Churchill Downs

Race 8 — 11/07/2026

Class: River City Stakes (Gr. 3)

Distance: 9f (1 1/8 miles)

Surface: Turf

Purse: $300,000

Starters: 8

RIVER CITY S. Purse $300,000 (include $50,000 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund) FOR THREE-YEAR-OLDS AND UPWARD.

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Churchill Downs R8
Saturday, November 7, 2026 | 1 1/8 Miles Turf | 3YO & Up | River City Stakes (Gr. 3)

Report Section 1: Pace Analysis

True Front Runners

Mercante (Post 2) — ELITE early speed; chased and traded the lead at the 3/8 pole at Churchill on 6/27. **Ole Crazy Bone** (Post 8) — Sits two wide early and will press. **Vote No** (Post 3) — Pressed inside before weakening at Fair Grounds on 1/17.

Stalkers / Pressers

Lambeth (Post 4) — Tactical; won a stakes duel at Oaklawn on 3/28. **Kupuna** (Post 5) — Tactical; won on the lead at Saratoga on 9/3 and also has a strong late kick.

Closers

Plensa (Post 7) — Rallied from far back to win by a half-length at Kentucky Downs on 8/30. **Carcano** (Post 1) — Bid and dueled at Colonial on 9/7 but came up short. **Teao** (Post 6) — Won from the back in Chile on 10/4; first North American start.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **HOT** early pace—projected :23 1/5 opening quarter, :46 2/5 half-mile, with Mercante and Ole Crazy Bone contesting the lead. Stalkers sitting two to four wide and the stronger finishers have the edge late.

Report Section 2: Win Probability Matrix

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Carcano	20-1	3%	4.8%	-1.8%
2	Mercante	8-1	14%	11.1%	**+2.9%**
3	Vote No	8-1	10%	11.1%	-1.1%
4	Lambeth	9-5	18%	35.7%	-17.7%
5	Kupuna	9-2	24%	18.2%	**+5.8%**
6	Teao	6-1	8%	14.3%	-6.3%
7	Plensa	15-1	6%	6.3%	-0.3%
8	Ole Crazy Bone	3-1	17%	25.0%	-8.0%
	TOTAL		**100%**	**126.5%**	





Implied ML % is the raw morning-line conversion (field total 126.5%). The original table used adjusted figures (Kupuna +9.6%, Lambeth –10.2%, Mercante +5.2%); the bet section used other figures still. At raw odds Kupuna is +5.8%, Mercante +2.9% and **Lambeth** –**17.7%**.

Report Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★★)

Kupuna (Post 5) — Model Win %: 24%

PTW Profile: The model's top horse. Seven-year-old gelding with multiple graded stakes starts; won his last start on the lead at Saratoga on 9/3, 65 days ago. Trainer Mark Casse 19% in routes and 21% in the 61-180 day pattern; Arrieta rides. At 9-2 (18.2% implied), +5.8%—the best overlay in the race.

Strengths: ELITE sustained speed; proven at 9f on turf; in form; fits his trainer's layoff pattern.

Concerns: Steps up to graded company off a career-best effort; may face early pressure if he goes forward.

Trip Projection: Tracks the Mercante–Ole Crazy Bone duel closely and uses his late kick in the stretch.

Lambeth (Post 4) — Model Win %: 18%

PTW Profile: Five-year-old mare. Won the Gr. 2 Sycamore on the turf at Keeneland on 10/9 in her last start; also won a stakes at Oaklawn on 3/28. 2nd at Churchill on 6/27 and 5th at Ellis Park on 8/2. Trainer Joe Sharp 22% in routes and 14% in graded stakes. As the 9-5 morning-line favorite (35.7% implied), –17.7%—the biggest underlay in the race.

Strengths: Graded stakes winner last out; class; tactical.

Concerns: Mixed turf form this summer before the Sycamore; heavily overbet.

Trip Projection: Rates two to four wide, bids at the 3/16 pole and likely duels into the stretch.

Mercante (Post 2) — Model Win %: 14%

PTW Profile: Six-year-old stakes gelding with graded wins at a mile to 9f on turf. Last of eight at Keeneland on 10/3. Trainer Knippenberg 20% in graded stakes and 24% in the 31-60 day pattern. Blinkers on. At 8-1 (11.1% implied), +2.9%.

Strengths: The field's only ELITE/ELITE profile; tactical; route proven.

Concerns: Last of eight in his last start; likely pressed early by Ole Crazy Bone.

Trip Projection: Leads or stalks two wide and tries to control the race.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★★)

Ole Crazy Bone (Post 8) — Model Win %: 17%

PTW Profile: Six-year-old gelding; won a six-horse turf race at Saratoga on 7/11, then last of six at Saratoga on 8/15 and 8th of nine at Kentucky Downs on 9/5. Trainer Mike Maker 17% in routes; Tyler Gaffalione rides. At 3-1 (25.0% implied), –8.0%.





Strengths: Tactical; good summer form.

Concerns: Two poor starts since his win; outside post; overbet.

Trip Projection: Presses Mercante early; the duel may cost him late.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors / Longshots (★★)

Vote No (Post 3, 10%): Five-year-old gelding; 3rd at Keeneland on 10/9, 5th at Horseshoe Indianapolis on 7/11 and 10th at Fair Grounds on 1/17. Trainer Kelsey Danner; Rispoli rides. VULNERABLE late. –1.1%.

Teao (Post 6, 8%): Four-year-old from Chile; five wins from 12 starts. First North American start for John Sadler; Luis Saez rides. UNRATED. At 6-1 (14.3% implied), –6.3%.

Plensa (Post 7, 6%): Three-year-old gelding; won from far back at Kentucky Downs on 8/30. Trainer George Arnold; Concepcion rides. VULNERABLE early and late. –0.3%.

Carcano (Post 1, 3%): Six-year-old gelding; won a claimer at Colonial on 7/12 and was 2nd there on 9/7. Winless in stakes; big class rise. Trainer Oliver. VULNERABLE. –1.8%.

Report Section 4: MPH Analysis + Sustained Speed Ratings

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Mercante	ELITE	ELITE	Low — maintains speed
Kupuna	STRONG	ELITE	Low — powerful finisher
Ole Crazy Bone	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — tires mid-stretch
Lambeth	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — solid finish
Vote No	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — sharp drop late
Plensa	VULNERABLE	VULNERABLE	High — fades
Carcano	VULNERABLE	VULNERABLE	High — steady decline
Teao	UNRATED	UNRATED	No usable data (foreign races)

Critical MPH Insight

Mercante is the field's only ELITE/ELITE profile and **Kupuna** its best finisher behind him—a good fit for a HOT pace. **Vote No**, **Plensa** and **Carcano** rate VULNERABLE.

Report Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates

Likely to Improve





Lambeth — Joe Sharp 23% with last-out winners; won the Sycamore.

Kupuna — Casse 21% in the 61-180 day pattern (65 days).

Bounce / Regression Risks

Ole Crazy Bone — Last and 8th in two starts since his 7/11 win.

Mercante — Last of eight at Keeneland on 10/3.

Kupuna — Steps up to graded company off a career-best effort.

Vote No — Inconsistent across surfaces and tracks.

Report Section 6: Suggested Bets

WIN BET: KUPUNA — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 7-2 or better

Model projects 24% win probability, the highest in the field, at 9-2 (18.2% implied): +5.8%. ELITE sustained speed in a HOT pace, off a win, in his trainer's layoff pattern. Fair price is about 3-1.

Value Assessment: **STRONG VALUE** (+5.8%).

SECOND PLAY: LAMBETH — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 5-1 or better

Model projects 18% at 9-5 (35.7% implied): –17.7%. Gr. 2 Sycamore winner last out, but heavily overbet. Fair price is about 9-2; play only at 5-1 or better.

Value Assessment: **UNDERLAY at the morning line** (–17.7%).

LONGSHOT PLAY: None.

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

A: Kupuna — 24%
B: Lambeth — 18%
C: Ole Crazy Bone — 17%

Combined Projected Probability: 59%

Report Section 7: Confidence Rating

★★★★ (4 of 5 stars)

A HOT pace in a competitive Grade 3. **Kupuna** is the model's top horse and the best overlay (+5.8% at 9-2). The 9-5 favorite **Lambeth** is badly overbet (35.7% implied vs. 18%) off her Sycamore win, and **Ole Crazy Bone** at 3-1 is also overbet. **Mercante** (+2.9% at 8-1) has the field's best speed profile.

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.

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

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