Churchill Downs

Race 8 — 11/25/2026

Class: Maiden Special Weight

Distance: 1 1/16 Miles

Surface: Dirt

Purse: $92,000

Starters: 12 (plus 1 also-eligible)

Post Time: 4:25 ET

MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT. Purse $92,000 (include $18,000 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund) FOR MAIDENS, 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 R8
Wednesday, November 25, 2026 | 1 1/16 Miles Dirt | 2YO | Maiden Special Weight | Purse: $92,000

Field note: Also-eligible: Champagne Shane (13) runs only if a horse scratches. **First-time starter:** Matcha Twist. **Blinkers on:** Innocent No More and Salty Viking. **Shared barn:** Joe Sharp trains Pirate Ship and Salty Viking (not coupled). **Same race 10/22 at Keeneland:** Golden Reserve 2nd, Sunfyre 3rd, Romo 4th. **Same race 10/15 at Keeneland:** Salty Viking 2nd, Bonzo 4th, Wild Streak 6th. **Same race 9/16 here:** Pirate Ship 4th, Sunfyre 6th, Golden Reserve 8th. **Same race 9/3 at Kentucky Downs:** Innocent No More 3rd, Romo 5th. **Class rises from maiden claimers:** Night Knight ($75,000), Mysterical ($30,000), Good Hand ($20,000). **Distance:** Pirate Ship has never raced past 6 1/2 furlongs; Innocent No More makes his first dirt route start after three turf races and a 7-furlong sprint. Salty Viking carries a 7-lb. apprentice allowance (112 lbs.).

Report Section 1: Pace Analysis

True Front Runners

Golden Reserve (Post 7) — Led until the final furlong and lost by 1 3/4 at this distance at Keeneland on 10/22. **Pirate Ship** (Post 9) — 3rd to 4th early in his last two sprints, then pressed into the stretch on 10/25. **Good Hand** (Post 11) — Pressed in 2nd to 3rd early on 11/1.

Stalkers / Pressers

Sunfyre (Post 8) — 4th early on 10/22. **Night Knight** (Post 3) — 5th early on 10/21.

Closers

Salty Viking (Post 5) — 7th early on 11/11 (not 3rd, as the report said). **Mysterical** (Post 12) — 8th to 9th early, then 2nd by a nose on 10/9. **Innocent No More** (Post 1) — 6th to 10th early (he did not lead on 9/3). **Bonzo** (Post 10), **Romo** (Post 6) and **Wild Streak** (Post 4) — back early.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **SOFT** early pace—projected :23 4/5 opening quarter, :48 4/5 half-mile. At 1 1/16 miles a :48 4/5 half falls in the SOFT band (the report labeled it HOT). **Golden Reserve** is the lone proven route speed.

Report Section 2: Win Probability Matrix

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Innocent No More	5-1	7%	16.7%	-9.7%
2	Matcha Twist	20-1	2%	4.8%	-2.8%
3	Night Knight	8-1	11%	11.1%	-0.1%





Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
4	Wild Streak	20-1	2%	4.8%	-2.8%
5	Salty Viking	5-1	17%	16.7%	**+0.3%**
6	Romo	30-1	1%	3.2%	-2.2%
7	Golden Reserve	6-1	13%	14.3%	-1.3%
8	Sunfyre	6-1	13%	14.3%	-1.3%
9	Pirate Ship	4-1	22%	20.0%	**+2.0%**
10	Bonzo	8-1	7%	11.1%	-4.1%
11	Good Hand	15-1	3%	6.3%	-3.3%
12	Mysterical	20-1	1%	4.8%	-3.8%
13	Champagne Shane (AE)	20-1	1%	4.8%	-3.8%
	TOTAL		**100%**	**132.9%**	

Implied ML % is the raw morning-line conversion (the report's column was scaled, creating five fake overlays). Pirate Ship is **+2.0%** (not +6.9%); Salty Viking is **+0.3%** (not +4.5%). Those are the only overlays. **No fade:** the 4-1 favorite, Pirate Ship, is an overlay; Innocent No More (5-1) is the biggest underlay at –9.7%.

Report Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★)

Pirate Ship (Post 9) — Model Win %: 22%

PTW Profile: A 2-year-old colt, 0 for 5 with a 2nd and two 3rds. 3rd, beaten 6 1/4, at 7-2 in a 6-furlong maiden special weight here on 10/25 after pressing in 2nd; 4th by 6 at 11-4 on 9/16 (Sunfyre 6th, Golden Reserve 8th); 2nd at Saratoga on 8/27. Joe Sharp trains; Luis Saez rides.

Concerns: **First start beyond 6 1/2 furlongs**; has weakened late in his last two. At 4-1 (20.0% implied), **+2.0%**.

Salty Viking (Post 5) — Model Win %: 17%

PTW Profile: A 2-year-old colt, 0 for 4 with two 2nds and a 3rd. 3rd, beaten 5 1/4, as the 7-5 favorite at one mile here on 11/11 after racing 7th early (his route ability is not untested); 2nd by 5 3/4 at 12-1 going 7 furlongs at Keeneland on 10/15 (Bonzo 4th); 2nd by 2 3/4 on the Kentucky Downs turf on 9/9. **Blinkers on.** Joe Sharp trains; Y. Ortiz Jr. rides (7-lb. apprentice allowance).

Concerns: Beaten as the favorite last out. At 5-1 (16.7% implied), **+0.3%**.

Golden Reserve (Post 7) — Model Win %: 13%





PTW Profile: A 2-year-old colt, 0 for 2. Led until the final furlong, then 2nd by 1 3/4 at nearly 7-1 at this distance at Keeneland on 10/22 (Sunfyre 3rd, Romo 4th); 8th by 8 3/4 in a sprint here on 9/16. Riley Mott trains; Declan Sheehy rides.

Concerns: Two starts. At 6-1 (14.3% implied), –1.3%.

Sunfyre (Post 8) — Model Win %: 13%

PTW Profile: A 2-year-old colt, 0 for 2. 3rd by 3 at 9-2 on 10/22 after stalking in 4th; 6th by 7 1/4 on 9/16. Ian Wilkes trains.

Concerns: Finished behind Golden Reserve on 10/22. At 6-1 (14.3% implied), –1.3%.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★)

Night Knight (8-1) — 0 for 3. 4th by 4 3/4 at 18-5 in a 6-furlong $75,000 maiden claimer at Keeneland on 10/21 (a class rise today, not class relief). –0.1%. **Innocent No More** (5-1) — 0 for 3. 9th by 5 1/4 in a turf maiden race at Keeneland on 10/9; 3rd by 1/2 as the 17-10 favorite on the Kentucky Downs turf on 9/3. **Blinkers on**; turf-to-dirt. –9.7%. **Bonzo** (8-1) — 0 for 2. 4th on 10/15; 4th by 4 in a $150,000 maiden claimer on 9/24 (MSW is a step up, not class relief). –4.1%. **Good Hand** (15-1) — 0 for 3. 2nd by 6 1/2 at 10-1 in a $20,000 maiden claimer here on 11/1 after pressing; a big class rise (the report called it class relief). –3.3%. **Mysterical** (20-1) — 0 for 1. Rallied from 9th to finish 2nd by a nose at 20-1 in a $30,000 maiden claimer at Keeneland on 10/9. The model gives him only 1%, so he does not belong in the multi (the report used him as C). –3.8%. **Romo** (30-1) — 0 for 3. 4th by 13 3/4 on 10/22. –2.2%. **Wild Streak** (20-1) — 0 for 1. 6th by 13 on 10/15. –2.8%. **Matcha Twist** (20-1) — First-time starter for Ben Colebrook. –2.8%. **Champagne Shane** (AE, 20-1) — 0 for 1. 5th by 7 1/4 in a $75,000 maiden claimer here on 11/13.

Workout, pedigree, trainer-ROI and jockey-percentage claims removed throughout.

Report Section 4: MPH Analysis + Sustained Speed Ratings

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Pirate Ship	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — pressed, 3rd by 6 1/4 10/25
Salty Viking	VULNERABLE	STRONG	Moderate — 3rd by 5 1/4 on 11/11
Golden Reserve	ELITE	STRONG	Moderate — led, 2nd by 1 3/4 10/22
Sunfyre	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — 3rd by 3 on 10/22
Night Knight	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — 4th by 4 3/4 on 10/21
Innocent No More	VULNERABLE	VULNERABLE	High — 9th by 5 1/4 on 10/9
Bonzo	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — 4th on 10/15
Good Hand	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — pressed, 2nd by 6 1/2 11/1





Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Mysterical	VULNERABLE	ELITE	Low — rallied, 2nd by a nose 10/9
Romo	VULNERABLE	VULNERABLE	High — 4th by 13 3/4 on 10/22
Wild Streak	VULNERABLE	VULNERABLE	High — 6th by 13 on 10/15
Matcha Twist	UNRATED	UNRATED	First-time starter
Champagne Shane (AE)	VULNERABLE	VULNERABLE	High — 5th by 7 1/4 on 11/13

Critical MPH Insight

Golden Reserve held on well after leading at this distance (sustained changed from VULNERABLE to STRONG). **Pirate Ship** has faded late in both recent sprints (sustained changed from STRONG to VULNERABLE). **Salty Viking** is a closer, not a stalker (opening changed to VULNERABLE).

Report Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates

Likely to Improve

Salty Viking — Blinkers on; already proven at a mile.

Golden Reserve — Second start at the distance after a strong 2nd.

Innocent No More — Blinkers on.

Bounce / Regression Risks

Pirate Ship — Big stretch-out from sprints.

Good Hand and **Mysterical** — Class rises from cheap maiden claimers.

Report Section 6: Suggested Bets

WIN BET: PIRATE SHIP — Confidence 3/10 — Target odds: 4-1 or better

Model projects 22% at 4-1 (20.0% implied): +2.0%, the highest model win % and largest overlay.

VALUE PLAY: SALTY VIKING — Confidence 2/10 — Target odds: 5-1 or better

Model projects 17% at 5-1 (16.7% implied): +0.3%, the only other overlay. A thin edge.

LONGSHOT PLAY: None. No overlay at 10-1 or higher.

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

Model projects 13% at 6-1 (14.3% implied): –1.3%. Ties Sunfyre on model % and edge; gets the call after beating Sunfyre on 10/22.

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





A: Pirate Ship — 22%
B: Salty Viking — 17%
C: Golden Reserve — 13% (not Mysterical, whom the model gives 1%)

Combined Projected Probability: 52%

Report Section 7: Confidence Rating

★ (1 of 5 stars)

A big field of 2-year-old maidens, most stretching out. **Pirate Ship** tops the model and is a small overlay but has never been past 6 1/2 furlongs. **Golden Reserve** should get a soft lead. No 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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