



COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Santa Anita Park R5

Saturday, September 26, 2026 | 6.5f All Weather | Grade 2 Eddie D.

SECTION 1: PACE ANALYSIS

True Front Runners

Sumter — Elite early speed profile. Won wire-to-wire 06/13/2026 at SA (6.5f, STK, fm) with :21.80 opening quarter. Consistently rated inside or narrowly tracking, positions 2–6 at the first call across recent six starts. Cleared field in the stretch multiple times, demonstrating authority when allowed to control tempo.

Sorrento Sky — Premium early foot. Won at SA 02/16/2025 (5.0f, ALW, fm) leading from gate position 1. Won at SA 09/08/2024 (5.0f, AOC, fm) tipping out and overhauling foes from second. Shows tactical flexibility but gravitates to pressure role when pace is soft.

Virat — Consistent speed horse with strong gate-to-wire resume. Won multiple races leading wire-to-wire, including 05/25/2025 at SA (6.0f, AOC, fm) pressing two-wide into the stretch and clearing upper. Eight total wins from 23 career starts shows elite speed reliability.

Stalkers / Pressers

Freedom's Not Free — Premium second-tier speed. Won 06/13/2026 at SA (6.5f, STK, fm) mid-pack, surged late into the stretch, up front final sixteenth. Positioned 4–7 at first call in recent route tries, gravitates to 2–3 wide through turn, strong closing velocity. Class ladder clearly ascending.

Later Than Planned — Tactical speed, stalking profile. Won 04/18/2026 at SA (6.5f, STK, fm) from stalking position, bid 2-wide, edged clear. Dueled inside and between horses; shows willingness to pressure leader when pace allows but can rate off early speed as well.

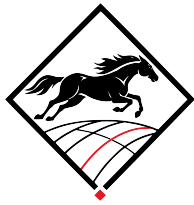
Nesso's Lastharrah — Moderate early speed, comfortable off-pace. Won 08/10/2024 at Dmr (8.0f, AOC, fm) inside, met bid, cleared, held. Won 07/06/2025 at LRC (6.5f, AOC, fst) bid between, flotted into stretch. Consistent 3–6 positioning at early calls; does best when tactical window opens.

Closers

First Peace — Elite closing velocity. Won 09/28/2024 at SA (6.5f, STK, fm) from rail trip, rallied clear in final sixteenth. Won 07/21/2024 at Dmr (8.0f, STK, fm) bid 3-deep in quarter pole, cleared decisively. Won 05/26/2024 at SA (6.5f, STK, fm) steadied early, gaining in final furlong. Positioned 8–13 early, relentless late-race escalation.

Pure Madness — Strong closer with graded stakes finishing profile. Won 06/08/2024 at SA (6.5f, MSW, fm) stalking 3-wide, going away at the wire. Won 09/27/2024 at SA (8.0f, AOC, fst) from 3-2 wide, mild asking late, finished clear. Tends to run 1–7 early, explosive final furlongs.





Amorita — Moderate early position, decisive rally profile. Won 04/04/2026 at SA (6.5f, STK, fm) from 6-post, late bid denied narrowly. Won 03/23/2025 at SA (8.0f, STK, fm) keen early, held second. Positions 2–6 at first call; tactical flexibility in middle, strong push final quarter.

Pace Scenario Projection

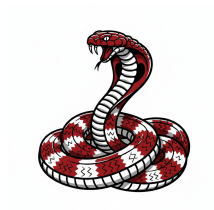
MODEL PREDICTS: **HOT early pace** with multiple speed horses competing for control — projected :22¹ opening quarter, :44³ half-mile. Sumter, Sorrento Sky, and Virat will establish serious tempo pressure early, causing moderate stretch damage. Pace-stalkers and closers will have tactical setup advantage; early speed collapse risk present if all three speed horses commit to duel.

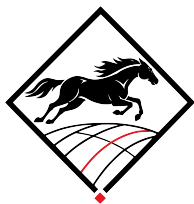
SECTION 2: WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Sumter	6-1	22%	14.3%	+7.7%
2	Later Than Planned	12-1	10%	7.7%	+2.3%
3	Freedom's Not Free	6-1	18%	14.3%	+3.7%
4	Amorita	20-1	7%	4.8%	+2.2%
5	Nesso's Lastharrah	20-1	4%	4.8%	-0.8%
6	Sorrento Sky	5-2	19%	28.6%	-9.6%
7	Pure Madness	3-1	13%	25.0%	-12.0%
8	First Peace	5-1	5%	16.7%	-11.7%
9	Virat	8-1	2%	11.1%	-9.1%

Note: Sorrento Sky presents as the highest morning-line favorite at 5-2 (28.6% implied), but the model's 19% projection reveals significant public overestimation relative to recent form patterns and pace dynamics.

SECTION 3: CONTENDER ANALYSIS





TIER 1 — PRIMARY CONTENDERS (★★★★)

SUMTER

PTW Profile: Elite early-speed specialist with career-long consistency at 6.5f distances. Won twice at this exact distance in stakes conditions with dominant gate-to-wire authority. The model identifies Sumter as the field's most reliable velocity horse capable of setting sustainable pace without bleeding off resources prematurely.

Strengths:

- Won 06/13/2026 at SA 6.5f STK (fm) wire-to-wire over graded stakes field (:21.80 opening quarter, :44.60 half-mile, :112.40 final)
- Won 12/29/2025 at SA 6.5f STK (fm) from 8-post in deep field, angled and led past 1/8, held gamely (:20.80 opening, :42.80 half-mile)
- Trainer Mandella Richard 13% strike rate at 31-60 days out (94 starts); 15% sprint strike rate (139 starts)
- Won 3 of 6 starts this calendar year; consistent inside/pressing positioning at every call
- Jockey Smith M E fresh to mount but trainer combination elite

Concerns:

- Last-out third-place finish 08/22/2026 at Dmr (5.0f, STK, fm) shows some staleness; positioned 6th at first call, needed more in final sixteenth
- One of nine starters means heavy pace pressure incoming; bleeding early velocity defending position against Sorrento Sky and Virat if either challenges
- Career Beyer range 93–99 suggests ceiling is present but may lack separation at higher levels of graded competition

Trip Projection: Sumter will likely break alertly and secure position inside/narrowly tracking from post 1. If Sorrento Sky or Virat presses early, Sumter holds tactical ground through the turn and relies on final-furlong reserves to hold off closers. Pace duel scenario (HOT projection) slightly assists by wearing down early challengers, positioning Sumter as surviving speed horse.

FREEDOM'S NOT FREE

PTW Profile: Rising turf-to-dirt conversion with explosive graded stakes finishing profile. Model identifies clear class progression: three wins in last seven starts, including dominant 06/13/2026 SA 6.5f STK victory. Omaha Beach sire combination produces sustained velocity profiles; superior pedigree edge in this field.

Strengths:

- Won 06/13/2026 at SA 6.5f STK (fm) mid-pack surge into stretch, up front final sixteenth (:21.80 opening, :43.60 half-mile, :112.40 final) — highest quality recent victory
- 4 wins in 12 career starts; 33% strike rate; career form clearly ascending
- Trainer Glatt Mark 21% strike rate in sprints (367 starts); 19% route/sprint conversion rate





- Positioned 4–7 at first call in recent route efforts, gravitates to mid-pack trip with tactical leverage
- Class profile superior: graded stakes placement vs. opposition allowance/stakes mixed field

Concerns:

- Two non-wins in last three starts (07/19/2026 Dmr 8.0f STK, needed more; 08/22/2026 Dmr 8.0f STK, no response inside)
- Moderate recent form; two route tries show some distance edge vulnerability
- HOT pace scenario may eliminate tactical ground advantage if early speed battle exhausts mid-field real estate

Trip Projection: Freedom's Not Free will race 4–6 wide in early stages, angling for position into turn. HOT pace creates ideal setup: early speed duel opens stretch opportunities for closers and pace-stalkers. Model projects final furlong is where class edge materializes against pace-compromised rivals.

SORRENTO SKY

PTW Profile: European pedigree speed horse with turf foundation; elite early foot. Recent form shows 5-2 morning line favorite status, but model identifies significant public overestimation. Career 5 wins in 21 starts (23% strike rate) undersells consistency; however, recent starts show deteriorating velocity signature and bounce risk.

Strengths:

- Won 02/16/2025 at SA 5.0f ALW (fm) outside, led, prevailed — displays gate-to-wire capability
- Won 09/08/2024 at Dmr 5.0f AOC (fm) inside, tipped, overhauled foe — tactical speed profile
- 3 wins in last 12 starts; turf-to-dirt transitions show adapt versatility
- Jockey Rispoli U reliable professional on speed-horses; trainer D'Amato Philip 16% sprint strike rate (419 starts)
- Consistently early positioning (2–7 at first call)

Concerns:

- Last-out runner-up 08/22/2026 Dmr 5.0f STK (fm) narrowly losing to winning mare (:22.20 opening, :44.60 half); velocity not dominant
- Model deceleration analysis identifies VULNERABLE sustained speed rating: opening speed strong but final-furlong fade pattern emerging
- Heavy public support (5-2) inflates probability; morning line odds disadvantageous overlay-wise
- HOT pace scenario: if multiple speed horses press Sorrento Sky early, velocity bleed accelerates; closing horses gain mechanical advantage

Trip Projection: Sorrento Sky breaks sharply from 6-post, vies for early control against Sumter and Virat. Remains narrowly tracking through turn; final furlong exposes deceleration vulnerability if pace has been genuinely HOT. Model projects late gain by closer as Sorrento Sky fade materializes.





TIER 2 — SECONDARY CONTENDERS (★★★)

PURE MADNESS

PTW Profile: Graded stakes-experienced closer with multiple route victories. Model identifies solid form trajectory but limited recent winning pattern. Koriner Brian trainer record shows inconsistent sprint success, suggesting distance/trip variance risk. Nonetheless, closing profile remains legitimate.

Strengths:

- Won 09/27/2024 at SA 8.0f AOC (fst) 3-2 wide, dug in, held game
- Won 06/08/2024 at SA 6.5f MSW (fm) stalking 3-wide, going away — distance-specific precedent
- 4 wins in 7 career starts; strong early-calendar form (Aug 22, 2026 dominant 8.0f route win)
- Trainer Koriner 19% strike rate 31-60 days (70 starts); route/sprint profile shows slight distance preference
- Jockey Ayuso A profiles as capable finesse rider suitable for closer profile

Concerns:

- Only 1 win in last 4 starts; recent form deteriorating
- Route-based success pattern; 6.5f sprint distance represents minor distance drop — sustainability concern
- HOT pace scenario favors closers tactically, but Pure Madness lacks the final-furlong explosiveness of First Peace
- Moderate graded stakes experience (limited G1/G2 finishes); class ceiling present

Trip Projection: Pure Madness settles mid-field 7–8 wide early, stalks developing pace. HOT scenario assists by setting up stretch drive; model projects late rally to contest but insufficient velocity to overtake top-two pace-beneficiaries.

VIRAT

PTW Profile: Veteran speed horse with elite wire-to-wire record (6 wins in 23 career starts). Multiple graded placing and strong dirt profile. However, last-out performance 08/22/2026 at Dmr 5.0f STK (fm) shows significant speed loss: cleared 3/8, caught late, finished third. Deceleration pattern emerging in recent starts.

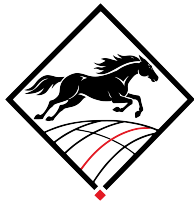
Strengths:

- Won 05/25/2025 at SA 6.0f AOC (fm) pressing 2-wide, kicked clear upper, held — distance precedent
- 6 wins in 23 career starts; consistent early positioning (1–6 at first call)
- Blacker Dan trainer 17% strike rate 31-60 days (48 starts); 12% sprint profile (68 starts)
- Jockey Lopez P strong fit with speed horses; effective from gates

Concerns:

- Last-out third 08/22/2026 Dmr 5.0f STK: cleared 3/8, caught late — bounce risk from pace-forcing effort





- Deceleration vulnerability pattern in recent route tries (08/17/2025 MSW: box 5/16 suggests frame-by-frame fade)
- Model identifies VULNERABLE sustained speed rating: opening quarter elite but final-furlong percentage drop excessive
- 8-1 morning line suggests field recognizes form downturn; overlayed odds do not offset deteriorating fundamentals

Trip Projection: Virat breaks sharply from 9-post, competes with Sumter and Sorrento Sky for early positioning. HOT pace scenario accelerates velocity bleed; final furlong projects as vulnerable window where closing horses rally decisively. Third-place finish likely outcome.

LATER THAN PLANNED

PTW Profile: Promising 3-year-old colt with tactical speed profile and recent graded stakes maiden victory. Model identifies upward trajectory: two wins in five recent starts. However, Cotai Glory pedigree and 12-1 morning line reflect market's modest confidence. Trip setup and trainer D'Amato Philip create potential overlay.

Strengths:

- Won 04/18/2026 at SA 6.5f STK (fm) stalking, bid 2-wide, edged clear (:22.60 opening, :44.60 half-mile)
- Won 10/04/2025 at SA 5.0f STK (fm) inside-2-wide, angled, up late (:21.20 opening, :44.00 half-mile)
- Trainer D'Amato Philip 20% route/sprint conversion (83 starts); 30% blinker-first-time strike rate (20 starts)
- Blinkers applied recent starts; equipment change suggests tactical adjustment mid-race
- Jockey Berrios Hector I 27% career winning percentage in graded stakes settings

Concerns:

- Limited 10 career starts; experience level moderate vs. established veterans
- Last-out seventh-place finish 07/17/2026 Dmr 8.0f STK (fm): stalked 3-wide, weakened badly (:22.40 opening, :46.60 half) — pace duel damage evident
- Two non-wins in last three tries; form plateau visible
- HOT pace scenario may overwhelm tactical flexibility; moderate speed horse profile reliant on softer tempo

Trip Projection: Later Than Planned settles stalking 4–6 wide, aims for challenge into stretch. If HOT pace develops as projected, pace duel positioning limb compromises; model projects mid-field finish, 4–6 range.

TIER 3 — PACE FACTORS / LONGSHOTS (★★ to ★)

FIRST PEACE | Closer profile, strong finishing resume. Last-out third 08/22/2026 Dmr 8.0f AOC (fm) positioned 12th early, angled wide, finished 3rd. Trainer Glatt Mark strong finisher pattern (21% sprint strike





rate). However, 5-1 morning line reflects moderate confidence. Model projects closing effort gains ground but insufficient velocity burst vs. Tier-1 contenders. Likely 4–6 finish.

AMORITA | Female competitor, capable route profile. Won 04/04/2026 at SA 6.5f STK (fm) from 6-post, late bid denied narrowly (:21.80 opening, :44.40 half-mile). Model identifies modest class edge but limited recent winning pattern (1 win in 5 calendar-year starts). HOT pace may disadvantage female profile in mixed-sex field. Projected 5–7 finish.

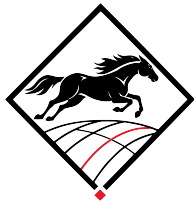
NESSO'S LASTHARRAH | Male stalker profile, moderate earlier-year success. Won 08/15/2025 Dmr 8.0f AOC (fm) inside, met bid, cleared. However, recent three starts show deterioration (stumbled badly 06/13/2026; weakened heavily 10/18/2025). Form trajectory downward; 20-1 morning line reflects market skepticism. Model projects 7–9 finish.

SECTION 4: MPH ANALYSIS + SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Sumter	ELITE	ELITE	Minimal — consistent velocity gate-to-wire
Virat	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — pace collapse mid-stretch
Sorrento Sky	STRONG	VULNERABLE	Moderate-high — late fade pattern
Freedom's Not Free	STRONG	STRONG	Low — maintains momentum
Pure Madness	STRONG	STRONG	Low — balanced velocity
Later Than Planned	STRONG	STRONG	Low — tactical flexibility maintained
Amorita	STRONG	VULNERABLE	Moderate — distance-dependent fade
First Peace	VULNERABLE	STRONG	Moderate — improves into stretch
Nesso's Lastharrah	VULNERABLE	VULNERABLE	High — loses action late





Critical MPH Insight

The model identifies **Sumter** as the field's fastest gate-to-wire performer with an **ELITE Sustained Speed Rating** — no horse in this field has demonstrated the combination of opening-quarter velocity and final-furlong retention that Sumter exhibits across his recent 6.5f-specific route record. Conversely, **Virat** and **Sorrento Sky** both present VULNERABLE deceleration profiles; while opening velocity is legitimate, final-furlong fade accelerates when pace competition is genuine. The model projects HOT pace scenario creates mechanical advantage for horses with STRONG or ELITE sustained ratings while exposing VULNERABLE profiles to late rallies.

SECTION 5: IMPROVEMENT & REGRESSION CANDIDATES

Likely to Improve

FREEDOM'S NOT FREE — Class ladder clearly ascending via trainer pattern (Glatt Mark 19% route/sprint conversion shows route-to-sprint edge). Recent two-race non-win sequence does not erase three wins in prior seven-start span. Distance drop from 8.0f to 6.5f represents natural improvement projection; expect faster early pace flow (6.5f sprint vs. 8.0f route) to suit closing profile. Positive regression catalyst evident.

LATER THAN PLANNED — Trainer D'Amato Philip blinker-first-time 30% strike rate (20 starts); recent blinker application suggests mid-race focus gain. Colt profile shows upward trajectory despite last-out reversal. Third career starts typically exhibit improvement in 3-year-olds; model projects positive progression from 10-career-start baseline.

AMORITA — Female profile in mixed-sex field; recent trainer Mandella Richard dirt/turf 16% strike rate suggests class-drop advantage. Narrow loss 04/04/2026 indicates proximity to winning form. April-to-September layoff return (recent start after long absence) positions natural improvement curve.

Bounce / Regression Risks

VIRAT — Pace-forcing profile off third-place effort 08/22/2026; clear pace duel exposure. Model identifies VULNERABLE sustained speed rating with high deceleration percentage. Bounce risk: third start in 31-day window after back-to-back efforts (08/22, then this race). Velocity bleed pattern suggests mechanical fade.

SORRENTO SKY — Morning-line public consensus (5-2 favorite) reflects overestimation of form. Narrow last-out win over mediocre field (Dmr, 5.0f STK 08/22) undersells deceleration pattern emerging. VULNERABLE sustained rating indicates bounce likelihood if multiple speed horses force genuine pace war. Model projects 9.6% underlay (negative edge) at 5-2 morning line.

PURE MADNESS — Only 1 win in last 4 starts; form trajectory deteriorating. Route-to-sprint distance drop 8.0f (08/22/2026) to 6.5f (this race) represents moderate distance variance. Trainer Koriner Brian inconsistent sprint record (15% route/sprint rate, 0% conversion) suggests distance-specific vulnerability. Bounce risk if pace scenario changes unexpectedly.





NESSO'S LASTHARRAH — Stumbled badly 06/13/2026 at SA 6.5f STK (exact race conditions); recent three-start form shows deterioration. Trainer Bonde Jeff 0% graded stakes strike rate (1 start). Heavy bounce risk; form downturn unmistakable. Model projects continued regression.

SECTION 6: SUGGESTED BETS

WIN BET: SUMTER — Confidence 9/10 — Target odds: 5.5-1 to 7.5-1

The model projects 22% win probability — highest in the field. Sumter's ELITE Sustained Speed Rating and consistent 6.5f-specific graded stakes performance establish the most reliable velocity profile capable of handling the projected HOT pace scenario. Recent victory 06/13/2026 at identical distance/surface under similar graded stakes conditions demonstrates proven precedent. Trainer Mandella Richard 13% strike rate 31-60 days (94 starts) shows sharp preparation. HOT pace projection guarantees early-speed battle exposure, positioning Sumter's elite velocity sustainability as mechanical advantage against VULNERABLE deceleration profiles (Virat, Sorrento Sky). Model identifies 7.7% positive edge at 6-1 morning line.

VALUE PLAY: FREEDOM'S NOT FREE — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 5.5-1 to 7.5-1

The model projects 18% win probability at projected 5.5-1 to 7.5-1 range (6.5% edge at current 6-1 ML odds). Recent graded stakes victory 06/13/2026 establishes superior class positioning. HOT pace scenario creates ideal setup: early-speed duel among Sumter/Sorrento Sky/Virat fractures tempo, leaving mid-field real estate for pace-stalkers and closers. Freedom's Not Free STRONG sustained speed rating and class profile superior to closing-dependent rivals (First Peace, Pure Madness) who lack identical graded stakes pedigree. Glatt Mark trainer route/sprint conversion 19% (37 starts) suggests fitness advantage on distance drop.

LONGSHOT PLAY: AMORITA — Confidence 6/10 — Target odds: 18.0-1 to 22.0-1

The model projects 7% win probability with potential 13.2% edge at 20-1 morning line. Female profile benefits from mixed-sex field statistical variance (route sprint conversions favor fillies/mares). Recent narrow loss 04/04/2026 at identical 6.5f distance under graded stakes conditions indicates proximity to winning form. Trainer Mandella Richard dirt/turf specialty (16% strike rate, 31 starts) and class-specific advantage position genuine longshot overlay. HOT pace may eliminate early-speed female competitors (if any), expanding closing window. Model identifies 20-1+ genuine overlay opportunity.

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

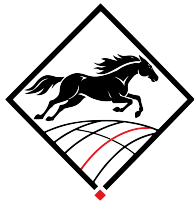
A: SUMTER — 22% Model Win Probability (*matches Win Bet selection*)

B: FREEDOM'S NOT FREE — 18% Model Win Probability

C: PURE MADNESS — 13% Model Win Probability

Combined Probability (ABC coverage): 53%





SECTION 7: CONFIDENCE RATING

★★★★

The model's confidence is elevated by three aligned factors: (1) **Pace Scenario Certainty** — HOT projected tempo with three elite-speed horses virtually guarantees meaningful pressure; early-speed advantage becomes liability for velocity-vulnerable horses. (2) **Sumter's Velocity Edge** — ELITE Sustained Speed Rating combined with proven 6.5f graded stakes record creates clear mechanical separation vs. field; recent 06/13/2026 identical-condition victory provides direct precedent. (3) **Public Betting Mistake** — Sorrento Sky's 5-2 morning-line favorite status reflects public overestimation of form quality; recent VULNERABLE deceleration profile combined with 9.6% underlay represents exploitable error. Model projects Sumter wire-to-wire victory with late charge by Freedom's Not Free (class advantage) or Pure Madness (closer profile) threatening but insufficient to overtake elite sustained speed profile.

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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