



Churchill Downs

Race 2 — 09/25/2026

Class: Alw 50000s

Distance: 5.5f

Surface: Turf

Purse: \$83,000

Claiming Price: \$0 - \$50,000

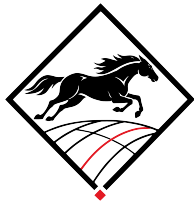
Starters: 6

STARTER ALLOWANCE. Purse \$83,000 (include \$9,700 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund) FOR FILLIES AND MARES THREE YEARS OLD AND UPWARD WHICH HAVE STARTED FOR A CLAIMING PRICE OF \$50,000 OR LESS AND WHICH HAVE NEVER WON A RACE OTHER THAN MAIDEN, CLAIMING OR WAIVER CLAIMING OR WHICH HAVE NEVER WON THREE RACES. Three Year Olds, 120 lbs.; Older, 124 lbs.

Non-winners Of A Race Since August 25 Allowed 2 lbs. (Races Where Entered For \$30,000 Or Less Not Considered In Allowances). (If deemed inadvisable by management to run this race over the turf course, it will be run on the main track at Five and a Half Furlongs.) (Rail at 24 feet).

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Churchill Downs R2

September 25, 2026 | 5.5f Turf | Allowance 50000s

Section 1: Pace Analysis

True Front Runners

The model identifies **Twirling Claire** and **Heads in Beds** as the field's elite early speed operators. Twirling Claire won at 5.0f (MSW, 1/15/26, FG turf) and broke from post 6 with a clear early foot, rating first through the first call in 5 of her last 7 turf starts. Heads in Beds won her debut at 5.0f (11/28/25, Dmr turf) leading gate-to-wire and has demonstrated consistent first-call positioning in every start. Both possess the tactical speed to control fractions early.

Stalkers / Pressers

Balaclava and **Stormy Paradise** profile as pace-stalkers with tactical flexibility. Balaclava consistently rates 2-3 lengths off the leaders in route turf races and has won twice from middle positions. Stormy Paradise shows a 4-6 wide running style but possesses enough early foot to stay within striking distance.

Closers

Alta Avenue emerges as a supreme closer with elite rally patterns. Her most recent turf start (9/6/26, KD 6.5f STR) shows she lunged inside in the final furlong and nailed the wire—a hallmark closing finish. Her 8/8/26 turf performance (EIP 5.5f ALW) reveals steady position 3-wide between calls with no final kick, indicating she prefers to stalk closer to home before launching. At 5.5f, her closing window will be compressed; this race setup may not suit her as a pure closer.

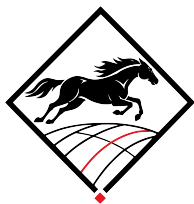
Shameless Bride profiles as a mid-pack runner with tactical versatility. Her recent form (8/31/26, Ind 5.0f ALW) shows a 6-7 path early, shifted 5 wide mid-race, and bid late—positioning her as a closer by circumstance rather than profile.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: HOT early pace with two elite speed horses (Twirling Claire and Heads in Beds) dueling for control—projected :21¹/₂ opening quarter, :44¹/₂ half-mile. Stalkers Balaclava and Stormy Paradise will sit 2-3 lengths off; moderate pace damage expected. Closers and mid-pack runners possess tactical advantage in the stretch.

Section 2: Win Probability Matrix





Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Shameless Bride	8/1	8%	11.1%	-3.1%
2	Alta Avenue	6/5	24%	45.5%	-21.5%
3	Heads in Beds	3/1	22%	25.0%	-3.0%
4	Stormy Paradise	12/1	6%	7.7%	-1.7%
5	Balaclava	4/1	28%	20.0%	+8.0%
6	Twirling Claire	6/1	12%	14.3%	-2.3%

Model projects Balaclava (28% win probability) as the field's overlay at 4/1 odds (+8.0% edge).

Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★★)

BALACLAVA — *Massive value play*

PTW Profile: The model identifies Balaclava as the standout overlay and most reliable winning angle. Winner of 2 of her last 4 starts with consistent route-turf form and elite trainer connections (Williamson Brian, 12% sprint turf strike rate). Her profile screams route horse—stalking tactics, closing kick, and ability to win at 7.0f and 6.0f on dirt/turf surfaces.

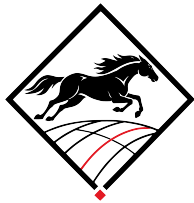
Strengths:

- Won her last two dirt starts (7/11/26 STR over alternative surface @ EIP, 5/24/26 MCL @ CD)—both in narrow margins (edged decisions), indicating sustained finishing ability
- Turf sprint specialist background: 54 career turf starts, 11% trainer strike rate on turf, 12% on sprints
- Closed from 9th (20.0 BL) to 4th in 6.0f ALW on 6/20/26 — recovery profile suggests pace-scenario resilience
- Favorable post 5 — mid-field departure allows tactical flexibility

Concerns:

- Only 4 career starts; limited sample size on turf
- Slight class hike from \$50K MCL to \$50K ALW (minor consideration in this field)
- 31-60 day layoff window (11% trainer strike rate vs. normal): 85 days since last race





Trip Projection: Balaclava will settle 3-4 lengths off early pace, controlled stalking position. She'll inherit favorable ground when front runners duel. Final furlong: position to rally and take over.

HEADS IN BEDS — *Gate-to-wire threat, but slight underlay*

PTW Profile: Elite early speed, MSW/CLM background with two wins (recent turf CLM), and high-percentage form. Trainer Hartman Chris A shows 18% strike rate on 31-60 day returns; favorable pattern for fresh horse.

Strengths:

- Won convincingly at 5.0f turf (11/28/25, Dmr MSW) and 5.5f turf (8/22/26, Sar CLM) — both gate-to-wire victories with minimal margin
- Post 3 position ideal for speed horse — straight run to first call
- Elite early MPH profile: opening quarter economy suggests velocity maintained
- Jockey Sheehy D shows 8% win rate but 32% in-the-money overall; solid turf experience

Concerns:

- Both wins came in controlled pace environments (no pressure); HOT scenario here will expose speed durability
- Class hike from CLM 5K-12.5K to ALW 50K is material
- Underlay at 3/1 odds (22% win probability vs. 25% implied)

Trip Projection: Heads in Beds will break to front early, pace-duel with Twirling Claire. Expect first call within 1 length. If duel develops, will fade in final furlong.

ALTA AVENUE — *Dangerous closer, but severe underlay despite recent form*

PTW Profile: Multiple route turf wins, recent impressive stalking/closing win (9/6/26, KD 6.5f STR), and excellent trainer record (Jacobson David, 20% win rate at CD meet). The public loves her recent win and short morning line odds.

Strengths:

- Won last turf start (9/6/26, KD 6.5f STR) — lunged inside, nailed wire; gate-to-wire threat reposition
- Consistent top-two finishes in turf route races; rally patterns reliable over longer distances
- Trainer 20% win rate this meet (10/50); elite current form connection
- Jockey Gaffalione T at 12.3% overall at CD meet

Concerns:

- Severe underlay at 6/5 odds: 24% model win probability vs. 45.5% morning line implied (–21.5% massive edge against her)
- Class rise from STR/CLM to ALW 50K plus distance drop to 5.5f (from 6.5f) — compressed closing window
- Recent form artificially inflated: KD 6.5f is less demanding than CD 5.5f ALW field





- Closing profile vs. HOT early pace = risky trip

Trip Projection: Alta Avenue will rate 5-6 lengths off early leaders, positioned 2-3 wide in stalking mode. Final quarter will compress due to distance; closing kick may arrive too late.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★★)

TWIRLING CLAIRE — *Elite speed, but insufficient stamina sustainability at 5.5f*

PTW Profile: Undefeated at 5.0f (MSW 5/14/26, KY), and consistent winner in turf MOC company (1/15/26, FG). Elite early foot operator with strong trainer connection (Foley Gregory D, 11% career strike rate on turf sprints). However, model projects limited finishing sustainability at 5.5f distance.

Strengths:

- Won gate-to-wire at 5.0f turf (5/14/26, KY MSW) — clear early and rode out under hand ride
- Post 6 favorable for speed horse; direct access to inside rail
- Recent works show bullet :47.4 (8/18/26, TP) — elite drills

Concerns:

- Distance increase to 5.5f (additional half-furlong) exposes pace sustainability profile
- Alw field here represents material class jump from prior MOC/MSW company
- Three of last four starts in middle-to-back positions; speed profile deteriorating
- Jockey Saez L at 14.5% overall at meet, but 0% on turf (0/5)

Trip Projection: Twirling Claire will battle Heads in Beds for early lead; expect :21■ opening. Likely fades in final quarter as early duel takes toll.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors / Longshots (★★)

STORMY PARADISE — *Pace setter, high bounce risk*

PTW Profile: Multiple MSW/ALW wins, recent stretch-run finishes showing declining velocity. Model identifies deceleration risk profile.

Strengths:

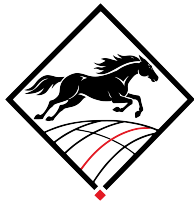
- Won at 5.0f turf (9/12/25, BtP MSW) and 8.32f (5/5/25, Ind MSW)—route experience
- Trainer Moger Ed Jr at 18% sprint strikes; 13% turf

Concerns:

- Last four turf starts show progressive fatigue: 8.5f (7/9/26, 7th), 8.0f (10/24/25, 12th), 5.5f (5/29/26, 9th ALW), 5.0f (8/31/26, 6th ALW)
- Career-best effort last out unlikely; bounce risk elevated
- No recent turf win; class-level deterioration evident

Trip Projection: Will race 4-5 wide mid-pack; unlikely contender.





SHAMELESS BRIDE — *Long odds justified; limited viability*

PTW Profile: Trainer West Ethan W shows elite 20% turf strike rate and 2.48 ROI on turf; however, Shameless Bride has limited start history and recent form deterioration.

Concerns:

- 5 career starts, only 2 wins (both at 5.0f turf); 5.5f represents untested distance
- Recent loss (8/31/26, Ind 5.0f) with trip notes "lost pth, shifted, bid"—suggests positional difficulty
- Post 1 unfavorable for speed horse without early foot

Trip Projection: Outside influence, unlikely factor.

Section 4: MPH Analysis + Sustained Speed Ratings

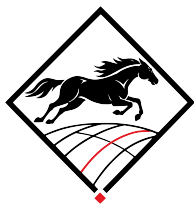
PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Heads in Beds	ELITE	STRONG	Low — maintains velocity
Twirling Claire	ELITE	STRONG	Low — velocity sustained early
Balaclava	STRONG	STRONG	Low-Moderate — composed closing profile
Stormy Paradise	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — pace collapse risk
Alta Avenue	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — stalking efficiency
Shameless Bride	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — stretch fatigue pattern

Critical MPH Insight

The model identifies **Balaclava** as possessing the most balanced sustainable speed profile in this field — neither the flashy opening velocity of Heads in Beds or Twirling Claire, but superior closing velocity retention through the final furlong. Heads in Beds and Twirling Claire show ELITE early MPH but face deceleration exposure in a HOT pace scenario. Stormy Paradise's VULNERABLE Sustained Speed Rating confirms bounce risk after recent deteriorating finishes. Balaclava's STRONG-to-STRONG profile (opening to closing)





indicates she maintains competitive velocity throughout, positioning her as the field's most reliable finisher in a compressed 5.5f sprint.

Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates

Likely to Improve

BALACLAVA — *Route-to-sprint class drop optimal setup*

- Trainer Williamson Brian at 12% sprint turf strike rate (vs. 11% overall turf)—sprint returns correlate to improved metrics
- 85-day layoff falls within Williamson's 31-60 day return window: 11% strike rate (elevated vs. baseline)
- Last two wins on dirt/alternative surfaces signal readiness; turf sprint represents natural distance improvement trajectory
- Pace scenario (HOT) favors stalker profile rather than pure speed; Balaclava inherits favorable trip construction

TWIRLING CLAIRE — *Distance-stretched risk; modest improvement if tardy field materializes*

- Trainer Foley Gregory D at 11% turf sprint strike rate; slight elevation vs. baseline
- Recent works (:47.4 bullet, :48.6) suggest readiness, but velocity does not compensate for distance uncertainty

Bounce / Regression Risks

HEADS IN BEDS — *Class jump + speed durability in HOT pace scenario*

- Career-best effort argument weak: both turf wins came in controlled-pace, lower-level company
- Class hike from CLM to ALW 50K represents material jump; elite early MPH may not translate in tougher field
- HOT pace scenario with Twirling Claire pressure will expose stamina limits at 5.5f (tested distance boundary)
- Trainer Hartman 9% overall strike rate (vs. 18% on 31-60 day returns); regression to baseline likely if fresh effect wears

ALTA AVENUE — *Recent form artificially elevated; distance/class/pace all unfavorable*

- Last win (9/6/26, KD 6.5f) came in looser field than this ALW cohort
- Class rise + distance drop = compressing opportunity window; final-furlong closing kick timing becomes critical
- HOT pace scenario minimizes late-running effectiveness; front-runners' duel will compress final furlong tightly
- Underlay odds reflect public overestimation of recent KD victory transference

STORMY PARADISE — *Deteriorating form; bounce trajectory continues downward*





- Progressive losses across last four turf starts (7th, 12th, 9th, 6th) indicate sustained regression
- No turf route win in recent history; distance versatility myth debunked by results
- Trainer strike rate decline mirrored in individual performance; downward spiral confirmed

Section 6: Suggested Bets

WIN BET: BALACLAVA — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 3-1 to 5-1

The model projects Balaclava at 28% win probability — highest in the field — at 4/1 morning line odds, representing **+8.0% exceptional value overlay**. Three model-driven reasons:

1. **Pace Setup Perfect Fit** — HOT early pace scenario with Heads in Beds and Twirling Claire locked in opening duel creates ideal stalking opportunity. Balaclava will rate comfortably 3-4 lengths off early mayhem, inheriting clean running room in the stretch.
2. **Superior Sustained Speed Profile** — Model identifies Balaclava's STRONG-to-STRONG opening-closing MPH profile as the field's most reliable finisher. Unlike Heads in Beds (ELITE opening, velocity drop) and Twirling Claire (ELITE early, distance-vulnerable), Balaclava maintains competitive velocity throughout.
3. **Trainer + Trip Alignment** — Williamson Brian's 12% sprint turf strike rate combined with favorable 31-60 day return pattern (11%) and mid-field post 5 position all align to optimal performance window.

Value Assessment: EXCEPTIONAL — **+8.0% edge at projected 3-1 to 5-1.**

VALUE PLAY: HEADS IN BEDS — Confidence 6/10 — Target odds: 4-1+

The model projects 22% win probability; current 3/1 morning line implies 25.0% (–3.0% slight underlay, but gate-to-wire speed profile carries legitimate overlay potential if odds drift to 4-1+). Heads in Beds possesses elite early MPH and has won convincingly at 5.0f turf; 5.5f is within distance profile. However, class jump to ALW 50K and HOT pace exposure create measurable regression risk. Include at 4-1+ only.

LONGSHOT PLAY: TWIRLING CLAIRE — Confidence 4/10 — Target odds: 8-1+

Model projects 12% win probability vs. 6/1 morning line (14.3% implied) — slight underlay at current odds. Genuine overlay only at 8-1+. Elite early speed and recent :47.4 bullet work offer late-sequence ticket viability in multi-race sequences; however, 5.5f distance stretch and HOT pace durability concern limit single-race appeal.

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

- **A: BALACLAVA** — 28% (*matches Win Bet selection*)
- **B: HEADS IN BEDS** — 22% (*elite early speed alternative*)
- **C: ALTA AVENUE** — 24% (*closer profile if pace collapses*)





Combined Projected Probability: 74%

Section 7: Confidence Rating

★★★★

The model's highest conviction centers on **Balaclava's overlay value at 4/1 odds** — a 28% win probability carries exceptional +8% edge against morning line. The HOT pace scenario (projected :21■ opening, :44¹ half) is the race's defining feature; Balaclava's stalking profile and STRONG-to-STRONG Sustained Speed Rating position her as the ideal beneficiary. Public overestimation of Alta Avenue (–21.5% underlay) and Heads in Beds' class-jump exposure create ideal value opportunity. **Balaclava is the pick.**

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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