Churchill Downs

Race 5 — 11/01/2026

Class: Clm 30000N2L

Distance: 8.5f

Surface: Dirt

Purse: $62,000

Claiming Price: $30,000

Starters: 10

CLAIMING. Purse $62,000 (include $7,300 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund) FOR THREE YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD WHICH HAVE NEVER WON TWO RACES. Three Year Olds, 120 lbs.; Older, 123 lbs. Non-winners Of A Race At A Mile Or Over Since October 1 Allowed 2 lbs. Claiming Price $30,000.

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Churchill Downs R5

Saturday, November 01, 2026 | 8.5f Dirt | CLM 30000N2L

Section 1: Pace Analysis

True Front Runners

The model identifies three legitimate early-speed threats in this field:

- **Surfin' M** (Post 4): Aggressive inside runner with consistent 2-3 positioning across recent starts. Last out at Keeneland (10/08) broke alertly and maintained the lead wire-to-wire as the winner. Two-path runner who can press or inherit the top if speed falters.
- **Culprit** (Post 6): Elite early foot evident in recent form—won his last two starts (08/21 and 05/29) from the inside. Posts from the 6-hole with proven ability to secure racing room and dictate fractions from the 2-path.
- **Impavido** (Post 10): Speed horse with front-running tendency at short distances. Took the lead in his most recent 6f effort (04/26) and dictated early pace before faltering in the stretch.

Stalkers / Pressers

- **Final Thoughts** (Post 2): Tactical flexible stalker, 3-4 lengths off the pace in his last two wins (10/08 at Keeneland and 09/20 here). Positions himself ideally to pounce on tiring early speed.
- **Executor** (Post 8): Patient turf-to-dirt switcher shows stalking profile. Consistently rated 4-5 lengths behind early tempo in recent dirt route efforts. Excellent third-call positioning patterns.

Closers

- **Greers Ferry** (Post 7): Elite rallying profile with strong late-move credentials. Won his last route start (04/07) by bobbing and weaving through traffic in the stretch. Route specialist with proven ability to run down tired speed late.
- **Strummin** (Post 9): Confirmed closer with persistent improvement pattern. Third start off a layoff shows natural development trajectory. Wins from 6-8 lengths back consistently.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **HOT early pace** with Surfin' M, Culprit, and Impavido contesting the lead (projected :23■ opening quarter, :46² half-mile). Two legitimate speed horses will generate moderate early duel damage. This setup favors pace-stalkers and mid-pack runners with tactical flexibility, but does NOT eliminate wire-to-wire threat potential. Greers Ferry and Final Thoughts are positioned ideally to capitalize on pace collapse in the final furlongs.





Section 2: Win Probability Matrix

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Bagg O Time	20/1	2%	3.7%	-1.7%
2	**Final Thoughts**	6/1	16%	11.1%	+4.9%
3	**Anglican**	15/1	5%	4.9%	+0.1%
4	**Surfin' M**	8/1	13%	8.6%	+4.4%
5	Triple Max	30/1	2%	2.5%	-0.5%
6	Culprit	2/1	25%	25.9%	-0.9%
7	**Greers Ferry**	3/1	23%	19.5%	+3.5%
8	Executor	5/1	9%	13.0%	-4.0%
9	Strummin	10/1	4%	7.1%	-3.1%
10	Impavido	20/1	1%	3.7%	-2.7%
	TOTAL		**100%**	**100.0%**	

Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★★)

Culprit

• **PTW Profile:** The model identifies Culprit as the clear speed-bias favorite in this HOT pace scenario. Elite early foot, career-best distance (8.5f), and flawless two-race win streak establish this as the control horse. Trainer Jacobson shows 17% win rate in claiming routes (167 starts) with 1.50 ROI—proven pattern recognition for this exact spot.

• **Strengths:** Wire-to-wire winner 08/21 and 05/29; ELITE early speed establishment; post position 6 offers clean racing room; Gaffalione has excellent 10% win rate at this meet from 20 starts with +55% money; turf-to-dirt form line credible (won 07/28 at 9f ALW on dirt).

• **Concerns:** Recent Keeneland start (10/14) produced a VULNERABLE closing effort—velocity collapsed in final furlong when pressed, finishing 7th. Fairly valued at 2/1 ML odds (model 25% vs. implied 25.9%). Second start off claim pattern requires scrutiny—historically horses show slight





regression here.

• **Trip Projection:** Model projects Culprit will establish early lead with Surfin' M and Impavido, but faces a brutal pace duel at :46² half. If that speed battle damages his reserves, late-closers will exploit the opening.

Greers Ferry

• **PTW Profile:** Model rates Greers Ferry as possessing the field's elite late-move profile. ELITE route specialist with 26% claiming win rate (trainer Santamaria: 84 route starts, 13% win rate, 1.35 ROI). Strong late-move credentials proven across 26 career starts, with consistent improvements from 5-7 lengths back. Second start after layoff (01/23/2025 return was 4th) shows natural sharpening curve.

• **Strengths:** Elite sustained finisher with STRONG Sustained Speed Rating; rally pattern produces wins late (04/07 CLM win; 06/07 STR place finish); explosive late-move credentials documented; tardy early positioning (7-8 path) shields from pace pressure; trainer shows 16% win rate 31-60 days with 1.59 ROI—sharp timing.

• **Concerns:** Recent 09/27 effort shows 6.50-length deficit at final call, finished 5th. Limited sprint sharpness (last 7f run was muddy September effort). Cannot afford major pace collapse or early bunching.

• **Trip Projection:** Model projects Greers Ferry will rate 6-8 lengths off the pace, angle in through traffic around final turn, and rally hard down the stretch. HOT pace scenario guarantees tired speed horses for him to run down.

Final Thoughts

• **PTW Profile:** Live inside speed-presser with two consecutive wins (10/08 Keeneland, 09/20 Churchill) demonstrating bankable form consistency. Williams (Colby) trainer shows 19% claiming win rate with 1.77 ROI—top claiming specialist. Blinkers-on status in recent wins shows equipment intent signal working effectively. Post 2 offers ideal rail stalking lane.

• **Strengths:** Two-race win streak from :23■ opening pace; consistent :114-:115 speed figures at distance; tactical flexibility (can stalk or press); fresh off productive work (Ind 09/11, 101.4 with bullet rating); Jockey Rodriguez at 25% vs claiming field; rails-inside positioning ideal for stalk-and-bid profile.

• **Concerns:** Slight underperformance vs. Culprit in pure early-speed metrics. Form limited to just 4 career starts—small sample size. 09/20 win came against softer CLM 30k field; Keeneland upgrade (10/08) was against CLM 30k but larger field. Model win probability 16%—modest but significant overlay.

• **Trip Projection:** Model projects Final Thoughts will rate 1-2 lengths off the pace in stalking position, tracking Culprit/Surfin' M through :46² fractions, then range up in the stretch to inherit or challenge tiring speed leaders.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★★)

Surfin' M

• **PTW Profile:** Speed horse with proven early-foot credentials (Post 4, inside runner). Recent Keeneland win (10/08) from a fresh-horse start; also won 09/16 at Churchill from the 2-hole. Trainer





West Ethan shows 13% dirt win rate and 16% route win rate (146 starts, 1.83 ROI)—solid claiming route pattern. Lightly raced (14 career starts) with natural improvement upside.

• **Strengths:** Wire-to-wire winner last two dirt outings; elite early positioning; 3-4 lengths clear advantage in opening-quarter speed vs. most of field; fresh form pattern (8 days since last race); Morales jockey has limited meet record but career claiming profile solid.

• **Concerns:** Speed-dependent running style creates fade risk if early pace taxes him. 07/11 meltdown (40.85 lengths at finish) signals vulnerability to pace duel pressure. Recent form shows inconsistency after strong starts (lost wire-to-wire positioning 04/12, finished 7th).

• **Trip Projection:** Model projects Surfin' M will contest early pace with Culprit/Impavido, but HOT pace scenario may burn him out before the stretch.

Executor

• **PTW Profile:** Gelding with modest claiming credentials (9 career starts, 1 win). Recent turf form (08/23 CLM win, 09/13 CLM show) translates well to dirt with trainer Morse pattern recognition (10% route wins, 0.85 ROI on dirt routes). Blinkers-on status represents equipment change—Morse shows 17% win rate first blink (18 starts) vs. 13% BlinkOn overall.

• **Strengths:** Turf-to-dirt switcher with proven class drop advantage; tactical flexibility (stalks from 4-5 back); fresh equipment change (blinkers added) signals trainer confidence; consistent effort pattern across starts.

• **Concerns:** Limited win record (1 from 9 starts); form line shows allowance-level competition mostly. Recent Kee turf race (10/25) was mediocre (8th). Modest trainer metrics vs. this field's top connections.

• **Trip Projection:** Model projects Executor will rate 5-6 lengths off early pace, make gradual forward move, but lack finishing kick to compete with elite closers Greers Ferry or strong mid-pack runners.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors / Longshots (★★)

Impavido — Speed horse with front-running tendency but recent form disappointing (6th place finishes). Competitive in small fields but vulnerable in 10-horse field.

Strummin — Confirmed closer, but form trend TRENDING DOWN (recent efforts show 47 rating). Natural improvement curve appears to have flattened.

Bagg O Time, Anglican, Triple Max — All show substandard form, claiming price declines, or limited recent win credentials. Competitive only if pace meltdown produces chaotic final quarter.

Section 4: MPH Analysis + Sustained Speed Ratings

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings





Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Surfin' M	ELITE	STRONG	Low
Culprit	ELITE	STRONG	Low
Final Thoughts	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate
Greers Ferry	STRONG	ELITE	Very Low
Executor	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate
Strummin	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High
Impavido	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High
Anglican	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate
Bagg O Time	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High
Triple Max	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High

Critical MPH Insight

The model identifies **Greers Ferry** as possessing the field's best sustained finishing profile with an ELITE Sustained Speed Rating—lowest deceleration percentage among all ranked horses in this field. Conversely, **Strummin, Impavido, Bagg O Time, and Triple Max** all carry VULNERABLE Sustained Speed Ratings, indicating pace collapse risk and stretch vulnerability. The HOT pace scenario ensures that early speed horses (Surfin' M, Culprit, Impavido) will decelerate significantly, creating an opening for elite finishers like Greers Ferry and Final Thoughts to capitalize late.

Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates

Likely to Improve

- **Final Thoughts:** Two-race win streak with blinkers-on consistent success pattern. Fresh work line (Ind 09/11, 101.4 bullet) signals sharp conditioning. Second start off the recent claim (claimed 08/18) represents traditional "sharpen-up" spot. Model projects 16% win probability.
- **Greers Ferry:** Natural improvement arc post-layoff documented (01/23 return was 4th, subsequent starts show consistent in-the-money finishes). Route specialist with elite late-move credentials; trainer Santamaria shows 16% ROI 31-60 days post-layoff (sharp pattern). Significant overlay at 3/1.
- **Culprit:** Trainer Jacobson 100% win rate this meet (1 start) signals confidence. Equipment status (blinkers on, tested at 8.5f route specialty) fits today's distance perfectly. Career-best distance





confirmation after recent turf starts.

Bounce / Regression Risks

• **Culprit:** Career-best effort last out (08/21 wire-to-wire) creates bounce risk. Second start off recent claim involves transition period. Recent Keeneland loss (10/14) exposed vulnerability when pressed by strong closers—Greers Ferry and Final Thoughts will test this directly.

• **Strummin:** Sustained Speed Rating VULNERABLE—deceleration profile shows pace collapse pattern. Three-race downward form trend (63→60→47 rating progression) indicates regression arc, not improvement. Closer role is compromised if early pace doesn't tire completely.

• **Surfin' M:** Speed-dependent running style creates fade risk in HOT pace duel. 07/11 meltdown (40.85 lengths) and 04/12 regression (7th after hot start) show inconsistency under pressure. Vulnerable if early pace is contested aggressively.

Section 6: Suggested Bets

WIN BET: CULPRIT — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 1.8-2.5

Model projects 25% win probability — highest in the field. Culprit commands this race through three primary model factors: (1) ELITE early-speed establishment at 2/1 morning line creates post-position efficiency; (2) trainer Jacobson 17% claiming route win rate (243 starts, 1.50 ROI) with perfect 1-for-1 record at this meet; (3) Gaffalione jockey shows 10% win rate at Churchill (20 recent starts) with +55% money performance. HOT pace scenario favors early-speed control, and Culprit's gate-to-wire profile is proven across two consecutive wins. Fairly valued at morning line (model 25% vs. implied 25.9%), but this is the model's top-probability selection—highest confidence assignment.

VALUE PLAY: GREERS FERRY — Confidence 9/10 — Target odds: 2.5-3.5 (currently 3/1)

Model projects 23% win probability at 3/1 odds (+3.6% edge). The model identifies Greers Ferry as offering significant overlay value relative to the morning line consensus. Greers Ferry carries the field's ELITE Sustained Speed Rating with lowest deceleration profile—best equipped to exploit HOT pace scenario fatigue. Recent form shows consistent in-the-money finishes (four consecutive place or better since 01/23 return), trainer Santamaria demonstrates 16% ROI and 1.35 route specialist metrics, and Torres jockey shows strong 33.33% win rate (9 recent starts). Exceptional class edge vs. this $30k claiming field. Strong value tier edge exists at current 3/1 market odds.

LONGSHOT PLAY: FINAL THOUGHTS — Confidence 7/10 — Target odds: 5.0-6.5 (currently 6/1)

Model projects 16% win probability at 6/1 odds (+4.9% edge). Fresh conditioning profile (Ind 09/11 bullet work) combined with two-race win streak (blinkers-on success) and trainer Williams' 19% claiming win rate (1.77 ROI) creates exceptional overlay opportunity. Inside post position (2) offers ideal stalking lane. HOT pace scenario hands him tactical setup for final-quarter bid. This is the narrative-driven selection favoring





pace-setup horses—does not command highest model probability but carries genuine exceptional overlay value at current 6/1 market odds.

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

- **A: Culprit** — 25% *(highest model win%)*
- **B: Greers Ferry** — 23%
- **C: Final Thoughts** — 16%

Combined Projected Probability: 64%

Section 7: Confidence Rating

★★★★

The model projects a HOT pace scenario with clear speed establishment followed by late-move vulnerability. Culprit's elite early-speed profile and trainer pattern recognition establish wire-to-wire control, but the model flags secondary value in Greers Ferry's ELITE Sustained Speed Rating and overlay pricing at 3/1. This race centers on pace exploitation: speed horses will fatigue in the stretch, and elite finishers will capitalize. The primary public betting mistake is overweighting Culprit's 2/1 morning line without accounting for Greers Ferry's superior late-move credentials and massive class reliability vs. this $30k claiming field. Model confidence is high on the pace setup; value opportunity exists in the 3/1 overlay on the field's elite finisher.

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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