speed, and Baffert's elite 61-180 day conversion rate (.32) applied to exactly this scenario. Prat retains the mount with a .40 win rate alongside Baffert. At any price that represents overlay against Litmus Test's 22% projected win probability, the model identifies clear value — the raw class advantage from the LA Futurity G2 win is genuine and Baffert's preparation record is among the sport's most reliable.

Risk Factors: 75 days idle into a first Oaklawn start is the entire projection risk. His BC Juvenile G1 4th suggests limitations against the very top-tier, though the Rebel field is below that level. First dirt route around two turns at a new venue is a meaningful ask.

MULTI-RACE WAGERS: Top 3 for Pick 3/4: Silent Tactic (A), Litmus Test (B), Blackout Time (C) **Combined Confidence: 7/10 | Combined Top 3 Probability: 62%**

Silent Tactic is the A-choice as the course-and-distance winner 22 days ago with the race's dominant trainer and the model's best closing projection for today's specific pace scenario. Litmus Test is the B-choice as the field's highest-figure horse off a reliable Baffert layoff with an elite jockey. Blackout Time is the C-choice for coverage — his ELITE deceleration and G1-level closing speed from October represent the field's best raw figures if McPeek has him fit. The model recommends using all three broadly in multi-race sequences given the uncertainty surrounding Litmus Test's fitness and Blackout Time's 148-day absence.

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