Churchill Downs

Race 7 — 11/22/2026

Class: Allowance Optional Claiming $80,000

Distance: 1 1/8 Miles

Surface: Turf

Purse: $134,000

Claiming Price: $80,000

Starters: 11

Post Time: 3:55 ET

ALLOWANCE OPTIONAL CLAIMING. Purse $134,000 (include $50,100 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund) FOR THREE YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD WHICH HAVE NEVER WON $20,000 TWICE OTHER THAN MAIDEN, CLAIMING, STARTER, OR STATE BRED OR WHICH HAVE NEVER WON THREE RACES OR CLAIMING PRICE $80,000. Three Year Olds, 122 lbs.; Older, 125 lbs. Non-winners Of Two Races Over A Mile On The Turf Since September 22 Allowed 2 lbs. Such A Race Since Then Allowed 4 lbs. Claiming Price $80,000 (Races Where Entered For $62,500 Or Less Not Considered In Allowances). (If deemed inadvisable by management to run this race over the turf course, it will be run on the main track at One and One Eighth mile.) (Rail at 12 feet).

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Churchill Downs R7
Sunday, November 22, 2026 | 1 1/8 Miles Turf | 3YO & Up | Allowance Optional Claiming $80,000

Field note: The race is on Sunday (the report said Saturday). **Off-turf caveat:** if the race comes off the turf it goes 1 1/8 miles on the main track; Catch the Breeze and Esmark have never raced on fast dirt. **Pitkin** returns from a **199-day layoff** and was **gelded** on 11/7. **Lincoln Highway** is off 78 days. **Restore** is off 64 days. **Lucky Mischief** makes his second start for Mike Maker after being claimed on 9/18. **Esmark**, **Clyde's Got a Gun** and **Catch the Breeze** ran 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the same race at this level here on 10/28. Pierre's last start (10/18) came off the turf. No equipment changes.

Report Section 1: Pace Analysis

True Front Runners

Restore (Post 6) — Led throughout to win both of his routes (9/19 here and 8/23 at Ellis Park). **Rothschild** (Post 5) — Led throughout to win at this level at Saratoga on 8/22; pressed in a Grade 2 on 10/9.

Stalkers / Pressers

Pitkin (Post 7) — 3rd to 4th early in his turf races (not a gate-to-wire winner). **Catch the Breeze** (Post 9) — 5th to 6th early in his two wins; he led only once in his last six starts. **Pierre** (Post 1) — 3rd to 6th early.

Closers

Lucky Mischief (Post 8), **Esmark** (Post 10), **Tough Little Nut** (Post 11), **Real Fast** (Post 4), **Clyde's Got a Gun** (Post 2) and **Lincoln Highway** (Post 3) — 6th or worse early in most recent starts.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **HOT** early pace—projected :23 2/5 opening quarter, :47 4/5 half-mile (the report's half-mile fraction was garbled), inside the HOT band for 1 1/8 miles on turf (the report labeled it MODERATE). Restore and Rothschild are the likely leaders, with a deep group of closers behind them.

Report Section 2: Win Probability Matrix

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Pierre	8-1	10%	11.1%	-1.1%
2	Clyde's Got a Gun	10-1	3%	9.1%	-6.1%
3	Lincoln Highway	30-1	2%	3.2%	-1.2%
4	Real Fast	30-1	11%	3.2%	**+7.8%**
5	Rothschild	10-1	2%	9.1%	-7.1%





Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
6	Restore	20-1	8%	4.8%	**+3.2%**
7	Pitkin	6-1	13%	14.3%	-1.3%
8	Lucky Mischief	8-1	16%	11.1%	**+4.9%**
9	Catch the Breeze	6-1	18%	14.3%	**+3.7%**
10	Esmark	3-1	10%	25.0%	-15.0%
11	Tough Little Nut	4-1	7%	20.0%	-13.0%
	TOTAL		**100%**	**125.2%**	

Implied ML % is the raw morning-line conversion (the report's column was scaled). **FADE: Esmark, the 3-1 favorite**—25.0% implied vs 10% model, –**15.0%**. **Tough Little Nut** (4-1) is also overbet at –**13.0%**. Pierre is –1.1% and Pitkin –1.3% (both shown as overlays in the report). Overlays: **Real Fast +7.8%**, **Lucky Mischief +4.9%**, **Catch the Breeze +3.7%**, **Restore +3.2%**.

Report Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★)

Catch the Breeze (Post 9) — Model Win %: 18%

PTW Profile: A 4-year-old gelding, 2 for 12. His wins: a maiden special weight at **Santa Anita** (not Saratoga) on 5/25/2025, rallying from 6th, and a first-level allowance at **Kentucky Downs** (not Keeneland) on 9/9 by 1 1/4 after being 5th early. On 2/15 at Santa Anita he was 6th, beaten 1 1/2 (not a gate-to-wire win). Last out, 4th, beaten 4 1/4, at 4-1 at this level here on 10/28. Michael McCarthy trains; Jose Ortiz rides.

Concerns: One win since May 2025; not a front-runner. At 6-1 (14.3% implied), +3.7%.

Lucky Mischief (Post 8) — Model Win %: 16%

PTW Profile: A 4-year-old colt, 5 for 21. He **won** his last start (not 2nd), a first-level allowance at Keeneland on 10/23, by a neck at 3-1 after rallying from 7th. Before that, won a $50,000 claimer here on 9/18, when Mike Maker claimed him; second start for Maker. Also won a $40,000 claimer here on 6/10. Yarnier Ortiz Jr. rides.

Concerns: Up in class off two wins. At 8-1 (11.1% implied), +4.9%.

Pitkin (Post 7) — Model Win %: 13%

PTW Profile: A 4-year-old, 2 for 7. Won a Gulfstream maiden special weight by a head on 1/17 after being 3rd early (not gate-to-wire) and a starter-level optional claimer there on 2/28 by 1/2. Last out, 4th, beaten 2 1/2, as the 5-2 favorite at this level here on 5/7. Returns from a **199-day layoff** and was **gelded** on 11/7. First try at 1 1/8 miles. Ian Wilkes trains; Brian Hernandez Jr. rides.

Concerns: Long layoff; newly gelded. At 6-1 (14.3% implied), –1.3%.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★)





Real Fast (Post 4) — Model Win %: 11%

PTW Profile: A 6-year-old gelding, 4 for 20. Won a **$40,000 claimer** (not $80,000) on the turf here on 11/12 by a nose at 45-1 after being 7th early (not a decisive win from a pressing trip). Before that, 9th, beaten 13 1/2, at Ellis Park on 7/26. Off 10 days. Barry King trains; Wilmer Rodriguez rides.

Concerns: Big class rise. At 30-1 (3.2% implied), +7.8%.

Esmark (Post 10) — Model Win %: 10% — **FADE**

PTW Profile: A 4-year-old colt, 2 for 9. Both wins came in spring 2025 here (a maiden special weight and a first-level allowance), not recently. **2nd in each of his last three starts at this level**: beaten 1/2 here on 5/7, a head at Kentucky Downs on 9/5 and 2 3/4 here on 10/28. A closer. Victoria Oliver trains; Luis Saez rides.

Concerns: Has not won in 17 months. At 3-1 (25.0% implied), –15.0%.

Pierre (Post 1) — Model Win %: 10%

PTW Profile: A 5-year-old gelding, 4 for 22. Last raced 10/18 (not 1/31), so he is not coming off a layoff: 4th, beaten 6, in an allowance at Keeneland that came off the turf. Before that, 5th at a higher level here on 9/24 (not 2nd) and 5th in the Grade 1 Woodbine Mile. 2nd by a nose at Saratoga on 8/27. David Jacobson trains; Tyler Gaffalione rides.

Concerns: Last turf win was in June. At 8-1 (11.1% implied), –1.1%.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors / Longshots (★)

Restore (20-1) — A 4-year-old gelding, 3 for 13. Won a first-level allowance here on 9/19 by 1 3/4 at 22-1 and a $30,000 claimer at Ellis Park on 8/23 (the report merged these into one Ellis Park race), both after leading throughout; those are his only two routes. Off 64 days. Not recently claimed. +3.2%. **Tough Little Nut** (4-1) — A 5-year-old gelding, 2 for 21 with seven 2nds; 0 for 6 this year. 2nd, beaten 1 1/2, at Keeneland on 10/14; 4th (not placed) here on 9/20. Overbet at –13.0%. **Clyde's Got a Gun** (10-1) — 2 for 23; 3rd, beaten 3 1/2, at this level here on 10/28 and 2nd on 9/27. –6.1%. **Rothschild** (10-1) — 2 for 17; won at this level at Saratoga on 8/22 after leading throughout, then 10th at Belmont and well beaten in the Grade 2 Sycamore on 10/9. He has plenty of turf form (not UNRATED). –7.1%. **Lincoln Highway** (30-1) — 3 for 28; his last win was at Turfway (not Oaklawn) in February 2025. Off 78 days after finishing 7th, beaten 18 1/4. –1.2%.

Workout, speed-figure, final-time and trainer-ROI claims removed throughout.

Report Section 4: MPH Analysis + Sustained Speed Ratings

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Catch the Breeze	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — 4th by 4 1/4 on 10/28





Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Lucky Mischief	VULNERABLE	ELITE	Low — rallied, won 10/23 and 9/18
Pitkin	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — 4th by 2 1/2 on 5/7
Real Fast	VULNERABLE	STRONG	Moderate — rallied, won by nose 11/12
Esmark	VULNERABLE	STRONG	Moderate — 2nd in last three
Pierre	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — 4th by 6 on 10/18
Restore	ELITE	STRONG	Moderate — led, won by 1 3/4 9/19
Tough Little Nut	VULNERABLE	STRONG	Moderate — 2nd by 1 1/2 on 10/14
Clyde's Got a Gun	VULNERABLE	STRONG	Moderate — 3rd by 3 1/2 on 10/28
Rothschild	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — led 10/9, well beaten

Lincoln Highway: VULNERABLE / VULNERABLE — 7th by 18 1/4 on 9/5.

Critical MPH Insight

Catch the Breeze is changed from ELITE/ELITE to STRONG/STRONG: he is not a gate-to-wire horse and was 4th last out. **Lucky Mischief** has rallied to win his last two (sustained changed to ELITE). **Real Fast** and **Pitkin** were not early leaders (opening changed from ELITE). **Restore** led throughout to win both routes (opening changed to ELITE). **Rothschild** has raced often on turf and is rated, not UNRATED.

Report Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates

Likely to Improve

Lucky Mischief — Won his last two; second start for Mike Maker.

Pitkin — Newly gelded.

Catch the Breeze — Second start back at this level.

Bounce / Regression Risks

Real Fast — Won a $40,000 claimer by a nose at 45-1; big class rise.

Pitkin — Off 199 days.

Lincoln Highway — Off 78 days after a bad loss.

Report Section 6: Suggested Bets

WIN BET: CATCH THE BREEZE — Confidence 3/10 — Target odds: 5-1 or better

Model projects 18% at 6-1 (14.3% implied): +3.7%, the highest model win % in the field.





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

Model projects 16% at 8-1 (11.1% implied): +4.9%, the biggest overlay under 10-1. Won his last two.

SECOND PLAY: PITKIN — Confidence 2/10 — Target odds: 7-1 or better

Model projects 13% at 6-1 (14.3% implied): –1.3%. Off 199 days.

LONGSHOT PLAY: REAL FAST — Confidence 2/10 — Target odds: 9-1 or better

Model projects 11% at 30-1 (3.2% implied): +7.8%, the biggest edge in the field.

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

A: Catch the Breeze — 18%
B: Lucky Mischief — 16%
C: Pitkin — 13% (not Real Fast, 11%)

Combined Projected Probability: 47%

Report Section 7: Confidence Rating

★★ (2 of 5 stars)

A deep, wide-open turf route: the top model horse is only 18%. **Catch the Breeze** and **Lucky Mischief** are both overlays, and a HOT pace suits closers like Lucky Mischief. **Esmark** (3-1) and **Tough Little Nut** (4-1) are both badly overbet. The report's 9/10 confidence and four-star rating are not supported.

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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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