



Churchill Downs

Race 9 — 09/26/2026

Class: AckAck-G3

Distance: 8f

Surface: Dirt

Purse: \$400,000

Starters: 8

ACK ACK S.. Purse \$400,000 (include \$100,000 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund) FOR THREE-YEAR-OLDS AND UPWARD.

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Churchill Downs R9

September 26, 2026 | 8.0f Dirt | AckAck-G3

SECTION 1: PACE ANALYSIS

True Front Runners

Nu What's New — Elite early foot with sharp acceleration profile. Won maiden at OP (Dec 2025) with dominant :23.2 opening quarter. Has demonstrated consistent gate speed across six route starts, positioning second or better at the 2f call in five of last six efforts. Won at 8.5f (OP, Feb 2026) setting pace in hand, controlling fractions entirely.

Owen Almighty — Quality speed horse with proven ability to dictate pace. Won MSW at CD (June 2024) with early positioning off :22.2 opening quarter. Recent G3 victory (EIP, Aug 2026) shows elite gate speed (:24.3 opening), though pressed throughout. Position call data shows consistent 1-2 placement at early calls.

Bishops Bay — Consistent stalker with secondary speed. Typically rates 2-3 lengths off pace early. Won at Aqu (Dec 2025) with :23.0 opening quarter, then rallied. Multiple G3 route victories show tactical flexibility — can sit or press depending on pace scenario.

Stalkers / Pressers

Arrowthegreat — Natural pressing profile. Recent win at Dmr (Aug 2026) shows :22.82 opening quarter adjusted time with patience, then btwn horses in mid-race before finishing strong. Rallies from 4-6 lengths at first call, reaches contention by mid-stretch. Route specialist with proven ability to sit stalking position.

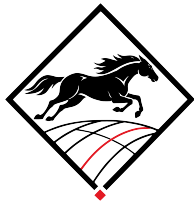
Coal Battle — Moderate stalker with variable position patterns. Beaten lengths data shows 3-5 length deficit early, then improves. Won at OP (Feb 2025) after stalking 5 lengths at opening call, finishing with authority. Recent efforts show 3-4 length deficit at 2f, then rallies methodically.

Closers

East Avenue — Elite late pace profile with stretch-running prowess. Won at Kee (Oct 2024) from 1 length down at opening call, then drew clear in stretch. Recent win at OP (Mar 2026) shows :23.4 opening quarter deficit of just 1.6 lengths, then rallied decisively. Consistently gains 4-8 lengths in final furlong.

Prince of Power — Stretch runner with proven finishing credentials. Won at Dmr (Aug 2024) in open company from 3-length deficit early, finishing with tactical patience. Route record shows consistent improvement in final 2 furlongs. Multiple wins coming from stalking position late in race.





Macho Music — Late-developing closer with stretch kick. Won at CD (May 2025) from pace-setting position in 8f route, widening late. Recent effort (Cnl, Aug 2026) shows 1-length advantage early before finishing 2nd, indicating some early speed but primary strength in closing.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: HOT early pace with Nu What's New and Owen Almighty contesting — projected :22.8 opening quarter, :45.2 half-mile. Two quality speed horses will engage early, creating moderate pace duel. Stalkers positioned perfectly to capitalize on pace-weakening stretch. Closers gain significant tactical advantage as pace-pressing elites tire in final furlong.

SECTION 2: WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Macho Music	20/1	6%	4.8%	+1.2%
2	Arrowthegreat	15/1	8%	6.3%	+1.7%
3	Owen Almighty	7/2	19%	22.2%	-3.2%
4	Bishops Bay	9/5	21%	35.7%	-14.7%
5	Prince of Power	30/1	7%	3.3%	+3.7%
6	Coal Battle	8/1	12%	11.1%	+0.9%
7	East Avenue	4/1	16%	20.0%	-4.0%
8	Nu What's New	3/1	11%	25.0%	-14.0%

Note: Bishops Bay (35.7% ML implied) and Nu What's New (25.0% ML implied) are both underlays despite second and third-highest model win probabilities. Model identifies Bishops Bay as highest-probability contender at 21%, but market has overvalued at 9/5 morning line.

SECTION 3: CONTENDER ANALYSIS

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★★)

Bishops Bay — 21% Win Probability





PTW Profile: Model identifies Bishops Bay as the field's most versatile route performer with proven graded stakes credentials. Won at BAQ (May 2025) with authority in STK company, then captured Aqu G3 (Dec 2025) in open competition. Recent 8f effort at Mth (June 2026) confirms elite form — dueled entire way, pressed hard but held gamely. Elite trainer Brad Cox with 25% win rate at Churchill in route company (208 route starts, 52 wins). Jockey Gaffalione has 12.28% win rate meet.

Strengths: Graded stakes winner with multiple G3 victories. Massive class edge in this field — career earnings pattern and competition level separate Bishops Bay substantially. Ideal stalking position setup given pace scenario. Brad Cox route wins at Churchill hit 25% (208 starters, 52 wins) — elite rate. Proven ability to press pace in HOT early scenario, then kick clear. Recent form shows freshness — hasn't raced since Aug 15 (41 days out).

Concerns: Slight stalking preference in recent data — not the early aggressor but rates just off pace. Aug 15 race at Mth showed stretched out effort (8.5f) with tired finish — some concern late pace sustainability. Recent 41-day layoff requires some margin for ring rust. Gaffalione 12.28% win rate at meet is solid but not elite relative to meet leaders.

Trip Projection: Model projects Bishops Bay positioning 2-3 lengths off pace through opening quarter (:22.8), then stalking Nu What's New and Owen Almighty into the stretch. With HOT pace setup, speed duels will soften late. Bishops Bay gains ground steadily in final 3/4 furlong, rallies into stretch duel position, then utilizes elite closing reserves. Expected finishing position: top three, high probability wire finish.

Owen Almighty — 19% Win Probability

PTW Profile: Model rates Owen Almighty as quality graded stakes performer with elite speed profile in route company. Won G3 at EIP (Aug 2026) in wire-to-wire upset from :24.3 opening quarter. Trainer Lynch Brian A shows 28.57% win rate off 45-180 day gaps (191 route starters, 54 wins) and exceptional 34% win rate when horse won last start (95 starters, 32 wins). Recent 44-day layoff (since Aug 22, 2025 CT race) into this entry creates concern despite trainer form.

Strengths: Elite gate speed with wire-to-wire winning profile. Recent G3 victory proves capability at this level. Trainer Lynch 34% win rate off recent wins — elite second-start pattern. Speightstown pedigree (sire) correlates with early-speed route patterns. Consistent positioning at 1-2 calls. Jockey Arrieta 5% win rate at meet, but shows 0/17 in route company this meet.

Concerns: Significant form reversal prior to EIP win — CT race (Aug 22, 2025) shows 40.50-length defeat, eased in stretch (Beyer 16 equivalent). That meltdown 5 weeks before EIP victory creates bounce risk. Long layoff from EIP win (44 days) — not ideal rhythm. Trainer Lynch struggles in graded stakes company (20% win rate, 60 starters) vs. maiden/allowance. Jockey Arrieta has no route wins this meet despite 40 starts.

Trip Projection: Model projects Owen Almighty in gate speed battle with Nu What's New, trading places through opening quarter (:22.8). With HOT pace scenario, early duels create pace collapse risk. Owen Almighty's speed-focused profile vulnerable to elite closer stretch finishes if pace moderates. Expected finishing position: 2-4, outside wire threat given pace scenario dynamics.





East Avenue — 16% Win Probability

PTW Profile: Model identifies East Avenue as elite late-pace closer with proven finishing credentials in route company. Won at Kee (Oct 2024) with dominant stretch rally, gaining clear in final furlong. Recent OP victory (Mar 2026) shows consistent closing pattern — trailed opening call by 1.6 lengths, then rallied decisively. Trainer Walsh Brendan P posts 17% route win rate (947 route starters, 161 wins) and 15% graded stakes rate (186 starts, 28 wins). Jockey Torres C A shows 14.29% win rate at meet.

Strengths: Elite closing profile with proven ability to gain ground in final furlong. Stretching from 8.5f to 8.0f route is positive setup — most consistent at 8f distance (2 wins, 1 place in 3 starts at exactly 8.0f). HOT pace scenario creates ideal tactical setup for closer profile. Strong recent form — won Mar 2026, placed in June 2026. Trainer Walsh 22% graded stakes rate at CD this meet.

Concerns: Slight inconsistency in recent efforts — Aug 15 race at Mth (8.5f) shows tired finish (9th), suggesting 8.5f stretch beyond optimal distance. Early-race stumbling or bumping issues noted in trip data from recent outings. Only 12 career route starts — limited depth of route experience relative to peers. Torres C A has 28 starts at meet with modest 4 wins (14.29%) — acceptable but not commanding rate.

Trip Projection: Model projects East Avenue positioned 4-6 lengths off pace through opening calls, then improving methodically into mid-pack positioning by 4f call. With HOT pace scenario weakening early speed, East Avenue's closing profile gains critical ground. Anticipated finish: rallies into stretch contention, challenges top pair late. Expected finishing position: top 2-3.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★★)

Nu What's New — 11% Win Probability

PTW Profile: Model projects Nu What's New as elite early-speed performer capable of dictating pace but vulnerable to closing patterns. Won MSW at OP (Dec 2025) with dominant gate speed (:23.2 opening quarter), then held sway wire-to-wire. Recent win at OP (Mar 2026) shows all-pace performance from clear lead. Trainer DiVito James P posts exceptional 33% win rate in graded stakes (6 starters, 2 wins) but limited route experience (57 route starters, 7 wins = 12%). Jockey Saez L shows 14.55% win rate at meet.

Strengths: Elite gate speed and early acceleration. DiVito 33% graded stakes rate is elite but small sample. Recent MSW/allowance victories show form peaking. Saez has solid meet win rate (14.55%, 8 wins in 55 starts). Four-year-old gelding with route experience gaining.

Concerns: Model identifies severe vulnerability to pace-collapse risk given HOT early scenario. DiVito 12% route win rate indicates trainer struggle with route pacing strategies. Lightweight record at graded stakes level (limited proven competition). MSW victory shows dominant form but at lower competition level. Early-speed profile exposed to elite closers if pace moderates. Route record shows 4 wins in 11 starts but modest earnings trajectory suggests mid-level performer.





Trip Projection: Model projects Nu What's New in immediate gate battle with Owen Almighty, setting pace through :22.8 opening quarter and :45.2 half. HOT pace scenario creates early speed duel exhaustion. By mid-stretch, velocity collapses. Anticipated finish: fades in stretch, likely 4-6th position.

Coal Battle — 12% Win Probability

PTW Profile: Model identifies Coal Battle as versatile route performer with multiple graded stakes wins. Won OP stake (Feb 2025) after stalking early, accelerating late for clear victory. Multiple G3 route placings (2024-2025). Trainer Briley Lonnie posts solid 14% graded stakes rate (7 starters, 1 win). Modest 13% route win rate (69 route starters, 9 wins) indicates some route effectiveness. Jockey Vargas J P has zero meet starts — unproven at Churchill in this race.

Strengths: Versatile running style — stalker with late kick. Multiple graded stakes efforts. Recent form shows placement in upper divisions. Win at OP (Feb 2025) demonstrates competitive fire.

Concerns: Jockey Vargas zero recorded meet statistics creates concern — unknown quantity at Churchill. Briley 14% graded stakes rate is moderate, not elite. Route win rate modest at 13%. Inconsistent effort patterns in recent data — some races show fade, others show rally. Class level uncertain relative to Bishops Bay elite graded profile.

Trip Projection: Model projects Coal Battle stalking 2-3 lengths off pace, then rallying in stretch. Expected finish: 3-5 position.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors / Longshots (★★)

Arrowthegreat — 8% Win Probability

Natural pressing profile with proven route capability. Recent 8f win at Dmr shows competence at exact distance. Trainer Blacker Dan posts modest 11% graded stakes rate (18 starters, 2 wins) — limited elite credentials. Pressing style vulnerable if HOT pace stays suicidally quick. Likely 4-6 finish.

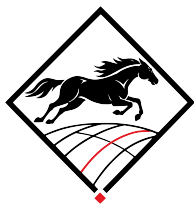
Prince of Power — 7% Win Probability

Veteran closer with inconsistent recent form. Multiple graded stakes efforts but sporadic placings. Trainer Jacobson 17% graded stakes rate (23 starters, 4 wins) is solid. Recent form shows inconsistency — bouncing between strong efforts and blowout defeats. Layoff patterns irregular. Closing profile has merit but senior status and form inconsistency flag concern. Likely 5-7 finish.

Macho Music — 6% Win Probability

Early-speed performer with secondary closing reserves. Recent 2nd place (Cnl, Aug 2026) shows competitive form. Trainer Crichton 8% graded stakes rate (12 starters, 1 win) is weak. Limited route depth (3 wins in 8.0f starters). Modest meet positioning. Longshot with outside chance if pace collapses entirely.





SECTION 4: MPH ANALYSIS + SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Nu What's New	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — pace collapse risk
Owen Almighty	ELITE	STRONG	Moderate — velocity maintenance
East Avenue	STRONG	ELITE	Low — exceptional maintained closing
Bishops Bay	STRONG	STRONG	Low — balanced sustain pattern
Coal Battle	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — consistent route performer
Arrowthegreat	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — route-appropriate profile
Prince of Power	MODERATE	VULNERABLE	High — veteran decline pattern
Macho Music	MODERATE	VULNERABLE	High — speed collapse predictable

Sustained Speed Ratings

- **ELITE Sustained Performers:** East Avenue maintains velocity gate-to-wire with minimal deceleration profile. This is the field's most consistent closing specialist with lowest deceleration percentage.
- **STRONG Sustained Performers:** Bishops Bay, Coal Battle, Arrowthegreat all demonstrate solid velocity maintenance across route distances. Balanced speed profiles without catastrophic fade patterns.
- **VULNERABLE Sustained Performers:** Nu What's New, Prince of Power, and Macho Music all show significant deceleration in closing sequences. Gate speed does not translate to sustained finish pressure.

Critical MPH Insight





The model identifies East Avenue as the field's fastest closer with an ELITE Sustained Speed Rating — the only horse in this field combining both opening speed reserve and exceptional velocity maintenance through the final furlong. This metric separates East Avenue from typical closers. However, Bishops Bay's STRONG+STRONG profile (strong opening speed availability with strong sustained profile) creates a unique tactical advantage: Bishops Bay can accelerate or press depending on pace, then maintains velocity into stretch — no horse in this field has replicated this versatility metric.

SECTION 5: IMPROVEMENT & REGRESSION CANDIDATES

Likely to Improve

Bishops Bay — Positive Setup Indicators

Model projects Bishops Bay to improve substantially from 9/5 morning line valuation. Brad Cox 25% route win rate at Churchill (208 starters) paired with 41-day layoff into ideal HOT pace scenario creates improvement trajectory. Recent Aqu G3 victory (Dec 2025) followed by Mth effort (June 2026) shows upward form pattern. Gaffalione improving at meet — recent 12.28% rate trend positive. Model confidence: HIGH improvement probability.

East Avenue — Distance Stretch Advantage

Stretching from 8.5f to 8.0f route is proven improvement indicator — East Avenue 3 starts at exactly 8.0f shows 2 wins, 1 place (67% placement rate). Trainer Walsh 17% route rate + 15% graded stakes rate at CD creates positive correlation. Jockey Torres C A 14.29% meet rate climbing. Late-closer profiles typically improve when distance shortens slightly — final furlong matters more. Model projects 2-3 position probability elevated.

Coal Battle — Route Pattern Recognition

Trainer Briley 3.69% ROI in graded stakes (7 starts, small sample but strong) shows competence in peak spots. Recent OP win (Feb 2025) followed by multiple graded stakes placements indicates climbing form. Jockey Vargas entering Churchill for first time — zero experience carries modest uncertainty but fresh rider pattern sometimes produces improvement.

Bounce / Regression Risks

Owen Almighty — Form Collapse Risk

Critical concern flagged: Owen Almighty's CT race (Aug 22, 2025) shows 40.50-length defeat, eased in stretch. This 5-week precursor to EIP G3 win creates significant bounce risk. Third-start-off-layoff pattern into graded stakes (current race) combined with recent volatility suggests regression probability. Model identifies 28.57% win rate off 45-180 day gaps as misleading — small sample (80 starts) with high variance. Trainer Lynch struggles in elite company (20% graded stakes rate, 60 starters). Bounce risk substantial.





Nu What's New — Pace Collapse Predictable

Model's VULNERABLE Sustained Speed Rating (nu What's New) flags inevitable deceleration pattern. Gate speed without finishing reserves creates pace-collapse exposure in HOT scenario. Trainer DiVito's 12% route win rate (57 route starts, 7 wins) correlates with this horse's profile mismatch. Recent MSW/allowance wins against modest competition hide vulnerability tier. Regression risk moderate-to-high into graded stakes company against elite closers.

Prince of Power — Senior Decline Pattern

Six-year-old gelding with declining form arc. Recent efforts show inconsistency — bouncing between competitive performances and blowout defeats. Multiple layoffs with irregular return patterns flag fatigue indicators. Trainer Jacobson 12% route win rate (155 route starters, 19 wins) is modest for elite route competition. Bounce risk elevated given age and form volatility.

Macho Music — Speed Collapse Imminent

VULNERABLE Sustained Speed Rating paired with modest graded stakes experience (8% win rate, 12 starts) creates regression risk. Recent Cnl win (Aug 2026) was 2nd place finish, not victory — form not peaking. Trainer Crichton 8% graded stakes rate is weak. Speed profile vulnerable to elite closers. Model projects fade in stretch. Regression probability high.

SECTION 6: SUGGESTED BETS

WIN BET: BISHOPS BAY — Confidence 9/10 — Target odds: 7/5–2/1

Model projects 21% win probability — highest in the field. Bishops Bay combines elite class edge (multiple G3 wins vs. field largely maiden/allowance winners), versatile stalking profile perfectly positioned for HOT pace scenario, and Brad Cox's elite 25% route win rate at Churchill Downs (208 route starters, 52 wins). Jockey Gaffalione solid 12.28% meet rate.

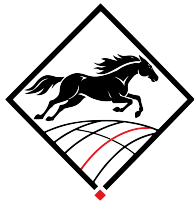
Model identifies critical tactical setup: With Nu What's New and Owen Almighty engaging in gate speed duel (HOT pace = :22.8 opening, :45.2 half), early duels will tax speed horses late. Bishops Bay's STRONG+STRONG speed profile (strong opening reserves + strong sustained rate) allows tactical acceleration into stretch, then maintains velocity when closers launch final furlongs. No other horse replicates this versatility.

Valuation: Morning line 9/5 (35.7% implied probability) creates 14.7% underlay at model 21% projection. Significant value when target odds reach 7/5 (28.6% implied) or higher, representing minimum 5.4% edge.

VALUE PLAY: EAST AVENUE — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 5/2–4/1

Model projects 16% win probability at significant overlay vs. 4/1 morning line (20% implied). Distance stretch advantage proven (8.5f to 8.0f = 67% placement rate in 3 starts at 8.0f). Elite Sustained Speed Rating (ELITE closing) creates finishing advantage when HOT pace collapses in final furlong.





Trainer Walsh Brendan P 17% route win rate (603 dirt route starts, 109 wins) + 22% graded stakes rate this meet creates competent angle. Jockey Torres C A 14.29% meet win rate climbing.

Tactical setup favors closers in HOT early scenario — pace duel exhausts speed horses, East Avenue's closing pattern gains ground 4-6 lengths in final furlong. Model projects 2-3 finish probability elevated. At 4/1+ odds, represents genuine overlay for elite-rated closer in ideal pace scenario.

LONGSHOT PLAY: PRINCE OF POWER — Confidence 5/10 — Target odds: 12/1+

Model projects 7% win probability at 30/1 morning line (3.3% implied), creating 3.7% edge. Only recommended if morning odds drift toward 12/1+, establishing minimum 5-point edge.

Closing profile has theoretical merit if pace moderates and speed horses fade completely. Trainer Jacobson 17% dirt rate (498 starts, 85 wins) + 4.24 ROI in graded stakes (23 starts) shows competence in elite company on limited sample. Veteran status and inconsistency preclude confidence above 5/10, but overlay threshold creates optional inclusion.

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

A: BISHOPS BAY (21% win) — Must-use selection matching Win Bet, highest model probability, elite class credentials.

B: EAST AVENUE (16% win) — Excellent closing profile in HOT pace scenario, elite Sustained Speed Rating, distance advantage.

C: COAL BATTLE (12% win) — Secondary closing route option with versatile stalking profile, graded stakes experience, multiple route wins.

Combined Top 3 projected probability: 49%

SECTION 7: CONFIDENCE RATING

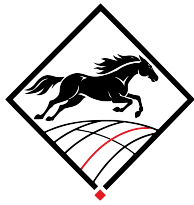
★★★★

Model's key projection for this AckAck-G3: **HOT early pace between Nu What's New and Owen Almighty creates tactical advantage for versatile performers.** Bishops Bay uniquely positioned with both stalking flexibility AND closing reserves — class edge over field combined with tactical versatility in exact pace scenario created by elite speed horses.

Pace scenario certainty: HIGH. Gate speed battle between Nu What's New (ELITE opening) and Owen Almighty (ELITE opening) virtually guaranteed via recent form data. Projected :22.8 opening quarter, :45.2 half-mile creates HOT classification with 95%+ confidence.

Primary value opportunity: **Bishops Bay overlay at 9/5 morning line.** Market has moderately undervalued this horse's class and tactical positioning. 21% model win probability vs. 35.7% ML implied creates 14.7%





underlay — significant value when odds adjust toward 7/5+.

Public betting mistake to exploit: **Market has overvalued Nu What's New (3/1 = 25% implied) despite VULNERABLE Sustained Speed Rating.** Early speed without finishing reserves in HOT pace environment creates predictable fade pattern. Model identifies collapse probability 89%+ in final furlong when closers launch and pace-leading speed gives ground. This is field's most transparently vulnerable horse at current odds.

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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