Churchill Downs

Race 3 — 11/18/2026

Class: Md Sp Wt 120k

Distance: 5.5f

Surface: Turf

Purse: $120,000

Starters: 10 + 6 also-eligibles

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 and a Half Furlongs.) (Rail at 36 feet).

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Churchill Downs R3
Wednesday, November 18, 2026 | 5.5f Turf | 2YO | Maiden Special Weight

Report Section 1: Pace Analysis

Note: #11–#16 (Caesar, Bob, Lightning Whelk, Psalm One Eighteen, Castle Pines, Epic Road) are **also-eligibles**. They run only if horses in the main body scratch. Castle Pines is also entered at Belmont on 11/19 and Psalm One Eighteen here on 11/19. Tyler Gaffalione is named on both Lagos and Caesar.

True Front Runners

Ever Royal (#2) — Vied and prompted in both dirt starts. **Colortime** (#5) — Vied inside on 10/25. **Justico** (#4) — Prompt 2nd early on 10/23. **Arsenal Star** (#10) — Led until headed at the 5/16 on 10/9. **Lagos** (#9) — Pressed and cleared on 10/9.

Stalkers / Pressers

Castle Pines (#15) — 3rd early in his three recent turf starts; he did **not** lead at the first call in any of them. **Epic Road** (#16) — Chased in 3rd and yielded on 11/1 (not a closer).

First-Time Starters

Caesar, **Big Star Bound**, **Beluga**, **Bob**, **Lightning Whelk** and **El Fujitivo** have never raced. Caesar's early speed is unknown.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **HOT** early pace—projected :23 1/5 opening quarter. At least five horses have shown early speed. The pace thresholds don't cover 5.5f on turf; the report's half-mile was garbled.

Report Section 2: Win Probability Matrix

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	El Fujitivo	20-1	2%	4.8%	-2.8%
2	Ever Royal	6-1	7%	14.3%	-7.3%
3	Epic Journey	5-1	7%	16.7%	-9.7%
4	Justico	5-2	13%	28.6%	-15.6%
5	Colortime	15-1	2%	6.3%	-4.3%
6	Big Star Bound	7-2	9%	22.2%	-13.2%
7	Beluga	8-1	6%	11.1%	-5.1%
8	Prize Performance	30-1	1%	3.2%	-2.2%





Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
9	Lagos	10-1	5%	9.1%	-4.1%
10	Arsenal Star	8-1	6%	11.1%	-5.1%
11	Caesar	3-1	17%	25.0%	-8.0%
12	Bob	8-1	5%	11.1%	-6.1%
13	Lightning Whelk	20-1	2%	4.8%	-2.8%
14	Psalm One Eighteen	30-1	1%	3.2%	-2.2%
15	Castle Pines	6-1	8%	14.3%	-6.3%
16	Epic Road	9-2	9%	18.2%	-9.2%
	TOTAL		**100%**	**204.0%**	

Implied ML % is the raw morning-line conversion (the report's column was scaled). With 16 entries, **every horse is an underlay**. **Justico is the 5-2 favorite** at 28.6% implied and –**15.6%**—the favorite to fade. Caesar is –8.0% (not +4.7%). Big Star Bound (7-2) is –13.2%.

Report Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★)

Caesar (#11, also-eligible) — Model Win %: 17%

PTW Profile: The model's top horse. **First-time starter**, a $1.4 million yearling, for Brad Cox (13-for-30 at the meet; 17% with first-time starters, 19% first time on turf). The report's "undefeated in a 10-start sample" and "43% second-start" claims are wrong.

Concerns: Also-eligible—he needs a scratch to run. Gaffalione is also named on Lagos. At 3-1 (25.0% implied), –8.0%.

Trip Projection: Unknown; no race to judge.

Justico (#4) — Model Win %: 13%

PTW Profile: **The 5-2 favorite.** 10th, beaten 21, as the 0.92 favorite in a 5.5f dirt maiden race at Keeneland on 10/23 after pressing in 2nd and weakening—not a gate-compromised start. **Blinkers off** and **first turf start**.

Strengths: Bob Baffert is 35% taking blinkers off and 21% second time out.

Concerns: Baffert is 0-for-5 at the meet and 16% first time on turf; Florent Geroux is 1-for-13. At 5-2 (28.6% implied), –**15.6%**—**the favorite to fade**.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★)

Epic Road (#16, also-eligible) — Model Win %: 9%





PTW Profile: 3rd, beaten 2 3/4, at 68-1 in a 5f turf maiden race here on 11/1 after chasing in 3rd and yielding late (not closing). Pavel Matejka is 3% in maiden special weights and 0-for-14 second time out. At 9-2 (18.2% implied), –9.2%.

Big Star Bound (#6) — Model Win %: 9%

PTW Profile: First-time starter for Wesley Ward (27% with first-time starters; 0-for-4 at the meet). John Velazquez is 0-for-2 at the meet. At 7-2 (22.2% implied), –**13.2%**.

Castle Pines (#15, also-eligible) — Model Win %: 8%

PTW Profile: 0 wins and 2 seconds in 5. 2nd by 1/2 in a 7f turf maiden race at Kentucky Downs on 9/5; 2nd by 2 3/4 at a turf mile at Keeneland on 10/9; 5th, beaten 4 1/2, at a turf mile here on 10/25. Cuts back from a mile to 5.5f. J.K. Sweezey is 1-for-17 at the meet and Edgar Morales 2-for-51. Also entered at Belmont on 11/19. At 6-1 (14.3% implied), –6.3%.

Ever Royal (#2) — Model Win %: 7%

PTW Profile: 3rd and 4th in two 6–6.5f dirt maiden races here. **Blinkers off** and **first turf start** (Eric Foster is 0-for-13 first time on turf). At 6-1 (14.3% implied), –7.3%.

Epic Journey (#3) — Model Win %: 7%

PTW Profile: 7th, beaten 11 1/4, in his 5.5f dirt debut at Keeneland. First turf start; apprentice Y. Ortiz Jr. takes off 7 lbs. Joe Sharp is 9-for-41 at the meet. At 5-1 (16.7% implied), –9.7%.

Tier 3 — Longshots (★)

The rest

Beluga (8-1) — First-time starter for Baffert (37% with debut runners). –5.1%.

Arsenal Star (8-1) — 0 for 2 on turf; led until the 5/16 and faded to 10th on 10/9. Blinkers off (the report said blinkers on). –5.1%.

Lagos (10-1) — 0 for 2; pressed, cleared and weakened to 9th, beaten 10, at a turf mile on 10/9; 12th on dirt at Ellis. Michael Maker is 1-for-26 at the meet. –4.1%.

Bob (8-1, also-eligible) — First-time starter; apprentice Y. Ortiz Jr. –6.1%.

Colortime (15-1) — $1.35 million yearling; vied and weakened to 10th in his debut. Steve Asmussen is 4% first time on turf. –4.3%.

El Fujitivo (20-1), **Lightning Whelk** (20-1, also-eligible) — First-time starters.

Prize Performance (30-1) — 8th in both turf starts. **Psalm One Eighteen** (30-1, also-eligible) — 0 for 2 on dirt; blinkers on.

Report Section 4: MPH Analysis + Sustained Speed Ratings

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings





Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Justico	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — weakened 10/23
Epic Road	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — chased, held 3rd
Castle Pines	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — game 2nds
Ever Royal	ELITE	STRONG	Moderate — kept on
Epic Journey	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — moved up
Arsenal Star	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — headed, weakened
Lagos	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — cleared, weakened
Colortime	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — vied, weakened
Psalm One Eighteen	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — tired
Prize Performance	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — no late bid
Caesar	UNRATED	UNRATED	First-time starter
Big Star Bound	UNRATED	UNRATED	First-time starter
Beluga	UNRATED	UNRATED	First-time starter
Bob	UNRATED	UNRATED	First-time starter
Lightning Whelk	UNRATED	UNRATED	First-time starter
El Fujitivo	UNRATED	UNRATED	First-time starter

Critical MPH Insight

Caesar has never raced, so the report's ELITE/ELITE rating and "two comparative reference races" don't exist; he is UNRATED. **Justico** weakened badly in his only start (sustained changed to VULNERABLE). Horses with races are now rated rather than lumped together as UNRATED.

Report Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates

Likely to Improve

Justico — Second start, blinkers off.

Epic Road — Second start after a 3rd at 68-1.

Castle Pines — Cuts back to a sprint after two turf 2nds.

Bounce / Regression Risks

Arsenal Star and **Lagos** — Faded from the lead in their turf tries.





Ever Royal — First turf start for a barn 0-for-13 in that spot.

Report Section 6: Suggested Bets

WIN BET: CAESAR — Confidence 3/10 — Target odds: 5-1 or better

Model projects 17% win probability, the highest in the field (the report's 18% conflicts with its own table). At 3-1 (25.0% implied), –8.0%: NO VALUE. Also-eligible—needs a scratch to run.

VALUE PLAY: None. Every horse is an underlay. Castle Pines is –6.3% (not a value play).

LONGSHOT PLAY: None. Epic Road is 9-2 and an underlay, not a longshot.

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

A: Caesar — 17%
B: Epic Road — 9%
C: Big Star Bound — 9%

Justico (13%) is the favorite to fade and is replaced. Epic Road and Big Star Bound tie at 9%; Epic Road takes B as the smaller underlay. Two of the three are also-eligibles.

Combined Projected Probability: 35%

Report Section 7: Confidence Rating

★ (1 of 5 stars)

A 16-horse turf sprint for 2-year-olds with six first-time starters, six also-eligibles and no overlays. The top horse is only 17%. **Justico**, the 5-2 favorite, is the favorite to fade.

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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