



COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Kentucky Downs R9

Friday, September 05, 2026 | 8.0 Furlongs | Turf | Fillies & Mares

Section 1: Pace Analysis

True Front Runners

Classic Q demonstrates elite early speed credentials with a dominant turf record. Her most recent victory (06/06/2026 at Saratoga) saw her break sharp from post and control the pace throughout, winning by 1.25 lengths while never challenged. She has won 5 of 9 starts on the turf with consistent fractional control. This is her comfort zone—expect her to dictate early fractions.

Princesa Moche shows proven gate speed with multiple front-running performances. Her 01/31/2026 win at Saratoga demonstrates her ability to lead and hold on, and she broke sharp in three consecutive starts at Saratoga this season. She will challenge Classic Q early.

Stalkers / Pressers

Rashmi rates just off the pace in most starts, positioning herself 1-2 lengths back in early fractions before making coordinated moves. Her 02/01/2025 victory at Saratoga shows her pressing the pace and clearing in the stretch. She thrives with tactical positioning.

Hang the Moon has shown flexibility in racing position but prefers a stalking role 2-3 lengths off the leader. Her 10/05/2024 win at Saratoga demonstrates this pattern—she saved ground and attacked in the stretch.

Closers

Buttercream Babe carries an elite late-running profile. Her 06/28/2026 win at Churchill Downs is the blueprint—trailed the field early, shifted out 6-7 wide in the stretch, and rallied to victory. Consistent closer with strong finishing velocity.

Vive Veuve shows mixed pace patterns but has demonstrated closing ability. Her 08/07/2025 win at Saratoga (bobbled start, rallied 6 lengths back to win) and 11/01/2024 Gulfstream victory confirm her ability to close from off the pace.

Bless the Broken races in a trailing position, typically 3-8 lengths back early. Her willingness to rally suggests a stretch-running profile, though recent form shows inconsistency in finishing position.

Fast Market projects as a pure closer in this lineup. Limited turf experience and small sample size, but her breeding and recent turf form suggest she'll race off the pace and need room late.

Pace Scenario Projection





MODEL PREDICTS: HOT early pace with two elite speed horses (Classic Q and Princesa Moche) contesting the lead — projected :23■ opening quarter, :46■ half-mile. Princesa Moche will challenge Classic Q early, creating moderate pace friction. The pace is energetic enough to set up stalkers but not suicidal—closers will have tactical opportunities in the stretch without complete speed collapse.

Section 2: Win Probability Matrix

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Bless the Broken	8-1	8%	11.1%	-3.1%
2	Classic Q	4-5	28%	55.6%	-27.6%
3	Vive Veuve	10-1	11%	9.1%	+1.9%
4	Hang the Moon	4-1	15%	20.0%	-5.0%
5	Fast Market	12-1	7%	7.7%	-0.7%
6	Princesa Moche	15-1	10%	6.3%	+3.7%
7	Rashmi	6-1	16%	14.3%	+1.7%
8	Buttercream Babe	20-1	5%	4.8%	+0.2%

Section 3: Contender Analysis

Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★★)

CLASSIC Q

- **PTW Profile:** Elite turf router with dominant recent form and exceptional class credentials. Five wins from nine turf starts with consistent pace-control victories. Saratoga maiden special weight convert who has defeated graded company. The model recognizes her as the field's technical superior, though odds heavily favor her.
- **Strengths:** Turf specialist (15-5-3-1 record), elite early foot, proven ability to dictate pace and hold on, consistent winning margins (0.25-2.0 lengths), excellent trainer form (Mark Casse 15% on turf routes), jockey Velazquez at 0% KD meet form but strong career record





- **Concerns:** Heavily odds-on at 4-5 (55.6% implied), reducing expected value despite superior profile; recent layoff 61 days is notable; Casse turf route ROI of 1.49x is solid but not dominant
- **Trip Projection:** Breaks sharp, dictates pace from post 2, leads through half-mile in :46■, will face pressure from Princesa Moche but should control the race. Model projects front-running victory or narrow defeat if Rashmi finds room late.

RASHMI

- **PTW Profile:** Proven turf route specialist with elite late-running profile and consistent graded company exposure. Model identifies a class edge against the field and a superior tactical setup. Strong improvement trajectory with multiple winning patterns.
- **Strengths:** 5-2-2 turf record (5 wins from 12 starts), elite late-running pattern confirmed across multiple winning efforts, trainer Jonathan Thomas 22% ROI on turf routes and 25% on 2-off-45-180 layoff spot, Saez strong recent form (22.22% KD meet win rate), class edge in graded company experience
- **Concerns:** Layoff 42 days falls into moderate-risk category; post 7 creates traffic concerns requiring clean midrace passage; Saez 9-start KD meet sample is limited; recent form shows mixed finishes (6th place in last start)
- **Trip Projection:** Settles 2-3 lengths off pace from post 7, stalks through middle quarters, finds room in stretch and rallies late. Model projects her as the lone threat to Classic Q if pace sets up correctly.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★★)

HANG THE MOON

- **PTW Profile:** Route-specialized turf runner with 5-3-1 record on turf at distance. Consistent stakes-level competitor with proven tactical flexibility. Recently won at the level (03/28/2026 Gulfstream stakes). Model respects her consistency but notes class edge disadvantages versus Classic Q and Rashmi.
- **Strengths:** 5-1 turf win percentage at this distance, stalking ability proven across multiple wins, trainer Joseph Saffie 19% ROI on turf routes, Husbands strong recent form (50% KD meet win rate on small sample), recent turf route form solid (three turf finishes in last four starts)
- **Concerns:** Class profile shows slight disadvantage versus top tier; distance stretches her profile (last 2 of 5 turf route wins came at shorter distances); Saffie graded stakes ROI 1.59x is respectable but below peers
- **Trip Projection:** Stalks from post 4, positioned 2-3 lengths off pace through middle, finds outside room in stretch and challenges. Turf specialist pattern suggests competitive effort but likely second-tier finish.

VIVE VEUVE

- **PTW Profile:** Turf router with 2-2-1 record across last three turf starts. Recent form encouraging with late-running patterns. Mixed class profile but consistent route specialist on turf. Model identifies her as secondary option with modest overlay value at 10-1.
- **Strengths:** Recent turf form trending positively (2 wins in last 3 starts), multiple winning patterns (front and late), trainer Sharp Joe 21% ROI on turf routes, Ortiz strong career record, proven graded company





exposure

- **Concerns:** Inconsistent form pattern with visible form cycles; trainer Sharp Joe 0% KD meet win rate in recent sample; Ortiz 9.09% KD meet win rate suggests below-peak performance locally; class edge unclear against top contenders
- **Trip Projection:** Races mid-pack early, typically 3-4 lengths off pace, saves ground and rallies late. Recent patterns suggest competitive effort in stretch but dependent on pace setup and room.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors / Longshots (★★)

PRINCESA MOCHE

- **PTW Profile:** Speed-intensive mare with proven early foot and pace-forcing ability. Recent turf record mixed but capable of controlling races. Model identifies her as important pace factor likely to enforce fractions but vulnerable to superior closers late.
- **Strengths:** Elite early foot proven across multiple races, 4-1 turf win record at distance, capable of winning at this level (08/08/2026 recent stakes win)
- **Concerns:** Recent form inconsistent (mixed finishes), class profile below elite tier, high deceleration patterns in recent routes suggest pace vulnerability, trainer O'Neill graded stakes ROI 0.60x is weak
- **Trip Projection:** Breaks sharp from post 6, challenges Classic Q through fractions, likely duels for lead into stretch. Model projects fatigue late against elite closers.

BUTTERCREAM BABE

- **PTW Profile:** Closing specialist with recent tactical victory supporting late-running profile. Limited sample on turf (13 starts career) creates uncertainty, but recent form trend positive. Model rates her as value-dependent closer.
- **Strengths:** Recent turf win (06/28/2026) demonstrates closing ability, 2 wins from 11 turf starts, trainer Arnold George R II 14% turf ROI, Concepcion recent form solid
- **Concerns:** Small turf sample size creates projection uncertainty; recent layoff 35 days moderate concern; inconsistent form pattern suggests lower tier profile; graded stakes experience absent
- **Trip Projection:** Trails early from post 8, shifts out in stretch and rallies. Model projects modest chances dependent on pace setup and clean racing room.

BLESS THE BROKEN, FAST MARKET (★)

- Model rates both as secondary options with limited winning probability. Bless the Broken shows inconsistent form with visible bounce risk post career-best effort. Fast Market limited turf routing experience (4 starts) creates substantial projection uncertainty.

Section 4: MPH Analysis + Sustained Speed Ratings

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings





Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Classic Q	ELITE	ELITE	Minimal — velocity maintained gate-to-wire
Rashmi	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — controlled acceleration into stretch
Hang the Moon	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — consistent pace maintenance
Vive Veuve	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — late-race velocity collapse detected
Princesa Moche	ELITE	VULNERABLE	Very High — significant speed deterioration
Buttercream Babe	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — finishing velocity consistent
Bless the Broken	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — bounce risk elevated
Fast Market	STRONG	VULNERABLE	High — turf experience too limited

Sustained Speed Ratings Summary

The model identifies two horses with ELITE Sustained Speed Ratings: Classic Q maintains exceptional velocity gate-to-wire with minimal deceleration across the route distance—no horse in this field has matched this consistency. Rashmi registers STRONG sustained speed with controlled acceleration patterns typical of elite closing specialists.

Conversely, the model flags Princesa Moche and Vive Veuve with VULNERABLE ratings. Princesa Moche's recent route performances show significant deceleration in final furlongs—velocity collapsed in three consecutive turf routes, creating bounce risk. Vive Veuve's deceleration profile suggests pace duel exposure that could compromise her late running chances.

Critical MPH Insight

The model identifies Classic Q as the field's fastest gate-to-wire performer with an ELITE Sustained Speed Rating—her opening quarters and maintenance of velocity into the stretch separate her from the field on pure speed metrics. However, the model also projects that Rashmi's STRONG sustained speed rating, combined with her tactical setup advantage in a HOT pace scenario, creates a closing angle that cannot be





ignored. The race hinges on whether Princesa Moche's VULNERABLE speed profile allows the pace to set up correctly for late runners.

Section 5: Improvement & Regression Candidates

Likely to Improve

Rashmi — Model projects significant improvement probability. Trainer Jonathan Thomas demonstrates 25% ROI specifically on the 2-off-45-180 layoff pattern (this is a 42-day layoff, fitting the profile). Her recent form shows bottom-out races followed by improvement cycles. The turf route profile at this distance suits her running style, and the HOT pace scenario creates ideal closing setup. Model confidence: +4-6% win probability improvement vs. static projection.

Buttercream Babe — Improvement candidate based on recent trainer form and distance setup. Arnold George R II shows 14% turf ROI and her recent 06/28/2026 victory demonstrates tactical understanding. Moderate layoff (35 days) combined with turf specialist pattern suggests she's worked into the race. Model projects modest improvement trajectory.

Bounce / Regression Risks

Classic Q — Significant regression risk flagged despite heavy odds-on profile. She is 61 days since last race, approaching the upper boundary of optimal layoff return timing. Casse recent form shows 18.18% win rate (11-2 in 11 starts) at the meet, which is solid but not dominant. Heavy odds compression to 4-5 means she must wire the field to generate ROI. If pressed early by Princesa Moche, deceleration profiles in other elite mares suggest she could be caught.

Vive Veuve — Regression risk elevated. Multiple indicators suggest a form cycle bottom-out is possible: Trainer Sharp Joe 0% KD meet win rate in recent sample; mixed turf form pattern; recent graded company defeats. Model flags her as vulnerable in this spot if recent upswing was temporary.

Bless the Broken — High regression probability. This is her career-best effort window (recent strong performances following pattern typical of 2-3 start peaks). Trainer Cox 29% 2-off-45-180 ROI is strong but does not overcome the cyclical nature of her form. Model projects bounce risk elevated.

Section 6: Suggested Bets

WIN BET: CLASSIC Q — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 4-5 to even

The model projects 28% win probability—highest in the field—making Classic Q the mathematically justified win selection despite the heavy overlay burden. Three model-driven reasons support selection:

1. **Elite Sustained Speed Rating (ELITE):** No horse in this field maintains velocity gate-to-wire like Classic Q. Her 15-5 turf record and consistent winning margins (0.25-2.0 lengths) confirm this edge.





2. **Turf Route Mastery:** 5-9 turf starts won with Mark Casse demonstrating 15% conversion on turf routes. This is elite-level specialization.

3. **Pace Control Advantage:** The model projects a HOT pace scenario that favors early speed. Classic Q will control fractions, dictate tempo, and force closers to overcome in the stretch—historically her strength.

Overlay Assessment: Heavy underlay at 4-5 (55.6% implied). Model win probability of 28% delivers -27.6% edge—this is NOT recommended as a standalone win bet for value players. However, the hardcoded rule demands win bet assignment to highest win% horse. Strong recommendation: use as primary component in multi-race wagers only.

VALUE PLAY: RASHMI — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 5-1 to 7-1

The model projects 16% win probability at 6-1 (14.3% implied), generating +1.7% edge—genuine overlay value. This is the appropriate overlay selection given pace setup and closing profile.

Overlay Rationale: Public is underestimating Rashmi's tactical setup in a HOT pace race. The field's two speed horses will engage early, creating perfect stalking setup for Rashmi's proven closing pattern. Trainer Jonathan Thomas demonstrates 25% ROI on the exact layoff pattern (42 days fits 2-off-45-180). Saez recent form solid (22.22% KD meet win rate). Model projects if Classic Q-Princesa Moche pace duel sets up, Rashmi finds room in stretch and wins 16% of the time.

Edge Assessment: +1.7% represents genuine value play. Recommend box in Pick 3/4 sequences.

LONGSHOT PLAY: VIVE VEUE — Confidence 6/10 — Target odds: 10-1+

The model projects 11% win probability at 10-1 odds (9.1% implied), generating +1.9% edge. Only included if morning line shifts to 10-1 or higher.

Multi-Race Wagers — Pick 3/4/5/6 Top 3

- **A: CLASSIC Q** — 28% (Win Bet selection per hardcoded rule)
- **B: RASHMI** — 16% (Value overlay selection)
- **C: HANG THE MOON** — 15% (Secondary backup)

Combined Top 3 Projected Probability: 59%

Recommended multi-race strategy: Use Classic Q-Rashmi-Hang the Moon as core three-horse combinations. If pairing with other races, the 28%-16% one-two represents the model's highest-confidence angle.

Section 7: Confidence Rating

★★★★





The model's primary projection centers on a HOT pace scenario with Classic Q and Princesa Moche engaging early, creating ideal closing setup for Rashmi. Classic Q's ELITE Sustained Speed Rating supports her technical superiority, but the model recognizes that 4-5 odds eliminate expected value despite her highest win probability. **The public's heavy overlaying of Classic Q creates an underlay scenario** where Rashmi becomes the genuine value play at 6-1+. Hang the Moon represents a secondary option with consistent profile but reduced probability. The model flags significant bounce risk for Bless the Broken and form cycle exposure for Vive Veuve. Confidence is high in the overall ranking structure but hinges on pace cooperation—if early fractions slow materially, closing profile horses gain substantial edge.

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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.

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