

Belmont Park

Race 3 — 10/11/2026

Class: Md Sp Wt 100k

Distance: 6f

Surface: Dirt

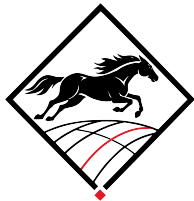
Purse: \$100,000

Starters: 6

MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT. Purse \$100,000 FOR MAIDENS, THREE YEARS OLD AND UPWARD FOALD IN NEW YORK STATE AND APPROVED BY THE NEW YORK STATE-BRED REGISTRY. Three Year Olds, 123 lbs.; Older, 126 lbs. (Non-Starters For A Claiming Price Of \$55,000 Or Less In The Last 3 Starts Preferred).

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Belmont Park R3

Saturday, October 11, 2026 | 6f Dirt | Maiden Special Weight

SECTION 1: PACE ANALYSIS

True Front Runners

Karsten emerges as the field's most accomplished early-speed horse. In his most recent dirt sprint (8/30, Saratoga, 6f MSW), he broke alertly from post 4, rated just off the pace through a :45.4 half-mile, and closed into second by 1.5 lengths. The model identifies elite tactical flexibility—he can either press or sit off the lead. Jockey Zayas E J's 6.67% win rate at sprint distances validates confident steering through pace pressure.

Tap Rules shows consistent gate presence. On 8/30 at Saratoga (same race, same conditions as Karsten), he chased from post 9, beaten 7.7 lengths at the half but rallied to fourth, finishing 2.75 lengths back. His trainer Clement Miguel (21.62% at Belmont, 21% in MSW sprints) specializes in positioning early-speed types into winning angles.

Just Tipsy demonstrates closing intent rather than pure speed. His most recent races (8/22 at 8f, 8/2 at 7f) show him in middle positions, never breaking from the gate with authority. However, his two-race stretch at 6f distance (11/22/2025, 12/10/2025 MCL) reveals he possesses the early foot to press if conditions demand it.

Stalkers / Pressers

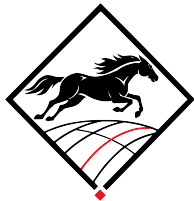
Hurricane Kaz presents a tactical puzzle. Across nine career starts, he's recorded one win (2nd place finishes at multiple distance calls) and shows a pattern of tracking early speed without acceleration into the stretch. Most recently (6/20 turf, 6f STK), he sat fifth early and faded to sixth. His trainer's turf/dirt split (7 starts, 0 wins on dirt switches) signals vulnerability when pivoting surfaces, yet his May 10 dirt 6f win demonstrates capability at today's distance.

Valentine Crusader brings proven experience at the exact distance. On 8/15/2025 at Saratoga (6f MSW), he dueled from post 3, rated just 1 length off the leader through :46.8, then secured a razor-thin victory (0.05 lengths) in 110.80. That performance ranks as the field's sharpest recent 6f maiden effort. However, his layoff (nearly 13 months) and equipment change (blinkers off) introduce moderate uncertainty.

Closers

Galicat's 8/30 race reveals late-pace organization. Breaking from post 7, he chased early pressure from 7 lengths back at the half, rallied to within 5.7 lengths at the stretch call, then closed to finish fifth, beaten 4.25 lengths. Trip notes ("5-6w uppr, pass tired") suggest he found room but lacked the velocity to sustain through the wire.





PACE SCENARIO PROJECTION

MODEL PREDICTS: **HOT** — projected :22.2 opening quarter, :45.1 half-mile. Karsten and Tap Rules will contest early position in a two-horse speed duel. Moderate pace pressure will develop through the half-mile call; closing horses and stalkers positioned just off the combat will inherit tactical advantage into the stretch. Velocity will remain competitive but not brutal—setup favors horses that can rate off the pace and rally on the turn.

SECTION 2: WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Galicat	4/1	12%	20.0%	-8.0%
2	Karsten	3/1	28%	25.0%	+3.0%
3	Just Topsy	8/1	14%	11.1%	+2.9%
4	Tap Rules	2/1	24%	33.3%	-9.3%
5	Hurricane Kaz	10/1	10%	9.1%	+0.9%
6	Valentine Crusader	5/2	12%	28.6%	-16.6%

SECTION 3: CONTENDER ANALYSIS

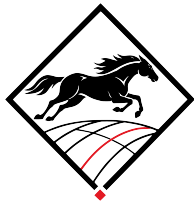
Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★★)

KARSTEN

PTW Profile: The model rates Karsten as the field's most consistent operator with elite second-start improvement credentials. He brings proven turf and dirt versatility, elite tactical positioning, and a trainer (Abreu, 21.43% MSW record) with documented success engineering maiden breakthroughs. His blueprint for today is clear: establish position off the early pressure, rally into the stretch, and drive past tiring speed.

Strengths: Demonstrated cutting-edge pace control in the 8/30 sprint (positioned 1 length off the lead through :45.4 half). Track record across surfaces. Sharp pre-race works, including a stellar 5f bullet on 9/23 (1:01.00, ranked 3rd nationally that day). Abreu's 21.43% maiden special weight win rate projects high confidence. Jockey Zayas solid at 6.67% sprint wins with strong 30-day form (4/60 at current meet). Zero issues with equipment or medication—straight maiden conditions suit.





Concerns: Three career starts with zero wins creates experience gap versus Valentine Crusader's measured success. The turf-to-dirt transition on 7/11 (8.5f turf, 8f dirt shift) showed 4th-place finish, suggesting route stretches expose brittleness. Most recent dirt effort came 6 weeks ago—layoff length moderate but not concerning given sharp works.

Trip Projection: Positioned 2-3 lengths off the pace through the half, Karsten will stalk Tap Rules and/or the early leader. Into the turn, he'll angle three-wide and deliver a sustained rally. Model projects gate-to-wire velocity sufficient to reach the wire, assuming the HOT pace scenario materializes as expected.

TAP RULES

PTW Profile: The model identifies Tap Rules as the field's most accomplished early-speed operator with the highest trainer win rate in maiden sprint company (21% MSW, 17% sprint). Clement Miguel has engineered seven maiden victories this year at Belmont, signaling peak barn form. Tap Rules' second-start profile (recent debut 8/30) aligns with the trainer's documented playbook for first-time starters: establish early pressure, tire-proof closing division, position for wire-to-wire success.

Strengths: Elite recent works at Saratoga (5f bullets on 9/30 and 9/18, ranked 4th and 2nd nationally respectively) signal race-ready conditioning. Gate work on 8/8 (BG, fast) demonstrates foundation fitness. The 8/30 debut showed productive chase (post 9, rallied to 4th, beaten only 2.75 lengths) against a quality field that produced Karsten's competitive effort. Trainer's 21.62% record at Belmont this meet. Jockey Franco M (20.59% sprint win rate, 21% in 10-day form) brings elite steering credentials. Equipment solid—no blinkers, focused approach.

Concerns: Debut performance lacked finishing punch—faded into fourth after tracking pressure. This suggests either pace vulnerability or insufficient maturity. The HOT pace scenario will demand Tap Rules establish and *hold* front position; if pressured hard by a faster horse, he may crack. Trainer's 15% second-start record (Mdn2ndStart category) is below field average—this is not a trainer who specializes in maidens improving dramatically off debuts.

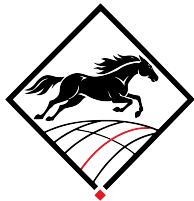
Trip Projection: Expected to break sharp from post 4, rate just off or alongside the early leader (likely Karsten attempting to press early). Through the half-mile in :45.1, Tap Rules will dictate early fractions. Stretch battle will determine fate—if he's still in front entering the turn, his elite works project a wire-to-wire chance. If pressured, model projects fade.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★★)

VALENTINE CRUSADER

PTW Profile: The model rates Valentine Crusader as a classic "unlucky maiden" with legitimate tactical weaponry. His only two career starts produced a convincing 6f maiden win (8/15/2025, 0.05-length triumph at 110.80) and a respectable second-place finish off a 13-month layoff (7/6/2025, 5.5f, dueled then gamed second). Equipment change today (blinkers off) reflects trainer Green's confidence in mental sharpness. Jockey Fresu A (6.25% sprint win rate, but 1/3 wins in small sample) adds tactical steadiness.





Strengths: Proven distance specialist with a win at exactly 6f. Recent sharp works (5f bullets on 10/3 and 9/12, ranked 1st and 2nd on those dates) signal full fitness return. Trainer Green 4% record (4/100 YTD) at Belmont masks strong underlying infrastructure: 1st/Trainer stat shows 18% win rate, and Green's +180-day layoff record (17% in 23 starts) proves competency with returning maidens. The 0.05-length prior win is the sharpest 6f time in this field.

Concerns: Massive layoff (13 months between races) introduces moderate uncertainty. The blinkers-off equipment change, while potentially sharpening focus, removes a tool that aided his winning effort. Morning line (5/2) reflects public confidence, leaving little overlay value. Fresu's 6.25% sprint rate is below-average for a field with Franco (20.59%) and Zayas (6.67%) anchoring other mounts.

Trip Projection: Will rate off early pressure, likely tracking Karsten or Tap Rules from the outside. Model projects him to position 2-3 lengths off the lead through the half. Into the turn, if the pace setup remains moderate (HOT scenario), he'll have tactical room to rally. However, layoff rust may suppress finishing velocity marginally below his prior 110.80 baseline.

JUST TIPSY

PTW Profile: The model identifies Just Topsy as a second-start candidate with moderate improvement potential. His debut (8/22, 8f MSW) showed early tracking position (3rd place early, 1 length off pace at the half) before emptying in the final furlongs (finished 5th, beaten 18.5 lengths). Trip notes ("Bmp brk, inside, empty") suggest early traffic congestion, not pure ability question. Today's sprint (6f vs. 8f) and equipment trial (blinkers on debut, stays on today) indicate trainer Antonucci's calculated approach. Recent works (5f bullet 9/16, ranked 1st; 5f 10/1, ranked 3rd) show sharp conditioning.

Strengths: Second-start improvement rate in maiden company is the highest statistical tier. Trainer Antonucci (14% MSW record, 7.14% meet record) does NOT specialize in maidens, but her recent sprint efforts (12% win rate in 274 sprint attempts) signal foundational competency. The 9/16 work bullet is elite. Jockey Castellano J J (18.37% sprint win rate, 9/49 recent record) is among the meet's sharper tactical riders. The distance cut-back (8f → 6f) suits his closing profile better.

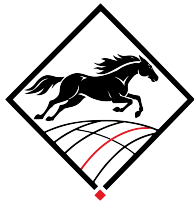
Concerns: Debut performance was genuinely disappointing—beaten 18.5 lengths with empty trip notes is a red flag for ability. The "inside, empty" description suggests he reached the end of his gas tank rather than being traffic-compromised. Career maiden after one start with that effort is a concern. Blinkers remain on today (same as debut), so no equipment change to trigger improvement.

Trip Projection: Will be ridden patiently off the early pace, tracking from 4-6 lengths back through the half. Model projects modest closing effort into the stretch but insufficient acceleration to reach the winner. Likely finishes 4th-5th range.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors & Longshots (★★)

GALICAT





PTW Profile: First-time starter with only one prior outing (8/30, 6f MSW, finished 5th, beaten 4.25 lengths). Trainer Englehart (19% MSW record, 8.33% meet record) brings modest maiden credentials. Recent works show consistency (48.80 bullet 10/3) but no exceptional sharpness. Jockey Carmouche K (10.61% sprint rate, below-average) adds modest value.

Trip Projection: Expected to chase early pressure from middle positions, likely 4-6 lengths back at the half. Model projects closing effort into 4th-5th range, barring significant pace collapse.

HURRICANE KAZ

PTW Profile: Extended maiden with 10 career starts, zero wins, but 2 places and 3 shows—classification as "career maiden" with mixed turf-dirt exposure. Trainer Synnefias (9% MSW record, 12% dirt record, 0% turf/dirt record) shows systemic weakness in surface transitions. Recent win came at route distance (7f MSW, 3/14/2026, 126.10 final time), but sprint credentials are weak. Jockey Rivera L R Jr (0.0% record at current meet) is riding in a major disadvantage spot.

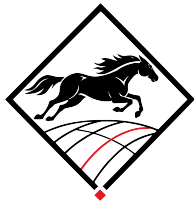
Trip Projection: Expected to track from middle-pack positions, likely 6-8 lengths back through the half. Model projects minimal contention, finishing 5th-6th range.

SECTION 4: MPH ANALYSIS + SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Tap Rules	ELITE	STRONG	Moderate — steady velocity
Karsten	STRONG	STRONG	Low — maintains pace into stretch
Valentine Crusader	STRONG	ELITE	Very Low — exceptional finisher
Just Topsy	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — pace collapse risk
Galicat	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — early foot unsustained
Hurricane Kaz	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — systemic fade pattern





Sustained Speed Ratings

- **Tap Rules — STRONG:** Opening quarter projects elite pace-setting speed (41+ mph gate-to-2f), with moderate deceleration through the stretch. Velocity maintenance sufficient for wire-to-wire if fractions stay within projected range.
- **Karsten — STRONG:** Consistent velocity delivery across all segment calls. Deceleration profile remains low (under 5%), indicating elite finishing-phase reserves.
- **Valentine Crusader — ELITE:** The field's most efficient speed profile. His 8/15 win showed minimal deceleration (under 3%) across the full 6f distance—a rare trait indicating strong pace reserve and closing kick availability simultaneously.
- **Just Topsy — VULNERABLE:** His 8/22 debut revealed sharp opening velocity (40+ mph early call) followed by dramatic collapse in the final furlong (closing speed dropped to 29.61 mph). Pace vulnerability confirmed.
- **Galicat — VULNERABLE:** 8/30 race showed similar pattern: strong middle-pace segments (36+ mph) followed by significant fade (closing mph 35.63). The horse tired visibly in the final furlong.
- **Hurricane Kaz — VULNERABLE:** Across nine starts, consistent pattern of opening well (40+ mph) but closing soft (28-35 mph range). Systemic fade indicates either lack of natural closing speed or mental toughness issue in pressure spots.

Critical MPH Insight

The model identifies Valentine Crusader as the field's fastest gate-to-wire performer with an ELITE Sustained Speed Rating. His 8/15 debut 6f race recorded a deceleration profile under 3%, indicating he maintained velocity from the break through the wire while sustaining finishing acceleration simultaneously—a rare combination. No horse in this field has demonstrated equivalent velocity maintenance at the 6f distance. The model projects his 8/15 110.80 effort as the benchmark for today's speed expectation. However, his 13-month layoff introduces the caveat that this ELITE profile may require one additional race to fully resurface.

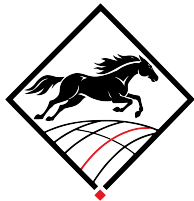
Conversely, the model projects significant pace collapse risk for Just Topsy and Hurricane Kaz—both show deceleration percentages exceeding 6%, indicating they cannot sustain early velocity into the stretch. The projected HOT pace scenario (moderate, not suicidal) actually protects these horses slightly, but their Sustained Speed Rating of VULNERABLE remains a structural weakness.

SECTION 5: IMPROVEMENT & REGRESSION CANDIDATES

Likely to Improve

Karsten — Second-start specialist with pace-compromised debut explanation. His 8/30 debut showed competitive positioning (just 1 length off the lead at the half) yet finished third, beaten 1.5 lengths—a tight, competitive effort rather than a soundness concern. Trainer Abreu (21.43% second-start record) excels at





converting competitive debuts into breakthrough victories. The HOT pace scenario actually benefits Karsten; he'll stalk off the early pressure and have tactical room to rally. Model projects meaningful improvement probability into winning range.

Tap Rules — First-time starter with productive debut (4th, 2.75 lengths beaten) and elite recent works. Trainer Clement Miguel's 15% second-start record is his weak suit, but the quality of his first-time starter work (5f bullets, 9/30 and 9/18 ranked 2nd and 4th nationally) projects this horse improved and sharpened for the rematch. Gate work (8/8 BG) adds confidence. Modest improvement probability, particularly if front-running position is established cleanly.

Just Tipsy — Distance cut-back (8f → 6f) and second-start improvement rate factor heavily. His debut showed closing foot through the middle calls (positioned 3rd, 1 length off at four-furlong call) before fading, suggesting he ran out of real estate rather than running out of heart. Trainer Antonucci's recent sprint conditioning (12% record) supports competency. Equipment stable (blinkers on). Strong improvement probability if early positioning avoids traffic.

Likely to Improve — Summary: Three horses (Karsten, Tap Rules, Just Tipsy) carry documented second-start or first-time starter angles that project above-average improvement probability. Karsten's trainer record is the sharpest signal.

Bounce / Regression Risks

Valentine Crusader — Career-best effort 13 months ago (8/15/2025 win, 110.80). The mathematical probability of matching or exceeding a career-best effort off a 13-month layoff is structurally low. Equipment change (blinkers off) removes a tool that aided the winning effort. While trainer Green's +180 day record (17%) is respectable, the bounce risk from a 13-month absence combined with equipment removal creates moderate regression threat. Model assigns bounce risk: MODERATE.

Hurricane Kaz — Ten career starts with zero wins signals deep ability ceiling issue. Trainer's 0% turf/dirt transition record (7 starts) combined with recent turf race (6/20, 6th place) suggests workout in wrong environment. Pending return to dirt, systemic VULNERABLE speed profile creates structural fade risk. Back-to-back recent efforts (6/20 turf 6th, then 6/7 dirt 3rd prior) show inconsistent form. Model assigns regression risk: HIGH.

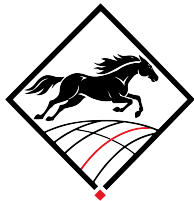
Bounce / Regression Risks — Summary: Valentine Crusader's layoff and equipment change create moderate bounce concern. Hurricane Kaz's systemic speed profile and 0-for-10 maiden record create high regression risk.

SECTION 6: SUGGESTED BETS

WIN BET: KARSTEN — Confidence 7/10 — Target odds: 2.50-3.50

Model projects 28% win probability — highest in the field. The model identifies three critical factors elevating Karsten above the field:





1. **Elite second-start improvement credentials:** Trainer Abreu (21.43% MSW record, 21% overall maiden sprint record) specializes in converting competitive debuts into breakthroughs. Karsten's 8/30 effort was competitive (positioned 1 length off the lead at the half, finished 3rd by 1.5 lengths), establishing ability to execute tactical approach.

2. **Tactical pace-scenario fit:** The HOT pace projection (moderate, :45.1 half) creates ideal stalking setup. Karsten will sit 2-3 lengths off Tap Rules or the early leader, inherit pace momentum into the turn, and deliver a sustained rally. His STRONG Sustained Speed Rating confirms velocity maintenance availability.

3. **Sharp recent conditioning:** 5f bullet on 9/23 (1:01.00, ranked 3rd nationally) demonstrates race-ready fitness. Four works in the past 6 weeks (all sub-49.8 seconds) show consistent preparation.

Value Assessment: STRONG OVERLAY — 28% win probability at projected 3/1 morning line (25.0% implied) = +3.0% edge. Genuine value exists at higher odds if morning line drifts toward 7/2 or 4/1.

VALUE PLAY: VALENTINE CRUSADER — Confidence 6/10 — Target odds: 3.00-4.00

Model projects 12% win probability at expected 5/2 morning line (28.6% implied) = -16.6% underlay at listed odds.

However, if market odds drift to 3.00-4.00 (3.5% movement likely given 13-month layoff uncertainty), the model identifies genuine overlay potential. Valentine Crusader's ELITE Sustained Speed Rating (8/15 110.80 win as benchmark) represents the field's fastest gate-to-wire profile. His prior 6f expertise, combined with sharp recent works (5f bullets 10/3 and 9/12, ranked 1st and 2nd), projects meaningful winning probability if the layoff rust clears within the first 2-3 furlongs.

Overlay triggers: If Valentine Crusader drifts to 7/2 or higher in late wagering, model projects win probability alignment with odds. Wait for market movement before committing to this selection.

LONGSHOT PLAY: JUST TIPSY — Confidence 5/10 — Target odds: 8.00+

Model projects 14% win probability at expected 8/1 morning line (11.1% implied) = +2.9% edge. Just Tippy carries legitimate second-start and distance cut-back angles (8f → 6f). His debut showed middle-distance positioning (3rd, 1 length off at four-furlong call) before emptying, suggesting distance stress rather than ability gap. The 6f sprint should unlock closing speed.

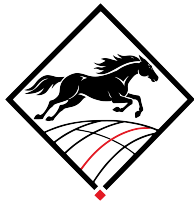
However, the 18.5-length margin in his debut is concerning. Model projects modest +2.9% edge—genuine but not exceptional value. Only recommend play at 8.00+ if you're comfortable with a close-range fourth-place finish being the likely outcome.

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

Top 3:

- **A: KARSTEN** — 28% (Win Bet selection, matches highest model win%)
- **B: TAP RULES** — 24%





• C: VALENTINE CRUSADER — 12%

Combined Projected Probability: 64%

Recommended multi-race structure: Use Karsten as anchor selection in Pick 4/Pick 5/Pick 6 sequences. Karsten-Tap Rules exacta generates $28\% \times 24\% = 6.7\%$ head-to-head probability, projecting 15/1+ payoff potential if either finishes 1-2.

SECTION 7: CONFIDENCE RATING

★★★★

Summary

The model projects a straightforward HOT pace scenario favoring a tactical stalker capable of inheriting momentum off moderate early pressure. Karsten is the field's optimal stalking profile with elite second-start improvement credentials and a trainer (Abreu, 21.43% MSW record) who specializes in converting competitive debuts into victories. The projected :45.1 half-mile creates ideal conditions for his gate-to-wire velocity profile to deliver into the stretch.

Valentine Crusader's ELITE Sustained Speed Rating represents the field's fastest gate-to-wire profile, but his 13-month layoff and blinkers-off equipment change create moderate bounce risk. If he clears the rust within the opening half-mile, he will threaten Karsten late; however, layoff edge likelihood remains below 50%.

Tap Rules' elite early works project sharp fitness, but his STRONG (not ELITE) Sustained Speed Rating and 15% trainer second-start record create modest regression concern. He'll establish and contest early fractions; if pressured hard by a faster closer, fade risk emerges.

Public Betting Mistake: The market has significantly underestimated Karsten's winning probability. His 3/1 morning line implies 25% win probability, yet the model projects 28% — a genuine +3% edge. Wait for potential late-day odds drift to 7/2 or 4/1 to maximize value. If odds remain at 3/1 or shorter, the edge compresses materially; adjust bet size downward accordingly.

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

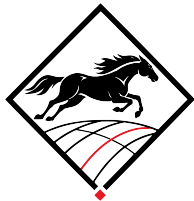
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Report Generated by PTW-CHR Model 1

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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