



Aqueduct | Race 12 | Saturday, April 04, 2026 | Dirt 1 1/8 Miles | Fast

Purse \$750,000 | Grade 2 — Wood Memorial Stakes | 13-Horse Field | Post: 6:34 PM ET

SECTION 1 — PACE ANALYSIS

True Front Runners

NAPOLEON SOLO (#1) — The model projects Napoleon Solo as the field's primary pace source at 1 1/8 miles. His Q1 projection of 38.79 leads a four-horse cluster at the top of the opening velocity rankings. His Champagne G1 was run at 1 mile; his only route start — the Fountain of Youth at 1 1/8 miles — saw him engage the early leaders from post 9 before flattening late. From post 1 with Lopez up, the model projects him as the horse most likely to establish a front-running position and hold it through the first turn. The critical finding is that at 1 1/8 miles, his STRONG closing profile (+5.5%) means he is not purely a pace-and-fade type — he actually generates increasing velocity through the final quarter.

IRON HONOR (#13) — Brown's unbeaten Gotham winner projects in the co-pace/presser tier with an identical 38.79 Q1 to Napoleon Solo. His tactical pattern in the Gotham showed him pressing from 2nd before drawing clear at the 1 1/16 target. The model notes that at 1 1/8 miles — a distance he has never run — his Q4 projection (35.06 MPH, VULNERABLE) drops below the horses projecting from stalking positions. Iron Honor's pace-participation style will be tested by the longer stretch run.

BRAVARO (#9) — Joseph's Holy Bull second projects with a 38.79 Q1 from a 4-5 wide stalking trip. The critical finding: at the correct 1 1/8-mile distance, Bravaro's ELITE SSR (+2.4%) is one of the model's standout numbers. His Holy Bull effort showed him maintaining — and slightly increasing — velocity through the final quarter mile of a route. First-time blinkers for Joseph, whose 1stBlink angle is 3% — a meaningful negative qualifier.

RED ZONE RUNNER (#10) — Won the Cy Brother Love at Parx wire-to-wire on sloppy going. That surface advantage won't repeat here, but his 38.63 Q1 projects him in the pace mix. His ELITE SSR (-2.9%) at 1 1/8 miles is a surprise finding — the model projects him maintaining velocity well through the final three furlongs, though the class jump and track switch introduce uncertainty.

Stalkers / Pressers

TALK TO ME JIMMY (#2) — The Withers winner on this track set soft fractions and won wire-to-wire, which clouds his true tactical classification. At 1 1/8 miles, the model projects him as a presser from a mid-pack position rather than a pure front runner — his Q1 (37.34) sits a full tier below Napoleon Solo and Iron Honor. His ELITE SSR (+1.8%) is the model's most significant finding here: Talk to Me Jimmy not only sustains velocity at route distances but generates slightly increasing speed through the final quarter mile. On this track, at this distance, with winning form — the model takes the ELITE SSR seriously.

MINORINCONVENIENCE (#6) — Gander second on a good track with a bobble start and improved through the stretch. His Q1 of 38.79 projects him in the early pace tier, but his VULNERABLE SSR (-9.6%) at 1 1/8 miles — derived from his Gander fractional pattern — flags a late fade. Green's 29% J/T with Rodriguez at Aqueduct is the one compelling positive.

OTTINHO (#11) — Brown adds blinkers (1stBlink: 25%, \$2.46 ROI). His Withers 3rd came from a 5-wide upper move passing tired horses in soft fractions. ELITE SSR (-4.9%) — the model projects him sustaining velocity through the final quarter mile at the correct 1 1/8-mile distance.





Brown's 27% J/T with Davis at Aqueduct (J/T 2025-26 AQU: 44 starts, 27%, \$2.06 ROI) is one of the stronger trainer-jockey combinations in the field.

ALBUS (#7) — Riley Mott's Tampa maiden winner projects from a deep stalking position with an ELITE SSR (-3.2%). The CD start at 1 1/8 miles was his most relevant route effort — he dueled on the lead before being outkicked, which the model interprets as a pace-expenditure trip that understates his pure late-velocity capability. Torres J.A. retains.

COURTING (#8) — Pletcher's blinkers-off entry projects with a STRONG SSR (-6.1%). He passed runners late in both the Remsen and Risen Star from troubled starts. Carmouche retains — the Pletcher/Carmouche J/T at Aqueduct (89 starts, 26%, \$2.15 ROI) is directly applicable. The blinkers removal is a deliberate tactical adjustment the model treats positively.

Closers

STEEL (#4) — Mott's Tapit closer rallied from last to first in his Gulfstream maiden at 1 1/16 miles. The model notes that at 1 1/8 miles with an extended Q4 segment, his deep closing projection produces a VULNERABLE deceleration figure (+12.4%) — mathematically he is gaining so much ground from an extreme off-pace position that the comparison between his Q1 and Q4 produces a steep apparent negative. The raw Q4 figure (40.30 MPH) is second-highest in the field, which is the meaningful number. One start; enormous class jump.

RIGHT TO PARTY (#3) — McPeek's Constitution colt projects as the field's deepest closer alongside Steel. His VULNERABLE decel (+11.9%) is a mathematical artifact of extreme closing position, not pace-fade — his raw Q4 MPH (40.30) matches Steel as second-highest in the field. Both prior losses were to Iron Honor. Elliott retains.

Pace Scenario Projection

The model projects a MODERATE to HONEST early pace. Napoleon Solo from post 1, Iron Honor from post 13, and Red Zone Runner from post 10 all project in the early pace tier. Bravaro will press from a stalking position. The projected half-mile is in the :46.5–:47.0 range — an HONEST pace for Grade 2 company at 1 1/8 miles on Aqueduct fast dirt. The structural implications are significant: at the correct 1 1/8-mile distance, the Q4 segment covers 1,980 feet rather than 1,650 feet, which substantially favors horses with demonstrated ability to sustain velocity through a longer final run. The primary beneficiaries are BRAVARO (#9) — whose ELITE SSR of +2.4% at this distance is the model's top finding — and NAPOLEON SOLO (#1), whose STRONG closing profile (+5.5%) is a genuine surprise from a horse classified as a front runner. TALK TO ME JIMMY's ELITE SSR (+1.8%) on this specific track at this specific distance makes him the model's primary VALUE overlay. The distance correction fundamentally shifts the analytical hierarchy from any preliminary assessment.

SECTION 2 — WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

Horse	ML	Model Win %	Model Top-3 %	Value Rating
Bravaro (#9)	8-1	22%	60%	VALUE
Iron Honor (#13)	5-2	18%	55%	FAIR
Napoleon Solo (#1)	7-2	15%	50%	FAIR
Talk to Me Jimmy (#2)	6-1	14%	48%	VALUE
Ottinho (#11)	10-1	10%	40%	VALUE



Albus (#7)	12-1	8%	34%	VALUE
Courting (#8)	8-1	6%	28%	MARGINAL
Right to Party (#3)	20-1	4%	20%	FAIR
Steel (#4)	12-1	2%	14%	MARGINAL
Red Zone Runner (#10)	30-1	1%	8%	MARGINAL
Minorinconvenience (#6)	30-1	<1%	6%	NEGATIVE
Buetane (#12)	8-1	<1%	5%	NEGATIVE
Ocelli (#5)	20-1	<1%	4%	NEGATIVE

SECTION 3 — CONTENDER ANALYSIS

#9 Bravaro ★★★★★

Strengths:

- ELITE SSR (+2.4%) at the correct 1 1/8-mile distance — the model's primary analytical finding in this race. Bravaro's Holy Bull second showed him sustaining and slightly increasing velocity through the final quarter mile of a route. This is the rare pace profile that genuinely benefits from the longer Q4 segment at 1 1/8 miles versus 1 1/16 miles.
- His Aqueduct record is 2-for-2. The Closer Look confirms he is 'the one to beat' and identifies the FoY Fountain of Youth effort as a ground-saving mild rally that suggests the added furlong helps. The model agrees: his Q4 velocity is his strength, and more distance means more runway.
- Joseph's 31-60 day angle (521 starts, 21%, \$1.39 ROI), GrdStk (162 starts, 12%), and overall 2026 rate (22%) are solid. Gonzalez retains at 18% win rate.
- Upstart x Opera Star (Tamarkuz) — a NY-bred pedigree that the local conditions should suit. His two Aqueduct wins establish complete surface and track familiarity.

Concerns:

- First-time blinkers — Joseph's 1stBlink stat is 3% in 2026 (40 starts). This is the most negative trainer angle for any primary contender in this report. The model is recommending a horse whose trainer equipment-change stat argues against the addition.
- The Fountain of Youth was a poor performance (4th from the back, saving ground, mild rally) — even accounting for the bumped start, the model cannot ignore that Bravaro was unable to fire a meaningful late run in his most recent start.

Race Shape Fit: Excellent if blinkers fire properly. An honest pace from Napoleon Solo, Iron Honor, and Red Zone Runner sets the table for an ELITE SSR stalker positioned in the 4-5 range at the half-mile. The model's primary concern is whether the blinker addition focuses his energy productively or disrupts his natural rhythm.

Projection: The model's top selection. At 8-1, the 11.1% implied is well below the model's 22% projection — the clearest VALUE overlay in the field, driven by the ELITE SSR at the correct distance and Aqueduct-specific winning form. The first-time blinker risk is real and is the primary reason confidence is not higher. If blinkers fire, this is the race shape Bravaro was built for.



#13 Iron Honor ★★★★★

Strengths:

- Undefeated in two starts, both at Aqueduct — the Closer Look identifies him as the pick. Brown's 31-60 day (27%), WonLastStart (24%), and the Brown/Franco J/T at Aqueduct (131 starts, 28%, \$1.72 ROI) are the strongest combined trainer-jockey package in the field.
- His Aqueduct maiden figure of 95 is the career-best Beyer in this field. The Gotham win on a wet track at 1 1/16 miles was workmanlike; the model believes his fast-dirt potential exceeds that effort.
- Nyquist x Oencia (Blame) — the Blame dam adds stamina for the 1 1/8-mile test; Nyquist provides tactical speed. Pedigree supports the distance extension.

Concerns:

- VULNERABLE SSR (-9.6%) at 1 1/8 miles. Iron Honor has never run 1 1/8 miles — his only route start was the Gotham at 1 1/16 miles on a wet track. The model projects his Q4 velocity declining at the longer distance in a way that his 1 1/16 form cannot confirm or deny.
- The 5-2 ML implies 28.6% win probability; the model projects 18% — a meaningful negative deviation that places this at FAIR value rather than VALUE. The market has priced his class and barn correctly but not his distance uncertainty.

Race Shape Fit: Good through the first six furlongs. The model's concern is the final quarter mile at 1 1/8 miles — 330 more feet than Iron Honor has ever run. If pace pressure forces him to extend further than his confirmed range, VULNERABLE deceleration is the projected outcome.

Projection: Model's second choice at FAIR value. The best-credentialed horse in the field who is also the most uncertain at the correct distance. The model recommends him as the A horse in multi-race sequences — his class and track form make him the most structurally sound top selection even at FAIR odds — but the model does not recommend him as a single-bet win investment over Bravaro at 8-1.

#1 Napoleon Solo ★★★

Strengths:

- STRONG SSR (+5.5%) — the biggest positive surprise from the corrected 1 1/8-mile calculation. Napoleon Solo's Champagne G1 fractional pattern shows him generating velocity that sustains through the final segment at route distances. This is not a pace-and-fade profile; it is a horse who runs fast early and maintains that speed better than expected.
- Champagne G1 Beyer of 95 is a co-field best. Summers' 2Off45-180 angle (33%, \$3.45 ROI) — the best trainer return stat in the field. Post 1 saves ground.

Concerns:

- The Fountain of Youth was his only 1 1/8-mile start — he faded from 3rd to 5th. The model treats the wide trip (4 paths) as the primary cause, but the result is real data at the target distance.





- Lopez replaces Carmouche; the J/T with Summers/Lopez at Aqueduct shows 0 starts. At a track where jockey-trainer combinations matter significantly, the untested pairing is a concern.

Race Shape Fit: Good from post 1. If Napoleon Solo can establish the lead without early contestation, his STRONG SSR projects him holding form through the stretch. If Iron Honor pressures him through the first turn, the FoY pattern may repeat.

Projection: Third choice at FAIR value. The corrected SSR finding meaningfully upgrades Napoleon Solo from the preliminary assessment — he is not the VULNERABLE pace horse the first pass suggested. At 7-2, the 22.2% implied is close to the model's 15% projection, making him appropriately priced but not a recommended win investment over the VALUE options.

#2 Talk to Me Jimmy ★★★

Strengths:

- ELITE SSR (+1.8%) at 1 1/8 miles on this track. Won the Withers at Aqueduct 1 1/16 miles — the most directly comparable race distance in the field — and the model's Q4 projection for the extended 1 1/8-mile final segment is positive. He slightly accelerates rather than decelerates, a pattern the model attributes to tactical reserve conserved behind a moderate early pace.
- The Rodriguez/Silvera J/T at Aqueduct (232 starts, 13%, \$1.82 ROI) is consistent. Won on this track twice in three starts. Course knowledge matters.

Concerns:

- The Closer Look explicitly notes he set soft fractions in the Withers — the honest pace projected today is a different tactical challenge. The model's ELITE SSR assumes his velocity pattern holds under pace pressure; the Withers provided no test of that thesis.
- Silvera retains at 10% win rate — the weakest jockey stat among primary contenders. At Grade 2 level against Franco, Gonzalez, and Carmouche, the jockey gap matters.

Race Shape Fit: Moderate to good. Talk to Me Jimmy needs to survive the first turn without being compromised by the four-horse early pace cluster, then execute his ELITE closing profile from a stalking position. The Withers win from 4-3 wide in the first turn shows he can handle early pressure.

Projection: Fourth choice and VALUE overlay at 6-1. The model projects 14% against 14.3% implied — technically FAIR, but the ELITE SSR on this track at this distance pushes the qualitative assessment into VALUE. In a race where the top three horses in the matrix are priced 5-2 to 8-1, Talk to Me Jimmy at 6-1 with proven track and distance form represents the optimal single-bet risk-adjusted selection if Bravaro's blinker risk is disqualifying.

#11 Otinho ★★★

Strengths:

- ELITE SSR (-4.9%) at 1 1/8 miles — the model's third-best sustained speed rating among horses with route form. Brown adds blinkers for the first time (1stBlink: 51 starts, 25%, \$2.46 ROI) — among the strongest equipment-change stats in the field. The Brown/Davis J/T at Aqueduct (J/T 2025-26 AQU: 44 starts, 27%, \$2.06 ROI) is a productive combination.





- His Withers third came in soft fractions that didn't suit a late-runner — the honest pace projected today is the structural setup Otinho needs. Quality Road x Quiet Giant (Giant's Causeway) — staying pedigree for 1 1/8 miles.

Concerns:

- His Aqueduct maiden win came on a sloppy track in a pace-dominated race; his Dec maiden figure of 65 is the weakest figure posted by any of the primary contenders. The model is projecting significant class improvement from modest form.

Race Shape Fit: Good. The blinker addition from a productive barn in a race with genuine early pace sets the model's optimal scenario for Otinho. The honest fractions the model projects should produce the late-running setup his profile requires.

Projection: Fifth choice and VALUE overlay at 10-1. The model projects 10% against 9.1% implied — a narrow but real VALUE overlay amplified by the Brown blinker angle. Best deployed as a B horse in multi-race sequences behind Bravaro and Iron Honor.

#7 Albus ★★★

Strengths:

- ELITE SSR (-3.2%) at 1 1/8 miles, with a Q4 projection of 36.00 MPH. His Tampa maiden showed genuine closing velocity against the better CD start at 1 1/8 miles where he dueled on the lead and was outkicked — a trip that expended early energy. Riley Mott's GrdStk angle (17 starts, 24%, \$3.12 ROI) is legitimately strong.

Concerns:

- The Closer Look flags major concerns about 9 furlongs (1 1/8 miles) because he tired in his 2-back CD start at shorter distance. The model acknowledges this directly: his CD effort was at 1 1/8 miles and showed fatigue. The ELITE SSR projection is driven by his Tampa maiden at 1 1/16 miles, which was a shorter trip. This introduces projection uncertainty.

Race Shape Fit: Speculative. If his Tampa closing velocity translates to Grade 2 company at 1 1/8 miles, the honest pace scenario is ideal. The CD effort at the same distance showing fatigue is a direct counterpoint the model cannot ignore.

Projection: Sixth choice and VALUE overlay at 12-1. Model projects 8% against 7.7% implied. Best as a C horse in multi-race wagers rather than a primary win investment.

#8 Courting ★★

Strengths:

- STRONG SSR (-6.1%) — the model's best non-ELITE sustained speed figure among horses with meaningful route form. Pletcher/Carmouche J/T at Aqueduct (89 starts, 26%, \$2.15 ROI). Blinkers off from a trainer with a positive blinker-removal angle (12 starts, 17%). The Risen Star key race produced the Arkansas Derby winner (Paladin) and other graded performers.

Concerns:

- Four career starts, one win. His stakes efforts have been consistently non-threatening from mid-pack positions. The model rates him as a place horse, not a win horse, at 8-1.





Race Shape Fit: Good for a piece. Blinkers off and the STRONG SSR project him as a stalker who can close into a contested pace. Better used as a C horse in multi-race plays than as a primary win selection.

Projection: Seventh choice at MARGINAL value — model projects 6% against 11.1% implied. The market overvalues his maiden win class and the Pletcher association relative to what his route form actually shows. Include as a C horse in wagers; not a recommended win bet.

#3 Right to Party ★★

Strengths:

- Raw Q4 figure of 40.30 MPH — second-highest in the field. Constitution x Havin' a Party (Emcee) is a distance pedigree. The Closer Look notes 9 furlongs may be what he loves and that both losses were to Iron Honor. McPeek's 31-60 day angle (18%, \$2.15 ROI) is active.

Concerns:

- The model rates his high Q4 as a mathematical artifact of his extreme off-pace closing position rather than genuine elite sustaining ability. His decel % of +11.9% reflects how far back he positions himself. VULNERABLE label despite the high absolute number.

Race Shape Fit: Trip-dependent. If the honest pace produces a pace collapse in the final eighth mile, Right to Party's raw closing velocity makes him dangerous. In a well-run race where the pace doesn't completely fall apart, his extreme position is a structural disadvantage.

Projection: Eighth choice at FAIR value — model projects 4% against 4.8% implied. The best price play for a piece in multi-race sequences. Include as a D horse in wider tickets given the 20-1 price and legitimate closing velocity.

#4 Steel — TOSS

Projection: The model TOSSES Steel as a win investment despite his raw Q4 figure of 40.30 MPH (tied for second). One start, enormous class jump, no Aqueduct experience. His VULNERABLE decel label (+12.4%) is the same mathematical artifact as Right to Party — an extreme off-pace position produces apparent deceleration even when the horse is actually closing. Mott's stats are strong and the Tapit pedigree supports the distance, but the model cannot project Grade 2 performance from a single maiden win with any confidence. MARGINAL value at 12-1 — include only in very wide multi-race coverage.

#10 Red Zone Runner — TOSS

Projection: The model TOSSES Red Zone Runner. His ELITE SSR (-2.9%) is a genuine finding — he sustained velocity well in the Cy Brother Love at 1 1/8 miles. However, that effort was on sloppy ground with an uncontested lead against Parx competition, conditions that will not be present today. First Aqueduct start, first fast-dirt stakes start at this level, first test against Grade 2 company. Padilla has 0 Aqueduct starts in the current book. MARGINAL at 30-1 — the price barely compensates for the structural unknowns.

#12 Buetane — TOSS





Projection: The model TOSSES Buetane. His Southwest G3 second at 1 1/8 miles is his best route form, but the fractional pattern shows a fade in the final quarter mile (VULNERABLE, -8.0%). The VA Derby attempt at the target distance produced an even effort. Baffert's overall dirt stats (33%) are the best trainer figure in the field, but the Baffert J/T with Garcia at Aqueduct shows 0 starts, 0 wins. NEGATIVE at 8-1 — the model projects less than 1% win probability against 11.1% implied. The Baffert name is pricing this horse far above what his route fractional data supports.

#6 Minorinconvenience — TOSS

Projection: The model TOSSES Minorinconvenience on fast dirt. His Q4 projection at 1 1/8 miles produces a VULNERABLE SSR (-9.6%) driven by a Gander fractional pattern that showed late deceleration on a good track. Both career wins came in wet conditions. The Green/Rodriguez J/T at Aqueduct (29%) is the lone positive that prevents a harder fade, but the surface question at Grade 2 against this pace is disqualifying. NEGATIVE at 30-1.

#5 Ocelli — TOSS

Projection: The model TOSSES Ocelli. The VA Derby effort at the target distance showed him hanging and fading — the Closer Look flags major distance concerns and the blinkers removal adds behavioral uncertainty. Beckman's GrdStk angle (27 starts, 4%, \$0.31 ROI) is the weakest graded-stakes trainer stat in the field. NEGATIVE at 20-1.

SECTION 4 — MPH ANALYSIS + SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

Opening Velocity Projections (Q1 — First Quarter Mile)

Horse	Q1 Proj MPH	Role
Napoleon Solo (#1)	38.79	Pace — STRONG
Iron Honor (#13)	38.79	Presser — VULNERABLE
Bravaro (#9)	38.79	Stalker — ELITE
Minorinconvenience (#6)	38.79	Presser — VULNERABLE
Red Zone Runner (#10)	38.63	Co-Pace — ELITE
Buetane (#12)	38.63	Co-Pace — VULNERABLE
Ocelli (#5)	38.14	Presser — STRONG
Talk to Me Jimmy (#2)	37.34	Presser / Stalker — ELITE
Ottinho (#11)	37.34	Stalker — ELITE
Courting (#8)	37.34	Stalker — STRONG
Albus (#7)	37.19	Stalker — ELITE
Right to Party (#3)	36.00	Closer — VULNERABLE
Steel (#4)	35.86	Closer — VULNERABLE



Closing Velocity Projections (Q4 — Final Quarter Mile)

Horse	Q4 Proj MPH	Decel %	Sustained Speed Rating
Napoleon Solo (#1)	40.91	+5.5%	STRONG
Right to Party (#3)	40.30	+11.9%	VULNERABLE
Steel (#4)	40.30	+12.4%	VULNERABLE
Bravaro (#9)	39.71	+2.4%	ELITE
Talk to Me Jimmy (#2)	38.03	+1.8%	ELITE
Red Zone Runner (#10)	37.50	-2.9%	ELITE
Albus (#7)	36.00	-3.2%	ELITE
Ottinho (#11)	35.53	-4.9%	ELITE
Ocelli (#5)	35.53	-6.8%	STRONG
Buetane (#12)	35.53	-8.0%	VULNERABLE
Courting (#8)	35.06	-6.1%	STRONG
Iron Honor (#13)	35.06	-9.6%	VULNERABLE
Minorinconvenience (#6)	35.06	-9.6%	VULNERABLE

Critical MPH Insight

The defining analytical finding at the correct 1 1/8-mile distance is the dramatic repositioning of multiple horses relative to any 1 1/16-mile calculation. The extended Q4 segment (1,980 feet instead of 1,650 feet) — an additional 330 feet of final-run coverage — fundamentally changes which horses look sustainable and which project to fade. Napoleon Solo, previously classified as **VULNERABLE** in preliminary analysis, now projects as **STRONG** (+5.5%) — his Champagne G1 fractional pattern shows him generating velocity in the final segment of a one-mile race that extrapolates favorably to the extended 1 1/8-mile final run. More significantly, Bravaro's **ELITE** rating of +2.4% at 1 1/8 miles represents genuine sustained velocity from a stalking position in Grade 3 company — the Holy Bull fractional data shows him actually accelerating through the final quarter mile, which is precisely the profile that a pace-honest Wood Memorial rewards. The secondary finding is the **VULNERABLE** downgrade for Iron Honor: at 1 1/8 miles, his Q4 drops to 35.06 MPH and a -9.6% deceleration — he has simply never run this far, and his Gotham fractions at 1 1/16 miles do not project favorably to the additional furlong. The model's recommendations are driven entirely by these distance-corrected findings.

SECTION 5 — IMPROVEMENT & REGRESSION CANDIDATES

Likely to Improve

BRAVARO (#9) — The model projects Bravaro as the primary improvement candidate. His Fountain of Youth effort was contextually poor — bumped at the start, steadied early, saved ground, mild rally — but the Holy Bull second at 1 1/8 miles, the correct target distance, showed his best form. Returning to Aqueduct (2-for-2), with the added furlong that his **ELITE** closing profile specifically benefits from, the model projects a figure improvement matching or exceeding his Holy Bull performance. The blinker addition is the swing factor.





NAPOLEON SOLO (#1) — The corrected SSR analysis reveals Napoleon Solo as a genuine improvement candidate. His Fountain of Youth trip — 4 paths wide throughout on a track where he had previously dominated — is the model's primary basis for projecting a figure improvement. From post 1 at Aqueduct where he holds a 1-for-1 record, with the correct distance now confirmed as within his STRONG closing profile, the model projects his best performance of 2026.

Bounce / Regression Risks

IRON HONOR (#13) — The model projects Iron Honor as the primary regression risk relative to his market position. At 5-2, the market implies 28.6% win probability for a horse who has never run 1 1/8 miles and whose only route start (the Gotham) was at 1 1/16 miles on a wet track. The VULNERABLE SSR at the corrected distance (-9.6%) is a real analytical concern, not an artifact. If the honest pace the model projects expends his early energy through the first six furlongs, he faces the final 330 feet of the race — the difference between 1 1/16 and 1 1/8 miles — with a Q4 that projects to decline materially.

BUETANE (#12) — The model projects Buetane as the secondary regression risk. His Southwest G3 at 1 1/8 miles ended in a fade (VULNERABLE, -8.0%), and the VA Derby at 1 1/16 miles was an even effort. The pattern of going evenly or fading at route distances is consistent, and Baffert's Garcia/Aqueduct combination (0 starts) provides no local track support. The 8-1 market price implies 11.1% win probability that the model rates as NEGATIVE.

SECTION 6 — SUGGESTED BETS

Win Bet: #9 Bravaro Confidence: 7/10

The model projects 22% win probability against 11.1% implied at 8-1 — the clearest VALUE overlay in the field, driven by ELITE SSR (+2.4%) at the correct 1 1/8-mile distance and a 2-for-2 Aqueduct record. The first-time blinker risk (Joseph's 1stBlink: 3%) is the primary caveat that prevents a higher confidence rating. The model's recommendation: Bravaro at 8-1 is the best single-bet investment in the race if the blinker concern is acceptable. If it isn't, Talk to Me Jimmy at 6-1 with ELITE SSR on this track and winning form at the distance is the alternative.

Value Play: #2 Talk to Me Jimmy Confidence: 7.5/10

The model projects 14% win probability against 14.3% implied at 6-1 — technically FAIR but elevated to VALUE by the ELITE SSR on this specific track at this specific distance with winning form as the directional anchor. Talk to Me Jimmy carries no blinker uncertainty, no surface question, no distance question — he has done everything asked of him at Aqueduct 1 1/16 miles and the model projects his ELITE velocity profile holding at the added furlong. At 6-1 with a proven track record, he is the model's highest-confidence single-bet recommendation.

Top 3 Multi-Race: A / B / C A — #13 Iron Honor B — #9 Bravaro C — #2 Talk to Me Jimmy Confidence: 6.5/10

Iron Honor leads the multi-race sequence on class and track record — his Brown/Franco combination at Aqueduct is the most reliable structural anchor for A-position use even at FAIR odds. Bravaro fills the B slot as the primary VALUE play whose ELITE SSR at 1 1/8 miles makes him the most dangerous horse in the race if the blinkers work. Talk to Me Jimmy rounds out as the C horse with proven track form and ELITE SSR. Otinho (#11) is recommended as a D horse in wider tickets — Brown's blinker addition, ELITE SSR, and J/T stats at Aqueduct make him the model's most appealing longshot. The model advises against using Buetane (#12) or Minorinconvenience (#6) in top-position multi-race play. Right to Party (#3) and Steel (#4) are exotics-only inclusions based on raw closing velocity at 20-1 and 12-1 respectively.





SECTION 7 — CONFIDENCE RATING

Overall: 6.5 / 10 ★★★★★★

The model rates this race at 6.5/10 confidence. The correct 1 1/8-mile distance calculation produces a coherent analytical picture that is meaningfully different from any 1 1/16-mile preliminary analysis: Bravaro emerges as the model's top selection with ELITE SSR, Napoleon Solo upgrades from VULNERABLE to STRONG, and Iron Honor — the market favorite — projects as VULNERABLE at the target distance he has never run. The primary confidence-limiting factors are two: (1) Bravaro's first-time blinker addition from a trainer whose 1stBlink stat is 3% in 2026 introduces real behavioral uncertainty that the model cannot resolve from fractional data; (2) Iron Honor's class and Aqueduct record are compelling enough that the model cannot be dismissive of a 5-2 favorite supported by Chad Brown and Manny Franco. The analytical recommendation is Bravaro at 8-1 as the win investment and Talk to Me Jimmy at 6-1 as the value backup, with Iron Honor leading multi-race sequences. The defining structural finding — that 1 1/8 miles specifically favors sustained velocity through a longer Q4 segment — is the model's most important output from this analysis, and it should govern all betting and sequencing decisions.

Report Generated by PTW-CHR Model 1

Methodology: Proprietary fractional analysis, MPH speed metrics, sustained speed profiling. MPH figures in PTW-CHR Model 1 reports are proprietary index values derived from the model's internal distance-weighting methodology and are not expressions of real-world velocity. All horses are evaluated through the same calculation engine, making the figures valid for comparative ranking and deceleration analysis within the model's framework.

All projections represent model predictions based on historical performance data.

"Methodology is proprietary and confidential. Reproduction of this analysis without authorization is prohibited."

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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