Del Mar

Race 2 — 11/08/2026

Class: Maiden Claiming $50,000

Distance: 6f

Surface: Dirt

Purse: $35,000

Claiming Price: $50,000

Starters: 7

MAIDEN CLAIMING. Purse $35,000 FOR CALIFORNIA BRED OR CALIFORNIA SIRED MAIDENS, TWO YEARS OLD. Weight, 122 lbs. Claiming Price $50,000.

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Del Mar R2
Sunday, November 8, 2026 | 6f Dirt | Cal-Bred/Sired 2YO | Maiden Claiming $50,000

Report Section 1: Pace Analysis

True Front Runners

Vern Gosdin (Post 4) — By far the most early speed in the field; dueled, vied or led in all three starts before tiring.

Stalkers / Pressers

Luka's Choice (Post 2) — Sits inside and close. **Olympian Thirst** (Post 3) — Mid-pack.

Closers

Smokem Wicked (Post 1) — Breaks slowly and rallies; got up for 2nd on 10/12. **Sip Sip Charly** (Post 5) and **Swervedriver** (Post 7) — Drop back early. **Big If** (Post 6) — First-time starter, style unknown.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **HOT** early pace—projected :22 4/5 opening quarter, :45 4/5 half-mile. Vern Gosdin is the lone true speed and should set fast fractions; the question is whether he can carry them, since he has tired in every start.

Report Section 2: Win Probability Matrix

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Smokem Wicked	7-2	21%	22.2%	-1.2%
2	Luka's Choice	6-1	13%	14.3%	-1.3%
3	Olympian Thirst	15-1	7%	6.3%	**+0.7%**
4	Vern Gosdin	8-5	26%	38.5%	-12.5%
5	Sip Sip Charly	8-1	9%	11.1%	-2.1%
6	Big If	3-1	18%	25.0%	-7.0%
7	Swervedriver	15-1	6%	6.3%	-0.3%
	TOTAL		**100%**	**123.7%**	

Implied ML % is the raw morning-line conversion (field total 123.7% in this seven-horse field). The original table used rescaled figures, and the text listed Big If at 9.4% implied for a 3-1 morning line. At raw odds **Olympian Thirst +0.7%** is the only overlay. Favorite **Vern Gosdin** –**12.5%**; Big If –7.0%.





Report Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★★)

Vern Gosdin (Post 4) — Model Win %: 26%

PTW Profile: The model's top horse. Two-year-old gelding, 0-for-3. 10th in a 6f maiden special weight at Del Mar on 8/16 (dueled outside, gave way); 6th in a 5.5f $50,000 maiden claimer at Los Alamitos on 9/12 (vied, faded); 3rd in a 5.5f $50,000 maiden claimer at Santa Anita on 10/12 (fractious, led, faltered). First start since being gelded. Trainer Steve Knapp 16% with two-year-olds; jockey Jaramillo. As the 8-5 morning-line favorite (38.5% implied), –12.5%—the biggest underlay in the race.

Strengths: ELITE early speed—the lone true speed; best effort came last out; gelding could help him settle.

Concerns: Has tired in all three starts; first try at 6f since his debut; overbet.

Trip Projection: Goes straight to the lead from post 4 and tries to last.

Smokem Wicked (Post 1) — Model Win %: 21%

PTW Profile: Two-year-old gelding, 0-for-8 with two 2nds and two 3rds, six of those starts in maiden claimers. 2nd in a $30,000 maiden claimer at Los Alamitos on 7/4; 3rd at Del Mar on 7/24 and 8/21; 7th at Los Alamitos on 9/12 (no speed); 2nd in the 10/12 race at Santa Anita (slow start, rallied for 2nd ahead of Vern Gosdin). Jockey Bautista. At 7-2 (22.2% implied), –1.2%.

Strengths: ELITE sustained speed—the field's best finisher; consistent; beat Vern Gosdin last out.

Concerns: Eight starts without a win; slow starts; rail draw for a closer.

Trip Projection: Settles mid-pack from the rail, finds room and rallies at a tiring leader.

Big If (Post 6) — Model Win %: 18% — First-Time Starter (UNRATED)

PTW Profile: Debuting two-year-old gelding for Tim Yakteen, who is 11% with first-time starters and 0-for-8 with debut runners in maiden claimers; jockey Rosario. At 3-1 (25.0% implied), –7.0%.

Strengths: Top jockey; solid barn.

Concerns: No race experience; trainer winless with maiden-claiming debut runners; overbet.

Trip Projection: Unknown; likely sits off the pace from post 6.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★★)

Luka's Choice (Post 2) — Model Win %: 13%

PTW Profile: Two-year-old colt, 0-for-2: 4th at Los Alamitos on 9/12 (inside, flattened out) and 8th at Santa Anita on 10/12 (fractious, no menace). Blinkers on for the first time; trainer Craig Lewis 27% with first-time blinkers; jockey Kimura. At 6-1 (14.3% implied), –1.3%.

Strengths: Blinker change; trainer stats with the move.

Concerns: VULNERABLE late; regressed last out.





Trip Projection: Sits close inside and needs the blinkers to help him finish.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors / Longshots (★★)

Sip Sip Charly (Post 5, 9%): Two-year-old colt, 0-for-2. 8th in a $50,000 maiden claimer at Del Mar on 7/24 (broke in); 2nd in a maiden special weight at Los Alamitos on 9/19 (ahead of Olympian Thirst). Off since. Trainer Alvarez 2% with maiden claimers. VULNERABLE late. –2.1%.

Olympian Thirst (Post 3, 7%): Two-year-old gelding, 0-for-7 in maiden special weights: 2nd at Santa Anita on 6/14, 3rd at Los Alamitos on 9/19, then 7th at 6f on 10/3 and 8th on turf on 10/17. First start in a maiden claimer; same trainer as Smokem Wicked. VULNERABLE late. +0.7%.

Swervedriver (Post 7, 6%): Two-year-old gelding, one start: 5th in the 10/12 maiden claimer at Santa Anita (slow start, split horses late). Trainer Badilla 0-for-3 with second-time starters. VULNERABLE late. –0.3%.

Report Section 4: MPH Analysis + Sustained Speed Ratings

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Vern Gosdin	ELITE	STRONG	Low — maintains speed
Smokem Wicked	STRONG	ELITE	Minimal — best finisher
Luka's Choice	STRONG	VULNERABLE	Moderate-high
Olympian Thirst	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — pace collapse risk
Sip Sip Charly	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High
Swervedriver	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High
Big If	UNRATED	UNRATED	First-time starter

Critical MPH Insight

The race sets up as early speed versus late speed: **Vern Gosdin** has ELITE early speed and **Smokem Wicked** has ELITE sustained speed. The other rated horses are VULNERABLE late.

Report Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates

Likely to Improve

Vern Gosdin — First start since being gelded; improved last out.

Luka's Choice — First-time blinkers.

Smokem Wicked — Consistent and coming off a 2nd.

Bounce / Regression Risks





Big If — Debut runner for a trainer 0-for-8 with that move; overbet at 3-1.

Sip Sip Charly — Seven weeks off; weak trainer stats.

Report Section 6: Suggested Bets

WIN BET: VERN GOSDIN — Confidence 7/10 — Target odds: 3-1 or better

Model projects 26% win probability, the highest in the field, at 8-5 (38.5% implied): –12.5%. The lone speed and first start since being gelded, but he has tired in every start. Fair price is about 3-1.

Value Assessment: **UNDERLAY** (–12.5%).

SECOND PLAY: SMOKEM WICKED — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 4-1 or better

Model projects 21% at 7-2 (22.2% implied): –1.2%. The field's best finisher; beat Vern Gosdin last out. Fair price is about 15-4.

Value Assessment: **FAIR PRICE** (–1.2%).

THIRD PLAY: BIG IF — Confidence 7/10 — Target odds: 5-1 or better

Model projects 18% at 3-1 (25.0% implied): –7.0%. First-time starter with a top jockey. Fair price is about 9-2.

Value Assessment: **UNDERLAY** (–7.0%).

LONGSHOT PLAY: OLYMPIAN THIRST — Confidence 5/10 — Target odds: 14-1 or better

Model projects 7% at 15-1 (6.3% implied): +0.7%—the only overlay. Drops from maiden special weights. Fair price is about 13-1.

Value Assessment: **SLIGHT OVERLAY** (+0.7%).

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

A: Vern Gosdin — 26%
B: Smokem Wicked — 21%
C: Big If — 18%

Combined Projected Probability: 65%

Report Section 7: Confidence Rating

★★★★ (4 of 5 stars)

Early speed versus late speed: **Vern Gosdin** is the lone speed and the model's top horse, but overbet at 8-5; **Smokem Wicked** is the best finisher at a fair price. Little value elsewhere; **Olympian Thirst** (+0.7%) is the only overlay.





Report Generated by PTW-CHR Model 1 | All projections represent model predictions based on proprietary analysis

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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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