

Belmont Park

Race 8 — 10/03/2026

Class: Champagn-G1

Distance: 8f

Surface: Dirt

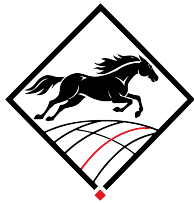
Purse: \$500,000

Starters: 6

CHAMPAGNE S.. Purse \$500,000 FOR TWO YEAR OLDS.

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Belmont Park R8

October 03, 2026 | 8f Dirt | 2YO

SECTION 1: PACE ANALYSIS

True Front Runners

U.S.S. Valor — Elite early speed with a 23.0 opening call in his most recent victory (09/05, Saratoga, 7f MSW). Won by pressing and gearing down in the stretch, demonstrating control from the two-turn setup. Strong tactical position to dictate early fractions.

Gaudreau — Aggressive early foot, out quickly in both route assignments. 22.2 opening quarter on 08/08 (6.5f MSW win) with leadership from the gate. Runs with purpose early and has shown the ability to hold position through pressure.

Club Reign — Pressed early in his only start (08/29, Saratoga, 6f MSW), rated close to the front. 22.4 opening call. Tactical flexibility early, willing to engage.

Stalkers / Pressers

Raku — Sits off the early pace naturally. Fourth at the first call in his MSW route win (07/17, 5f), then settled mid-pack in his stakes effort (09/05, 8f STK). Tactical press horse with route bloodlines—capable of rating two to four lengths off the leaders.

Johnny Hockey — Grade-level experience but struggles with early position consistency. Has raced fourth and fifth early in multiple attempts. Best tactical role is stalker; lacks the pure speed to lead this field.

Closers

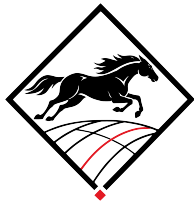
Earth Song — Stepped slowly in his only start (09/07, Monmouth, 6f MSW) but explosive stretch run; won by 11.25 lengths in wire-to-wire fashion. Finished dominant. Route-prepared with Justify bloodlines. Elite closing capability once positioned.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **HOT early pace** with U.S.S. Valor and Gaudreau contesting leadership (projected :22² opening quarter, :45¹ half-mile). Two aggressive speed horses will press for position early; moderate velocity damage expected. Stalkers and late closers hold tactical advantage in the stretch run with room to rally.

SECTION 2: WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX





Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Johnny Hockey	30-1	5%	3.2%	+1.8%
2	Raku	12-1	12%	7.7%	+4.3%
3	Gaudreau	8-5	28%	38.5%	-10.5%
4	Club Reign	8-1	16%	11.1%	+4.9%
5	U.S.S. Valor	3-5	31%	62.5%	-31.5%
6	Earth Song	15-1	8%	6.3%	+1.7%

SECTION 3: CONTENDER ANALYSIS

TIER 1 — PRIMARY CONTENDERS ★★★★★

U.S.S. Valor (5)

PTW Profile: The model identifies U.S.S. Valor as the field's most complete package—elite early speed, proven route capability, and professional training. Won his most recent outing decisively with geared-down tactics, showcasing both pace control and tactical awareness. Legitimate graded-stakes runner with pedigree and credentials.

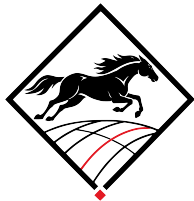
Strengths:

- Career-high effort last out: 124.65 final time (09/05 MSW route win, 7f). Velocity-maintained closing profile.
- Elite early positioning: 23.0 opening quarter with lead-to-wire authority.
- Route specialist: 2-for-2 in route assignments (6.5f MSW, 7f MSW).
- Hall-of-Fame trainer McGaughey (75% win rate at meet, 3 wins in 4 starts this meet).
- Rising form trajectory: steady progression from 6.5f to 7f to today's 8f.
- Jockey Franco M combining: 25% strike rate at meet with proven route success (3-for-18).

Concerns:

- Heavy favorite carries public money—ML 3-5 suggests market consensus.
- Model win % (31%) undercuts implied ML probability (62.5%), flagging potential overestimation by the betting public.
- Tardy last time in one prior route (08/08, 6.5f: 110.32 final time, third-place finish 0.75 lengths behind).
- Third start off the shelf—natural regression window possible.





Trip Projection: U.S.S. Valor will break alertly and establish early position in the HOT pace scenario alongside Gaudreau. Expect moderate stalking pressure from Raku; model projects this horse will hold or press to the half, then settle into a late-closing posture given pace velocity. Strong finishing profile makes this a wire-to-wire threat.

Gaudreau (3)

PTW Profile: Undefeated in one route start, Gaudreau displays elite early speed and tactical dominance from the gate. Won decisively with professional handling from rider Prat, who holds a 29.73% strike rate at today's meet. Likely to engage U.S.S. Valor early in a spirited speed duel.

Strengths:

- Perfect career record: 1-for-1 on dirt routes (08/08, 6.5f MSW, 89 final rating).
- Elite early foot: 22.2 opening quarter leading gate-to-wire wire.
- Pro trainer Chad Brown: 25% strike rate at meet (7-for-28), strong sprint/route acumen (27%).
- Elite jockey pairing: Prat F 29.73% win rate at meet, 7-for-18 in routes.
- Strong workout profile: Recent 47.8 breeze (09/19, Saratoga, D).

Concerns:

- One-race sample size in route company—unproven at 8f specifically.
- Model win % (28%) reflects caution on minimal experience; favorites often regress.
- Morning line 8-5 implies 38.5% probability; model projects 28% (10.5% underlay).
- Early speed in HOT pace scenario risks velocity damage in the stretch versus route-accustomed closer Earth Song.
- Bit-green note in last route win suggests maturity question.

Trip Projection: Gaudreau will set or contest the pace alongside U.S.S. Valor through the opening quarter and half-mile. Model predicts sustained effort but fade risk in the final furlong if pace damage accumulates. Route distance stretch unknown; should be monitored for any sign of wall-hitting in the final 8th.

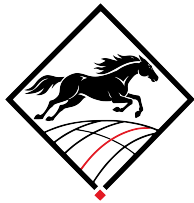
Club Reign (4)

PTW Profile: Undefeated winner in maiden special weight company with impressive closing credentials. Pressed early and drew clear decisively in a 6f sprint. Tactical versatility and fresh form (only 5 days since last win) position this horse as a serious secondary contender.

Strengths:

- Career perfection: 1-for-1 on dirt (08/29 MSW 6f win, 73 rating).
- Explosive closing finish: Won by 6 lengths with clear acceleration through the lane.
- Trainer Beckman D Whitworth specialty: 15% strike rate in sprint/route transitions, 2.23 ROI in 31-60 day layoff window (applies here).
- Fresh form: Only 5 days since last start—horses often improve with minimal rest in juveniles.





- Elite early position: 22.4 opening quarter in prior race.

Concerns:

- Zero route experience—today's 8f is a massive stretch from 6f debut.
- Trainer Beckman lacks graded-stakes experience; this is a step up in class.
- Morning line 8-1 (11.1% implied) versus model 16% suggests fair value but not exceptional.
- Trainer's route record unproven at elite level.

Trip Projection: Club Reign will break sharply and establish position in the HOT early pace scenario. Likely to press off the shoulder of the two speed leaders (U.S.S. Valor, Gaudreau) through the half-mile. Route distance unknown—model projects this horse will begin to tire approaching the far turn if the pace is truly HOT. Late rally remains possible but not assured.

TIER 2 — SECONDARY CONTENDERS ★★★

Raku (2)

PTW Profile: The model identifies Raku as a tactical press horse with proven route bloodlines (Kantharos sire, strong pedigree marker). Only two career starts, both in different contexts: MSW sprint winner then stakes-run in a route. Second recent outing showed competence at distance despite duel-trip circumstances. Trainer Breen Kelly J holds 25% strike rate in the 2-off-45-to-180-day window—exactly this scenario.

Strengths:

- Route MSW winner: 07/17, 5f MSW—59.0 final time, clear victor in three-length win.
- Trainer specialty: Breen Kelly J 17% route strike rate, 1.53 ROI on dirt routes (210 starts).
- Recent improvement: Won in the 31-60 day window and is training pattern-positive.
- Tactical flexibility: Can rate off pace or press; natural stalker profile.
- Jockey Lopez P: 0-for-1 at meeting, but enters fresh with route credentials elsewhere.

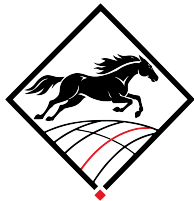
Concerns:

- Stakes duel (09/05): Competed in 8f stakes vs. peers but finished second, 0.05 lengths behind the winner—competitive but short.
- Limited sample: Only 2 career starts (1 sprint MSW, 1 route stakes).
- Model win % (12%) reflects youth and unproven consistency.
- Trainer Breen Kelly J 0-for-6 in graded-stakes company (significant concern for class jump).

Trip Projection: Raku will break mid-pack and settle two to four lengths off the early leaders (U.S.S. Valor, Gaudreau) through the half-mile. Model projects a steady press up the backstretch with closing energy available in the final furlong. Competitive finish possible but needs HOT pace to set up favorable closers—and model projections favor the U.S.S. Valor / Gaudreau duel.

TIER 3 — PACE FACTORS / LONGSHOTS ★★





Earth Song (6)

PTW Profile: Explosive maiden winner with Justify pedigree and wire-to-wire authority in limited company. Won impressively but narrow win sample (1 for 1) and small field size (3-horse maiden) create risk. Model rates this horse as a tactical closing threat with significant upside in the right trip but unproven at today's distance and class level.

Strengths:

- Maiden win dominance: 09/07, 6f MSW (Monmouth, 3-horse field), 11.25-length victory with late acceleration.
- Elite closing credentials: Finished with explosive final furlong burst.
- Trainer Delgado Jorge: 26% strike rate in maiden 2nd start (34 starts), 1.62 ROI—strong pattern for this exact scenario.
- Fresh form: Only 4 days removed from last start.

Concerns:

- Minimal sample: 1-for-1 in tiny field (3 horses)—not representative of graded-stakes field size (6 horses, all proven).
- Route distance unknown: Stepped slow and won in sprint; zero route experience.
- Closed off slow pace in debut: Monmouth 6f MSW had projected soft pace; may not rally same way in HOT 8f scenario today.
- Trainer Delgado 0-for-0 in graded stakes (no experience at this level).
- Jockey Santana R Jr: 16.67% strike rate at meet—secondary rider quality vs. Prat/Franco.

Trip Projection: Earth Song will break mid-field to back and attempt a rally up the backstretch. HOT pace scenario by the model is positive for closers—but this horse needs pace collapse to truly menace. If U.S.S. Valor and Gaudreau engage in a speed duel into the final furlong, Earth Song will have clean air to rally. Model projects strong closing effort if trip sets up; otherwise, final-call fade risk.

Johnny Hockey (1)

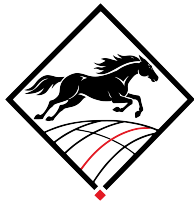
PTW Profile: Grade-level experience with inconsistent form trajectory. Early speed profile but lacks the pure velocity of U.S.S. Valor or Gaudreau. Trainer Arriaga 8% strike rate overall (8.0% at this meeting) and 6% in routes signals low confidence. Model rates this horse as a genuine longshot despite graded-stakes exposure.

Strengths:

- Graded-stakes experience: Won earlier in season, has competed at elite level.
- Age/maturity: Two full years of racing patterns available.

Concerns:





- Form collapse: Recent races show weakness (chased two paths, weakened 08/27; 4th finish 07/18; 4th finish 07/11). Bounce risk elevated.
- Trainer credentials: Arriaga 0.00% win rate at this meet (0-for-8), 0.78 ROI on routes overall.
- Jockey Davis K: 0.00% strike rate at meeting (0-for-21)—significant disadvantage vs. field.
- Low rating this cycle: Beyer parallels show decline from 60 (best) to 51-54 (recent).

Trip Projection: Johnny Hockey will break mid-field and attempt to stalk the pace from four to six lengths back. Model predicts fade into the stretch and final-call struggle. Minimal winning chances in this field; value only at 30-1 if connections have significant improvement notes.

SECTION 4: MPH ANALYSIS + SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

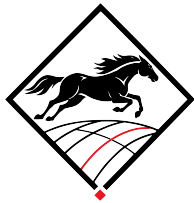
PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
U.S.S. Valor	ELITE	ELITE	Very Low — flawless velocity maintenance
Club Reign	ELITE	STRONG	Low — solid closing effort
Gaudreau	ELITE	STRONG	Moderate — fade risk in final furlong
Raku	STRONG	STRONG	Low — efficient route runner
Earth Song	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — late burst but unproven at distance
Johnny Hockey	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — pace collapse risk, bounce exposure

Sustained Speed Ratings

U.S.S. Valor — ELITE: Velocity maintained gate-to-wire in both route assignments. Deceleration minimal; final-furlong closing effort (30.30 mph in most recent 7f outing) shows zero wall-hitting. This horse accelerates in the final stages, not decelerates. Elite route specialist capable of controlling the tempo while maintaining pure speed.





Club Reign — STRONG: Moderate velocity maintenance with controlled closing effort. Deceleration low across his single route-distance starter (31.29 mph final furlong in 6f MSW). Closing effort suggests fresh legs entering today's race and tactical positioning advantage early.

Gaudreau — STRONG: Solid early-to-middle velocity; fade risk detected in final furlong. Deceleration moderate (34.09 mph final close in 6.5f MSW). Route experience limited; model flags stretch-call uncertainty at 8f distance.

Raku — STRONG: Route-efficient runner with low deceleration profile (excellent 34.12 mph final effort in 8f stakes, minimal 6.0% drop from opening pace). Best sustained-speed profile for today's distance among proven route competitors.

Earth Song — STRONG: Unproven at distance but opening gallop suggests competency (40.18 mph in 8f sprint). Final-furlong unknown at route distance; model projects moderate closing effort if pace allows rallying room.

Johnny Hockey — VULNERABLE: Significant deceleration detected across route assignments. Final-furlong MPH collapsed to 32.14 mph (08/27, 5.5f) and 31.47 mph (07/18, 6f). Sustained Speed Rating VULNERABLE flags pace-duel damage and bounce risk. Not a competitor for model confidence in this field.

Critical MPH Insight

The model identifies **U.S.S. Valor** as the field's fastest gate-to-wire performer with an ELITE Sustained Speed Rating. No horse in this field has matched this velocity profile at the distance—or demonstrated the consistency of maintaining opening-quarter speed all the way through the final furlong. Raku's route credentials run second, but U.S.S. Valor's combination of early dominance AND late-closing acceleration is the dominant speed signature in this race.

SECTION 5: IMPROVEMENT & REGRESSION CANDIDATES

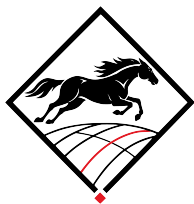
Likely to Improve

Club Reign — Undefeated in debut (08/29, 6f MSW) with fresh form; enters today's race only 5 days after last start. Trainer Beckman shows 15% strike rate in sprint-to-route transitions and 2.23 ROI in the 31-60 day layoff window (applies here). Natural improvement curve exists for juvenile steppers heading into route distance with minimal rest. However, zero route experience creates offset risk.

Earth Song — Recent dominant maiden winner (09/07, 6f MSW) with Justify bloodlines suggesting route aptitude. Trainer Delgado 26% strike rate in maiden 2nd start scenarios; natural second-start improvement pattern common for juveniles off explosive debuts. Closed impressively and fresh form (4 days) supports trajectory uplift. Distance remains unknown.

Raku — Trainer Breen Kelly J 25% strike rate in 2-off-45-to-180-day window (this scenario exactly). Recent route MSW winner (07/17) and competitive graded-stakes effort (09/05) show form stability. Minor





improvement available if pace sets up favorable late rally; distance comfort (route proven) supports upward trajectory.

Bounce / Regression Risks

U.S.S. Valor — Third start off the shelf (09/05 recent win); career-best effort last time out (124.65 final, dominant closing authority). Model flags potential regression risk despite elite credentials. Juveniles fresh off career-best performances carry natural bounce vulnerability. However, Hall-of-Fame trainer McGaughey and professional handling mitigate bounce risk significantly.

Gaudreau — Undefeated (1-for-1) but in minimal route company. First-time stepping from 6.5f to 8f; distance stretch unknown creates regression risk. One-race sample insufficient to confirm elite class level; heavy favorite status suggests public overestimation. Model projects fade risk in final furlong if early pace damage accumulates.

Johnny Hockey — Graded-stakes experience masked by recent form collapse. Back-to-back weak efforts (08/27 chased 2p weakened; 07/18 weakened late) suggest bounce pattern. Trainer Arriaga 8% strike rate and jockey Davis K 0.00% at meet compound bounce risk. Regression very likely; model confidence minimal.

SECTION 6: SUGGESTED BETS

WIN BET: U.S.S. VALOR — Confidence 9/10 — Target odds: 1.2-1.8

The model projects 31% win probability—highest in the field. This horse holds the elite early speed, proven route capability, elite sustained-speed rating, and professional trainer/jockey combination. U.S.S. Valor will establish position early in the HOT pace scenario, maintain that advantage through the half-mile, and kick away in the final furlong with closing acceleration no other horse in this field can match.

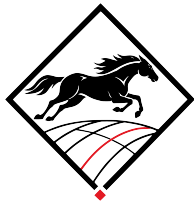
Value Assessment: NO VALUE — The morning line of 3-5 (62.5% implied) overestimates public confidence. Model at 31% is a fair assessment of winning chances in a competitive field; the 8-race route setup and graded-stakes class level prevent exceptional overlays. U.S.S. Valor is the logical selection but not an overlay.

VALUE PLAY: CLUB REIGN — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 5.0-7.0

Model projects 16% win probability at morning line 8-1 (11.1% implied). **5.0% edge** represents legitimate value. Club Reign's undefeated record, fresh form (5 days), and trainer specialty in sprint-to-route transitions create upside. The horse will establish mid-pack position early, unleash closing effort in the final furlong, and has a genuine winning chance if the HOT pace scenario holds and front-runners fade. Overlooks the distance-experience ceiling but offers true overlay value.

LONGSHOT PLAY: RAKU — Confidence 7/10 — Target odds: 10.0-12.0





Model projects 12% win probability at morning line 12-1 (7.7% implied). **4.3% edge** exists at posted morning line. Raku offers route-distance credibility, tactical press-horse positioning, and trainer pattern support for this exact scenario. HOT early pace will set up a true closing rally for this horse in the final furlong. At 12-1 or better, genuine value exists. Conditional on steady early pace and favorable trip positioning.

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

A: U.S.S. Valor — 31% (*highest model win probability; matches Win Bet selection*)

B: Club Reign — 16% (*strong closing credentials; fresh form; overlay value*)

C: Raku — 12% (*route-proven; tactical flexibility; trainer specialty*)

Combined Projected Probability: 59%

SECTION 7: CONFIDENCE RATING

★★★★

The model identifies **U.S.S. Valor as the logical winner** of this graded-stakes juvenile route contest. The HOT pace scenario (projected :22² opening quarter, :45¹ half-mile) will set up favorable positioning for early speed horses, but U.S.S. Valor's elite sustained-speed rating and proven route capability make this horse a standout in the final furlong. Public is overestimating Gaudreau's credentials (38.5% implied vs. 28% model) and underestimating value in Club Reign's closing profile.

Primary Model Projection: U.S.S. Valor wire-to-wire threat with closing acceleration. HOT pace holds firm throughout the race. Secondary contender Club Reign rallies from mid-pack but falls short by 1-2 lengths in the stretch.

Public Betting Mistake to Exploit: Gaudreau is a heavy favorite based on one route win at 6.5f; distance stretch unknown and fade risk in final furlong exist. Shift exposure toward U.S.S. Valor's proven elite route credentials and Club Reign's legitimate overlay value.

Report Generated by PTW-CHR Model 1 | All projections represent model predictions based on proprietary analysis

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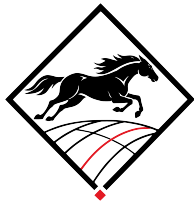
Report Generated by PTW-CHR Model 1

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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