Churchill Downs

Race 3 — 11/01/2026

Class: Md Sp Wt 120k

Distance: 5f

Surface: Turf

Purse: $120,000

Starters: 9

MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT. Purse $120,000 (include $47,200 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund) FOR MAIDENS, TWO YEARS OLD. Weight, 119 lbs. (Preference To Horses That Have Not Started For Less Than $50,000). (If deemed inadvisable by management to run this race over the turf course, it will be run on the main track at Five Furlongs.).

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Churchill Downs R3

November 01, 2026 | 5f Turf | Maiden Special Weight

SECTION 1: PACE ANALYSIS

True Front Runners

The model identifies **Take Charge Beach** and **Love a Warrior** as the primary speed threats. Take Charge Beach has led early in four of five starts, owning tactical speed and gate presence with multiple front-running efforts at route distances on turf (led to 1/16 on 09/07 at Keeneland). Love a Warrior sprinted to the front on 09/10 at Churchill, setting a clear pace before being caught late—establishing elite early acceleration credentials. Both horses project to contest the lead today.

Stalkers / Pressers

Captivate rates as a natural presser from the second tier. In its sole start on 09/29 at Indianapolis, Captivate dueled for position after an awkward break, securing second in a tight photo finish with tactical positioning. **Fire Marshal** also fits this category—chased early on 10/16 at Belmont (in-hand 3-2 wide) before fading, showing willingness to rate off the pace.

Closers

Rupp brings a competitive closing profile. Defeated on 09/05 at Keeneland after faltering late despite pace-setting position, Rupp rebounded with a second-place effort on 08/02 at El Paso, rallying three-wide between horses when pressed. **Kalapaki Point** is a complete first-time starter with no prior form data to evaluate.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: HOT early pace with two elite speed horses contesting the lead (projected :21■ opening quarter, :44■ half-mile). Take Charge Beach and Love a Warrior will engage immediately; moderate pace friction favors stalkers and strong closers positioned to capitalize on a contested setup.

SECTION 2: WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	**Rupp**	6-1	16%	11.3%	+4.7%
2	Epic Road	20-1	3%	3.8%	-0.8%





Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
3	**Take Charge Beach**	8-1	15%	8.8%	+6.2%
4	**Kendom**	20-1	5%	3.8%	+1.2%
5	**Captivate**	9-2	19%	14.4%	+4.6%
6	Chief Ball	50-1	1%	1.6%	-0.6%
7	**Kalapaki Point**	15-1	7%	5.0%	+2.0%
8	Love a Warrior	4-5	26%	44.1%	-18.1%
9	**Fire Marshal**	10-1	8%	7.2%	+0.8%
	TOTAL		**100%**	**100.0%**	

SECTION 3: CONTENDER ANALYSIS

TIER 1 — PRIMARY CONTENDERS ★★★★

Love a Warrior — 26% Model Win Probability

PTW Profile: Elite talent with the highest model win probability, though the 4/5 morning line (28.6% implied) creates a modest underlay of -2.6%. Love a Warrior demonstrated early-speed prowess at Churchill on 09/10, setting a clear pace before being run down late by a superior closer. The morning line reflects appropriate market respect for a horse with demonstrated gate speed and front-running tactical style, though turf inexperience and distance stretch remain concerns. Model confidence is tempered by front-running tactical profile and exposure to more battle-tested closers on the grass.

Strengths: Elite trainer Asmussen with 15% MSW win rate and 1.42 ROI in maiden special weights. Demonstrated gate speed and pace-setting ability on dirt. Recent turf work includes sharp 4f on 10/24. Jockey Saez has 10.5% win rate at Churchill today with 36.8% in-the-money.

Concerns: Turf debut concerns despite quality breeding (Jackie's Warrior sire, strong speed line). Lost as the favorite on 09/10 when setting pace, indicating potential vulnerability to patient closers. Distance stretch from 6f to 5f on unfamiliar surface. Front-running tactical style may be vulnerable if pace develops as projected.

Trip Projection: Expects to press or establish the lead early, competing with Take Charge Beach for control. If pace develops as projected, Love a Warrior will tire in the final furlong against Elite sustained finishers.





Captivate — 19% Model Win Probability

PTW Profile: Live overlay candidate with legitimate winning chances at 9/2 (18.2% implied). Captivate's sole start on 09/29 at Indianapolis showed tactical sophistication—recovered from an awkward break, dueled for position, and secured second in a tight photo finish with a show of class and speed. Trainer Lynch Brian A delivers elite second-start credentials: 28% win rate in maiden-to-second-start situations with 4.46 ROI—the highest second-start specialization metric in this field. Equipment note: blinkers applied today after showing without them previously, a positive trainer signal.

Strengths: Massive second-start angle. Lynch's 28% second-start win rate (65 starts) is the model's highest edge. Recent workout on 10/22 at Churchill—5f in 1:00.60—shows sharp turf fitness. 9/2 morning line creates 0.8% value edge. Tactical speed and proven ability to duel in close quarters.

Concerns: Single prior outing limits form predictability. Awkward break on debut raises equipment adjustment risk. Blinkers today are experimental. Pace setup may force wider run if Love a Warrior and Take Charge Beach battle early.

Trip Projection: Will settle stalking position, two lengths behind the pace battle. If contested pace slows leaders, Captivate has tactical room to strike in the final eighth.

Take Charge Beach — 15% Model Win Probability

PTW Profile: Experienced maiden (5 starts, 0 wins, 2 places) with a mixed record that signals both class and frustration. Omaha Beach pedigree is elite; War Front sire is a turf specialist. Form line shows progressive efforts mixed with pace-compromised losses. Led early in four of five starts, demonstrating elite tactical speed, yet has been caught late in nearly every race—the defining characteristic of a horse with opening speed but insufficient closing velocity in maiden company.

Strengths: Proven front-running credentials across multiple surfaces and distances. Equipment note: blinkers applied today (prior races without). Trainer Garcia Genaro operates a 12% MSW win rate with 1.41 ROI. Recent work at Indianapolis on 10/15 (4f in 51.40 good ground) maintains fitness. 8/1 morning line provides 3.9% value edge.

Concerns: Five starts, zero wins is a career maiden concern. Every loss shows similar pattern: contested early pace followed by fading late. Sustained Speed Rating will reflect vulnerability in closing phases. Turf form is inconsistent (2 turf starts: led-caught 09/07 Keeneland, 6.5f route; led-caught 07/14 Indianapolis, 7.5f route). Distance cut back to 5f sprint-oriented may not suit closing vulnerabilities.

Trip Projection: Expects to secure or share the lead with Love a Warrior. Will battle for position early; late fade expected as Elite closers close with authority.

TIER 2 — SECONDARY CONTENDERS ★★★

Rupp — 16% Model Win Probability





PTW Profile: Experienced maiden (2 starts) with one critical angle: second-start horse showing improvement trajectory. Debut on 09/05 at Keeneland revealed pace-setting ability—led to wire before faltering late, finishing seventh beaten 4.55 lengths while setting honest fractions. Rebound on 08/02 at El Paso: moved to a midpack position, bid three-wide between horses when pressed, and secured third place only 1.80 lengths back. Form pattern screams "pace-compromised on debut, improved closing position on second start." Trainer Cox Brad H has elite maiden credentials: 24% MSW win rate, 1.80 ROI across 606 starts. Cox is 50% today off hot form (8 starts, 4 wins at Churchill recently).

Strengths: Hot trainer (Cox 50% today). Second-start angle with improvement pattern. Recent works at Keeneland (4f in 49.20, 10/17) maintain sharpness. Jockey Corrales has 28.6% win rate at Churchill. 6/1 morning line provides 1.7% value edge.

Concerns: Faltered late on 09/05 suggests sustained-speed vulnerability. Two-start sample is limited. Pace-setting role on 09/05 came in fast fractions (22.40 half), suggesting inability to hold velocity. Distance stable at 5.5f cut from both prior races.

Trip Projection: Projects to settle midpack, 2–3 lengths off the pace. Will close strongly if early pace slows; elite speed horses will likely control flow.

Fire Marshal — 8% Model Win Probability

PTW Profile: Three-start maiden with conflicting form signals. Recent claiming start on 10/16 at Belmont in maiden optional claiming (MOC) race finished fifth, showing early positioning (in-hand 3-2 wide) before fading. Prior MSW efforts on 08/21 at Saratoga (second place, caught late) and 06/18 at Baquaquero (fifth, three lengths down) show inconsistent form. Trainer Maker Michael J operates 14% MSW win rate (308 starts, 1.65 ROI)—solid but unspectacular. Jockey Gaffalione carries 10% win rate today. Morning line 10/1 reflects reasonable skepticism of inconsistent form profile.

Strengths: Recent experience in similar company. Closing finish on 08/21 at Saratoga (2nd place, only 0.50 lengths beaten) shows capability. Trainer Maker has solid experience base in maiden special weights.

Concerns: Inconsistent form across three starts. Recent claiming race suggests potential downward trajectory. Faded in both Belmont and Baquaquero efforts. Limited high-level consistency to project confidence.

Trip Projection: Will break mid-field, settling 3–4 lengths off pace. Closing angle present if early pace slows, but form inconsistency limits confidence.

TIER 3 — PACE FACTORS / LONGSHOTS ★★

Kalapaki Point — 7% Model Win Probability

PTW Profile: First-time starter with zero prior race data, eliminating traditional Sustained Speed Rating assignment (UNRATED). Charlatan sire carries elite speed credentials (Speightstown line). Trainer Stewart Dallas operates 12% first-start win rate with 0.92 ROI—below-average first-time starter results. Recent work





pattern is active: 4f in 48.60 on 10/23 (good speed), but recency is marginal (9 days out). Morning line at 15/1 reflects reasonable public skepticism of first-time starter in competitive maiden field.

Strengths: Solid pedigree (Charlatan/Speightstown). Consistent work pattern over recent weeks. Turf-specific works suggest targeted preparation for this surface.

Concerns: No race data. Trainer's first-start conversion is below average. No gate works visible in submitted data. Unknown factor elevated in competitive field.

Trip Projection: Unknown; will depend on gate behavior and natural running style. Early speed unlikely given sire profile and work times suggest mid-pack positioning.

Kendom — 5% Model Win Probability

PTW Profile: Single start on 09/29 at Indianapolis: broke awkward, pressed early, sted from 1/2 position, finished third beaten 7.5 lengths. Form suggests pace-vulnerable profile with potential second-start improvement angle. Trainer Hendrickson Lori operates 33% MSW win rate (3 starts, 2.67 ROI)—elite small-sample results. However, limited career data prevents high confidence. Turf specialist (33% turf win rate) in appropriate spot.

Strengths: Elite small-sample trainer results (33% MSW conversion). Turf specialist trainer in appropriate spot. Second-start improvement angle available.

Concerns: Single prior outing limits form predictability. Awkward break on debut raises consistency concerns. Limited sample size for trainer metrics. Third-place finish beaten 7.5 lengths shows significant form questions.

Trip Projection: Will break mid-field, settling 2–3 lengths off pace. Second-start improvement possible, but limited form foundation.

Epic Road — 3% Model Win Probability

PTW Profile: First-time starter with elite pedigree (Epicenter sire, multiple grade wins) and sharp recent work signature. Bullet work on 10/15 at Training Track: 5f in 1:01.40 (gate work, marked "g"), followed by 4f in 48.20 on 10/22—suggesting race-ready condition. However, Trainer Matejka Pavel exhibits poor first-time-starter results: 6% win rate, 0.36 ROI (16 starts). Turf first-start record for Matejka is 7% (14 starts, 0.36 ROI equivalent)—well below replacement level. Morning line at 20/1 reflects this liability appropriately.

Strengths: Elite pedigree (Epicenter multiple graded wins). Sharp recent work, particularly gate work on 10/15. Turf breeding appropriate for surface.

Concerns: Trainer's first-time-starter conversion is severely below average (6% win rate, 0.36 ROI). No race data against actual opponents. 20/1 morning line appropriate for FTS-specializing trainer with poor conversion metrics.





Trip Projection: Likely to break mid-field given moderate work times and trainer profile. Racing value minimal.

Chief Ball — 1% Model Win Probability

PTW Profile: Three-start maiden with deteriorating form (2nd place route turf 07/14, then blanked at route distances on 09/06 and 10/03). Blinkers equipped; Sacred Life sire is European-based without North American turf success profile. Trainer Kelley James A has minimal MSW track record (7% on 30 starts, 3.74 ROI on limited sample). Recent work pattern at Training Track (4f in 48.80 on 10/22) is undistinguished. Form trajectory is clearly negative across three starts.

Strengths: Blinkers applied; equipment adjustment signal. Turf route experience across prior races.

Concerns: Deteriorating form line (2nd → no cash → no cash). Below-average trainer conversion in MSW (7%). Sire profile mismatched to North American turf. Longest shot with minimal winning angle identified.

Trip Projection: Will break mid-field, settling 3–4 lengths off pace. Form deterioration suggests continued struggles.

SECTION 4: MPH ANALYSIS + SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Love a Warrior	ELITE	ELITE	Minimal — maintains velocity through closing phases
Captivate	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — steady effort without excessive collapse
Rupp	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — pace vulnerability confirmed, closing mechanics strained
Take Charge Beach	ELITE	VULNERABLE	Very High — elite early foot matched with severe closing collapse





Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Fire Marshal	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — closing speed diminished significantly
Kalapaki Point	UNRATED	UNRATED	Insufficient Data
Epic Road	UNRATED	UNRATED	Insufficient Data
Kendom	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — solid velocity maintenance
Chief Ball	VULNERABLE	VULNERABLE	Very High — dual vulnerability, speed and closing both weak

Critical MPH Insight

The model identifies **Love a Warrior** as the field's fastest gate-to-wire performer with an ELITE Sustained Speed Rating—maintaining velocity from opening gate through closing phases at a level no other horse in this field has matched. At 26% model win probability against a 28.6% implied morning line, Love a Warrior represents appropriate market valuation with minimal underlay (-2.6%). **Take Charge Beach** presents a technical paradox—elite opening MPH offset by VULNERABLE closing profile, indicating the model's speed analysis confirms the career pattern of early speed without finishing strength. **Captivate** emerges with STRONG bilateral ratings, indicating balanced speed maintenance across all race phases—a technical advantage over the field's pace-vulnerable majority, supporting its 19% model projection at modest overlay odds (0.8% edge).

SECTION 5: IMPROVEMENT & REGRESSION CANDIDATES

Likely to Improve

• **Captivate** — Second-start runner with elite trainer specialization (Lynch 28% second-start win rate, 4.46 ROI). Debut showed tactical class and durability in close quarters; blinkers application today signals trainer confidence in adjustments. Photo-finish second on 09/29 establishes high-percentage second-start improvement trajectory supporting 19% model win projection.

• **Rupp** — Pace-compromised debut on 09/05 (set fractions, faded late) followed by improved closing position on 08/02 (third place, only 1.80 lengths back). Second-start pattern confirms learning curve completed. Trainer Cox is 50% off hot form today (8 starts, 4 wins), supporting 16% model projection.

• **Kendom** — Single prior start shows pace-pressing profile that could flourish with distance-familiar turf surface and second-outing maturity. Trainer Hendrickson's 33% MSW success rate (elite small sample)





supports improvement probability for 5% model projection.

Bounce / Regression Risks

• **Love a Warrior** — Heavy favorite at 4/5 morning line with only two MSW starts faces potential pace-setting role in contested early scenario. Back-to-back competitive efforts without a maiden win (T-2nd on 10/04 STK race, T-2nd on 09/10 MSW) may indicate mid-tier ability ceiling despite 26% elite speed profile. Front-running tactical style exposes the horse to patient closers in HOT pace scenario.

• **Take Charge Beach** — Five-start maiden (0 wins, 2 places) with entrenched career pattern: elite early placement followed by consistent late fading. VULNERABLE Sustained Speed Rating confirms technical closing collapse. Distance cut from typical 6.5–7.5f routes to 5f sprint may exacerbate rather than relieve closing mechanics issues. High regression probability despite 15% model projection.

• **Chief Ball** — Deteriorating three-start form (descending finish line: 2nd → off-board → off-board) paired with below-average trainer results in MSW company (7% conversion) signals potential for continued decline, supporting minimal 1% model projection.

SECTION 6: SUGGESTED BETS

WIN BET: LOVE A WARRIOR — Confidence 9/10 — Target odds: 4/5–1

Model projects 26% win probability—the highest model win probability in the field. Love a Warrior combines elite early speed credentials, demonstrated gate acceleration at Churchill (09/10 MSW race, set clear pace), and elite trainer Asmussen (15% MSW win rate, 1.42 ROI). Despite the 4/5 morning line creating a modest -2.6% underlay condition, Love a Warrior's superior speed profile and tactical positioning make it the model's top-probability selection. Elite opening speed paired with ELITE Sustained Speed Rating creates the field's most reliable pathway to the wire. Value is not exceptional, but probability advantage is clear and decisive.

VALUE PLAY: CAPTIVATE — Confidence 7/10 — Target odds: 9/2–5/1

Model projects 19% win probability at 9/2 morning line (0.8% value edge). Genuine overlay value combined with elite second-start trainer specialization (Lynch 28% second-start win rate, 4.46 ROI) creates modest but legitimate value play. Tactical speed, blinkers application, and presser positioning in HOT pace scenario create multiple pathways to victory. Overlay odds-to-probability ratio offers superior value compared to Love a Warrior favorite. This represents the model's secondary selection.

LONGSHOT PLAY: TAKE CHARGE BEACH — Confidence 6/10 — Target odds: 6/1–7/1

Model projects 15% win probability at 8/1 morning line (3.9% edge). Pace-setup advantage is legitimate—if early speed battle (Love a Warrior vs. Captivate) consumes early fractions, Take Charge Beach's elite opening speed allows mid-race positioning with room to close if pace slows. Blinkers applied today (positive trainer signal). However, VULNERABLE closing profile and five-start career maiden record elevate risk; this represents a genuine longshot overlay at favorable odds.





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

- **A: LOVE A WARRIOR** — 26%
- **B: CAPTIVATE** — 19%
- **C: TAKE CHARGE BEACH** — 15%

Combined Projected Probability: 60%

SECTION 7: CONFIDENCE RATING

★★★★ (4/5 Stars)

Model confidence in this maiden field is high. Love a Warrior emerges as the clear highest-probability selection at 26% model win probability, supported by elite gate speed, demonstrated Churchill performance, and elite trainer credentials. The HOT pace scenario (projected :21■ opening quarter, :44■ half-mile) favors speed horses and closers positioned to capitalize on contested fractions—a tactical setup that rewards Love a Warrior's elite opening speed combined with elite sustained finisher profile. Captivate presents legitimate secondary value at 19% model projection with elite second-start trainer specialization and modest 0.8% overlay edge. The model's key projection is that Love a Warrior controls this race from gate through wire, with Captivate emerging as the best overlay value for secondary consideration. Public betting mistake: underestimating Love a Warrior's bilateral speed advantage; wise action is backing the favorite with appropriate confidence while considering Captivate as the secondary overlay value play.

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.

Methodology is proprietary and confidential. Reproduction of this analysis without authorization is prohibited.

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