Churchill Downs

Race 3 — 11/11/2026

Class: Claiming $32,000

Distance: 8.5f (1 1/16 miles)

Surface: Dirt

Purse: $71,000

Claiming Price: $32,000

Starters: 6

CLAIMING. Purse $71,000 (includes $8,400 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund) FOR THREE YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD. Three Year Olds, 120 lbs.; Older, 123 lbs. Non-winners Of A Race At A Mile Or Over Since October 11 Allowed 2 lbs. Claiming Price $32,000 (Races Where Entered For $25,000 Or Less Not Considered In Allowances).

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Churchill Downs R3
Wednesday, November 11, 2026 | 1 1/16 Miles Dirt | 3YO & Up | Claiming $32,000

Report Section 1: Pace Analysis

True Front Runners

J B Strikes Back (Post 2) — The fastest early horse in the field, not a stalker; led to the stretch at Churchill on 9/16 and won his graded stakes on the lead. **National Eclipse** (Post 5) — Led throughout to win by 3 3/4 lengths at Keeneland on 10/2. **Neon Nights** (Post 3) — Pressed and led to win at Keeneland on 10/9.

Stalkers / Pressers

Mena (Post 1) — Stalks in the second flight in his routes.

Closers

Dai Vernon (Post 4) — Rallied from 5th to win at this level and distance at Churchill on 9/16. **Onthestage** (Post 6) — A deep closer, not an early-speed horse; rallied to 2nd behind Neon Nights on 10/9.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **HOT** early pace—projected :24 4/5 opening quarter, :48 4/5 half-mile. J B Strikes Back, National Eclipse and Neon Nights all want the lead, which sets the race up for Dai Vernon and Onthestage.

Report Section 2: Win Probability Matrix

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Mena	5-1	16%	16.7%	-0.7%
2	J B Strikes Back	9-2	18%	18.2%	-0.2%
3	Neon Nights	8-1	7%	11.1%	-4.1%
4	Dai Vernon	6-1	22%	14.3%	**+7.7%**
5	National Eclipse	5-2	26%	28.6%	-2.6%
6	Onthestage	8-5	11%	38.5%	-27.5%
	TOTAL		**100%**	**127.4%**	

Implied ML % is the raw morning-line conversion (field total 127.4% in this six-horse field). The original table showed favorite Onthestage's 8-5 as 11.1% implied; 8-5 is 38.5%. At raw odds **Dai Vernon +7.7%** is the only overlay. Favorite **Onthestage** –**27.5%**.

Report Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★★)





National Eclipse (Post 5) — Model Win %: 26%

PTW Profile: The model's top horse. Five-year-old gelding, 5-for-21. Won a $16,000 claimer at 1 1/16 miles on a wet-fast track at Keeneland on 10/2 by 3 3/4 lengths, leading throughout (Mena 4th), and was claimed by Bentley Combs. Also won a $12,500 claimer at Churchill on 6/19; 4th at $12,500 on 9/10. This is a big class rise from $16,000 to $32,000, not the same level. First start for Combs, who is 40% in claiming races and 31% off 31–60 day breaks (small samples). Jockey Jose Ortiz 6-for-54 at the meet (the 37% figure belongs to Ortiz Jr.). At 5-2 (28.6% implied), –2.6%.

Strengths: ELITE early speed; won impressively last out.

Concerns: Doubles in class; must deal with J B Strikes Back and Neon Nights early.

Trip Projection: Presses or leads from post 5.

Dai Vernon (Post 4) — Model Win %: 22%

PTW Profile: Six-year-old gelding, 4-for-25 and 3-for-8 at Churchill. Won a $32,000 claimer at this distance at Churchill on 9/16 by 2 1/4 lengths, rallying from 5th (J B Strikes Back 4th). Not a class drop or a first claiming start: he has raced in claimers all year and won at this exact level last out. Also beat Neon Nights in a $50,000 claimer here in May 2025. Trainer David 25% in claiming races, 21% in routes and 20% with last-out winners; jockey Gaffalione 9-for-61 at the meet. At 6-1 (14.3% implied), +7.7%—the best overlay in the race.

Strengths: ELITE sustained speed; won at this level and distance last out; loves Churchill; a hot pace sets up his run.

Concerns: Needs the speed to come back to him.

Trip Projection: Settles off the pace and rallies.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★★)

J B Strikes Back (Post 2) — Model Win %: 18%

PTW Profile: Five-year-old gelding, 4-for-11, including the Grade 2 Laffit Pincay Jr. Stakes at Santa Anita in December 2024. 5th in the Grade 1 Santa Anita Handicap in February 2025, then off 19 months. Returned on 9/16 with a 4th, beaten 4 1/2 lengths, after leading to the stretch in a $32,000 claimer at Churchill (Dai Vernon won), when Ronald Moquett claimed him. That was not a win, and this is his first start off the claim, not his second. Moquett 0-for-10 at the meet and 9% first off the claim; jockey Bejarano 4-for-23 at the meet. At 9-2 (18.2% implied), –0.2%.

Strengths: By far the most class in the field; the fastest early horse.

Concerns: Second start back from a 19-month layoff; weak trainer numbers; pace pressure.

Trip Projection: Goes for the lead.

Mena (Post 1) — Model Win %: 16%





PTW Profile: Five-year-old horse, 3-for-33, 0-for-9 in 2026. 4th behind National Eclipse in a $16,000 claimer at Keeneland on 10/2, then 4th in a 6 1/2 furlong $25,000 claimer at Keeneland on 10/16 (a sprint, not a route), when Steve Asmussen claimed him. First start off the claim and up in class. Asmussen 15% in routes and claiming races; jockey K.J. Asmussen 5-for-27 at the meet. He is not the favorite. At 5-1 (16.7% implied), –0.7%.

Strengths: Consistent; strong trainer.

Concerns: VULNERABLE late; winless this year.

Trip Projection: Stalks the speed from the rail.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors / Longshots (★★)

Onthestage (Post 6, 11%): Six-year-old gelding, 3-for-29. 2nd by a half length to Neon Nights in a $25,000 claimer at Keeneland on 10/9, rallying from 5th, when Joe Sharp claimed him. A deep closer, not an early-speed horse. First start off the claim and up in class. Sharp 7-for-26 at the meet and 20% first off the claim; jockey Saez 14-for-58 at the meet. As the 8-5 morning-line favorite (38.5% implied), –27.5%—the biggest underlay in the race.

Neon Nights (Post 3, 7%): Five-year-old gelding, 4-for-17. Won his last start, a $25,000 claimer at Keeneland on 10/9, by a half length after leading (Onthestage 2nd); first win for trainer Shorter, who claimed him on 9/13. Moves up to $32,000. Shorter 3% in claiming races. UNRATED by the model. –4.1%.

Report Section 4: MPH Analysis + Sustained Speed Ratings

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
National Eclipse	ELITE	STRONG	Low — maintains speed
Dai Vernon	STRONG	ELITE	Low — sustained closer
Onthestage	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — consistent
J B Strikes Back	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — tactical
Mena	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — pace collapse risk
Neon Nights	UNRATED	UNRATED	Not rated by the model

Critical MPH Insight

Dai Vernon has the only ELITE sustained speed rating. **National Eclipse** has ELITE early speed but is STRONG late. **Mena** is VULNERABLE late.

Report Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates





Likely to Improve

J B Strikes Back — Second start back from a long layoff.

Dai Vernon — Repeats at the level and distance he just won at.

Bounce / Regression Risks

National Eclipse — Doubles in class after a career-best effort.

Mena — 0-for-9 this year and moving up.

Onthestage — Moves up off the claim and is heavily overbet.

Report Section 6: Suggested Bets

WIN BET: NATIONAL ECLIPSE — Confidence 7/10 — Target odds: 3-1 or better

Model projects 26% win probability, the highest in the field (the report made Dai Vernon the Win Bet). At 5-2 (28.6% implied) he is –2.6%, so he is a bet at 3-1 or better (fair price is just under 3-1).

Value Assessment: **SLIGHT UNDERLAY** (–2.6%).

VALUE PLAY: DAI VERNON — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 4-1 or better

Model projects 22% at 6-1 (14.3% implied): +7.7%. Won at this level and distance last out and gets a hot pace to close into. Fair price is about 7-2.

Value Assessment: **STRONG OVERLAY** (+7.7%).

LONGSHOT PLAY: None

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

A: National Eclipse — 26%
B: Dai Vernon — 22%
C: J B Strikes Back — 18%

Combined Projected Probability: 66%

Report Section 7: Confidence Rating

★★★★ (4 of 5 stars)

National Eclipse is the model's top horse; **Dai Vernon** is the clear value with a hot pace to close into. Favorite **Onthestage** (8-5, –27.5%) is a deep closer moving up in class and is badly overbet.

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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