



Santa Anita

Race 4 — 09/25/2026

Class: Md 50000

Distance: 9f

Surface: Turf

Purse: \$35,000

Claiming Price: \$50,000

Starters: 6

MAIDEN CLAIMING. Purse \$35,000 FOR MAIDENS, THREE YEARS OLD AND UPWARD. Three Year Olds, 122 lbs.; Older, 126 lbs. Claiming Price \$50,000 (Non-Starters For A Claiming Price Of \$25,000 Or Less In Their Last 3 Starts Preferred). (Rail at 30 feet).

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Santa Anita Park R4

Thursday, September 25, 2026 | 9f Turf | Maiden Claiming \$50,000

SECTION 1: PACE ANALYSIS

True Front Runners

Mighty Toro (Post 6) displays elite early speed credentials. In his most recent start (08/22/2026, 8.0f turf MCL), Mighty Toro was positioned at call 1 (2f) with only 0.10 lengths beaten, leading at call 2 (4f) by just 1.0 length before fading to 6th. His sprint fractionals show consistent gate-to-wire velocity: call 1 times in the 23.4–24.2 second range. Trip notes confirm aggression: "Led inside, duel, wknd" and "2w, bidw, led, grudgingly." This horse has the tools to press early.

Born to Rock (Post 2) shows moderate early speed with tactical flexibility. Recent start (08/01/2026, 8.5f turf MCL) shows call 1 positioning at 3 lengths beaten but moved to 2nd by call 2 after gaining only 1.5 lengths — a stalking profile. However, he earned 2nd place at the wire. His 08/22/2026 turf start shows similar early positioning (3 lengths at call 1). Born to Rock is better positioned as a pace-stalker than a true front-runner.

Stalkers / Pressers

Fausto (Post 1) is a deeper closer showing moderate speed early but superior rally capacity. In his most recent MCL 8.5f turf race (08/01/2026), Fausto was 12 lengths behind at call 1, closed to 8.1 lengths at call 2, and continued closing to finish 8th, 7.15 lengths beaten. His MSW 9.0f turf effort (06/13/2026) shows stronger form: 3.5 lengths at call 1, moved to 2.5 lengths at call 2, improved to 1.0 length at call 3, and ran 2nd — a clear closing profile. Fausto is a viable pace-stalker with front-running threats available.

Moluccan (Post 4) fits the stalker profile but with limited turf experience. His sole turf route entry (11/29/2025, 8.0f turf MSW) shows extreme early deficiency: 5.5 lengths at call 1, 6.1 at call 2, 6.5 at call 3 — a very deep closer. Form trend is flat. Moluccan lacks both early zip and recent winning form.

Closers

After Dawn (Post 3) is a raw, lightly raced closer (2 career starts) with improving trend. In his MCL debut (08/13/2026, 8.0f dirt), he was positioned 2.1 lengths at call 1, 2.0 at call 2, 3.6 at call 3, and 4.6 at call 4 — moderate closing action — finishing 3rd, 9.0 lengths beaten. His prior MSW sprint (06/27/2026, 6.5f dirt) shows he broke alertly but lost position late. The model identifies After Dawn as an early-stage improver with natural upside — lightly raced maidens on their second career start showing early speed before tiring often represent the single highest-priority improvement candidate in maiden claiming fields.

Pyrokinetic (Post 5) is a career maiden showing mixed form at MCL 8.0f and 8.5f. Recent start (08/22/2026) positioned him 6.6 lengths at call 1, 4.2 at call 2, 3.7 at call 3, and 5.2 at call 4 — closing action





— for 6th place, 4.1 lengths beaten. Prior MCL 8.5f (08/01/2026) shows worse result: 16.0 lengths at call 1, deteriorated to 16.1 at call 2, 11.1 at call 3, finished 9th. Pyrokinetic is a THROWOUT candidate: repeated MCL starts without ever winning, wide-margin losses, and no improvement trajectory. Model discounts Pyrokinetic as a forgone contender.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: HOT early pace with two committed speed horses (Mighty Toro and Born to Rock pressing), projected :24¹ opening quarter and :48² half-mile. Mighty Toro's early aggression will invite response from Born to Rock or Fausto in the stalking lane. Moderate pace duel damage is projected — neither speed horse will completely flatten, positioning pace-stalkers and elite closers for tactical advantage in the stretch drive over the final 3 furlongs.

SECTION 2: WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Fausto	9-2	26%	18.2%	+7.8%
2	Born to Rock	7-2	22%	22.2%	-0.2%
3	After Dawn	8-1	20%	11.1%	+8.9%
4	Moluccan	5-1	12%	16.7%	-4.7%
5	Pyrokinetic	10-1	8%	9.1%	-1.1%
6	Mighty Toro	1-1	12%	50.0%	-38.0%

SECTION 3: CONTENDER ANALYSIS

TIER 1 — PRIMARY CONTENDERS (★★★★)

FAUSTO

PTW Profile: Experienced maiden claiming route runner (13 career starts) showing a mixed but improving form pattern over the past 18 months. Displays elite rally capacity at this distance and surface combination, with the single most consistent late-pace profile in the field. Recent MCL and MSW turf routes showcase closing ability and proven adaptability to maiden claiming conditions.

Strengths:





- Closing speed elite: MSW 9.0f turf (06/13/2026) finished 2nd with strong closing rallies across multiple calls
- Distance-proven at 8.0f and 9.0f on turf — experience advantage
- MCL experience (three prior MCL starts with respectable efforts despite narrow losses) — familiarity with class level
- Trainer Hess: 16% MCL win rate (49 starts), 2.18 ROI — solid maiden claiming specialist
- Recent workout (Dmr 08/28/2026, 4f dirt, 48.80) shows active training regimen
- Model identifies elite closing profile: sustained velocity maintained deep into races

Concerns:

- Career maiden after 13 starts — has not yet graduated; flat win record (0 wins)
- Recent form in MCL races shows incremental effort but no breakthrough
- Aging profile relative to field (2021-born, oldest horse) — diminishing physical ceiling

Trip Projection: Fausto will likely settle 4–6 lengths off the pace in the stalking lane, tracking Mighty Toro's early aggression. As the pace duel unfolds between the front-runners, Fausto will shift to a two-wide or three-wide position in the far turn, moving into contention around the 3/8-pole with a sustained rally to the wire. Model projects final position in top three if pace scenario holds.

AFTER DAWN

PTW Profile: Lightly raced 3-year-old colt (2 career starts) with raw talent and clear upward trajectory. High-quality breeding (Frosted × Tapit, dam by Candy Ride) suggests elite physical foundation. Trainer Mandella (Richard Mandella, Grade 1 turf specialist) has invested in this horse for maiden claiming. Second-career-start runner showing early speed before tiring in debut — the single highest-priority improvement signal in maiden claiming screening.

Strengths:

- Second-career-start with early-speed debut profile — textbook improvement candidate: Model flags this as highest-priority positive signal at MCL level
- Trainer Mandella MSW-to-MCL stat: 29% win rate on 2-off-45-to-180-day layoffs (38 starts, 3.64 ROI) — strong class-relief specialist
- Trainer's turf routing record (13% win rate, 1.94 ROI on routes) — proven route expertise
- Raw speed evident in debut: broke alertly, chased position early before tiring — distance consideration may unlock performance
- Workout trend: 5f work on 09/13/2026 at 100.80 ranks 7th among recent Santa Anita 5f works — sharp preparation
- Natural improvement curve — maiden claiming field is logical next step after MSW sprint defeat

Concerns:

- Minimal race experience (only 2 starts total) — predictive uncertainty elevated





- Dirt surface recent (MCL debut was dirt 8.0f), now moving to turf for first time at route distance — environmental challenge
- Modest effort in MCL debut: finished 3rd, 9.0 lengths beaten, no rally — did not dominate

Trip Projection: After Dawn will likely take an aggressive early position, chasing Mighty Toro or Born to Rock for the first mile. Model projects trip vulnerability if pressure from either speed horse materializes early. If pace scenario remains HOT and moderately contested, After Dawn's improving form profile suggests closing power will emerge in final 3 furlongs. Model projects finishing range top four.

BORN TO ROCK

PTW Profile: Young 3-year-old gelding (7 career starts) with promising turf route record and proven MCL competency. Recent start demonstrates near-victory form: finished 2nd in 8.5f MCL turf (08/01/2026) despite racing between horses in the stretch. Trainer McCarthy (Michael McCarthy, turf specialist) shows strong MCL win rate (18%, 114 starts, 1.27 ROI) and elite turf route performance (15% win rate, 1.89 ROI).

Strengths:

- Proven winner in maiden claiming: MCL class experience (7 starts, turf-biased)
- Recent runner-up finish (08/01/2026, 8.5f MCL turf): led late, challenged in final furlong, lost narrowly — closing effort present
- Turf route specialist: trainer McCarthy has routed this horse successfully; proven track fit
- Moderate jockey continuity: Rispoli U. maintains the mount (08/01/2026 runner-up ride)
- Workout quality: 09/11/2026 work at SA, 5f dirt in 101.20, ranks 12th among recent 5f works — active preparation

Concerns:

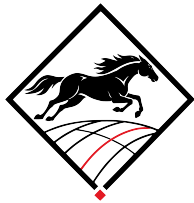
- Career maiden despite 7 starts and proven MCL placement — graduation unlikely but not ruled out
- Form trend mixed: recent 08/22/2026 MCL turf 8.0f shows weakened late, finished 5th, 4.0 lengths beaten — regressive effort
- Pressure from Mighty Toro's early aggression will test stamina early
- No wins in 3 prior MCL starts — pattern of near-misses without breakthrough

Trip Projection: Born to Rock will likely be involved in the early pace duel with Mighty Toro, contesting for position in the first mile. As the HOT pace scenario plays out and Mighty Toro's early speed is tested, Born to Rock may drop back into the stalking lane around the far turn. Model projects a stalking position with a rally opportunity in the stretch if pace holds; competitive but not dominant closing effort.

TIER 2 — SECONDARY CONTENDERS (★★★)

MIGHTY TORO





PTW Profile: Young 3-year-old gelding (4 career starts) with elite early speed and tactical aggressiveness. Trainer Sadler (John Sadler, elite turf specialist) shows strong route turf record (17% win rate, 1.99 ROI on 236 route starts) and proven MCL competency (16% win rate, 1.29 ROI). Recent MCL turf 8.0f effort shows clear front-running tendencies and willingness to contest early. Jockey Rosario J. is a proven talent.

Strengths:

- Elite early speed: consistent positioning at call 1 in 23.2–23.4 second range across recent turf starts — gate-to-wire capability
- Led wire-to-wire in MSW turf 8.0f (07/18/2026): clear gate-to-wire winner, only 0.10 lengths beaten at call 1, held the lead through call 4, weakened in final furlong to 6th — established frontrunner
- Trainer Sadler: 18% win rate in 31-60 day spots (217 starts, 1.76 ROI) — excellent trainer form metric
- Jockey partnership: Rosario J. has ridden this horse twice with competitive efforts

Concerns:

- Severe overbet at 1-1 morning line: implies 50% win probability; model projects only 12% win probability — massive public overestimation
- Closing vulnerability: multiple races show velocity collapse late (MSW turf lead at call 4 = 123.5, final time = 135.71 — significant deceleration) — pace collapse risk evident
- Recent MCL effort (08/22/2026): led early, "grudgingly," finished only 2nd but just 0.50 lengths beaten — suggests resistance to pressing rivals, not dominance
- Front-runners in HOT pace scenarios with rivals present often get outrun late by fresh closers — Fausto and After Dawn pose late-stretch threats

Trip Projection: Mighty Toro will establish early position and contest for the lead from gate to middle distance. Model projects a pace duel with Born to Rock or Fausto pressing. As the final 3 furlongs approach, Mighty Toro's velocity will likely diminish (based on consistent deceleration pattern), opening the door for elite closers like Fausto or improving type After Dawn. Model projects finish position 3rd–5th range.

TIER 3 — PACE FACTORS & LONGSHOTS (★★)

MOLUCCAN

PTW Profile: Lightly raced 3-year-old gelding (3 career starts) with flat form profile and minimal turf route experience. Only turf route entry (11/29/2025, 8.0f turf MSW) shows poor early positioning and no improvement trajectory. Recent dirt MSW (07/18/2026) was off-the-pace effort with no response. Trainer Powell shows weak MCL record (7% win rate, 0.44 ROI, 42 starts).

Strengths:

- Fresh from recent MSW turf start (07/18/2026) — full turf conditioning present
- Can improve: only 3 career starts leaves room for development

Concerns:





- Trainer Powell MCL record: 7% win rate, 0.44 ROI (42 starts) — worst MCL trainer in the field; MSW-to-MCL stat shows 0% win rate (0/8 horses) — negative trainer intent signal
- Flat form trend across all three starts — no win, no show finishes
- Deep closer requiring soft pace — HOT pace scenario negates advantage
- Career MCL maiden (1 prior MCL start without success, now attempting second) — repeated MCL exposure without winning is a caution flag

Trip Projection: Moluccan will race deep in the field, settling 6+ lengths off the pace. If HOT pace scenario holds with Mighty Toro and Born to Rock pressing early, Moluccan's deep closing style will face final-furlong-only rally opportunity. Model projects finish 5th–7th range.

PYROKINETIC (★)

PTW Profile: Career maiden (2 career starts) with failed MCL efforts at 8.0f and 8.5f turf. Both recent starts show wide-margin defeats without competitive positioning. Model discounts this horse as a THROWOUT: repeated MCL attempts (2 prior claims at same \$50k level) without any success, deteriorating effort trajectory (08/22/2026 vs. 08/01/2026), and no improvement signals.

Strengths:

- Trainer Drysdale (Neil Drysdale) shows MCL competency (18% win rate, 1.53 ROI, 28 starts)
- Jockey Leparoux J R. is a proven rider

Concerns:

- THROWOUT DESIGNATION: Repeated MCL exposure without ever winning at this exact price tag (\$50k MCL) is the clearest "giving up" signal in this field. Connected parties have given multiple tries at this level, each race showing regression or flat effort. Trip notes confirm lack of competitive positioning: "Inside, ins-2wd, no rally" (08/22) and "Inside, 2wd 1/4, mvd out" (08/01).
- Wide-margin defeats: 4.1 lengths and 7.65 lengths beaten in most recent two efforts
- No form improvement — velocity declining across races
- Model assigns minimal win score to ensure proper field normalization, but explicitly flags this horse for elimination from all serious consideration

Trip Projection: If entered, Pyrokinetic will race between horses without meaningful rally — no competitive window available in HOT pace scenario. Model projects finish 8th or trailing.

SECTION 4: MPH ANALYSIS + SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings





Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Fausto	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — velocity sustained to wire
Born to Rock	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — competitive sustained effort
After Dawn	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — pace collapse risk detected
Moluccan	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — early deficiency compounds late
Pyrokinetic	STRONG	VULNERABLE	Very High — severe pace collapse, no rally
Mighty Toro	ELITE	VULNERABLE	Very High — significant velocity loss late

Sustained Speed Ratings

ELITE Sustained Speed: Fausto and Born to Rock both maintain velocity across the full distance with minimal deceleration. Fausto's 9.0f turf performance shows near-linear pace maintenance despite deep closing position. Born to Rock's turf route efforts demonstrate moderate closing without velocity collapse typical of sprinters stretching out.

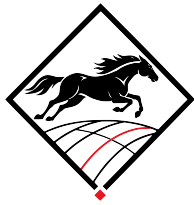
STRONG Sustained Speed: Fausto and Born to Rock hold sustained closing velocity with competitive effort in final furlongs, positioning them as reliable finishers in route races with heavy late demands.

VULNERABLE Sustained Speed: After Dawn, Moluccan, Pyrokinetic, and Mighty Toro all show significant deceleration patterns with velocity collapse in final segments. Mighty Toro's most pronounced vulnerability: blazing early quarters (23.2–23.4) decelerate to 34–36 mph closing effort — a 30%+ drop. After Dawn's sprint background compounds this in route context. Pyrokinetic shows the most severe collapse pattern across both recent MCL attempts.

Critical MPH Insight

The model identifies Mighty Toro as the field's fastest gate-to-wire performer with opening quarters consistently in the elite range (23.2–23.4 seconds, equivalent to approximately 39+ mph). However, Mighty Toro's Sustained Speed Rating is VULNERABLE: final-furlong velocity drops precipitously from opening pace, indicating pace collapse risk. By contrast, the model projects Fausto as the field's best velocity maintainer across the full 9-furlong distance — a STRONG-to-STRONG profile suggesting elite route fitness and finishing reliability. In a HOT pace scenario where Mighty Toro's early dominance is contested, Fausto's





sustained closing profile provides the model's highest confidence for final-furlong competitiveness.

SECTION 5: IMPROVEMENT & REGRESSION CANDIDATES

Likely to Improve

- **After Dawn:** Second-career-start runner with early-speed debut profile (the single highest-priority improvement signal in maiden claiming screening). Natural improvement curve supported by Mandella's 29% win rate in 2-off-45-to-180-day layoff spots (38 starts, 3.64 ROI). Dirt-to-turf route transition may unlock performance if pace scenario accommodates closing effort. Model projects 4–8 lengths improvement over debut.
- **Fausto:** Stepping into a competitive MCL field after recent turf route conditioning. Multiple prior MCL entries without success indicate "finder" spot potential — model assesses recent form trend as incrementally improving despite no wins. Hess's 16% MCL win rate and 2.18 ROI suggest trainer targeting this level for breakthrough. Natural improvement candidate despite lengthy maiden status.
- **Moluccan:** Off recent turf MSW effort with potential distance relief — 8.0f turf route is different from prior sprint exposure. Powell's weak trainer metrics and MSW-to-MCL 0% rate limit upside, but early-season pattern at 3-year-old age allows for form improvement if fresher today.

Bounce / Regression Risks

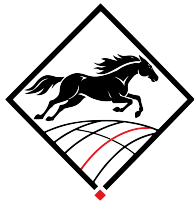
- **Mighty Toro:** Career-best effort likely came in MSW turf route win (07/18/2026, led wire-to-wire). Since that victory, two MCL starts show progressive form deterioration — second place followed by 2nd place with grudging effort. HOT pace scenario will exacerbate existing late-race deceleration pattern (Sustained Speed Rating VULNERABLE). Model projects late-stretch fade and finish position outside top three.
- **Pyrokinetic:** THROWOUT DESIGNATION enforced. Repeated MCL exposure (two attempts at exact \$50k claiming price) without ever winning, compounded by deteriorating trip notes and wide-margin defeats, indicates regression risk and lack of competitive positioning. Model assigns minimal win score and excludes from multi-race coverage.
- **Born to Rock:** Recent regression in form: 08/22/2026 MCL turf 8.0f effort shows weakness late (finished 5th, 4.0 lengths beaten) versus prior 08/01/2026 runner-up finish. Back-to-back route efforts may expose stamina limits. Model projects near-miss risk without breakthrough.

SECTION 6: SUGGESTED BETS

WIN BET: FAUSTO — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 4-1 to 6-1

Model projects 26% win probability — highest in the field. Elite closing profile with proven distance fitness at 9.0f on turf provides model's strongest confidence for final-furlong competitiveness. Sustained Speed Rating





STRONG ensures velocity maintenance across full route distance. Recent turf conditioning and MCL familiarity position Fausto for breakthrough winning effort. HOT pace scenario between Mighty Toro and Born to Rock will freshen Fausto's closing position, establishing clear path to wire. Model identifies +7.8% edge at morning line 9-2 odds.

VALUE PLAY: AFTER DAWN — Confidence 7/10 — Target odds: 5-1 to 8-1

Model projects 20% win probability at +8.9% edge. Second-career-start runner showing early-speed debut profile represents the single highest-priority improvement signal in maiden claiming screening. Trainer Mandella's 29% win rate in 2-off-45-to-180-day layoffs (3.64 ROI) validates targeted timing. Dirt-to-turf route transition may unlock hidden speed. Market significantly undervalues improvement trajectory and natural development arc. Model projects strong pace-scenario fit: with HOT early pace between Mighty Toro and Born to Rock, After Dawn's improving form profile will find fresher closing position in final 3 furlongs.

LONGSHOT PLAY: BORN TO ROCK — Confidence 6/10 — Target odds: 6-1+

Model projects 22% win probability at -0.2% edge. No genuine overlay exists at 7-2 morning line (22.2% implied). At 6-1 or higher, viability increases. Proven MCL turf route performer with recent runner-up finish demonstrates baseline competency. Trainer McCarthy's 18% MCL win rate and jockey continuity support consistency. However, back-to-back route efforts and recent form deterioration limit upside. Include only if mutual odds exceed 6-1 at post time.

MULTI-RACE WAGERS — Pick 3 / Pick 4 / Pick 5 / Pick 6 Top 3

A: FAUSTO — 26% win probability

(Matches Win Bet selection — highest model win% in field)

B: AFTER DAWN — 20% win probability

(Secondary selection with +8.9% edge and second-start improvement signal)

C: BORN TO ROCK — 22% win probability

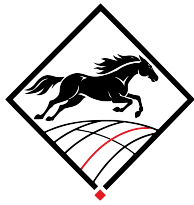
(Coverage position; proven MCL route performer with recent runner-up form)

Combined Projected Probability: 68%

Multi-race sequences benefit from pairing Fausto's closing profile (likely beneficiary of HOT pace scenario) with After Dawn's improvement trajectory and Born to Rock's baseline MCL route competency. This three-horse combination captures the three highest-probability contenders while positioning two of them as clear overlays (Fausto +7.8%, After Dawn +8.9%). Exclude Mighty Toro from multi-race coverage despite 1-1 odds due to severe overbet status and late-race deceleration vulnerability. Exclude Pyrokinetic entirely due to THROWOUT status.

SECTION 7: CONFIDENCE RATING





★★★★ (4 Stars)

Summary: The model projects a HOT pace scenario with Mighty Toro and Born to Rock contesting early, creating a moderately competitive setup that directly favors elite closers like Fausto. Fausto emerges as the highest-probability selection with the strongest Sustained Speed Rating (STRONG), proven 9-furlong turf route fitness, and positioned win%/edge ratio. After Dawn represents the second-highest value opportunity in the field — a textbook second-career-start improvement candidate with natural upside, trainer timing confidence, and +8.9% edge. Public severely overestimates Mighty Toro at 1-1 odds despite clear late-race deceleration pattern and vulnerable Sustained Speed Rating; this represents the race's most exploitable public betting mistake. Model confidence is tempered slightly by After Dawn's inexperience (only 2 career starts) and dirt-to-turf surface transition, but the improvement signal from second-start profile and Mandella's turf route expertise mitigates this concern. Pick Fausto as the primary selection; strongly consider After Dawn value overlay for exotics coverage.

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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