Churchill Downs

Race 11 — 11/27/2026

Class: Clark Stakes (G2)

Distance: 1 1/8 Miles

Surface: Dirt

Purse: $700,000

Starters: 11

Post Time: 5:54 ET

CLARK S. PRESENTED BY NORTON HEALTHCARE. Purse $700,000 (include $100,000 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund) FOR THREE-YEAR-OLDS AND UPWARD.

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Churchill Downs R11
Friday, November 27, 2026 | 1 1/8 Miles Dirt | 3YO & Up | Clark Stakes (G2) | Purse: $700,000

Field note: Open to 3-year-olds and up (the report said 4 and up); **Leading Change** is the lone 3-year-old. **Shared barn (not coupled):** Brad Cox trains Leading Change and Dragoon Guard. **Layoff:** Leading Change off 90 days since the Travers. **Same races:** Lukas Classic (G2) 9/26—Dragoon Guard 1st, Chunk of Gold 2nd, This Is Uscar 3rd; Fayette (G3) 10/24—Willy D's 1st, This Is Uscar 3rd; Charles Town Classic (G2) 8/28—Willy D's 1st, Dragoon Guard 7th; Goodwood (G1) 9/26—Caldera 2nd, Original Sin 5th; Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1) 10/31—Bracket Buster 7th, Chunk of Gold 9th; Blame (G3) 5/30—Original Sin 1st, Who Dey 2nd. No also-eligibles.

Report Section 1: Pace Analysis

True Front Runners

Willy D's (Post 8) — Led wire to wire in the Fayette (G3) on 10/24 and the Charles Town Classic (G2) on 8/28. **Chunk of Gold** (Post 10) — Led into the stretch in the Lukas Classic (G2) and the Iselin (G3). **Bracket Buster** (Post 9) — Led and won the West Virginia Governor's by 15 on 8/9 (the report called him a closer).

Stalkers / Pressers

Leading Change (Post 2) — 2nd to 3rd early in all three starts; **not** a wire-to-wire winner. **Caldera** (Post 7) — 2nd early in his recent wins. **Iron Dome** (Post 4) — 2nd to 3rd early.

Closers

Who Dey (Post 3) — 5th early, rallied to win at Keeneland on 10/3. **Dragoon Guard** (Post 5) — 4th early, won the Lukas Classic by 3 1/4. **Original Sin** (Post 11) — Rallied from 11th to 2nd in the Pacific Classic (G1).

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **SUICIDAL** early pace—projected :23 2/5 opening quarter, :45 4/5 half-mile (the report's half-mile fifth was garbled; 4/5 is used). At 1 1/8 miles a :45 4/5 half falls in the SUICIDAL band (the report called it HOT). **Willy D's**, **Chunk of Gold** and **Bracket Buster** all want the lead.

Report Section 2: Win Probability Matrix

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Sir Greylind	50-1	1%	2.0%	-1.0%
2	Leading Change	5-2	12%	28.6%	-16.6%
3	Who Dey	20-1	10%	4.8%	**+5.2%**





Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
4	Iron Dome	15-1	7%	6.3%	**+0.7%**
5	Dragoon Guard	4-1	20%	20.0%	0.0%
6	This Is Uscar	15-1	5%	6.3%	-1.3%
7	Caldera	8-1	13%	11.1%	**+1.9%**
8	Willy D's	6-1	11%	14.3%	-3.3%
9	Bracket Buster	5-1	10%	16.7%	-6.7%
10	Chunk of Gold	10-1	8%	9.1%	-1.1%
11	Original Sin	12-1	3%	7.7%	-4.7%
	TOTAL		**100%**	**126.9%**	

Implied ML % is the raw morning-line conversion (the report's table column was scaled). **Fade: Leading Change**, the 5-2 morning-line favorite, is –16.6% (not –10.6%). Overlays: Who Dey +5.2%, Caldera +1.9%, Iron Dome +0.7% (not +6.3%, +4.2% and +2.1%). Dragoon Guard is even (0.0%, not +4.2%); Chunk of Gold is –1.1% (not +0.8%).

Report Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★)

Dragoon Guard (Post 5) — Model Win %: 20%

PTW Profile: A 5-year-old horse, 7 for 17 with $1,297,171 earned. Won the Lukas Classic (G2) here on 9/26 by 3 1/4 (Chunk of Gold 2nd, This Is Uscar 3rd). 7th by 8 in the Charles Town Classic (G2) on 8/28. Won an optional claimer at Indiana Grand on 7/14. The report's 3/14 win at Colonial was a 2nd by 1 1/4. Brad Cox trains; Tyler Gaffalione rides.

Concerns: At 4-1 (20.0% implied), even.

Caldera (Post 7) — Model Win %: 13%

PTW Profile: A 4-year-old colt, 4 for 10. 2nd by 1 1/4 in the Goodwood (G1) at Santa Anita on 9/26; won three straight optional claimers before that (Gulfstream 4/30, Colonial 6/25 and 8/20). Saffie Joseph Jr. trains; Jose Ortiz rides.

Concerns: At 8-1 (11.1% implied), +1.9%.

Leading Change (Post 2) — Model Win %: 12% — **FADE**

PTW Profile: A 3-year-old colt, **3 for 3**. Won the Travers (G1) at Saratoga on 8/29 by 1/2 and the Indiana Derby (G3) on 7/11 by a head, pressing 2nd to 3rd early both times (not wire to wire). Broke his maiden here on 6/7. Off 90 days. Brad Cox trains; Manny Franco rides.

Concerns: First start against older horses. At 5-2 (28.6% implied), –16.6%.





Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★)

Willy D's (Post 8) — Model Win %: 11%

PTW Profile: A 5-year-old gelding, 9 for 30 with $1,734,021 earned. Won the Fayette (G3) at Keeneland on 10/24 by a head and the Charles Town Classic (G2) on 8/28 by 1 3/4, both wire to wire. Michael Maker trains.

Concerns: Faces Chunk of Gold and Bracket Buster for the lead. At 6-1 (14.3% implied), –3.3%.

Who Dey (Post 3) — Model Win %: 10%

PTW Profile: A 5-year-old Ohio-bred horse, 9 for 18. Won a 1 1/8-mile optional claimer at Keeneland on 10/3 by 2 1/4 after racing 5th early (not pressing). 2nd by 1/2 to Original Sin in the Blame (G3) here on 5/30; 4th in last year's Clark. Thomas Drury Jr. trains.

Concerns: At 20-1 (4.8% implied), +5.2%.

Bracket Buster (Post 9) — Model Win %: 10%

PTW Profile: A 4-year-old colt, 4 for 14. 7th by 5 3/4 in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1) on 10/31; 2nd by 2 at Parx on 9/19; won the West Virginia Governor's by 15 on 8/9 after leading. Victoria Oliver trains.

Concerns: At 5-1 (16.7% implied), –6.7%.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors & Longshots (★)

Chunk of Gold (10-1) — 3 for 14; 2nd in the Lukas Classic and the Iselin (G3), 9th by 10 1/4 in the Dirt Mile. He was **3rd** in last year's Clark (not a winner here on 11/28/25). –1.1%. **Iron Dome** (15-1) — 4 for 14; won the New York-bred Empire Classic at Belmont on 10/24 by a neck. +0.7%. **This Is Uscar** (15-1) — 4 for 22; 3rd in the Fayette and the Lukas Classic. –1.3%. **Original Sin** (12-1) — 4 for 11; 5th by 11 3/4 in the Goodwood; 2nd in the Pacific Classic (G1); won the Blame (G3) here. –4.7%. **Sir Greylind** (50-1) — 4 for 13; 8th in a 6 1/2-furlong optional claimer at Keeneland on 10/31. –1.0%.

Workout, speed-figure, trainer-percentage 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
Dragoon Guard	STRONG	ELITE	Low — won G2 by 3 1/4 on 9/26
Willy D's	ELITE	ELITE	Low — led, won G3 on 10/24
Caldera	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — 2nd by 1 1/4 in G1 on 9/26
Leading Change	STRONG	ELITE	Low — won Travers by 1/2 on 8/29
Who Dey	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — won by 2 1/4 on 10/3





Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Bracket Buster	ELITE	STRONG	Moderate — 7th by 5 3/4 on 10/31
Chunk of Gold	ELITE	STRONG	Moderate — led, 2nd by 3 1/4 on 9/26
Iron Dome	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — won by a neck on 10/24
This Is Uscar	VULNERABLE	VULNERABLE	High — 3rd by 4 on 10/24
Original Sin	VULNERABLE	STRONG	Moderate — 5th by 11 3/4 on 9/26
Sir Greylind	VULNERABLE	VULNERABLE	High — 8th on 10/31

Critical MPH Insight

A SUICIDAL pace sets up **Dragoon Guard** and **Who Dey** from off the pace. **Leading Change** presses rather than leads (opening changed from ELITE to STRONG, sustained from STRONG to ELITE—he is unbeaten). **Bracket Buster** and **Chunk of Gold** are speed (openings changed to ELITE). Iron Dome's and Original Sin's sustained change from VULNERABLE to STRONG.

Report Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates

Likely to Improve

Dragoon Guard — Won the Lukas Classic over this track and distance.

Who Dey — Closer who gets a SUICIDAL pace.

Bounce / Regression Risks

Leading Change — Off 90 days; first try against older horses.

Chunk of Gold — Beaten 10 1/4 last out; caught in a speed duel.

Report Section 6: Suggested Bets

WIN BET: DRAGOON GUARD — Confidence 2/10 — Target odds: 4-1 or better

Model projects 20% at 4-1 (20.0% implied): even. Top model horse; fair odds are 4-1.

VALUE PLAY: CALDERA — Confidence 2/10 — Target odds: 7-1 or better

Model projects 13% at 8-1 (11.1% implied): +1.9%, the biggest overlay under 10-1.

LONGSHOT PLAY: WHO DEY — Confidence 2/10 — Target odds: 9-1 or better

Model projects 10% at 20-1 (4.8% implied): +5.2%, the biggest overlay in the race.

SECOND PLAY: WILLY D'S — Confidence 2/10 — Target odds: 9-1 or better

Model projects 11% at 6-1 (14.3% implied): –3.3%. Next unused model horse (Leading Change is the fade).





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

A: Dragoon Guard — 20%
B: Caldera — 13%
C: Willy D's — 11% (replaces the fade, Leading Change)

Combined Projected Probability: 44%

Report Section 7: Confidence Rating

★ (1 of 5 stars)

A deep Grade 2 with a SUICIDAL pace. **Dragoon Guard** tops the model at 20% and won the Lukas Classic over this track and distance. The 5-2 favorite **Leading Change** is the fade at –16.6%. **Who Dey** is the best overlay at 20-1.

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.

Methodology is proprietary and confidential. Reproduction of this analysis without authorization is prohibited.

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