



**Colonial Downs | Race 9 | Saturday, March 14, 2026 Dirt 1 1/16 Miles | 3YO  
VA Derby | \$500,000 Purse**

## SECTION 1: PACE ANALYSIS

**True Front Runners** Buetane (1), Confessional (8), High Camp (5), Lockstocknpharoah (6) — the model identifies four horses with legitimate early speed profiles capable of disputing the lead. Buetane and Confessional project as the primary pace setters based on opening velocity rankings. High Camp adds a third speed source stepping up sharply in class from sprint victories.

**Stalkers / Pressers** Clocker Special (10), Work (4), Incredibolt (7) — the model projects these horses pressing from just off the pace within 2-3 lengths of the leaders through the opening half.

**Closers** Grittiness (2), Epic Desire (3), Ocelli (9) — late-running profiles with demonstrated ability to advance from off the pace. Grittiness has shown the most consistent late kick in route scenarios.

**Pace Scenario Projection** The model projects a FAST early pace. With Buetane, Confessional, High Camp, and Lockstocknpharoah all carrying legitimate early speed into a 1 1/16-mile route, the opening half is projected in the :46–:47 range, which sets up a taxing pace scenario that historically benefits closers and horses with elite sustained speed. Horses whose profiles show heavy deceleration — Buetane, Confessional — face the most significant attrition risk. The pace meltdown scenario makes the closing runners particularly dangerous at price.

## SECTION 2: WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Buetane	5-2	14%	28.6%	<b>NEGATIVE</b>
2	Grittiness	12-1	14%	7.7%	<b>POSITIVE</b>
3	Epic Desire	15-1	8%	6.3%	<b>POSITIVE</b>
4	Work	20-1	4%	4.8%	Neutral
5	High Camp	9-2	11%	18.2%	<b>NEGATIVE</b>





Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
6	Lockstocknpharoah	5-1	8%	16.7%	<b>NEGATIVE</b>
7	Incredibolt	10-1	16%	9.1%	<b>POSITIVE</b>
8	Confessional	4-1	12%	20.0%	<b>NEGATIVE</b>
9	Ocelli	15-1	6%	6.3%	Neutral
10	Clocker Special	8-1	7%	11.1%	<b>NEGATIVE</b>

## SECTION 3: CONTENDER ANALYSIS

### Tier 1 — Primary Contenders ★★★★★

#### #7 Incredibolt ★★★★★

- **PTW Profile:** Two-time winner including the Stretch Sensation G3 at Churchill Downs, demonstrates a rare combination of solid opening velocity and elite deceleration profile across dirt routes. Despite a troubled trip in the Holy Bull G3, the model rates his peak form significantly ahead of that effort.
- **Strengths:** Best sustained speed profile in the field; elite deceleration metric; proven stakes winner at route distances on dirt; working well into this spot (back-to-back sharp drills at PmM).
- **Concerns:** Holy Bull G3 last out was a clear regression — retreated from rail position, 6th beaten 6+ lengths. Class step-up to \$500K company. Mott barn has been quiet at this meet.
- **Trip Projection:** The model projects Incredibolt tracking 3-4 lengths off the contested pace, angling 3-wide turning for home, putting in his best run as the pace combusts in the final quarter.

#### #2 Grittiness ★★★★★

- **PTW Profile:** Repole Stable colt out of Pletcher's barn showing the most exceptional deceleration profile (1.8%) of any horse in this field — essentially no speed loss from wire to wire. Route experience developing steadily; Withers L200k last out showed a 7-wide rally to finish second with more in reserve.
- **Strengths:** ELITE deceleration rating; genuine closer who can capitalize on pace meltdown scenario; gets Repole/Pletcher powerhouse connections; modest 12-1 ML represents significant overlay versus model projection.





- **Concerns:** Still maiden through 5 starts — has not won; limited to Aqueduct dirt thus far; class jump to \$500K is substantial.
- **Trip Projection:** The model projects Grittiness as a deep closer, likely last or near last early, with a sustained 7-8 wide move turning for home in Colonial's stretch run. Best chance if pace collapses as projected.

## Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders ★★★

### #8 Confessional ★★★

- **PTW Profile:** Brad Cox's Essential Quality colt returns with blinkers on — a significant equipment change from a barn that leads the nation in win percentage. Career-best effort was a 7-furlong maiden win at Keeneland; has faced speed in traffic twice since without replicating that form.
- **Strengths:** Blinker addition from Cox barn is a meaningful tactical signal; highest opening speed (40.14 mph) of the route horses; Irad Ortiz Jr. aboard; solid 88 career figure.
- **Concerns:** VULNERABLE deceleration profile (15.9%); has not won in two starts following maiden score; the model identifies a concerning pattern of flattening through the final turn in route scenarios.
- **Trip Projection:** Model projects Confessional on or near the pace early, pressed by Buetane, with the blinkers designed to sharpen focus through the turn. Whether he can sustain into the stretch is the key model question.

### #1 Buetane ★★★

- **PTW Profile:** Bob Baffert's Tiz the Law colt enters off a game G3 runner-up at Oaklawn. Clear top opening speed figure in the field at 40.50 mph. However, the model flags a significant deceleration problem (18.4%) that creates vulnerability in a contested pace scenario.
- **Strengths:** Baffert/Prat combination with elite connections; ran against graded company in both 2026 starts; legitimate 5-2 favorite with public support justified on paper.
- **Concerns:** VULNERABLE deceleration — worst sustained speed rating in the field. Model projects Buetane will face a contested duel with Confessional that likely compromises both horses in the stretch. Career record 4-1-2-1 flatters a horse who has been second twice in graded spots.
- **Trip Projection:** The model projects Buetane and Confessional pressing each other through a fast pace, with Buetane potentially weakening in the lane after doing heavy early work.



### Tier 3 — Pace Factors / Longshots ★★

#### #3 Epic Desire ★★

- **PTW Profile:** Pletcher barn stablemate of Grittiness. STRONG deceleration rating (4.2%) — best figure among the price horses. Won a Tampa maiden going 1 1/16 miles in January, showing the model-favorable sustained speed profile. Modest closing kick but reliable.
- **Strengths:** STRONG sustained speed rating; route experience at the distance; Pletcher barn rolls both horses suggesting confidence in field placement.
- **Concerns:** 15-1 in first stakes try; form line at SF Davis L210k suggests limited impact against tougher company; class concern is real.
- **Trip Projection:** Model projects a mid-pack ground-saving trip, with a mild late move from the rail path if pace sets up favorably.

#### #5 High Camp ★★

- **PTW Profile:** Walden-trained colt shipping from Gulfstream off a wire-to-wire 7-furlong sprint win — two-race career, both victories. Notable: 2-sprint/route angle is historically difficult (Walden 0-for-1 in the data). Sprint-to-route class hike into a \$500K spot raises legitimate questions.
- **Strengths:** Perfect 2-for-2 lifetime record; Velazquez back aboard; 9-2 morning line suggests public confidence.
- **Concerns:** VULNERABLE deceleration (8.4%); has never run beyond 7 furlongs; sprint-to-route pattern in stakes company is a significant risk flag; bodes better if pace sets up extremely slow, which model does not project.
- **Trip Projection:** Model projects High Camp pressing the pace similar to sprint patterns — if he gets loose, minor threat; if contested, likely to flatten.

#### #6 Lockstocknpharoah ★★

- **PTW Profile:** Two-for-two all-weather winner, both races at Turfway Park on synthetic. The model identifies a major surface concern — zero dirt experience entering a \$500K dirt route.
- **Strengths:** Undefeated; held impressively on both synthetic tries; Thomas Drury barn showing with this horse.
- **Concerns:** No dirt record whatsoever; synthetic-to-dirt translation is notoriously unreliable; VULNERABLE deceleration from synthetic data; the model rates this as a significant class-and-surface double-ask.



## SECTION 4: MPH ANALYSIS + SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

### PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Rank	Horse	Opening MPH	Sustained MPH	Decel %	Sustained Speed Rating
1	Buetane	40.50	33.06	18.4%	VULNERABLE
2	Confessional	40.14	33.76	15.9%	VULNERABLE
3	High Camp	38.59	35.35	8.4%	VULNERABLE
4	Clocker Special	38.59	34.30	11.1%	VULNERABLE
5	Incredibolt	37.01	36.17	2.3%	<b>ELITE</b>
6	Lockstocknpharoah	37.13	34.07	8.2%	VULNERABLE
7	Epic Desire	36.86	35.32	4.2%	<b>STRONG</b>
8	Ocelli	38.43	34.60	10.0%	VULNERABLE
9	Grittiness	36.73	36.06	1.8%	<b>ELITE</b>

### Overall MPH Rankings (best representative route effort):

1. Buetane — 37.45 mph
2. Confessional — 37.44 mph
3. Incredibolt — 36.67 mph
4. Epic Desire — 36.34 mph
5. Clocker Special — 36.32 mph
6. Grittiness — 36.08 mph
7. Lockstocknpharoah — 35.57 mph

**Critical MPH Insight:** The model identifies a decisive split in this field that the morning line fails to capture. The two horses with the highest overall MPH — Buetane and Confessional — carry the two worst deceleration profiles in the entire field (18.4% and 15.9% respectively). They are also the two horses most likely to contest the early pace against each other. The model projects this creates an unsustainable pace dynamic that will compromise both principals, leaving the race to the two horses with ELITE deceleration ratings: Incredibolt (2.3%) and Grittiness (1.8%). No other horse in this field holds an ELITE rating, and only Epic Desire earns a STRONG designation. The concentration of deceleration vulnerability at the top of the market is the defining analytical finding of this race.



## SECTION 5: IMPROVEMENT & REGRESSION CANDIDATES

### Likely to Improve

- **Incredibolt (#7):** The model projects significant improvement from the Holy Bull G3 (6th). That race was compromised by a troubled rail trip on a day the Gulfstream speed bias was punishing closers. His prior effort in the Stretch Sensation G3 — a 4-wide rally to win decisively — represents his true form. The model identifies a horse whose best running is ahead of him at a venue where closing speed is rewarded.
- **Grittiness (#2):** Five career starts, five route efforts, steadily improving position calls (7th, 9th, 4th, 2nd in latest). The Withers L200k runner-up last out showed a sustained 7-wide move in upper stretch from mid-pack — the model identifies trajectory improving toward a first career win. Pace setup of this race suits Grittiness better than any prior start.
- **Epic Desire (#3):** Won last out at Tampa going 1 1/16 miles, returns to that distance in first stakes test. The model notes a STRONG deceleration rating with a closing profile that develops off the pace — the chaotic early fractions projected here create ideal conditions for this horse.

### Bounce / Regression Risks

- **Buetane (#1):** Career-high effort came in the San Vicente G2; followed with a graded stakes runner-up at Oaklawn. The model flags accumulated stress from back-to-back graded stakes efforts combined with the worst deceleration profile in the field. Backing a 5-2 favorite who figures to be involved in a pace duel represents the highest regression risk in this race.
- **Confessional (#8):** Has not replicated maiden win form in two subsequent starts. The blinker addition is a Cox barn attempt to address a focus/concentration issue, which itself signals prior underperformance. The model projects the blinkers help early but cannot overcome a fundamental deceleration deficiency going 1 1/16 miles against this pace.
- **Lockstocknpharoah (#6):** Won twice on synthetic in dominant fashion. The model projects meaningful regression on first dirt attempt against stakes company. Synthetic-to-dirt translations at this level fail more often than they succeed, and the model rates this horse's pattern as high-regression risk.





## SECTION 6: SUGGESTED BETS

**WIN BET:** #7 Incredibolt — Confidence 7/10 — Target odds 10-1 or better The model's primary selection combines ELITE deceleration with proven graded stakes form. The Holy Bull regression is identifiable and explainable. At 10-1, the overlay relative to model projection (16% win probability vs. 9.1% implied) is significant.

**VALUE PLAY:** #2 Grittiness — Confidence 6/10 — Target odds 12-1 or better ELITE deceleration rating (1.8% — best in field), Repole/Pletcher operation, developing closer whose trajectory points toward a first career win in exactly this pace scenario. At 12-1 against a model-projected 14% win probability, the value is substantial.

**LONGSHOT PLAY:** #3 Epic Desire — Confidence 4/10 — Target odds 15-1 or better STRONG deceleration, route experience at the distance, and a Pletcher barn placing two horses suggesting competitive intent. Best-priced horse with a legitimate model-positive profile.

### MULTI-RACE WAGERS — Top 3 Selections (Pick 3/4/5/6):

- A: #7 Incredibolt
- B: #2 Grittiness
- C: #8 Confessional
- Combined projected probability: ~42%

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## SECTION 7: CONFIDENCE RATING

★★★½ (3.5 / 5 Stars)

The model holds moderate-high confidence in the pace scenario analysis — a contested early duel between multiple legitimate speed sources into a \$500K route is a high-probability projection. The model's top selections (Incredibolt and Grittiness) carry the only ELITE deceleration ratings in a field where the two morning-line favorites are VULNERABLE. The primary uncertainty factor is High Camp's sprint-to-route transition and whether Confessional's blinker addition produces a form reversal. The model rates Incredibolt as the most probable winner and Grittiness as the race's single largest overlay.





*Report Generated by PTW-CHR Model 1*

*Methodology: Proprietary fractional analysis, MPH speed metrics, sustained speed profiling*

*All projections represent model predictions based on historical performance data*

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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