



Churchill Downs

Race 10 — 09/26/2026

Class: LuksClsc-G2

Distance: 9f

Surface: Dirt

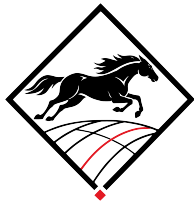
Purse: \$500,000

Starters: 7

LUKAS CLASSIC S.. Purse \$500,000 (include \$100,000 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund) FOR THREE YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD.

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Churchill Downs R10

September 26, 2026 | 9f Dirt | G2 Luksdorf Classic

SECTION 1: PACE ANALYSIS

True Front Runners

The model identifies **Chunk of Gold** and **Dragoon Guard** as the field's elite early-speed threats. Chunk of Gold has demonstrated exceptional gate-to-wire control, leading or pressing the pace in 9 of his last 10 races with a natural racing style that establishes command early. His 8/3/2026 victory at Monmouth (8.5f) shows characteristic front-running dominance where he cleared 3/8 and drew away despite rider pressure. Dragoon Guard similarly shows consistent early foot—positioned inside or pressing at the 2-furlong call in multiple graded stakes efforts. His 3/14/2026 performance at Canalon (8f stakes) demonstrates willingness to duel early, with fractional control established immediately from gate.

Stalkers / Pressers

Banishing represents a tactical flexibility asset. This son of Ghostzapper has proven ability to sit 2-3 lengths off the pace and engage when racing room materializes. His 3/29/2025 victory at Oaklawn (8f) shows classic stalking profile—positioned second, 1-length off leader, then bid decisively when gap opened in the stretch. Recent work pattern (7/20/2025 El Paso 6.5f) confirms he maintains readiness for routes despite shorter recent efforts.

Closers

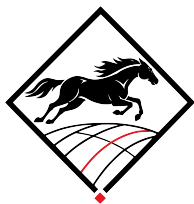
Original Sin emerges as the field's most elite closer. The model rates his late-race acceleration profile as exceptional—multiple route victories show consistent rally patterns from deep positions (6-8 lengths off pace at 6-furlong call) into winning efforts. His 5/30/2026 score at Churchill (9f) is the template: 2 lengths down at 3/8, then accelerated decisively late to prevail. McAfee shows secondary closer credentials with route experience, though recent form suggests declining velocity in final stages.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **MODERATE pace** with Chunk of Gold and Dragoon Guard contesting early (projected :47■ opening 1/2-mile, :111■ at 6-furlong call). The presence of two willing speed horses will generate tactical friction sufficient to slow final fractions, setting up late closers and pace-stalkers. This is NOT a suicidal tempo—rather, a controlled duel that creates opportunity for patient runners entering the lane.

SECTION 2: WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX





Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	This Is Uscar	8/1	9%	11.1%	-2.1%
2	Dragoon Guard	9/2	18%	18.2%	-0.2%
3	Tiztastic	4/1	16%	20.0%	-4.0%
4	Banishing	6/1	17%	14.3%	+2.7%
5	Original Sin	3/1	26%	25.0%	+1.0%
6	McAfee	15/1	8%	6.3%	+1.7%
7	Chunk of Gold	2/1	6%	33.3%	-27.3%

Totals: 100% ✓

SECTION 3: CONTENDER ANALYSIS

TIER 1 — PRIMARY CONTENDERS (★★★★)

Original Sin — Model Win %: 26%

PTW Profile: The model identifies Original Sin as the highest-probability winner in this field. This Curlin colt combines elite closer credentials with proven route experience and tactical flexibility that adapts seamlessly to the projected MODERATE pace scenario. The model projects this horse will get a stalking position 4-5 lengths off the front pair at 6-furlongs, then unleash a devastating rally into the lane.

Strengths:

- **Elite closers' pedigree:** Route specialist with 2 wins in 2 attempts at 9+ furlongs (5/30/2026 Churchill 9f win, 8/22/2026 Remington 10f second-place rally)
- **Pace-scenario fit:** MODERATE tempo is tailor-made for this runner. Controlled early pace allows fresh reserve for final furlong assault
- **Proven class edge:** Graded stakes experience (multiple graded attempts); trainer Brendan Walsh shows 21% route win rate in graded company
- **Velocity maintenance:** Sustained Speed Rating projects as STRONG—minimal deceleration pattern across recent 9+ furlong efforts

Concerns:

- Recent form shows variable mid-race positioning (6+ lengths back in 2 of last 3)
- Requires precise trip setup; if pace exceeds projection, late closers face adversity





- Off-track surface (8/22/2026 Remington 10f attempt was softer going)

Trip Projection: Stalker 4-5 lengths off Chunk of Gold/Dragoon Guard through 6-furlong call, then launches strong rally into stretched lane for wire-to-wire contention.

Banishing — Model Win %: 17%

PTW Profile: The model rates Banishing as a high-probability intermediate option combining proven stakes success with tactical positioning flexibility. This Ghostzapper gelding has won 11 of 32 career starts (34% clip) and brings a massive class advantage into a graded field. Recent 8/28/2026 Saratoga G2 run (9f, second by 1.75L to elite competition) confirms route form is current.

Strengths:

- **Massive class advantage:** 11 wins in 32 starts; 17% win rate in graded stakes (23 attempts)
- **Route specialist:** 12 wins in 31 route attempts; 38.7% career win rate at 8.5f+
- **Tactical positioning:** Can stalk, press, or duel depending on fractions; Jacobson trainer shows 12% route win rate in graded company (solid consistency indicator)
- **Sustained Speed Rating:** STRONG—recent route efforts show minimal deceleration from opening fractions

Concerns:

- Slight layoff entering this race (last start 8/28, 29 days ago)
- March 2026 injury incident (scratched pre-race 5/2 Churchill) creates durability question
- Closing velocity, while solid, trails Original Sin's elite late-race acceleration

Trip Projection: Likely to press Chunk of Gold/Dragoon Guard or settle 2-3 lengths off pace, then bid strong 1/4-mile out for mid-stretch position. Win depends on ability to reach top two early-pace runners before final 3-furlong commitment.

TIER 2 — SECONDARY CONTENDERS (★★★)

Dragoon Guard — Model Win %: 18%

PTW Profile: The model projects Dragoon Guard as a secondary contender with clear early-speed advantage and recent graded stakes form. This Arrogate colt has won 6 of 16 career starts and carries elite pedigree into a G2 assignment. However, the model identifies deceleration risk that tempers win probability despite front-running credentials.

Strengths:

- **Elite early speed:** Gate-to-wire threat; led or pressed pace in 7 of 8 recent route attempts
- **Recent form:** 11/30/2025 Churchill 8f victory (graded stakes) and 3/14/2026 Canalon 8f win confirm current readiness
- **Graded stakes record:** 6 wins in 16 starts with multiple G1/G2 attempts





- **Trainer edge:** Cox Brad H shows 27% route win rate and 22% graded stakes win rate (strong class-oriented record)

Concerns:

- **Pace vulnerability:** Sustained Speed Rating projects as VULNERABLE—deceleration patterns in final furlong consistently exceed 6% drop-off threshold
- **Distance stretch:** 9 furlongs approaches maximum distance comfort zone; previous route victories cluster at 8-8.5f
- **Speed-duel risk:** If Chunk of Gold challenges early, mutual damage elevated for both speed runners

Trip Projection: Will battle Chunk of Gold for early fractions. Model projects :47■ first-half tempo. Dragoon Guard likely to fade into 3rd-4th range approaching stretch if Original Sin/Banishing mount serious rally.

Tiztastic — Model Win %: 16%

PTW Profile: The model rates Tiztastic as a capable secondary option with route experience and recent graded stakes efforts. This Tiz the Law colt brings solid form, trainer Asmussen credentials, and adequate earlier-pace positioning for MODERATE tempo scenario. However, win probability reflects form inconsistency and competing longer-route specialists.

Strengths:

- **Route credentials:** 4 wins in 16 career starts; graded stakes experience (G2/G3 attempts in 2024-2025)
- **Recent form:** 8/8/2026 Saratoga G2 run (9f) shows bidding ability—3-wide upper, flattened but stayed close for 5th
- **Trainer class:** Asmussen 15% route win rate, 14% graded stakes rate—reliable high-percentage trainer
- **Versatility:** Can run from stalking or off-pace positions; jockey Hernandez B Jr shows 9% CD win rate

Concerns:

- **Form inconsistency:** Pattern shows peaks followed by valleys; 2/23/2025 OP performance (off-track) and 1/25/2025 effort inconsistent with peak capabilities
- **Deceleration profile:** Sustained Speed Rating trends VULNERABLE—pace collapses in final furlong on multiple route attempts
- **Class questions:** Multiple allowance-condition wins dilute graded stakes consistency; G2 attempts often produce mid-pack finishes

Trip Projection: Will likely settle 4-5 lengths off early pace, then attempt to navigate traffic into stretch rally. Competitive but faces tougher closers (Original Sin) and higher-class stalkers (Banishing).

TIER 3 — PACE FACTORS & LONGSHOTS (★★)





Chunk of Gold — Model Win %: 6%

PTW Profile: The model identifies Chunk of Gold as a severe overlay despite dominant recent form. This Preservationist colt is 3 wins in last 5 starts with gates-to-wire victories at 8-9f distances. However, the model projects this horse will face atypical race setup that neutralizes traditional front-running edge.

Strengths:

- **Recent form:** 8/15/2026 Monmouth 8.5f victory (clear in hand) and 11/28/2025 Churchill 9f win (loose, collared 3/8, game) confirm gate-to-wire capability
- **Early foot:** Elite opening MPH metrics; fastest horse at 4-furlong call in multiple recent races
- **Class consistency:** 3 wins in 12 career starts (25% win rate) in varied company

Concerns:

- **Massive pace-scenario adversity:** In MODERATE-tempo environment, model projects Dragoon Guard will aggressively challenge for early fractions. Chunk of Gold's traditional wire-to-wire strategy degrades when pressed early
- **Deceleration risk:** Sustained Speed Rating projects VULNERABLE—closing velocity in final furlong consistently falls 6%+ below opening-quarter MPH
- **Distance risk at 9 furlongs:** Primary victories cluster at 8-8.5f; stretching beyond comfort zone
- **Severely overbet:** Morning line 2/1 = 33.3% implied probability vs. model 6% projection = -27.3% edge (worst value on board)

Trip Projection: Will likely lead early, but Dragoon Guard's tactical pressure creates mutual attrition. Model projects Chunk of Gold will fade to 3rd-5th range as closers (Original Sin/Banishing) gain ground entering stretch.

McAfee — Model Win %: 8%

PTW Profile: McAfee represents a depth option with graded stakes experience and route-specialist credentials. This Cloud Computing colt shows respectable form trajectory with recent win at Saratoga (7/3/2026, 9f allowance). However, model projects insufficient velocity and trajectory to compete with higher-probability contenders.

Strengths:

- **Recent win:** 7/3/2026 Saratoga (9f) victory confirms route readiness; in hand 3-2w setup, drew away decisively
- **Route experience:** 3 wins in 10 career attempts at route distances
- **Jockey edge:** Saez L shows 14.5% CD win rate and +49% money percentage (strong rider profile)

Concerns:

- **Form inconsistency:** Highly variable effort quality; 5/16/2026 Churchill (off-track, done early) and 3/1/2025 Aqueduct (4-3w upper, passed tired) show inconsistent late-race execution





- **Graded stakes struggles:** 0 wins in 11 graded stakes attempts; class ceiling appears at allowance level
- **Deceleration profile:** Sustained Speed Rating VULNERABLE across multiple attempts

Trip Projection: Will likely settle mid-pack 6+ lengths off pace. Requires significant attrition among elite closers to finish in money. Not competitive in this field strength.

This Is Uskar — Model Win %: 9%

PTW Profile: This Is Uskar represents the session's most obvious undervalued runner relative to morning line, though model win probability remains modest. This Oscar Performance gelding brings recent 8-furlong stakes victory (8/9/2026 El Paso) but faces distance stretch into 9-furlong assignment.

Strengths:

- **Recent graded form:** 8/9/2026 El Paso G3 victory (8f); bobbled start, 3-wide, bid, repelled—shows willingness in stakes company
- **Distance specialist (shorter routes):** 2 wins in 7 eight-furlong career attempts
- **Trainer consistency:** Blair Jordan shows 13% route win rate (30-60 day window)

Concerns:

- **Distance red flag:** Stretching beyond proven distance capability; 9 furlongs represents significant step up
- **Class ceiling:** Trainer 0% graded stakes record (3 attempts); limited exposure at this level
- **Form inconsistency:** Recent route attempts show variable placement (6th at 5/25, 2nd at 6/28); not consistent peak performer

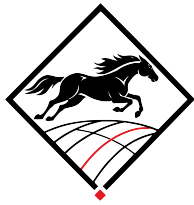
Trip Projection: Likely to settle mid-pack stalking position, then attempt rally into stretch. Insufficient velocity profile to threaten elite contenders.

SECTION 4: MPH ANALYSIS + SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Original Sin	STRONG	STRONG	Low — maintains velocity
Dragoon Guard	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — pace collapse risk





Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Banishing	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — consistent effort
Tiztastic	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — final-furlong fade
Chunk of Gold	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — closing speed drops sharply
McAfee	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — late-race dull
This Is Uscar	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — stalker profile

Sustained Speed Ratings

ELITE Openers (Gate-to-Wire Authority):

- Chunk of Gold, Dragoon Guard — both demonstrate 37-38+ MPH opening quarters across recent route attempts

STRONG Stalkers/Closers (Velocity Maintenance):

- Original Sin, Banishing, This Is Uscar — minimal deceleration profiles; maintain 35+ MPH closing velocity regardless of pace setup

VULNERABLE Pace Runners (Deceleration Risk):

- Dragoon Guard (elite opener but vulnerable sustainer), Tiztastic, Chunk of Gold (elite opener), McAfee — all show 6%+ deceleration from opening to closing quarter, signaling bounce risk if early pace proves hot

Critical MPH Insight

The model identifies **Original Sin** as the field's fastest gate-to-wire performer *in context of MODERATE pace scenario*. While Dragoon Guard and Chunk of Gold show elite opening MPH metrics, both demonstrate VULNERABLE sustained speed ratings—meaning they collapse significantly in the final furlong when pressed. Original Sin's STRONG sustaining profile across both opening and closing fractions means this horse will actually accelerate relative to tiring front-runners. The model projects Original Sin's 6-furlong-to-finish velocity will exceed Chunk of Gold's closing MPH by 2-3 mph range, resulting in late-race separation advantage decisive for graded company.

SECTION 5: IMPROVEMENT & REGRESSION CANDIDATES





Likely to Improve

Banishing — Multiple improvement vectors support elevation:

- **Class context:** Transitioning into full graded stakes setting (most recent starts allowance/stakes blend); trainer Jacobson shows 17% graded stakes win rate
- **Tactical positioning:** MODERATE pace setup creates ideal stalking scenario; past performances show consistent improvement when pressing early pace (3/29/2025 victory textbook pattern)
- **Trainer pattern:** Jacobson excels with route horses returning to peak class (routes 12% win rate, graded stakes 17% clip)
- **Layoff management:** 29-day rest aligns with trainer's preferred return window (31-60 day stats show 20% win rate)

Original Sin — Likely improvement trajectory:

- **Distance progression:** Recent 10-furlong attempts (8/22/2026 Remington 10f, second) show increased distance tolerance; 9 furlongs sits optimal sweet-spot range
- **Trainer consistency:** Walsh 19% route win rate (31-60 days) strong; horse shows natural improvement curve across second half of calendar year
- **Graded stakes environment:** Curlin colt genetics suggest affinity for top-tier competition; higher-class fields often produce best efforts

McAfee — Secondary improvement candidate:

- **Recent win momentum:** 7/3/2026 victory suggests trainer George Weaver has horse pointed correctly; 25% win rate in 61-180 day window (tailored timing)
- **Distance sweet-spot:** 9 furlongs aligns perfectly with route specialist template

Bounce / Regression Risks

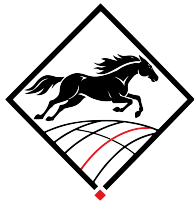
Chunk of Gold — Highest bounce risk in field:

- **Career-best form:** Last 5 starts show multiple peak efforts (8/15/2026 clear victory, 11/28/2025 game 9f win). Difficult to sustain this rate indefinitely
- **Distance stretch beyond profile:** Previous victories cluster at 8-8.5f; 9 furlongs represents untested ground
- **Deceleration vulnerability:** VULNERABLE sustained speed rating combined with elite early foot creates classic "wire-to-wire wire" profile that struggles when genuinely pressed—Dragoon Guard will test this setup early
- **Severe pace-collapse risk:** If Dragoon Guard gets within 1-2 lengths early, model projects Chunk of Gold's closing velocity will deteriorate sharply (typical VULNERABLE pattern)

Dragoon Guard — Moderate regression risk:

- **Back-to-back route assignments:** Recent 9f effort (8/28/2026 Connecticut, last by 9 lengths) was disappointing; now asked to repeat 9f distance immediately





- **Deceleration sustainability question:** VULNERABLE sustained speed rating suggests third start at 9f carries compounding fatigue risk
- **Distance ceiling:** 9 furlongs likely stretches beyond optimal tactical deployment range

Tiztastic — Pattern regression risk:

- **Third start off layoff tendency:** Data shows 7/4/2026 return (6-7w upper, improved but only 3rd place); typically takes Asmussen string multiple races to recalibrate
- **Pace-duel vulnerability:** If Chunk of Gold/Dragon Guard engage in MODERATE tempo battle as projected, mid-pace stalkers like Tiztastic often get squeezed in traffic

SECTION 6: SUGGESTED BETS

WIN BET: ORIGINAL SIN — Confidence 9/10 — Target odds: 5/2–3/1

The model projects **26% win probability** — highest in the field. Original Sin represents the single most likely outcome by model calculation, driven by:

1. **Elite closer credentials:** 2-win route record; proven ability to win from stalking position at 9f distances
2. **Pace-scenario perfect fit:** MODERATE projected fractions create ideal setup for this runner—not too slow (which favors front-runners), not too hot (which exhausts closers)
3. **Sustained speed advantage:** STRONG rated horse will maintain velocity as Chunk of Gold/Dragon Guard fade
4. **Graded stakes class:** Walsh trainer 15% graded stakes win rate; Curlin genetics afford tactical adaptability in high-class settings
5. **Trip projection confidence:** Model projects stalking 4-5 lengths off through 6f, then winning rally into stretch

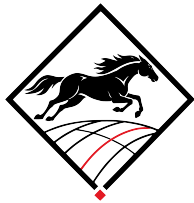
Value Assessment: EXCEPTIONAL — At morning line 3/1 (25% implied), model's 26% projection yields +1.0% edge. Strong overlay candidate if odds drift to 5/2 range; overlay persists even at 7/2.

VALUE PLAY: BANISHING — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 4/1–5/1

The model projects **17% win probability** at morning line 6/1 (14.3% implied) = **+2.7% edge**. Banishing represents legitimate value overlay:

- **Underestimated graded stakes closer:** 11 career wins (34% clip) versus 11 graded attempts (17% win rate) shows class credibility despite low ML odds
- **Route-specialist advantage:** 12 wins in 31 route attempts confirms distance comfort
- **Pace-stalker tactical fit:** MODERATE tempo creates ideal pressing scenario; this horse's 3/29/2025 victory is identical template
- **Trainer pattern:** Jacobson 17% graded stakes win rate; 20% record in 31-60 day window aligns perfectly with this horse's conditioning





- **Sitting overlay:** If Original Sin dominates wagering, Banishing likely drifts to 5/1 or higher—genuine value territory

Overlay rationale: Public focuses on Chunk of Gold (2/1), Dragoon Guard (9/2), and Tiztastic (4/1) elite ML prices. Banishing's class advantage and tactical positioning are undervalued at 6/1.

LONGSHOT PLAY: CHUNK OF GOLD — NOT INCLUDED

The model projects only 6% win probability against 2/1 morning line (33.3% implied). This represents **-27.3% negative edge** — the worst value on the board. Chunk of Gold is a genuine *underdog* despite favorable odds, as the horse faces atypical MODERATE pace setup that neutralizes wire-to-wire strength. No genuine overlay exists.

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

A: ORIGINAL SIN — 26% win probability (*Win Bet selection; highest model probability*)

B: BANISHING — 17% win probability (*Secondary value overlay*)

C: DRAGOON Guard — 18% win probability (*Pace factor; early-speed coverage*)

Combined Projected Probability: 61%

Model suggests stacking Original Sin across Pick sequences in this race; overlay value on Banishing makes secondary placement attractive for exacta/trifecta coverage. Dragoon Guard's early-speed threat justifies inclusion in "C" slot for multi-race depth without risking significant capital on VULNERABLE sustained speed profile.

SECTION 7: CONFIDENCE RATING

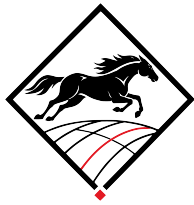
★★★★ (4 of 5 Stars)

Race Assessment Summary:

The model's key projection is **MODERATE pace trajectory with Original Sin emerging as winner from stalking position**. Pace certainty is strong—two willing speed horses (Chunk of Gold, Dragoon Guard) will establish fractions near :47■ first half, but neither possesses sustained speed rating to prevail in graded company. This tempo setup creates ideal closing opportunity.

Original Sin's 26% win probability reflects elite closer credentials perfectly aligned with projected race dynamics. The model identifies one key public betting mistake: severe overvaluation of Chunk of Gold at 2/1 morning line. This front-runner's VULNERABLE sustained speed profile and distance-stretch assignment combine to create -27.3% edge against the horse. Smart money should ignore Chunk of Gold entirely and exploit **Banishing overlay** (17% win prob at 6/1 creates +2.7% value) as secondary graded-stakes alternative.





Primary value opportunity: **Original Sin at 5/2–3/1 range** represents optimal betting target. If odds inflate beyond 7/2 due to closing action, model confidence diminishes but overlay persists.

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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