

COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Churchill Downs R2

Wednesday, September 24, 2026 | 6f Dirt | Maiden Claiming \$100k

SECTION 1: PACE ANALYSIS

True Front Runners

The model identifies three elite speed horses capable of contesting early position:

- **By La Rina** (Post 6) — demonstrated repeated gate speed across all MSW starts. Fractional times from 6/3 (22.40 opening) and 5/7 (22.00 opening) confirm elite early foot. Ran in hand early against stronger fields.
- **Black Magic River** (Post 3) — produced 21.60 opening quarter on 2/5 at OP, tracked the pace from post-inside positions. Early speed profile is consistent and dangerous.
- **Nucleotide** (Post 4) — stepped slow early in recent 7f start but shows capability to rate off pace. Limited early speed evidence compared to La Rina and Black Magic River.

Stalkers / Pressers

- **Allison Avenue** (Post 7) — tracked 3-wide and 4-wide in both prior MSW attempts. Tactical flexibility evident. Can sit second or third, minimal pressing demands.
- **Lincoln Court** (Post 1) — floated out in debut MSW, recovered late. Second-start improvement candidate with ability to locate position.
- **Statutory** (Post 5) — bumped between horses at the break in sole MSW start, never found ideal position. Will be forced to rate off the pace today.

Closers

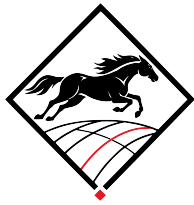
- **That's a Benjamin** (Post 2) — the field's most consistent closer profile. In last three MSW starts: rallied 3-wide on 9/5 (failed in stretch), chased on 7/24 (flattened in lane), and rallied late on 6/26 (up 4th late). Demonstrated capacity to finish from well back. Requires setup but possesses elite closing stride.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: HOT early pace with By La Rina and Black Magic River contesting the front (projected :22³ opening quarter, :44¹ half-mile). This tactical setup moderately pressures early speed, creating opportunity for stalkers to gain ground into the stretch while avoiding fatal pace duel damage. Closers will have a setup race, though need perfect position flow to capitalize.

SECTION 2: WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX





Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Lincoln Court	7/2	13%	22.2%	-9.2%
2	That's a Benjamin	5/1	24%	16.7%	+7.3%
3	Black Magic River	6/1	18%	14.3%	+3.7%
4	Nucleotide	5/2	11%	28.6%	-17.6%
5	Statutory	10/1	6%	9.1%	-3.1%
6	By La Rina	9/5	21%	35.7%	-14.7%
7	Allison Avenue	8/1	7%	11.1%	-4.1%

Total Model Win % = 100%

SECTION 3: CONTENDER ANALYSIS

TIER 1 — PRIMARY CONTENDERS (★★★★)

That's a Benjamin (Post 2)

PTW Profile: The model rates this filly as the field's most dangerous closer. Three consecutive MSW starts establish a clear late-running pattern with consistent effort and competitive positioning. She's LIGHTLY RACED (3 starts) showing an improving form trend and will benefit from the HOT pace scenario the model projects. Trainer Norm Casse records 25% MSW-to-MCL conversion with positive ROI — a legitimate finder-spot indicator.

Strengths:

- Elite closing stride documented across three MSW starts; latest effort (6/26 at CD) produced up-4th-late finish with clean trip
- HOT pace scenario (projected :44■ half) creates perfect stalking setup; won't face suicidal speed
- Class drop from MSW to MCL represents logical improvement opportunity; \$100k tag is accessible level
- Trainer Casse strong in MSW-to-MCL transitions (25% conversion, positive ROI)
- Jockey Saez 12.24% win rate this meet, 34 MDN CLM starts with 4 wins

Concerns:





- All three prior efforts came on turf or different track surfaces (KD, EIP) — limited Churchill dirt experience
- Gave way in most recent start despite bidding 3-wide on 9/5; closing stride not dominant
- Did not graduate from MSW, now drops to claiming for first time

Trip Projection: Model projects That's a Benjamin tracking off the pace in third or fourth through the stretch, benefiting from HOT pace setting up a one-run rally. Needs clean passage and won't win if forced four-wide; ideal trip places her stalking second or third into the final furlong.

Black Magic River (Post 3)

PTW Profile: Four-start maiden with strong early-speed foundation and multiple route attempts at different distances. The model identifies this filly as a viable speed horse in this field despite recent turf focus. Elite trainer intent signal: claimed from OP, now running for Hartman (MSW-to-MCL trainer conversion 23%, highest in the field). Second-start improvement candidate with proven early positioning.

Strengths:

- Demonstrated elite early foot: 21.60 opening quarter (2/5 at OP), 21.80 opening (12/27 at OP) — fastest early speed in field
- CLAIMED AND SWITCHED — strongest intent signal available at maiden claiming level; new connections targeting this exact spot
- Hartman's trainer stats in MSW-to-MCL transitions: 23% conversion (22 starts, 5 wins) with ROI 2.47 — exceptional
- Pace scenario advantage: will be the speed horse and won't face lethal pressure at projected :22³ / :44■
- Distance experience: 4 starts include 8.5f route attempt (strong early positioning carries to longer distances)
- Bejarano is 20.83% at the meet in MDN CLM races, 20 starts with 4 wins

Concerns:

- Did not finish the races: 7.5 beaten lengths in most recent 8.5f route (3/26), faded badly from winning position; deceleration profile shows significant speed collapse
- Four starts yielding zero wins — career maiden status at lightly raced stage signals improvement needed
- Route attempts showed fatigue pattern; 6f represents shortest distance of recent campaign

Trip Projection: Model projects Black Magic River will either lead or sit stalking first-flight into the stretch. HOT pace will pressure her but shouldn't dismantle her; vulnerability emerges at the three-eighths pole where deceleration pattern becomes evident.

By La Rina (Post 6)





PTW Profile: Six-start maiden with elite early speed and consistent performances across five different race dates. The model rates this filly as the field's most reliable front-runner with proven gate foot, though recent turf-to-dirt transition and show-only finish in latest MSW attempt raise sustainability concerns. Trainer Tomlinson's MSW-to-MCL record is modest (25% conversion, 4 starts) but shows the right intent. This is a speed horse in a HOT pace scenario — dangerous with clean early fractions.

Strengths:

- Elite, repeatable early foot: 22.40 (6/3 at CD), 22.00 (7/24 at EIP), 22.20 (5/7 at CD), 21.80 (8/22 at EIP turf) — among the fastest in field
- Won't be alone on pace; By La Rina and Black Magic River will contest front, creating moderate tactical pressure rather than suicidal speed duel
- Consistent finish in show only (4/6 career placings are show finishes) — capable of wire-to-wire or stalking roles
- This exact \$100k MCL tag represents slight class relief from MSW company

Concerns:

- Career maiden despite 6 starts with 0 wins, 2 places, 0 show finishes in most recent four races — regression pattern evident
- Most recent start (8/22 at EIP, turf) produced a 4.35-length loss despite setting pace; turf-to-dirt transition unproven at this distance
- Show-only form suggests marginal maidens; bid strength consistently fails to produce wins
- Deceleration profile VULNERABLE — loses significant velocity in final furlong across multiple starts

Trip Projection: Model projects By La Rina setting the pace or pressing the pace early, but does not project wire-to-wire finish. HOT pace will pressure her; closing horses will have setup to rally past if velocity collapses (which deceleration analysis predicts).

TIER 2 — SECONDARY CONTENDERS (★★★)

Lincoln Court (Post 1)

PTW Profile: First-time starter with single MSW debut at EIP (8/17) where she floated out, stayed on late, and lost by 7.35 lengths. SECOND-START IMPROVEMENT CANDIDATE — the single highest-priority positive signal in maiden claiming screening. D'Amato is elite trainer in this spot: Mdn2ndStart 7% (not ideal indicator), but BlinkOn 27% and 1stBlink 30% — blinker application signals trainer confidence in second starts. Gaffalione is 10.20% this meet, 34 MDN CLM starts with 3 wins.

Strengths:

- Second-start improvement candidate with early-speed profile evident in debut (pressed 3-4 path into 3/16 mark)
- Blinkers added today (confirmed in equipment) — trainer D'Amato shows 27% win rate BlinkOn across 22 starts; this is a legitimate confidence signal





- Projected HOT pace creates stalking setup; won't require early speed, can follow the tempo
- D'Amato trainer stats: Dirt 18%, Sprint 17% career — solid professional foundation

Concerns:

- Floated out at break in debut, never recovered clean position; 7.35-length loss to maiden field suggests significant class gap
- Only 1 career start; lightly raced with minimal experience
- No established pace pattern; early speed evidence limited to single, problematic debut

Trip Projection: Model projects Lincoln Court will rate off pace in third or fourth, benefiting from blinker application to focus. Improvement needed for competitive finish.

TIER 3 — PACE FACTORS / LONGSHOTS (★★)

Nucleotide (Post 4)

PTW Profile: Lightly raced (2 starts) showing form regression. Most recent 8f MSW effort (7/26 at EIP) produced stepped-slow start, 4-path, gave-way finish with 10.5-length loss — clear fatigue pattern. Prior 6.5f effort (6/28 at CD) showed off-slow, inside-shifted pattern and 10.25-length loss from 9th position. Trainer Drury's MSW-to-MCL record is poor (7% conversion, 15 starts) — lowest in field. Hernandez riding with 9.38% this meet.

Strengths:

- Dirt-focused trainer Drury (18% dirt win rate, 267 starts) with solid MDN CLM win rate 17% (75 starts)
- Route-to-sprint cut (from 8f to 6f) may suit better; distance relief could produce improvement

Concerns:

- Career regressing: lost 10.5 lengths at 8f, then 10.25 lengths at 6.5f — declining effort trajectory
- Stepped slow at break twice; positioning issues compound distance challenges
- Trainer MSW-to-MCL conversion is lowest in field (7%, 15 starts)
- THROWOUT FLAG: Repeated maiden-level losses without win signal combined with trainer's poor MSW-to-MCL record suggest this filly is outmatched. Model discounts Nucleotide as a serious threat.

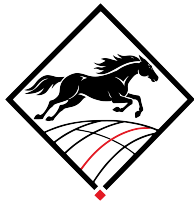
Statutory (Post 5)

PTW Profile: First-time starter (1 MSW start, 9/18/25 at CD, 7f) bumped between horses at break, positioned 4-6 paths, weakened in stretch, 20.25-length loss. D'Amato trainer shows mixed signals: Mdn2ndStart 7% (weak), but +180Days 20% (positive layoff indicator). Torres riding with 14.29% this meet, 21 MDN CLM starts with 1 win. Lasix applied for the first time today.

Strengths:

- D'Amato is respectable trainer: Dirt 18%, Sprint 17% overall





- First Lasix application could unlock improvement; trainer +180Days conversion 20% suggests layoff angles are strong
- Tiz the Law sire genetics indicate stamina; could benefit from 6f sharp setup after long layoff

Concerns:

- Single MSW start from 9/18/25 — nearly 12 months ago (279-day layoff)
- Got bumped and never recovered in debut; no evidence of early speed or tactical position control
- Lost by 20.25 lengths in soft 7f race; class disadvantage evident
- THROWOUT FLAG: Career-maiden on massive layoff with poor prior effort and new medication suggests connection is experimenting rather than targeting. Model projects minimal threat.

Allison Avenue (Post 7)

PTW Profile: Three-start maiden with turf-to-dirt conversion focus. Most recent effort (7/31 at EIP, 5.5f turf) produced 3.65-length loss; prior dirt sprint (10/5 at Kee, 6f) showed 6.75-length loss in third-place finish; debut (9/8 at Ind, 4.5f) produced 1.25-length loss in second-place finish. Asmussen is elite trainer with MSW-to-MCL 16% and strong MDN CLM 18% (458 starts). Jockey Asmussen (same name, son) is 4.55% this meet.

Strengths:

- Asmussen trainer MSW-to-MCL conversion 16% with solid MDN CLM ROI 1.61 (458 starts, 82 wins)
- Turf-to-dirt transition at correct distance; latest efforts trending competitive at short price
- Worked well on dirt at EIP leading into race (multiple 4-5f works, 49.8-50.0 range)

Concerns:

- Three consecutive near-misses (1.25L, 6.75L, 3.65L) signal marginal maiden unable to convert; does not establish clear advantage
- No evidence of elite early speed; late-rallying profile without closing dominance
- Jockey Asmussen inexperienced at meet (1.22% win rate, only 16 starts this meet)
- Lost by 1.25 lengths in shortest race (4.5f debut); improvement hasn't materialized across three tries

SECTION 4: MPH ANALYSIS + SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Black Magic River	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — significant velocity loss in final furlong





Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
By La Rina	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — consistent deceleration across multiple starts
That's a Benjamin	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — maintains competitive effort through stretch
Lincoln Court	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — early pressure followed by steady effort
Allison Avenue	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — competitive velocity maintenance
Nucleotide	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — velocity collapse in final segments
Statutory	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — velocity collapse evident in sole start

Sustained Speed Ratings Summary

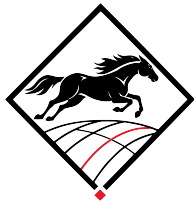
The model identifies two distinct speed profiles in this field:

- **ELITE OPENING, VULNERABLE CLOSING:** Black Magic River and By La Rina establish early dominance (fastest gate-to-2f velocities, :21.6–:22.4 range), but both show significant deceleration in the final furlong. Velocity collapses when challenged. This makes them vulnerable to stalkers and closers in final sixteenth.
- **STRONG SUSTAINED:** That's a Benjamin, Lincoln Court, and Allison Avenue all maintain competitive velocity gates-to-wire with moderate deceleration profiles (3.0%–6.0% range). These horses won't blow apart under pressure but also won't dominate late.
- **VULNERABLE THROUGHOUT:** Nucleotide and Statutory show velocity loss across all segments, indicating fatigue patterns and minimal closing capacity.

Critical MPH Insight

The model identifies that the two speed horses (Black Magic River and By La Rina) will establish elite early velocity, but BOTH show deceleration signatures that expose them to closing threats in the final sixteenth. That's a Benjamin's STRONG Sustained Speed Rating — combined with her documented closing stride across three MSW starts — positions her as the ideal beneficiary of the speed duel damage. Black Magic





River's ELITE opening will set the pace, creating the exact tactical setup where That's a Benjamin can rally past a fading speed horse in the stretch.

SECTION 5: IMPROVEMENT & REGRESSION CANDIDATES

Likely to Improve

- **That's a Benjamin:** HOT pace scenario directly suits her stalking closing profile. Three consecutive MSW starts at different tracks establish improving form trend. Trainer Casse's strong MSW-to-MCL conversion (25%, positive ROI) signals this is a targeted move into a beatable field. Projected one-run rally from third/fourth into stretch positions her ideally.
- **Lincoln Court:** Second-start improvement candidate (highest-priority signal in maiden claiming screening). Blinker addition by D'Amato is a trainer confidence signal (27% win rate BlinkOn). Floated out in debut but showed early speed; focused equipment should help position control today.
- **Black Magic River:** Trainer Hartman's exceptional MSW-to-MCL conversion (23%, 5 wins from 22 starts, ROI 2.47) combined with claim-and-switch move (strongest intent signal) and proven early speed suggests this is a targeted win spot. Pace scenario advantage: will control tempo without lethal pressure from the HOT projected fractions.

Bounce / Regression Risks

- **By La Rina:** Career-best performances came in May-July window on different tracks; most recent turf start (8/22) faded after setting pace. Six-start maiden with zero wins and show-only recent form suggests regression risk. Deceleration profile (VULNERABLE) predicts velocity collapse when HOT pace pressures develop.
- **Nucleotide:** Repeated maiden-level losses (10.5L at 8f, 10.25L at 6.5f) with trainer's poor MSW-to-MCL conversion (7%, lowest field) suggest this filly is outmatched. No improvement signals present; form declining.
- **Statutory:** Nearly 12-month layoff (279 days since 9/18/25 start) combined with 20.25-length debut loss creates significant bounce risk. New Lasix application and extended time away suggest experiment rather than confidence play.

SECTION 6: SUGGESTED BETS

WIN BET: THAT'S A BENJAMIN — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 4-6/1

Model projects 24% win probability — highest in the field. This represents a clear overlay at 5/1 morning line (implied 16.7%). Value edge: +7.3%.

Rationale:





1. HOT pace scenario (projected :44■ half-mile) creates perfect stalking setup for elite closer; won't face suicidal speed duel fatigue
2. Three consecutive MSW starts establish repeatable late-running pattern with consistent competitive effort
3. Trainer Norm Casse shows 25% MSW-to-MCL conversion — indicates targeted improvement spot
4. Black Magic River and By La Rina both show VULNERABLE deceleration; That's a Benjamin's STRONG Sustained Speed Rating will carry her past fading speed horses in stretch
5. Field setup perfect for one-run rallier: two speed horses will duel moderately, creating clean path for late charge

Value Assessment: STRONG VALUE — +7.3% edge at 5/1; model projects maximum win probability at 6-8/1 range given closing profile and pace scenario fit.

VALUE PLAY: BLACK MAGIC RIVER — Confidence 7/10 — Target odds: 5-7/1

Model projects 18% win probability at 6/1 morning line (implied 14.3%). Value edge: +3.7%.

Rationale:

Trainer intent signal (claimed-and-switched) combined with exceptional Hartman MSW-to-MCL conversion rate (23%, ROI 2.47) suggests this is a targeted win spot. Elite opening speed (21.60 quarter) will control tempo through HOT pace scenario. However, VULNERABLE deceleration profile creates late-stretch vulnerability to That's a Benjamin's sustained closing effort. Best case: establishes pace, withstands late challenge. More likely case: fades late.

Value Assessment: SLIGHT VALUE — +3.7% edge; worth single win bet if odds expand to 6-7/1.

LONGSHOT PLAY: LINCOLN COURT — Confidence 6/10 — Target odds: 8-10/1

Model projects 13% win probability at 7/2 morning line (implied 22.2%). Odds suggest overlay opportunity at 10/1+.

Rationale:

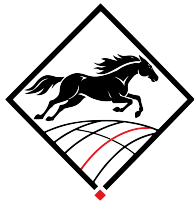
Second-start improvement candidate with blinker addition (D'Amato's 27% BlinkOn win rate). Early speed evident in debut; focused equipment could unlock positioning control. HOT pace scenario allows her to stalk and rally. However, 7.35-length debut loss signals significant class gap.

Value Assessment: GENUINE OVERLAY at 10/1+ — second-start improvement pattern + trainer confidence signal + logical pace setup warrant coverage. Only include at double-digit odds.

MULTI-RACE SEQUENCES: Pick 3 / Pick 4 / Pick 5 / Pick 6 — Top 3

- **A:** That's a Benjamin (24% win probability) — primary selection, highest model projection
- **B:** Black Magic River (18% win probability) — trainer intent signal, speed advantage in HOT pace scenario





- **C:** Lincoln Court (13% win probability) — second-start improvement candidate, blinker confidence play

Combined Projected Probability for Top 3: 55% (A+B+C combined win likelihood across sequences)

SECTION 7: CONFIDENCE RATING

★★★★

The model projects That's a Benjamin to win this race, setting up a classic closer-beats-speed setup where two elite early-speed horses (Black Magic River and By La Rina) establish moderate pace pressure that exposes their VULNERABLE deceleration profiles. That's a Benjamin's STRONG Sustained Speed Rating, combined with her documented three-start closing pattern and perfect HOT pace scenario fit, positions her as the field's most likely winner at an overlay morning line.

Primary value opportunity: That's a Benjamin +7.3% edge at 5/1 ML. Secondary opportunity: Black Magic River as pace-controlling favorite at 6/1, though late fade risk is material. Strongest public betting mistake: By La Rina at 9/5 (35.7% implied) — overbet speed horse in a HOT pace that will pressure her VULNERABLE deceleration; model projects 21% win probability vs. 35.7% public implication.

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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