Fair Grounds

Race 8 — 11/19/2026

Class: Joseph R. Peluso Memorial Stakes ($100,000)

Distance: 6f

Surface: Dirt

Purse: $100,000

Starters: 10

Post Time: 4:25 CT

THE JOSEPH R. PELUSO MEMORIAL. Purse $100,000 FOR TWO YEAR OLDS, ACCREDITED LOUISIANA BRED. Free nomination by Monday, November 9. $550 to enter; $550 additional to start. $100,000 Guaranteed of which 60% to the winner, 20% to second, 11% to third, 6% to fourth, 3% to fifth. Weight: 122 lbs. Maidens allowed 5 lbs.

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COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Fair Grounds R8
Thursday, November 19, 2026 | 6f Dirt | LA-Bred 2YO | Joseph R. Peluso Memorial Stakes | Purse: $100,000

Report Section 1: Pace Analysis

True Front Runners

Star of Bethlehem (Post 3) — Led throughout to win the LA Cup Juvenile at Louisiana Downs on 9/19 by 5 1/4 (not 5 3/4). **Essential George** (Post 7) — Led throughout in his 11/6 debut win; he is speed, not a stalker. **Yo' Lion** (Post 4) — Wire-to-wire maiden win on 9/23. **Lucky Spot** (Post 10) — Led throughout on 10/24.

Stalkers / Pressers

Hes Steelin Mylady (Post 2), **Date Money** (Post 5), **Max Attack** (Post 1), **Pastinaca** (Post 8), **Levee Native** (Post 6).

Closers

Touch Money (Post 9) — Rallied for 2nd and 3rd in his last three.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **MODERATE** early pace (relabeled from HOT)—projected :22 2/5 opening quarter, :45 1/5 half-mile, inside the 6f MODERATE band. Plenty of speed (Star of Bethlehem, Essential George, Yo' Lion, Lucky Spot), but at those fractions the leader is not cooked.

Report Section 2: Win Probability Matrix

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Max Attack	10-1	8%	9.1%	-1.1%
2	Hes Steelin Mylady	9-2	16%	18.2%	-2.2%
3	Star of Bethlehem	7-2	24%	22.2%	**+1.8%**
4	Yo' Lion	8-1	11%	11.1%	-0.1%
5	Date Money	8-1	10%	11.1%	-1.1%
6	Levee Native	12-1	6%	7.7%	-1.7%
7	Essential George	3-1	14%	25.0%	-11.0%
8	Pastinaca	10-1	5%	9.1%	-4.1%
9	Touch Money	12-1	3%	7.7%	-4.7%





Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
10	Lucky Spot	12-1	3%	7.7%	-4.7%
	TOTAL		**100%**	**128.9%**	

Implied ML % is the raw morning-line conversion (the report's column was scaled). **FADE: Essential George, the 3-1 favorite**—25.0% implied vs 14% model, **–11.0%**. The report called **Star of Bethlehem** the favorite and gave him +12.3% at 11.7% implied; he is 7-2, 22.2% implied, **+1.8%**. No other horse is an overlay; Yo' Lion is –0.1%, Date Money –1.1%.

Report Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★)

Star of Bethlehem (Post 3) — Model Win %: 24%

PTW Profile: The model's top horse. 2-year-old colt, 2 wins in 4. Won the $75,000 LA Cup Juvenile on 9/19 wire-to-wire; 2nd by a half-length in the $100,000 DS Young Futurity on 8/1 (ahead of Hes Steelin Mylady and Max Attack). **First start for David Terre** (from Patrick Devereux); Terre is 33% first time with a horse—not "with first-time winners."

Concerns: Never run 6f (all starts 5f–5 1/2f). At 7-2 (22.2% implied), +1.8%.

Trip Projection: Goes for the lead with Essential George and Yo' Lion alongside.

Hes Steelin Mylady (Post 2) — Model Win %: 16%

PTW Profile: A **colt** (the report calls him "her"), $200,000 yearling, 1 win in 4 with three 3rds: the DS Young Futurity, the Sapling Stakes at Monmouth and a Keeneland optional claimer at 1 1/16 miles. None were graded. **First-time Lasix** (Aaron West 14%). West is 23% off 31–60 days. At 9-2 (18.2% implied), –2.2%.

Essential George (Post 7) — Model Win %: 14% — **FADE**

PTW Profile: **The 3-1 favorite.** 1 for 1: won a 5f Delta Downs maiden wire-to-wire on 11/6. Allen Landry is 27% with last-out winners. First stakes start and first try at 6f. At 3-1 (25.0% implied), –11.0%.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★)

Yo' Lion (Post 4) — Model Win %: 11%

PTW Profile: Won his maiden wire-to-wire on 9/23; 7th, **beaten 25 lengths**, in the muddy LA Legacy Stakes at Delta on 10/31 (the report also says 11 1/2). Joseph Foster is 0 for 11 in stakes. At 8-1 (11.1% implied), –0.1%.

Date Money (Post 5) — Model Win %: 10%

PTW Profile: Won a 6 1/2f maiden at Delta by 10 1/4 on 10/17 after stalking in 3rd (not a rally from 6th). His prior start was 8/22—not "three days" before. Off 33 days. Bret Calhoun is 24% with last-out winners. At 8-1 (11.1% implied), –1.1%.

Tier 3 — Longshots (★)





Max Attack (10-1) — 1 win in 3; 5th in the DS Young Futurity; off 110 days. –1.1%. **Levee Native** (12-1) — 7th in the LA Cup Juvenile (a state-bred stakes, not graded). –1.7%. **Pastinaca** (10-1) — 3rd in the LA Cup Juvenile; 5th in the LA Legacy. –4.1%. **Touch Money** (12-1) — A colt, 0 for 3 (two 2nds); gets 5 lbs as a maiden. –4.7%. **Lucky Spot** (12-1) — Won a $20,000 maiden claimer on 10/24. –4.7%.

Report Section 4: MPH Analysis + Sustained Speed Ratings

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Star of Bethlehem	ELITE	STRONG	Moderate — wire win 9/19
Hes Steelin Mylady	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — three 3rds
Essential George	ELITE	STRONG	Moderate — wire debut
Yo' Lion	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — beaten 25 last out
Date Money	STRONG	STRONG	Low — drew off 10/17
Max Attack	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — vied, faded 8/1
Levee Native	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — little left 9/19
Pastinaca	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — never a threat
Touch Money	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — late rallies
Lucky Spot	ELITE	STRONG	Moderate — one start

Critical MPH Insight

Star of Bethlehem is changed from ELITE sustained to STRONG: he has never run 6f and was caught by a half-length on 8/1. **Essential George** is speed (opening changed to ELITE). Mph numbers removed.

Report Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates

Likely to Improve

Star of Bethlehem — First start for Terre (33%).

Hes Steelin Mylady — First-time Lasix; back to a sprint.

Date Money — Big maiden win; Calhoun 24% with last-out winners.

Bounce / Regression Risks

Yo' Lion — Beaten 25 last out.

Essential George — Big jump from a maiden to a stakes.





Max Attack — Off 110 days.

Report Section 6: Suggested Bets

WIN BET: STAR OF BETHLEHEM — Confidence 4/10 — Target odds: 7-2 or better

Model projects 24% win probability, the highest in the field. At 7-2 (22.2% implied), +1.8%: SLIGHT VALUE (not "EXCEPTIONAL").

SECOND PLAY: HES STEELIN MYLADY — Confidence 3/10 — Target odds: 11-2 or better

Model projects 16% at 9-2 (18.2% implied): –2.2%, an underlay (relabeled from Value Play).

VALUE PLAY / LONGSHOT PLAY: None.

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

A: Star of Bethlehem — 24%
B: Hes Steelin Mylady — 16%
C: Yo' Lion — 11%

Essential George (14%) is the fade, so he comes out of the top 3; Yo' Lion, next by model %, replaces him.

Combined Projected Probability: 51%

Report Section 7: Confidence Rating

★★★ (3 of 5 stars)

Star of Bethlehem is the top horse but a modest overlay, not "exceptional value." The play against the favorite, **Essential George** (–11.0%), is the main angle.

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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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