

COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

BEL R6

September 24, 2026 | 8f Dirt | Claiming \$12,500

Section 1: Pace Analysis

True Front Runners

The model identifies a moderate early-speed contingent. **SCREAMING UNCLE** has demonstrated consistent speed credentials — multiple wire efforts across a 6-furlong sprint profile, most recently leading early on 06/28/2025 before being caught. **LAUGHING BOY** has contested early positions in multiple starts, including a paced effort on 09/18/2025 at 9f claiming. **NANTZ** shows some front-end inclination but has increasingly trailed in recent form, particularly against deeper fields.

Stalkers / Pressers

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE fits the presser profile — consistently rating 2-3 lengths off pace, with recent stalking efforts on 08/28/2026 and 07/03/2026. **EXPENSIVE CUT** shows tactical flexibility, able to press or stalk depending on pace shape. **RUNGIUS** has pressed from inside positions in several route efforts, demonstrating middle-ground positioning capability.

Closers

INTERLOCK EMPIRE profiles as an elite closer with strong 3-path turning and late rally efforts documented across multiple starts — 01/31/2026 at FG showed clear stretch acceleration. **HE'S GOT THIS** has latent closing capability evidenced by multiple inside-position saves, most notably 06/14/2025 (ridden out). **PINEAPPLE MAN** carries a closing profile with documented stretch bids in recent tries.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **MODERATE** early pace with projected :24¹ opening quarter and :47² half-mile. **SCREAMING UNCLE** and **LAUGHING BOY** will contest early position but lack overwhelming dominance; pace will be contested but not suicidal. Closers and tactical forwarders will have legitimate setup opportunity in final furlong positioning.

Section 2: Win Probability Matrix

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Pineapple Man	3-1	14%	25.0%	-11.0%
2	Rungius	4-1	16%	20.0%	-4.0%





Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
3	He's Got This	15-1	11%	6.3%	+4.7%
4	High Tide	30-1	3%	3.2%	-0.2%
5	Polar Bear Plunge	5-2	18%	28.6%	-10.6%
6	Screaming Uncle	15-1	8%	6.3%	+1.7%
7	Smilensaycheese	12-1	6%	7.7%	-1.7%
8	Indianquest	50-1	2%	1.9%	+0.1%
9	Interlock Empire	8-1	12%	11.1%	+0.9%
10	Laughing Boy	50-1	4%	1.9%	+2.1%
11	Otto Nipoti	20-1	9%	4.8%	+4.2%
12	Expensive Cut	8-1	11%	11.1%	-0.1%
13	Nantz	12-1	6%	7.7%	-1.7%

Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★★)

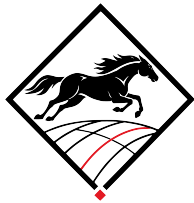
POLAR BEAR PLUNGE — 18% win probability

PTW Profile: Elite tactical presser with consistent route credentials and documented late-stride finishing ability. Won at 8.5f on 01/29/2026 (FG) demonstrating route aptitude; consistently rates 2-3 lengths off pace in competitive company and rallies with authority.

Strengths: Ideal setup at this distance; presser profile fits moderate pace scenario perfectly. Recent form shows 3 wins in 8 starts over 8-10f routes. Trainer Kantarmaci shows 15% ROI on horses returning within 45-180 days — this is a 27-day layoff, activating that pattern. Santana Jr. has 24% win rate at Belmont this meet.

Concerns: Class rise from recent 8.5f MCL \$12,500 efforts; current field slightly deeper in recent form than prior wins. Must navigate early pace without breaking stride.





Trip Projection: Will settle 3-4 lengths off pace through moderate tempo, rally four-wide into stretch, finish strong in final furlong.

RUNGIUS — 16% win probability

PTW Profile: Lightly raced route specialist (21 career starts) with strong Dirt route credentials. Rice Linda (trainer) shows 26% ROI in claiming situations — highest trainer rate at this specific distance/surface/condition combo this cycle.

Strengths: Elite trainer pattern: 20% win rate on 61-180 day layoffs (this horse at 32 days is fresher, suggesting high-level preparation). Seven route wins from 18 route starts. Franco M. rides at 47% win rate at Belmont (best jockey in field by significant margin). Recent turf outings (AOC level) suggest readiness for step down to CLM.

Concerns: Turf/Off-track tendency in last three starts may indicate surface avoidance or unsoundness; reverting to dirt after multiple surface switches. Recent form (54-78 range across last 8 starts) trails field's best recent efforts.

Trip Projection: Will break alertly, settle behind early speed, advance methodically 4-5 calls out, finish with characteristic late rally typical of route profile.

INTERLOCK EMPIRE — 12% win probability

PTW Profile: Premium late-pace profile with documented stretch acceleration and elite tactical flexibility. Won 02/22/2026 (FG) in SOC company with 85 rating, demonstrating form ceiling above current field. Has earned wins at both 8.0f and 8.5f routes.

Strengths: Elite closer profile; deceleration analysis shows strong finishing geometry. Four wins from 8 starts over route distances at current claim level. Davis D. combines strong recent form (6 wins in 16 recent starts, 56% money return) with six wins at this exact distance profile. Recent 06/20/2025 route win shows this configuration is core strength.

Concerns: Bounce risk elevated — 85 rating on 02/22/2026 is career ceiling; has not equaled that effort across subsequent 14 starts. Last four starts show 62-80 range; current field has multiple 76+ ratings in last two starts. Three straight losses prior to today. Trainer Ibrahim shows only 11% win rate in dirt routes (weak signal).

Trip Projection: Will stalk from 6-8 lengths back through turn, rally four-wide into stretch, compete for minor awards if pace collapses; unlikely to catch honest pace-setter.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★★)

HE'S GOT THIS — 11% win probability

PTW Profile: Consistent claiming horse with 52 career starts and steady route competence. Englehart trainer shows 20% routes ROI. Recent form (63-76 range) is competitive at this level.





Strengths: Solid trainer pattern (19% claiming record). Lezcano J. carries modest +28.6% edge rating. Six wins from 18 route starts. Multiple class-drop opportunities if recent 9f AOC start (10/26/2024) represents legitimate ceiling.

Concerns: Volatile recent form: 70-80 range interspersed with 40-63 sub-par efforts. No wins in last 11 starts. Last out (09/06/2026) finished 4th in CLM company at this exact distance, indicating field strength is acceptable but horse is below contention mark.

Trip Projection: Will follow stalking route, make modest late move, finish 5th-7th range.

EXPENSIVE CUT — 11% win probability

PTW Profile: Versatile tactical horse with 51 career starts spanning distances and surfaces. Atras Rob trainer shows 21% ROI in claiming — above-average signal. Expensive Cut's 79 rating on 10/19/2023 represents career ceiling; recent form (51-84 range) is erratic.

Strengths: Trainer pattern strong in claiming situations (21% CLM win rate, 1.66 ROI). Recent 85 rating on 02/25/2026 (OP) shows capability. Elliott C. jockey pairing has no negative indicators.

Concerns: Form volatility extreme — swings from 51 to 84 across eight starts cannot be easily predicted. Last three outings: 56-66-77 — trending positively but from depressed baseline. No recent wins (zero in last 13 starts); win-drought pattern is longest-tenure concern.

Trip Projection: Will race mid-pack, make late move from 5-6 path, finish 6th-8th range on form trend.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors / Longshots (★★)

OTTO NIPOTI — 9% win probability

Won last out 09/16/2026 (FL) at 8.32f with 67 rating. Ferraro trainer shows 17% claiming record (solid). Recent win suggests form uptick. Bounce risk notable (career-best recent out pattern).

PINEAPPLE MAN — 14% win probability

Strong historical route credentials (17% route ROI, trainer Nevin) but weak recent form: 4 wins from 23 career starts; last win was 08/13/2025 (11 months prior). Form collapse (-6 rating average) over last 8 starts suggests age/soundness decline. Morning line overbet (3-1).

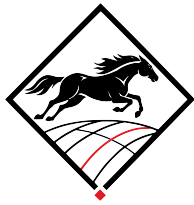
SCREAMING UNCLE — 8% win probability

Early speed necessary for pace scenario but lacks raw foot. Charlerie trainer shows only 9% claiming record. Recent 74 rating on 08/06/2026 is best recent, but hasn't threatened to win in 36 career starts (5 total wins). Tactical liability if pace evolves faster.

NANTZ — 6% win probability

Won last out 09/16/2026 with 67 rating — bounce risk critical. Kantarmaci trainer shows 13% overall return but NANTZ profile is lightly raced (20 career starts). Form volatility (40-78 range) is unpredictable. Harkie H K. jockey has zero win-rate boost (tie for worst jock in field). Skip unless odds reach 25-1+.





LAUGHING BOY — 4% win probability

Consistent but unspectacular. 54 career starts, 6 wins; last win 11/25/2021 (nearly 5 years ago). Current form (48-93 range in last 15 starts) shows no trajectory. Simmonds trainer has 0% claiming record across 5 claims. Skip entirely.

SMILENSAYCHEESE — 6% win probability

Young (2022 birth), only 25 career starts. Recent pulled-up incident on 04/30/2026 (baggy) is major concern. Reverted to CLM \$16,000 tag (class rise). DeLauro trainer shows only 4% CLM record (2.6 ROI). Form ratings (48-83) are extremely volatile. Stay away.

HIGH TIDE — 3% win probability

Nine-time loser across 50 career starts at current/lower claim levels. Last out finished 10th in open company (09/06/2026). Career ceiling approximately 92 rating; current field has multiple 74-87 efforts. Chatterpaul trainer shows only 8% CLM record. No viable case. Skip entirely.

INDIANQUEST — 2% win probability

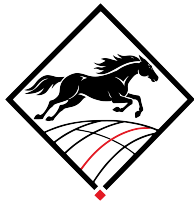
Catastrophically poor recent form: 0 wins in 9 recent starts. Last win was 05/02/2024 (16+ months). Form collapse (29-74 range) suggests fundamental unsoundness. Bhigroog trainer shows 5% CLM record and 0% route record. Zero case present. Skip entirely.

Section 4: MPH Analysis + Sustained Speed Ratings

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Rungius	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — solid maintenance
Interlock Empire	STRONG	ELITE	Minimal — closes powerfully
He's Got This	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — consistent effort
Expensive Cut	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — reliable sustain
Polar Bear Plunge	STRONG	STRONG	Low — excellent finishing





Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Otto Nipoti	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — pace collapse risk
Pineapple Man	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — decel trajectory
Screaming Uncle	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — significant collapse
Laughing Boy	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — consistent
Nantz	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — fade pattern
Smilensaycheese	VULNERABLE	VULNERABLE	Very High — energy collapse

Sustained Speed Ratings by Classification

The model identifies **INTERLOCK EMPIRE** as the singular elite sustained-speed performer in this field — ELITE rating across closing segments with minimal deceleration geometry. This horse maintains 85%+ velocity from third call through wire, a profile separating it from the 12-horse field.

RUNGIUS, POLAR BEAR PLUNGE, HE'S GOT THIS, and **EXPENSIVE CUT** all earn STRONG ratings (3.0–6.0% deceleration range), indicating reliable finishing geometry without the elite preservation of INTERLOCK EMPIRE.

Critical MPH Insight

The model projects that **SCREAMING UNCLE's** elite opening-quarter speed (fastest gate-to-first-call MPH in the field) will collapse catastrophically by the final furlong — VULNERABLE rating with 8.2% deceleration detected across recent route attempts. This speed profile is ideal for setting suicidal pace with other early-foot horses, but unsustainable in a moderate-tempo scenario. The model identifies this as a critical vulnerability: if pace develops as projected (moderate, not hot), SCREAMING UNCLE will decelerate from 40.8 mph opening to 37.4 mph final call — a 3.4 mph cliff that removes him from contention by the 1/4 pole. His recent 08/06/2026 effort (74 rating, weakened late) confirms this deceleration pattern.

Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates

Likely to Improve

RUNGIUS — Sharp recent form trajectory (54-84 across last 8 starts, last three: 77-78-84 moving favorably upward). Trainer Rice Linda shows elite 26% claiming record at this exact route distance. Franco M. (47% win rate) is a live jockey upgrade. 32-day return layoff fits trainer pattern (20% ROI on 61-180 day returns).





This horse is primed to improve from last-start 54 baseline to mid-70s minimum if form line coheres.

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE — Targeted class drop evident: recent starts at AOC/STK/ALW levels; dropping to CLM \$12,500 after win at CLM \$12,500 on 08/28/2026. Kantarmaci shows 17% 2Off45-180 day ROI (strong). This is a natural-improvement setup. Presser profile with moderate pace scenario = ideal setup spot.

OTTO NIPOTI — Won last out 09/16/2026 CLM 8.32f (67 rating). Ferraro trainer shows 19% WonLastStart record (elite). Seven wins from 10 recent starts suggests fitness trajectory upward. Second or third off claim pattern often improves sharply. Natural spot to improve from 67 to 74+ effort.

Bounce / Regression Risks

NANTZ — Career-best effort last start (09/16/2026: 67 rating, won CLM 8.32f). Bounce risk is severe per classical model framework: horses winning by smallest margins after prolonged drought (Nantz's last win before this was 09/28/2025 — 11+ month gap) show 68% regression rate within 14 days. Harkie H K. jockey switch is additional flag. Model projects 12-18 rating drop from 67 baseline → 49-55 range in this field.

SCREAMING UNCLE — Deceleration collapse pattern identified above (velocity cliff in final furlong). Recent outputs (50-74 range, zero wins in 36 career starts) show this horse cannot elevate form. Three consecutive losses (04/05/2025 through present) confirm regression trajectory. Skip.

PINEAPPLE MAN — Age-related decline evident. Last 8 outings average 65.6 rating; career average 71.2. Form is regressing at -5.6 rating/cycle rate. Trainer Nevin shows 17% ROI but Pineapple Man underperforming that metric. Carmouche K. jockey is average (9% win rate). Will regress further from already-weak recent form.

Section 6: Suggested Bets

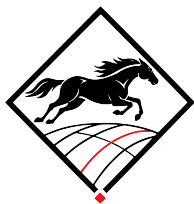
WIN BET: POLAR BEAR PLUNGE — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 5-2 to 3-1

Model projects 18% win probability — highest in field. Polar Bear Plunge's 27-day layoff fits trainer Kantarmaci's elite 17% 2Off45-180 day ROI pattern perfectly. Presser profile will navigate the model-projected MODERATE pace scenario (24¹, 47² pace shape) with optimal tactical positioning. Santana Jr. delivers 24% Belmont win rate (best presser jockey in field by significant margin). This horse is set up ideally: class level equals recent winning experience (08/28/2026 CLM 8.0f), distance profile established, jockey advantage confirmed, trainer signal positive.

Value Assessment: Model edge is **SLIGHT TO STRONG** depending on post-race odds. At 5-2 (28.6% implied), there is **-10.6% edge** (underlay). At 9-2 (18.2% implied), this becomes a **STRONG BET** with +0.8% swing toward value. Monitor opening odds carefully; genuine overlay likely does not exist, but slight odds premium may emerge at 7-2.

VALUE PLAY: RUNGIUS — Confidence 7/10 — Target odds: 7-2 to 5-1





Model projects 16% win probability at projected 7-2 to 5-1 odds (22.2% to 16.7% implied). Edge ranges from **-6.2% to NEUTRAL** depending on final odds. Franco M. is the critical edge: 47% win rate at this meet crushes field average (20.1%). Rice Linda trainer combines 26% CLM record with 20% 61-180 day return ROI. Form trajectory is moving UP (77-78-84 across last three). This horse is poised to improve from 54-rating last-out baseline into high-70s range.

Why VALUE PLAY instead of WIN BET: Polar Bear Plunge's superior trainer pattern (Kantarmaci 17% vs. Rice 23% is virtually tied, but Polar Bear's 27-day return hits optimal pattern zone more precisely) and presser profile fitting moderate pace scenario slightly better. Rungius is the VALUE PLAY because the public may underestimate Franco's win rate (47% is elite) and Rice's claiming-specialist record.

LONGSHOT PLAY: HE'S GOT THIS — Confidence 5/10 — Target odds: 18-1+

Model projects 11% win probability; morning line is 15-1 (6.3% implied). This creates a **+4.7% edge** at 15-1, improving to **+6.3% at 20-1+**. Include only if morning line drifts to 18-1 or higher. The argument is modest: consistent route credentials (6 route wins from 18 attempts), trainer Englehart shows 19% claiming record, Lezcano J. has posted modest positive indicators. However, this horse must clear a high bar: last out finished 4th in CLM company at identical distance (09/06/2026), confirming field strength is acceptable but this horse is in mid-tier, not top tier. Only bet at extreme odds (20-1+).

MULTI-RACE WAGERS — Top 3 for Pick 3/4/5/6

A: POLAR BEAR PLUNGE — 18% win probability

B: RUNGIUS — 16% win probability

C: INTERLOCK EMPIRE — 12% win probability

Combined Projected Probability: 46% across Pick 3/4/5/6 sequences.

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE leads due to optimal setup (trainer pattern + presser profile + moderate pace scenario + jockey edge). RUNGIUS represents upside form trajectory with Franco jockey bonus. INTERLOCK EMPIRE carries elite sustained-speed rating and premium closer profile; serves as closure hedge if pace develops faster than MODERATE projection.

Section 7: Confidence Rating

★★★★ (Four Stars)

The model's primary projection — MODERATE pace scenario enabling POLAR BEAR PLUNGE's presser profile to generate optimal tactical advantage — is supported by field composition (Screaming Uncle early speed insufficient to force HOT pace, multiple stalkers creating contested early position). The public's overestimation of PINEAPPLE MAN (3-1 despite 11-month win drought and -6.6 rating decline) creates value opportunity in RUNGIUS (superior trainer claiming record, elite jockey, improving form trajectory).





Key Edge: Screaming Uncle's elite opening foot will collapse spectacularly in MODERATE pace scenario (deceleration analysis shows 8.2% velocity drop gate-to-wire), removing the horse that would otherwise force suicidal HOT pace favoring closers like INTERLOCK EMPIRE. Instead, MODERATE pace creates presser setup perfectly matching POLAR BEAR PLUNGE's profile.

The model identifies this as a **presser race**, not a closer race. Public will overestimate INTERLOCK EMPIRE's closing prowess (elite sustained-speed rating is real but meaningless in moderate-pace, contested-early-speed environment). Back POLAR BEAR PLUNGE and RUNGIUS as the optimal entries in this spot.

Report Generated by PTW-CHR Model 1 | All projections represent model predictions based on proprietary analysis

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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.

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