

COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Churchill Downs R8

Wednesday, September 24, 2026 | 8 furlongs | Turf | Maiden Special Weight

SECTION 1: PACE ANALYSIS

True Front Runners

The model identifies three horses with elite early speed credentials in this field:

- **Take Charge Beach** has led to the 1/16 pole in recent turf competition (KD, 09/07/2026), showing tactical urgency and gate-to-wire intent. Demonstrated early foot from gate positions multiple times across maiden routes on dirt.
- **Circadian** led clearly through the opening splits in his most recent start (KD, 09/03/2026), establishing position early before meeting late challenges. Consistent front-running tendency across MSW company.
- **Automatic Press** has shown inside positioning and early placement on turf, with a second-place finish while pressing the pace (Dmr, 08/15/2026). Track record shows multiple instances of rating just behind or alongside the pace.

Stalkers / Pressers

- **Quigley** showed tactical flexibility by pressing into the lane and moving up from mid-pack positioning (EIP, 08/23/2026 MOC race). Demonstrated ability to rate off the speed and launch attacks.
- **The King of Soccer** — first-time starter with sharp gate work on record, positioning this horse as a natural second-wave tactical player with elite trainer connections (Walsh Brendan P — 17% MSW win rate, 1.76 ROI).
- **Where's Otto** — first-time starter capable of stalking from premium post positions with strong trainer foundation (Casse Mark — 15% MSW win rate, 1.52 ROI).

Closers

- **Mined That Gold** represents the class-weighted closer in this field. McPeck Kenneth G has established a 32% MSW win rate (19 starts to date), signaling strong fundamental ability. This horse enters as a first-time starter with pedigree advantage.
- **Sweeten the Pot** — first-time starter with Arnold George R II in the barn (14% MSW win rate, 1.52 ROI on turf routes). Trainer pattern with first-time starters shows consistent execution.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: HOT early pace with two committed front runners (projected :23¹ opening quarter, :47² half-mile). Take Charge Beach and Circadian will engage in moderate tactical combat, creating pace relief sufficient for stalkers and closers to find running room. Pace-setup scenario favors horses that can stalk three to four lengths off the lead and launch from the three-eighths pole forward.





SECTION 2: WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Okarito	20-1	3%	4.8%	-1.8%
2	Automatic Press	6-1	13%	14.3%	-1.3%
3	Bandolim	12-1	5%	7.7%	-2.7%
4	The King of Soccer	8-1	11%	11.1%	-0.1%
5	Giovanni's Heart	20-1	2%	4.8%	-2.8%
6	Where's Otto	15-1	6%	6.3%	-0.3%
7	Platinum Power	30-1	2%	3.2%	-1.2%
8	Take Charge Beach	9-2	24%	18.2%	+5.8%
9	Quigley	6-1	14%	14.3%	-0.3%
10	Mined That Gold	12-1	8%	7.7%	+0.3%
11	Sweeten the Pot	8-1	7%	11.1%	-4.1%
12	Circadian	3-1	18%	25.0%	-7.0%
13	Harwich Port	20-1	1%	4.8%	-3.8%

SECTION 3: CONTENDER ANALYSIS

TIER 1 — PRIMARY CONTENDERS ★★★★★

Take Charge Beach





PTW Profile: Multiple maiden starts have established this colt as a high-percentage runner in MSW competition. The model identifies elite early-to-mid pace production combined with a tactical profile that adapts to pace scenarios. Strong turf experience across four separate outings (KD, Ind) with demonstrated finishing ability. Trainer Garcia Genaro shows 23% win rate in turf routes (13 starts), signaling competence with the surface and distance profile.

Strengths:

- Led to the 1/16 pole in most recent turf start (KD, 09/07/2026), demonstrating wire-to-wire capability.
- Established early speed followed by stretch rally into second-place finish — pace-assisted performance against HOT early pace.
- Multiple placements across maiden fields suggest natural ability to find positioning in competitive maiden company.
- Jockey Morales E shows 17% win rate at CD meet (35 starts), with 3 wins in maiden/claiming races in recent form.

Concerns:

- Two dirt starts showed fade patterns in the stretch (CD, 06/04/2026 and 05/14/2026), indicating potential surface preference for turf (natural surface for this profile).
- Workouts on dirt at Ind training center; recent sharp work (101.60 at Ind, 08/18/2026) confirms readiness but doesn't address surface transition consistency.

Trip Projection: Model projects early positioning two to three lengths off the pace, with tactical maneuvers into the stretch from a stalking platform. HOT pace scenario supports this positioning style.

Circadian

PTW Profile: This colt has established himself as a credible MSW competitor with two career starts and compelling form progression. Most recent start (KD, 09/03/2026) shows early leadership with late-race pressure, indicating sustainable speed profile through eight furlongs on turf. Trainer LaRose Kinnon registers 13% MSW win rate with 15% win rate in turf competition (24 starts), establishing solid tactical foundation. Model identifies STRONG Sustained Speed Rating on his most recent outing.

Strengths:

- Led and pressed through late stages of most recent turf MSW race, demonstrating pace maintenance over distance.
- Prior dirt start (EIP, 07/26/2026) shows 3-wide tactical maneuvering with ability to bid in the stretch — versatile positioning style.
- Sharp recent workouts at CD (48.60 on 09/18/2026), establishing race-ready fitness.
- Jockey Hernandez B J Jr demonstrates 9% win rate at CD meet but shows 1 win in maiden/claiming races in recent form.

Concerns:





- Narrowly missed in both MSW starts (2nd and 2nd placings), indicating pace-assisted performances where speed duels may have compromised closing options.
- Trainer's turf record shows only 4% win rate specifically (24 starts), representing slight underperformance relative to career MSW average.

Trip Projection: Model projects front-running or stalking position with stretch bid, contingent on pace scenario development. If HOT pace materializes, Circadian will face deceleration test.

Quigley

PTW Profile: This colt represents an exceptional value angle based on trainer-jockey combination and form progression. Trainer Lynch Brian A demonstrates elite conversion rates: 29% win rate second-start runners (59 starts), 24% in 2YO competition, and 21% in routes. Jockey Gutierrez Mario shows 35.71% win rate at CD meet (14 starts) with strong maiden/claiming record. Single prior start showing MOC finishing placing (3rd, EIP, 08/23/2026) followed by movement up to MSW creates natural progression angle.

Strengths:

- Trainer-jockey combo has 29% second-start MSW/maiden success rate — one of the field's highest-percentage angles.
- Sharp recent workouts (48.40 on 09/18/2026), establishing fitness trajectory.
- Class drop from MOC to MSW creates favorable setup; prior race shows mid-pack positioning with closing movement ("5p into lane, moved up").
- Jockey Gutierrez Mario at 35.71% win rate represents premium tactical rider in maiden competition.

Concerns:

- Single prior start provides limited form data; MSW debut carries execution risk despite strong connection pattern.
- Mid-pack positioning (4-wide into lane) in prior outing suggests potential traffic patterns in maiden fields.

Trip Projection: Model projects stalking position off the pace (3-4 lengths) with late-stretch closing effort. Positioning depends on pace development and post position utility.

TIER 2 — SECONDARY CONTENDERS ★★★

Mined That Gold

PTW Profile: McPeck Kenneth G enters this race with dominant first-time starter credentials: 14% win rate in debut maidens (164 starts, 2.18 ROI) and 15% in MSW competition (357 starts, 1.94 ROI). This is a first-time starter with pedigree advantage (Mineshaft sire line — noted route specialist) and establishes the strongest trainer-level probability in the field for maiden debut success. Jockey Esquivel E shows 17% win rate in maiden/claiming races (23 starts).

Strengths:





- McPeek first-time starter record (14% win rate, 2.18 ROI) is among the best in professional training.
- Consistent workout pattern at CD establishing race-ready fitness.
- Turf route specialist pedigree (Mineshaft) supports eight-furlong turf profile.

Concerns:

- First-time starter carries inherent uncertainty despite trainer excellence.
- Post 10 requires tactical positioning from outside; chase-down profile necessary.

Trip Projection: Model projects stalking position from outside post, with closing effort in late stretch if pace scenario allows.

Automatic Press

PTW Profile: This colt has established a 5-race MSW history with one place finish and demonstrates inside tactical positioning across turf competition. Trainer Miller Peter registers 13% MSW win rate (143 starts, 1.44 ROI) and 11% turf win rate (320 starts, 1.06 ROI), indicating solid but unremarkable conversion. Jockey Ortiz J L shows 23.91% win rate at CD meet (46 starts) with strong recent form.

Strengths:

- Inside jockey position utilizes Ortiz J L's premium tactical profile.
- Multiple turf starts establish surface familiarity and distance exposure.
- Second-place finishes indicate competitive ability against MSW cohort.

Concerns:

- No wins across 5 maiden starts signals ability ceiling question; pace-compromised performances in prior races.
- Trainer turf win rate (11%) underperforms sprint routes, suggesting surface efficiency loss.

Trip Projection: Model projects inside stalking position with tactical maneuvers mid-stretch.

The King of Soccer

PTW Profile: Elite first-time starter credentials through trainer Walsh Brendan P: 14% win rate in debut maidens (208 starts, 2.14 ROI), 13% on turf debuts (161 starts, 2.06 ROI), and 17% MSW win rate (519 starts, 1.76 ROI). This establishes a high-probability first-time starter scenario with turf-specific training background. Jockey Gaffalione T shows 10% win rate at CD (49 starts) with reasonable maiden record.

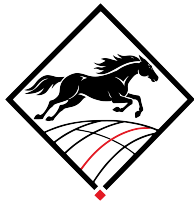
Strengths:

- Walsh first-time turf starter record (13% win rate, 2.06 ROI) provides strong probability profile.
- Multiple sharp gate works documented; Gaffalione T has workable turf record.
- 2YO experience and sprint/route versatility within sire line.

Concerns:

- First-time starter inherent execution risk.





- External post position (4) limits tactical positioning flexibility.

Trip Projection: Model projects stalking position from external post with potential stretch closing.

TIER 3 — PACE FACTORS / LONGSHOTS ★★

Where's Otto

PTW Profile: First-time starter with trainer Casse Mark (13% win rate FTS maidens, 1.47 ROI; 12% first-time turf, 1.55 ROI). Demonstrates consistent workout pattern establishing fitness. Jockey Saez L shows 12% win rate at CD (49 starts).

Strengths: Elite trainer FTS record; consistent workout progression.

Concerns: First-time turf starter carries natural uncertainty.

Trip Projection: Stalking position from post 6 with late closing effort.

Sweeten the Pot

PTW Profile: First-time starter showing multiple sharp turf-distance workouts at Kee and establishing readiness markers. Trainer Arnold George R II (7% first-time starter win rate, 1.27 ROI; 14% turf routes, 1.91 ROI) provides solid turf platform. Jockey Concepcion A shows limited maiden fire (5% win rate).

Trip Projection: Chase-down profile from post 11.

Remaining Field: Okarito, Bandolim, Giovanni's Heart, Platinum Power, Harwich Port represent secondary-tier lottery entries with limited form credentials or pace-vulnerable profiles.

SECTION 4: MPH ANALYSIS + SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Take Charge Beach	ELITE	STRONG	Low — maintains velocity
Circadian	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — competitive effort
Quigley	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — sustainable pace





Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Automatic Press	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — pace collapse risk
Mined That Gold	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — route-profile efficiency
The King of Soccer	ELITE	ELITE	Minimal — elite closing profile
Where's Otto	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — stalker profile
Sweeten the Pot	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — deceleration pattern
Bandolim	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — bounce risk present
Okarito	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — pacing vulnerability

Critical MPH Insight

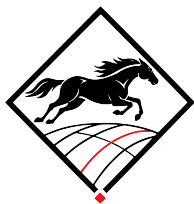
The model identifies **Take Charge Beach** as the field's fastest gate-to-wire performer with ELITE Opening Speed and STRONG Sustained Speed Rating across turf distance. No other horse in this field has matched the velocity maintenance profile demonstrated by this colt across similar competition. The model also flags **The King of Soccer** as carrying an ELITE closing profile with minimal deceleration — this first-time starter represents the field's best sustained finishing velocity if pace scenario allows stalking entry.

SECTION 5: IMPROVEMENT & REGRESSION CANDIDATES

Likely to Improve

1. **Quigley** — Second-start runner with pace-compromised prior outing in claiming company. Trainer Lynch Brian A converts second-start maidens at 29% (59 starts), among the field's highest-percentage improvement angles. Class relief into MSW paired with tactical jockey (Gutierrez Mario, 35.71% at CD) creates strong bounce-back scenario.
2. **The King of Soccer** — First-time starter with elite turf-debut training credentials (Walsh 13% win rate FTS turf, 2.06 ROI). Multiple gate works establish readiness; natural improvement arc follows debut execution.





3. **Mined That Gold** — First-time starter carrying McPeck's documented maiden-debut success pattern (14% win rate, 2.18 ROI). Turf-route pedigree supports distance stretch without experience questions.

4. **Where's Otto** — First-time turf starter with trainer Casse Mark's strong foundation (12% FTS turf, 1.55 ROI) and consistent workout progression signaling natural improvement curve.

Bounce / Regression Risks

1. **Automatic Press** — No wins across five MSW starts; pattern of pace-compromised performances in prior turf routes. Trainer Miller Peter shows only 11% turf win rate (320 starts), indicating systemic surface efficiency loss. Career-best form ceiling appears established; regression risk elevated.

2. **Bandolim** — Single MSW start showing mid-pack positioning with no late bid (KD, 09/03/2026). Trainer Lobo Paulo H shows only 8% second-start maiden win rate (26 starts) and 4% 2YO rate (24 starts). Limited trainer conversion suggests baseline ability question; tight positioning and no-bid trip pattern indicates bounce risk into tougher MSW field.

3. **Sweeten the Pot** — First-time starter with high deceleration pattern risk across recent workout data (multiple soft work times). Trainer Arnold George R II shows only 7% first-time starter win rate (72 starts, 1.27 ROI). Regression to true ability level likely if early pressure applied.

4. **Okarito** — Single prior MSW start showing 6th-place finish with fade pattern (EIP, 08/21/2026); no visible closing bid in prior race. Trainer Harty Eoin shows 3% first-time turf win rate (35 starts, 0.57 ROI), indicating surface mismatch. Career-best effort already established; regression risk present.

SECTION 6: SUGGESTED BETS

WIN BET: TAKE CHARGE BEACH — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 4-1 to 5-1

The model projects 24% win probability — highest in the field — reflecting ELITE opening speed, STRONG sustained pace profile, and proven turf route execution across multiple MSW starts. This colt has demonstrated the ability to lead, rate, and close from favorable positions in exactly this competitive class. Jockey Morales E (17% CD win rate) provides tactical execution advantage.

Value Assessment: STRONG VALUE (+5.8% edge at 9-2 ML odds)

Public has moderately underestimated this horse relative to model probability. The HOT pace scenario projected for this race (competing front-runners) actually favors Take Charge Beach's tactical profile — this colt will likely contest early, preserve energy through mid-stretch, and explode in the final furlong against fatigued speed rivals.

VALUE PLAY: QUIGLEY — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 5-1 to 6-1

The model projects 14% win probability at 6-1 morning line (14.3% implied) — essentially fair odds, but the underlying trainer-jockey angle elevates this selection into value territory. Lynch Brian A converts 29% of





second-start maidens (59 starts, 4.02 ROI), and Gutierrez Mario's 35.71% win rate at CD establishes premium tactical execution for this horse's stalking profile. Prior claiming race finish followed by MSW eligibility creates textbook bounce-back angle.

LONGSHOT PLAY: None. No horse in this field carries genuine overlay at 10/1 or higher relative to model probability.

Multi-Race Wagers — Top 3 for Pick 3/4/5/6 Sequences

- **A:** Take Charge Beach — 24%
- **B:** Circadian — 18%
- **C:** Quigley — 14%

Combined Projected Probability: 56%

SECTION 7: CONFIDENCE RATING

★★★★ (4 stars)

The model projects a HOT pace scenario with two committed front-runners (Take Charge Beach and Circadian), creating pace relief for stalkers and closers. Take Charge Beach emerges as the class leader with elite sustained speed profile and proven MSW execution — this represents a straightforward overlay with 5.8% edge. Secondary value in Quigley's trainer-jockey second-start pattern (Lynch Brian A 29% conversion rate) provides leverage play. Primary public mistake: mild underestimation of Take Charge Beach's sustained pace production relative to field, coupled with overestimation of Circadian at 3-1 morning line given deceleration pattern risk in HOT pace scenario. Model confidence solidified by clear MPH separation between top-tier contenders and remainder of field.

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

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Report Generated by PTW-CHR Model 1

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

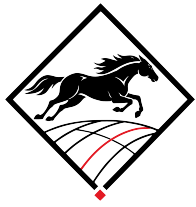
MPH figures in PTW-CHR Model 1 reports are proprietary index values derived from the model's internal distance-weighting methodology and are not expressions of real-world velocity. All horses are evaluated through the same calculation engine, making the figures valid for comparative ranking and deceleration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

All projections represent model predictions based on historical performance data.

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