Churchill Downs

Race 1 — 11/18/2026

Class: Md Sp Wt 92k

Distance: 5f

Surface: Dirt

Purse: $92,000

Starters: 7

MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT. Purse $92,000 (include $18,000 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund) FOR MAIDENS, FILLIES TWO YEARS OLD. Weight, 119 lbs. (For Horses That Sold Or RNA For $65,000 Or Less In Their Most Recent Auction).

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Churchill Downs R1
Wednesday, November 18, 2026 | 5f Dirt | Fillies 2YO | Maiden Special Weight

Report Section 1: Pace Analysis

True Front Runners

Flaming Verdict (Post 4) — Led throughout in hand on 10/25 and was caught by a nose. On 9/27 she broke slowly, was steadied and rallied from 7th—she did not lead that day. **Puunene** (Post 2) — **Led** through the first two calls at Keeneland on 10/16 before fading (not a stalker). **Pilatus** (Post 6) — 4th early on 10/25, then faded.

Stalkers / Pressers

No proven stalkers: the other four are first-time starters.

First-Time Starters

Zara's Empire, **Country Music Gal**, **I Want Her** and **Wish You Were Here** have never raced. Their early speed and running style are unknown.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **HOT** early pace—projected :22 4/5 opening quarter. Flaming Verdict and Puunene, the two proven speed horses, figure to go head-to-head at a sprint distance shorter than either has run.

Report Section 2: Win Probability Matrix

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Zara's Empire	15-1	5%	6.3%	-1.3%
2	Puunene	8-1	16%	11.1%	**+4.9%**
3	Country Music Gal	10-1	11%	9.1%	**+1.9%**
4	Flaming Verdict	3-5	33%	62.5%	-29.5%
5	I Want Her	9-2	20%	18.2%	**+1.8%**
6	Pilatus	20-1	7%	4.8%	**+2.2%**
7	Wish You Were Here	6-1	8%	14.3%	-6.3%
	TOTAL		**100%**	**126.3%**	

Implied ML % is the raw morning-line conversion. **Flaming Verdict at 3-5 is 62.5% implied** (not 49.5%), so she is –**29.5%**—not a +5.2% "STRONG VALUE." **Puunene is +4.9%**, the field's biggest overlay. I Want Her is +1.8% (not –0.2%).





Report Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★)

Flaming Verdict (Post 4) — Model Win %: 33%

PTW Profile: The model's top horse and **the 3-5 favorite**. 0 wins and 2 seconds in 2 starts, both at 6f here: 2nd by a **nose** as the 2.30 favorite on 10/25 after leading in hand; 2nd, beaten 6 3/4, on 9/27 after a slow, steadied start.

Strengths: Speed; cuts back to 5f. Tyler Gaffalione is 11-for-86 at the meet.

Concerns: Michael Maker is 1-for-26 at the meet. Post 4 is not the rail. At 3-5 (62.5% implied), –**29.5%**—**the favorite to fade**, and also the Win Bet by model %.

Trip Projection: On or near the lead, likely pressured by Puunene.

I Want Her (Post 5) — Model Win %: 20%

PTW Profile: **First-time starter**, a $115,000 yearling. Albert Stall Jr. is 9% with first-time starters, 19% in maiden special weights and 1-for-10 at the meet.

Strengths: Barn's maiden record. At 9-2 (18.2% implied), +1.8%.

Concerns: No race experience; style unknown. The report's ELITE late-speed rating came from workouts, not races.

Puunene (Post 2) — Model Win %: 16%

PTW Profile: 0 wins in 2. 4th, beaten 10 (not 4), here at 6f on 9/17 after breaking 11th and rallying wide; led early and faded to 7th, beaten 25 1/2, at 7f at Keeneland on 10/16. **Third start**, not second.

Strengths: Speed; cuts back to 5f, the shortest trip she has run. At 8-1 (11.1% implied), +4.9%: SLIGHT VALUE.

Concerns: Ben Colebrook is 1-for-7 and Luis Machado 2-for-25 at the meet.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★)

Country Music Gal (Post 3) — Model Win %: 11%

PTW Profile: First-time starter. David Fawkes is 11% with first-time starters and 1-for-8 at the meet. Apprentice Y. Ortiz Jr. (12-for-52) takes off 7 lbs. At 10-1 (9.1% implied), +1.9%.

Wish You Were Here (Post 7) — Model Win %: 8%

PTW Profile: First-time starter. Riley Mott is 10% with first-time starters and 1-for-7 at the meet; Jose Alvarado is 6-for-37. At 6-1 (14.3% implied), –6.3%.

Tier 3 — Longshots (★)

The rest





Pilatus (20-1) — 11th, beaten more than 20 lengths, in her only start on 10/25. Thomas Humphries is 0-for-6 at the meet. +2.2%.

Zara's Empire (15-1) — First-time starter. Chris Hartman is 0-for-17 at the meet and 3% with first-time starters. –1.3%.

Report Section 4: MPH Analysis + Sustained Speed Ratings

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Flaming Verdict	ELITE	STRONG	Moderate — caught late 10/25
Puunene	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — led, faded 10/16
Pilatus	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — faded badly
I Want Her	UNRATED	UNRATED	First-time starter
Country Music Gal	UNRATED	UNRATED	First-time starter
Wish You Were Here	UNRATED	UNRATED	First-time starter
Zara's Empire	UNRATED	UNRATED	First-time starter

Critical MPH Insight

I Want Her is a first-time starter and is UNRATED; the report's ELITE late rating had no race data behind it. **Puunene**'s opening speed is upgraded to ELITE: she led on 10/16. **Flaming Verdict** is the only horse with a strong finish on record.

Report Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates

Likely to Improve

Puunene — Third start; cuts back to 5f, which suits her speed.

Flaming Verdict — Two 2nds; cuts back from 6f.

Bounce / Regression Risks

Flaming Verdict — At 3-5, pressured by Puunene, from a barn that is 1-for-26 at the meet.

Pilatus — Beaten more than 20 lengths in her debut.

Report Section 6: Suggested Bets

WIN BET: FLAMING VERDICT — Confidence 3/10 — Target odds: 9-4 or better





Model projects 33% win probability, the highest in the field. At 3-5 (62.5% implied), –**29.5%**: NO VALUE (not STRONG). She is also the favorite to fade—bet her only at 9-4 or better.

VALUE PLAY: PUUNENE — Confidence 3/10 — Target odds: 11-2 or better

Model projects 16% at 8-1 (11.1% implied): +4.9%, SLIGHT VALUE.

LONGSHOT PLAY: PILATUS — Confidence 2/10 — Target odds: 15-1 or better

Model projects 7% at 20-1 (4.8% implied): +2.2%. Beaten badly in her only start.

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

A: Flaming Verdict — 33%
B: I Want Her — 20%
C: Puunene — 16%

Flaming Verdict stays at A as the outright top horse but is also the favorite to fade.

Combined Projected Probability: 69%

Report Section 7: Confidence Rating

★★ (2 of 5 stars)

Four first-time starters and two speed horses. **Flaming Verdict** tops the model but is massively overbet at 3-5 (–29.5%)—the favorite to fade. **Puunene** at 8-1 is the value.

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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