Churchill Downs

Race 8 — 11/18/2026

Class: Alw 127000N1X

Distance: 1 1/8 Miles (9f)

Surface: Dirt

Purse: $127,000

Starters: 11

Post Time: 4:25 ET

ALLOWANCE. Purse $127,000 (include $48,700 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund) FOR THREE YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD WHICH HAVE NEVER WON A RACE OTHER THAN MAIDEN, CLAIMING, STARTER, OR STATE BRED ALLOWANCE OR WHICH HAVE NEVER WON TWO RACES. Three Year Olds, 120 lbs.; Older, 123 lbs. Non-winners Of A Race Other Than Claiming, Or Starter Over A Mile Since September 18 Allowed 2 lbs.

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Churchill Downs R8
Wednesday, November 18, 2026 | 1 1/8 Miles Dirt | 3YO+ | Allowance N1X | Purse: $127,000

Report Section 1: Pace Analysis

True Front Runners

Discotheque (Post 7) — Led early here on 10/28 at 7f before finishing 2nd (not a win); claimed that day by Rick Hiles from trainer J. K. Sweezey for $62,500. Mostly a sprinter. **Rugged Love** (Post 9) — Led at the first two calls at Keeneland on 10/21 and held 3rd. **C McGriff** (Post 1) — Pressed and led in the stretch on 10/21, 2nd by a neck.

Stalkers / Pressers

Pagode (Post 4) — Sits 3rd–6th. **Bourbon Flight** (Post 11) — Stalked and faded to 8th on 10/21. **Jus Too Fly** (Post 10) — Mid-pack, 2nd at Keeneland on 10/2. **King of Ashes** (Post 5) — Tracked and drew off on 10/14.

Closers

Vitruvian Man (Post 8) — 9th early, won by a half-length at Keeneland on 10/23. **Commentate** (Post 6) — Last early, 11 lengths back, won his maiden by a head on 10/3 (a rally, not gate-to-wire). **Uncle Evco** (Post 2) — Rallied from 7th to win on 10/15.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **HOT** early pace—projected :23 2/5 opening quarter, :46 4/5 half-mile (garbled fraction defaults to 4/5), inside the 9f HOT band. Three speed horses press each other; the setup favors Vitruvian Man and Commentate from off the pace.

Report Section 2: Win Probability Matrix

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	C McGriff	8-1	11%	11.1%	-0.1%
2	Uncle Evco	15-1	5%	6.3%	-1.3%
3	Zapruder	6-1	7%	14.3%	-7.3%
4	Pagode	7-2	14%	22.2%	-8.2%
5	King of Ashes	10-1	6%	9.1%	-3.1%
6	Commentate	4-1	17%	20.0%	-3.0%
7	Discotheque	15-1	4%	6.3%	-2.3%





Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
8	Vitruvian Man	9-2	16%	18.2%	-2.2%
9	Rugged Love	8-1	12%	11.1%	**+0.9%**
10	Jus Too Fly	30-1	5%	3.2%	**+1.8%**
11	Bourbon Flight	15-1	3%	6.3%	-3.3%
	TOTAL		**100%**	**128.1%**	

Implied ML % is the raw morning-line conversion (the report's column was scaled). **Pagode is the 7-2 favorite** at 22.2% implied and –8.2%—not enough to fade. Only two overlays: **Rugged Love +0.9%** and **Jus Too Fly +1.8%**. Commentate is –3.0% and Vitruvian Man –2.2% (both listed as overlays in the report). Zapruder is –7.3%.

Report Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★)

Commentate (Post 6) — Model Win %: 17%

PTW Profile: The model's top horse. Lightly raced **3-year-old** colt (not 2), 1 win in 2 starts. Won a Keeneland maiden special weight at 7f on 10/3 by a head, **rallying from last**—he is a closer, not a gate-to-wire type. First route try.

Strengths: A HOT pace suits his rally. Cherie DeVaux is 28% sprint-to-route and 25% on dirt. Gets 2 lbs (118).

Concerns: Two starts; 7f to 9f is a big stretch. DeVaux is 1-for-16 at the meet. At 4-1 (20.0% implied), –3.0%.

Trip Projection: Drops back early, rallies wide into the stretch.

Vitruvian Man (Post 8) — Model Win %: 16%

PTW Profile: 3-year-old colt, 2 wins in 11. Won a **starter allowance** at Keeneland on 10/23 from 9th early. That is **1 win in his last 5** (not 2); his other win is his 2025 maiden. Class edge: **3rd in the Santa Anita Derby (G1)** in April and 7th in the Belmont (G1) in June.

Strengths: Proven stamina and a closer in a HOT pace. Rafael Bejarano is 5-for-36 at the meet.

Concerns: Doug O'Neill is 0-for-4 at the meet. At 9-2 (18.2% implied), –2.2%.

Trip Projection: Settles well back, makes a sustained run on the far turn.

Pagode (Post 4) — Model Win %: 14%

PTW Profile: **The 7-2 favorite.** 4-year-old gelding, **1 win in 10** with six 2nds. His only win is a 2025 maiden at Turfway—there is no 5/23/26 claiming win. 2nd here on 9/23 in this condition; 4th as the favorite at Keeneland on 10/21.





Strengths: **Blinkers off today** for the first time (not a recent change); Joe Sharp is 27% with blinkers off and 9-for-41 at the meet. Luis Saez is 21-for-86 at the meet.

Concerns: Keeps finding one better. At 7-2 (22.2% implied), –8.2%.

Trip Projection: Stalks 3rd–5th, moves three-wide.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★)

Rugged Love (Post 9) — Model Win %: 12%

PTW Profile: 3-year-old gelding, 2 wins in 5. Won a starter allowance here on 9/27 and was 3rd in an N1X allowance at Keeneland on 10/21, so this is **not** his first allowance start. His maiden win (6/21) was a state-bred race he won **via disqualification**, after finishing 2nd. No layoff—the regression note about a six-month gap is removed.

Strengths: Speed; Tyler Gaffalione rides. At 8-1 (11.1% implied), +0.9%: an overlay.

Concerns: Brendan Walsh is 0-for-19 at the meet. HOT pace.

C McGriff (Post 1) — Model Win %: 11%

PTW Profile: 3-year-old gelding, 2 wins in 8. **2nd by a neck** at Keeneland on 10/21 (not a win). His wins: a starter allowance here in June and a maiden optional claimer at Oaklawn in March. The 8th at Saratoga (8/22) was his start before last, not his last start.

Strengths: Tactical speed. Jose Alvarado is 6-for-37 at the meet. At 8-1 (11.1% implied), –0.1%.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors / Longshots (★)

Zapruder (Post 3) — Model Win %: 7%

PTW Profile: 6-year-old gelding, 5 wins in 28. Not a stakes dropper: he has run in N1X allowances and optional claimers. 4th, beaten 3 1/2, behind Pagode here on 9/23; won a $50,000 claimer here in June. At 6-1 (14.3% implied), –7.3%.

King of Ashes (Post 5) — Model Win %: 6%

PTW Profile: 4-year-old gelding, 2 wins in 15, mostly on turf (2nd in the Audubon). Won a $62,500 claimer on a **sloppy** track at Keeneland on 10/14—his only dirt start besides a 2025 Turfway try, so there are no "multiple dirt defeats." Same trainer as Rugged Love (Walsh, 0-for-19 here). At 10-1 (9.1% implied), –3.1%.

Uncle Evco (Post 2) — Model Win %: 5%

PTW Profile: 4-year-old gelding, 3 wins in 25. Closer; won a Keeneland starter allowance on 10/15. **Also entered in Race 1 here on 11/19.** At 15-1 (6.3% implied), –1.3%.

Jus Too Fly (Post 10) — Model Win %: 5%

PTW Profile: 4-year-old gelding, 3 wins in 25. 2nd in a **$16,000 claimer** at Keeneland on 10/2—a huge class rise. The "27 route starts" and "93 starts" figures were trainer stats, not his. Anna Decker is 0-for-2 at the meet. At 30-1 (3.2% implied), +1.8%.





Discotheque (Post 7) — Model Win %: 4%

PTW Profile: 4-year-old gelding, 2 wins in 21 (11 2nds). His wins were a Saratoga maiden claimer and a Saratoga starter allowance—not "three consecutive claiming wins." First start off the claim for Hiles. Mostly sprints. At 15-1 (6.3% implied), –2.3%.

Bourbon Flight (Post 11) — Model Win %: 3%

PTW Profile: 4-year-old colt, **4 wins in 12**. Last two: 8th at Keeneland on 10/21 and 2nd on turf at Kentucky Downs on 8/30 (not 4th and 5th). He **won** here on 6/21. Apprentice Y. Ortiz Jr. takes off weight (114). Same barn as Pagode. At 15-1 (6.3% implied), –3.3%.

Report Section 4: MPH Analysis + Sustained Speed Ratings

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Vitruvian Man	VULNERABLE	ELITE	Low — strong late run
Commentate	VULNERABLE	STRONG	Low — rallied from last
Rugged Love	ELITE	STRONG	Moderate — held 3rd
Pagode	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — steady
C McGriff	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — 2nd by a neck
King of Ashes	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — dirt unproven
Uncle Evco	VULNERABLE	STRONG	Moderate — late rally
Zapruder	VULNERABLE	STRONG	Moderate — mild late gain
Discotheque	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — sprinter stretching
Bourbon Flight	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — faded 10/21

Jus Too Fly: Opening VULNERABLE, Sustained VULNERABLE ("MODERATE" is not a valid rating).

Critical MPH Insight

Commentate is changed from ELITE opening speed to VULNERABLE: he was last early in both starts. Vitruvian Man also drops back early. Both closers get the HOT pace they need. **Discotheque**, a sprinter, is the most likely to stop.

Report Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates

Likely to Improve

Commentate — Second start; DeVaux 28% sprint-to-route.





Pagode — Blinkers off for the first time (Sharp 27%).

Vitruvian Man — Back to the 9f distance after a win; G1-placed.

Bounce / Regression Risks

Discotheque — Sprinter stretching to 9f in a HOT pace.

Jus Too Fly — Jumps from $16,000 claimers to a $127,000 allowance.

Rugged Love — Speed in a HOT pace; barn 0-for-19 at the meet.

Report Section 6: Suggested Bets

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

Model projects 17% win probability, the highest in the field. At 4-1 (20.0% implied), –3.0%: NO VALUE at the morning line. (The report's 7-2 target is below his fair price.)

VALUE PLAY: RUGGED LOVE — Confidence 3/10 — Target odds: 8-1 or better

Model projects 12% at 8-1 (11.1% implied): +0.9%. Pagode, the report's value play, is the favorite at –8.2% (the report used 12.5% implied).

LONGSHOT PLAY: JUS TOO FLY — Confidence 2/10 — Target odds: 20-1 or better

Model projects 5% at 30-1 (3.2% implied): +1.8%, the only overlay at 10-1 or higher.

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

A: Commentate — 17%
B: Vitruvian Man — 16%
C: Pagode — 14%

Combined Projected Probability: 47%

Report Section 7: Confidence Rating

★★ (2 of 5 stars)

A wide-open race: no horse tops 17%. A HOT pace sets up the closers, **Commentate** and **Vitruvian Man**. The favorite, **Pagode**, is underlaid at –8.2% but not enough to fade.

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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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