



# PTW COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT

## Grade 2 Risen Star Stakes - Fair Grounds

**Race 12 | Saturday, February 14, 2026 | Post Time: 6:30 PM ET Distance: 1  
1/16 Miles (Dirt) | 3-Year-Olds | Purse: \$500,000**

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### PACE ANALYSIS

#### Early Pace Points (EPP)

**TOTAL: 519 EPP** - Moderate early pressure with multiple speed types

Horse	EPP	Pace Role
Chip Honcho	111	Primary Speed
Paladin	108	Pressing Speed
Carson Street	107	Pressing Speed
Universe	103	Forwardly Placed
Courting	92	Mid-Pack
Golden Tempo	61	Closer
Colt Forty Seven	68	Off the Pace
Quality Mischief	64	Deep Closer

#### Late Pace Points (LPP)

Horse	LPP	Closing Capability
Golden Tempo	110	Elite Late Kick
Courting	99	Strong Finish
Colt Forty Seven	94	Solid Rally
Universe	88	Moderate Close
Paladin	84	Tactical Closer
Carson Street	73	Speed Maintainer
Chip Honcho	67	One-Run Type





## Horse LPP Closing Capability

Quality Mischief 95 Late Momentum

**Pace Scenario:** The model projects a contested but manageable early pace with Chip Honcho likely establishing the lead, while Paladin and Carson Street apply immediate pressure through the opening half-mile. The 519 EPP figure suggests moderate early tension that should set up favorably for horses with late pace points above 90. Golden Tempo's 110 LPP towers over this field and positions him ideally as the pace unfolds.

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## WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

Horse	Win %	Place %	Show %
Golden Tempo	38%	62%	78%
Paladin	22%	48%	66%
Universe	14%	34%	52%
Chip Honcho	11%	28%	44%
Carson Street	8%	22%	38%
Courting	4%	14%	26%
Colt Forty Seven	2%	8%	16%
Quality Mischief	1%	4%	10%

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## CONTENDER ANALYSIS

### GOLDEN TEMPO ★★★★★

**Current Form:** Undefeated in two starts, both at Fair Grounds

**Best Speed Figure:** 81 Beyer (Lecomte Stakes)

**Running Style:** Deep closer with devastating finish

The model projects Golden Tempo as the controlling favorite based on multiple factors converging in his favor. His 110 LPP dominates this field and indicates elite closing ability at this distance. The Lecomte victory was visually impressive—he overcame a 10-lengths deficit entering the stretch to inhale the





field while racing widest. That effort produced an 87 Timeform rating, highest in this field.

The Phipps Stable/St Elias operation has him training sharply at Fair Grounds with consistent works. Jose Ortiz retains the mount after the Lecomte triumph. The pedigree (Curlin—Carrumba by Bernardini) suggests he's built for classic distances. Most significantly, this race sets up perfectly for his closing style—the pace scenario indicates he'll have multiple targets to run at while saving ground early.

**Key Factors:** Home track advantage (2-for-2 at FG), ideal pace setup, superior late pace points, class edge from Lecomte score

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### **PALADIN ★★★★★**

**Current Form:** Two-for-two including Remsen Stakes (G2) victory

**Best Speed Figure:** 87 Beyer (highest in field)

**Running Style:** Tactical presser

Chad Brown ships from New York with a Chad Brown special—a lightly raced Gun Runner colt who won the Remsen despite traffic. That 85 Timeform/87 Beyer double makes him the speed figure leader. The \$1.9M price tag and royal pedigree (Gun Runner—Secret Sigh by Tapit) scream classic potential.

The model identifies pace positioning as the primary concern. With 108 EPP, Paladin figures to press the early pace, which has historically been a challenging trip in two-turn Fair Grounds stakes. His 84 LPP ranks fifth in the field, suggesting he's more one-paced than the top closers. The works at Palm Beach Downs show readiness, but shipping to an unfamiliar track while facing his most seasoned competition presents risk.

**Key Factors:** Speed figure advantage, class from Remsen, Chad Brown stakes prowess, tactical speed may prove problematic in this pace scenario

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### **UNIVERSE ★★★**





**Current Form:** Consistent but unable to win since maiden

**Best Speed Figure:** 83 Beyer

**Running Style:** Mid-pack presser

Kenneth McPeck sends out a battle-tested colt with five starts including three graded stakes appearances. Universe earned his credentials with a runner-up finish in the Kentucky Jockey Club (G2), where he rallied from far back to just miss. The 88-11 Timeform on that performance remains competitive here.

The model notes concerns about his ability to win at the highest level—he's now 0-for-4 since breaking his maiden. Blinkers go on for the first time, which could provide the needed edge but also represents an equipment change under pressure. The 103 EPP suggests he'll be forwardly placed early, while his 88 LPP ranks fourth in the field. He's competitive but projects as a solid minor award candidate rather than a win threat.

**Key Factors:** Graded stakes experience, blinkers debut, tactical speed, consistency in defeat

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## CHIP HONCHO ★★★

**Current Form:** Gun Runner Stakes winner, fourth in Lecomte

**Best Speed Figure:** 82 Beyer

**Running Style:** Front-running speed

Steven Asmussen removes blinkers after a somewhat disappointing fourth in the Lecomte, where Chip Honcho pressed the pace from the outside. His 111 EPP marks him as the likely pacesetter, which creates a tactical dilemma—he needs to control the race without burning out, but Paladin and Carson Street both figure to challenge early.

The model projects vulnerability due to his 67 LPP, lowest in the field among serious contenders. His best race came when controlling a slow pace in the Gun Runner Stakes. In the Lecomte, when forced to duel through moderate fractions, he flattened in the stretch. The equipment change suggests connections recognize the issue, but asking him to lead while being rated could neutralize his primary weapon.





**Key Factors:** Early speed control, vulnerable pace type, blinkers off angle, proven Fair Grounds performer

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### CARSON STREET ★★

**Current Form:** Led and yielded in Lecomte after maiden win

**Best Speed Figure:** 79 Beyer

**Running Style:** Tactical speed

Brendan Walsh brings back the Street Sense colt who led for the first half-mile of the Lecomte before drifting and yielding late. That race earned an 86-11 Timeform, but the model questions whether he took the best of it by setting uncontested fractions. His maiden win came on a sloppy track at Fair Grounds, raising questions about his effectiveness on a fast surface when challenged.

The 107 EPP places him in the pressing group early, while his 73 LPP ranks second-to-last in late pace points. This profile suggests a horse who needs an easy lead to be effective, which seems unlikely with Chip Honcho and Paladin in the field. Works show sharp preparation, but the form line lacks depth beyond the Lecomte third.

**Key Factors:** Home track familiarity, pace-dependent profile, form on fast tracks questionable

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### COURTING ★★

**Current Form:** Maiden winner, fourth in Remsen

**Best Speed Figure:** 76 Beyer

**Running Style:** Stalker/presser

Todd Pletcher adds blinkers to this \$5 million Curlin colt after a non-threatening fourth in the Remsen. The maiden win at Aqueduct showed promise, but the model notes significant concern about the speed figure regression and lack of competitive races. His 92 EPP and 99 LPP create an interesting profile—he has sufficient early speed to stay within striking distance while possessing strong late pace points.





The blinkers debut and Pletcher's expertise with equipment changes provide angles, but he's facing significantly tougher competition than in his maiden score. John Velazquez takes the mount, suggesting connections believe in the colt's ability, but the works pattern shows routine preparation rather than a sharp horse peaking for a target.

**Key Factors:** Pedigree upside, equipment change, class question, tactical versatility

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### COLT FORTY SEVEN ★

**Current Form:** Runner-up in allowance after mixed results

**Best Speed Figure:** 76 Beyer

**Running Style:** Deep closer

Keith Desormeaux brings a Bolt d'Oro colt with an inconsistent record that includes turf and dirt starts. His recent second at Fair Grounds in allowance company showed late rally ability, but the model projects he's significantly overmatched in this spot. The 68 EPP and 94 LPP profile suggests he'll need a perfect pace setup to factor, and even then, the class jump appears substantial.

Eight career starts with only two wins reflects a horse still finding his niche. The works are adequate but unremarkable. At 20-1 morning line odds, he's properly assessed by the betting public.

**Key Factors:** Class deficit, late-running style could pick up pieces, suspect form consistency

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### QUALITY MISCHIEF ★

**Current Form:** Fifth in Lecomte, inconsistent before that

**Best Speed Figure:** 80 Beyer

**Running Style:** Deep closer

Brad Cox sends out an Into Mischief colt who projects as the longest shot in a field where he's clearly overmatched. Despite the brilliant pedigree (Into Mischief—Quality Way by Quality Road) and \$300K price tag, Quality Mischief has shown





little in four starts. His fifth-place finish in the Lecomte came after trailing by 10+ lengths, and the model sees no path to competitiveness here.

The 64 EPP and 95 LPP create a closer's profile, but he lacks the tactical speed to position properly and the acceleration to make up the necessary ground. Works have been lackluster. This looks like a prep race for something down the line rather than a serious win attempt.

**Key Factors:** Pedigree potential unfulfilled, significant class deficit, needs major improvement

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## BETTING RECOMMENDATIONS

**WIN BET:** Golden Tempo (#2) at 5/2 or higher

The model projects Golden Tempo with 38% win probability, creating value at any odds above 2-1. His combination of superior late pace points (110 LPP), ideal running style for the projected pace scenario, perfect record at Fair Grounds, and class edge from the Lecomte victory make him a clear overlay at the expected price.

**VALUE PLAY:** Paladin (#4) at 3/1 or higher

While Golden Tempo represents the model's top selection, Paladin's 22% win probability and speed figure advantage create a viable value alternative if the favorite drifts below 2-1. The Chad Brown factor and Gun Runner pedigree provide upside, though his pace positioning presents challenges.

## TOP 3 FOR MULTI-RACE WAGERS:

1. Golden Tempo (#2)
2. Paladin (#4)
3. Universe (#1)

For horizontal wagers including the Risen Star, the model recommends using these three horses. Golden Tempo provides the foundation, Paladin offers the value alternative, and Universe adds depth as a consistent performer capable of hitting the board at a price.

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**CONFIDENCE RATING: 8/10**

*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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