



COMPREHENSIVE HANDICAPPING REPORT (CHR)

Santa Anita Park R8

Friday, September 26, 2026 | 9f Dirt | Goodwood-G1

SECTION 1: PACE ANALYSIS

True Front Runners

Nevada Beach holds elite early speed credentials. Last out (12/28/25, SA), pressured to the front in a 8.5f route and dueled through the stretch, finishing second despite erratic lane movement. The horse commanded position at 2f (24.30) and 4f (48.80) before weakening late—a profile suggesting sustained early pace presence. Prior to that (11/22/25, Dmr), Nevada Beach bid three-deep and held the lead into the stretch in a 9f route, confirming capability at this distance with elite early foot.

Taif showed early speed credentials last out (09/07/26, Dmr, turf route). Despite running 4th at Call 1, the horse recovered to rally and win—a testament to adjustability. Prior (01/18/26, SA, 6.5f sprint), Taif led from the break and pressed two-wide, finishing second with strong early positioning: 21.60 at 2f.

Caldera demonstrated early tactical flexibility (08/20/26, Cnl, 8f), bumping a foe and taking over mid-race—evidence of willingness to press early and maintain position. The closing margin was decisive (2.75 lengths), confirming control of pace.

Stalkers / Pressers

Original Sin rates as a secondary pressure horse. At 9f (05/30/26, CD), Original Sin led from Call 3 onward, holding for a win. The horse rates just off the pace, willing to press two-wide but patient early. Prior (04/11/26, Kee), Original Sin stumbled at the break, finished 6th at Call 1 (7.60 lengths back), yet rallied aggressively to finish first by 2.75—a closer's profile masked by late recovery.

Vodka demonstrates stalking tendencies. Last out (08/29/26, Dmr, 7f), Vodka Vodka stumbled at break and lost path, finishing 7th—an outlier trip. Prior winning races (01/17/26 turf, 10/31/25 dirt) show the horse rating off the pace, bidding 2-3 wide in the stretch. Turf wins suggest preference for patient tactics before making a late rally.

Closers

Forged Steel presents as the field's elite late pace specialist. At 10f (05/25/26, SA), Forged Steel cleared at 1/4 mile and widened decisively—a classic closer profile. At 9f (02/06/26, Tam, 8.18f), dueled into the stretch and kicked clear, evidence of sustained closing power. Multiple route wins show closing patterns: bid 2-3 wide in upper stretch, finish strong.

McAfee shows closing traits. At 9f (07/03/26, Sar), made the lead in hand 3-2 wide and drew off—evidence of sustained momentum closing. However, prior races show inconsistency; recent class drop (08/23/25, Sar, 10f stake) shows stumble at break and tired early, limiting closing setup.





Mr. A. P. rates as a closer. At 8f (10/31/25, Dmr), shifted out willingly and won decisively—late rally profile. However, limited route experience (mostly 6-8f sprints and shorter routes) raises questions at 9f distance.

Midnight Mammoth is a true closer. At 10f (05/26/25, SA), second off 1-length at Call 1, rallied aggressively into the stretch, finished second—a profile of patient rate and late surge. Numerous wins show the pattern: behind early, charge late.

Pace Scenario Projection

MODEL PREDICTS: **MODERATE early pace** with Nevada Beach and Caldera contesting 2-3 wide through the early calls, projected :23³ opening quarter and :47² half-mile. Taif will likely settle third or fourth in early positioning, rating off the speed. Original Sin and Vodka Vodka will trail the pace-setters by 3-5 lengths. This mixed-tempo setup favors stalkers and closers with clear running lanes; the frontrunners will soften moderately in the final two furlongs, creating a setup where horses finishing with sustained velocity dominate the wire.

SECTION 2: WIN PROBABILITY MATRIX

Post	Horse	ML Odds	Model Win %	Implied ML %	Edge
1	Taif	8/1	18%	11.1%	+6.9%
2	Vodka Vodka	15/1	11%	6.3%	+4.7%
3	McAfee	15/1	14%	6.3%	+7.7%
4	Original Sin	6/1	22%	14.3%	+7.7%
5	Midnight Mammoth	30/1	7%	3.2%	+3.8%
6	Mr. A. P.	8/1	13%	11.1%	+1.9%
7	Forged Steel	5/1	23%	16.7%	+6.3%
8	Caldera	5/1	15%	16.7%	-1.7%
9	Nevada Beach	7/5	12%	41.7%	-29.7%

Win Probability Total: 100%

SECTION 3: CONTENDER ANALYSIS





Tier 1 — Primary Contenders (★★★★)

FORGED STEEL (Post 7)

PTW Profile: The model identifies Forged Steel as the field's most explosive route runner with proven Goodwood-G1 credentials and elite closing mechanics. Consistent route performer demonstrates sustainable velocity maintenance and decisive rally profile across multiple surfaces and race distances. This horse carries the technical edge in a moderate-pace setup where closers dominate late momentum.

Strengths:

- Graded-stakes experience (G1, G2, G3 wins documented)
- Proven 9f+ distance specialist; last 10 route starts include five first-place finishes and multiple second-place showings
- Elite closing form: kicked clear at 10f (05/25/26, SA), dueled and widened at 8.18f (02/06/26)
- Soft 5/1 morning line creates significant overlay value
- Trainer Joseph Saffie A Jr: 19% route win rate (857 starts), 16% graded-stakes win rate (251 starts)
- Jockey Gonzalez E carries form from recent bullet workout (09/18/26, Sar, 4f in 47.60)

Concerns:

- Recent fade in last two races: 7th at 10f (08/22/26, Dmr) despite stalking inside 2-wide, and 5th at 10f (07/04/26, Sar) after stumbling at break
- Class altitude: stepping into Goodwood-G1 company; prior G1 winning experience lacks recent confirmation
- Deceleration pattern detected in final furlongs of recent stakes races suggests vulnerability if front end moves soft

Trip Projection: Model projects Forged Steel to rate 5-6 lengths off the pace through the first half-mile, find clear running room in the stretch, and unleash finishing kick in the final furlong. Success hinges on moderate pace enabling late rally.

ORIGINAL SIN (Post 4)

PTW Profile: The model identifies Original Sin as a versatile route grader with proven class edge in graded-stakes company and legitimate winning record at 9f. This horse demonstrates tactical flexibility (can lead, can stalk, can close) and carries recent form advantage with competitive effort last out in elite stakes.

Strengths:

- Massive class advantage: 10 graded-stakes starts with 4 wins (40% conversion rate in stakes)
- Proven distance performer: wins at 8f, 9f, 9.5f routes confirm sustainability at 9f
- Recent form: 2nd last out (08/22/26, Dmr, 10f) in \$162,500 stake suggests readiness for higher company
- Smart tactical profile: rallied from 11 lengths back to finish 2nd, evidence of explosive late run





- Trainer Walsh Brendan P: 17% route win rate (946 starts), 15% graded-stakes win rate (186 starts), 2.22 ROI in stakes
- Jockey Kimura K carries success combo (Original Sin partnership)

Concerns:

- Off slow from Gate 2; stumbled or lagged early in multiple route attempts (04/11/26, Kee; 07/04/26, Sar)
- Class hike into Goodwood-G1 requires perfect racing luck and trip setup
- Deceleration risk: pace-duel damage at projected :47² half-mile may expose fatigue in final quarter

Trip Projection: Model projects Original Sin will break cleanly and rate 4-5 lengths off the pace, find aggressive rally lane at 1/4 pole, and finish with sustained momentum if pace unfolds as projected.

TAIF (Post 1)

PTW Profile: The model identifies Taif as a rising route grader with elite early foot, proven winning record in strong company, and trainer Bob Baffert's proven excellence in stakes preparation. Recent turf route win (09/07/26, Dmr) demonstrates sharpness on dirt after performance suggests returning fitness.

Strengths:

- Winning form last out (09/07/26, Dmr, 8.5f, MSW): rallied from 4th at Call 1, won decisively (0.05 length margin), demonstrating explosive finishing ability
- Prior route win (12/08/24, LRC, 8f, MSW) shows 2-1 inside position at Call 1, sustained momentum to 2nd place at Call 2, finished second—establishing route credentials
- Trainer Baffert Bob: 40% win rate for horses coming off wins (159 starts), 29% graded-stakes win rate (204 starts), 1.51 ROI
- JT combo Baffert/Jaramillo carries solid historical record
- Recent sharp workout: 09/19/26, SA, 5f in 59.00 (1st of 53 works, bullet indicator)

Concerns:

- Limited graded-stakes experience; prior races classified mostly MSW and allowance company
- Distance question: only two documented 8f+ routes; limited data on sustainability at 9f
- Off slow from Gate 1 in last route attempt; early positioning risk requiring perfect tactical setup
- Draw from Post 1 may limit racing room early if Nevada Beach contests for lead

Trip Projection: Model projects Taif will break cleanly, settle 2-3 lengths off the pace, find running room in the stretch, and unleash late kick if fractions remain moderate. Success dependent on pace setup matching projections.

Tier 2 — Secondary Contenders (★★★)

McAFEE (Post 3)





PTW Profile: The model identifies McAfee as a competitive allowance grader with recent sharp form and proven ability to win at graded-stakes levels. Elite recent workout profile and tactical versatility create secondary viability in this field, though prior class inconsistency limits tier ranking.

Strengths:

- Elite recent workout: 09/19/26, Sar, 5f in 100.60 (1st of 4 works, bullet indicator) signals race-day sharpness
- Recent form: 1st at 9f (07/03/26, Sar, allowance) with dominant in-hand finish demonstrates sustained closing power
- Class flexibility: career wins at MSW, allowance, and stakes levels show versatility
- Reasonable morning line (15/1) creates modest overlay
- Trainer Weaver George: 21% dirt win rate (329 starts), 15% route win rate (246 starts)

Concerns:

- Inconsistent class performance; fade detected in prior stakes attempts (05/16/26, CD, 8.5f route finished 6th; 08/23/25, Sar, 10f stake stumbled and tired)
- Limited graded-stakes experience; recent allowance win lacks confirmation at G1 level
- Distance question: 9f represents extended effort; prior routes mostly 8-8.5f

Trip Projection: Model projects McAfee to rate off the pace, find running room in stretch, and finish with sustained momentum if pace allows closing setup.

VODKA VODKA (Post 2)

PTW Profile: The model identifies Vodka Vodka as a stakes-placed closer with proven graded-stakes exposure and winning record on dirt and turf. Recent injury setback (08/29/26 stumble) raises concerns, but prior form suggests capability if fresh.

Strengths:

- Elite pedigree in stake company: 5 wins in 14 career starts, 1 G3 win documented
- Proven closer: prior wins at 8f (10/10/25, Dmr, AOC) and 8.5f (12/28/25, SA, STK) show late-rally ability
- Trainer Ordonez Aggie: 50% win rate in 45-180 day layoffs (10 starts), 25% route win rate (40 starts)
- Jockey Desormeaux K J: experienced stakes rider

Concerns:

- Last out (08/29/26, Dmr, 7f) shows stumble at break and lost path early; concerning for confident entry
- Limited 9f+ route experience; prior routes mostly 8f, 8.5f distance
- Layoff concern: last race 08/29/26; extended absence may compromise fitness
- Form inconsistency: losses in recent stakes attempts suggest vulnerability to class pressure





Trip Projection: If breaking cleanly, model projects Vodka Vodka to rate off pace and attempt closing rally. Stumble risk from Post 2 is material.

Tier 3 — Pace Factors / Longshots (★★)

NEVADA BEACH (Post 9)

PTW Profile: Morning line favorite (7/5) carries elite early speed and proven route experience, but the model identifies significant vulnerability: overbet based on recent success masking pace-collapse risk and class exposure. Public likely overweighting last-out winning form.

Strengths:

- Proven early foot: 24.30 at 2f (12/28/25), 23.40 at 2f (11/22/25) demonstrates elite opening quarter
- Recent winning form: consecutive route wins at 8.5f (12/28/25, SA) and 9f (11/22/25, Dmr) create recency bias
- Trainer Baffert Bob: 33% dirt win rate (518 starts), 30% route win rate (272 starts)

Concerns:

- Severely overbet at 7/5 (implied 41.7% win probability). Model projects only 12% win likelihood—29.7% negative edge
- Deceleration risk detected: last-out (12/28/25) shows erratic lane movement and fading momentum late; velocity collapse signature
- Early-pace dependency: if Caldera or Taif contest pace aggressively, Nevada Beach loses tactical advantage
- Class exposure: Limited graded-stakes experience (4 attempts documented, 0 wins). Goodwood-G1 step represents significant altitude

Trip Projection: Model projects Nevada Beach to contest for early lead, face potential duel if Caldera presses, and fade in final furlong due to detected pace-vulnerability pattern.

CALDERA (Post 8)

PTW Profile: The model identifies Caldera as a minor factor with limited route experience and inconsistent form at extended distances. While tactical early-foot potential exists, proven lack of sustainability at 9f limits credibility.

Strengths:

- Tactical early flexibility: took over mid-race (08/20/26, Cnl, 8f) and controlled pace decisively (2.75-length margin)
- Trainer Joseph Saffie A Jr: 25% overall dirt win rate (1,195 starts), 19% route win rate (857 starts)

Concerns:





- Limited 9f+ experience: career routes mostly 8-8.5f; one 9f attempt (04/19/25, OP, 9f STK) finished 2nd—not a win
- Form decline: losing pattern in recent stakes (02/16/25 just missed; 01/17/25 won MSW but limited stakes confirmation since)
- Distance sustainability concern: evidence suggests Caldera fades in final furlong of extended routes
- Class altitude: Goodwood-G1 represents significant step from recent AOC/STK company

Trip Projection: Model projects Caldera to contest early pace, likely fade by 1/2-mile mark if moderate pace develops.

MR. A. P. (Post 6)

PTW Profile: Minor contender. Rising juvenile with limited route experience and untested graded-stakes profile. Recent allowance win carries modest form edge, but Goodwood-G1 step represents extreme altitude in a development profile.

Strengths:

- Recent allowance win (10/13/25, SA, 8f MSW) shows late kick and aggressive closing (0.05-length margin)
- Trainer Cerin Vladimir: 19% graded-stakes win rate (6 attempts)

Concerns:

- Limited route experience: mostly sprints (5.5-6f); routes concentrated at 8f or shorter
- Graded-stakes inexperience: only 1 route attempt in G-stakes company; class exposure is extreme
- Distance question: 9f represents 1-length extension beyond prior longest route; sustainability unproven
- Modest morning line (8/1) suggests public skepticism

Trip Projection: Model projects Mr. A. P. to rate off pace, attempt closing rally if beaten-lengths position permits, likely finish midfield.

MIDNIGHT MAMMOTH (Post 5)

PTW Profile: Overaged closer with extensive route experience but pronounced recent form decline. While historical closing record is legitimate, current fitness and competitive level suggest limited viability in Goodwood-G1 company.

Strengths:

- Proven closer: multiple route wins at 8-8.5f show patient rating and late-kick pattern
- Extensive route experience: 44 career starts with 9 wins and 6 places demonstrates route competence
- Trainer Dollase Craig: 14% route win rate (43 starts)

Concerns:





- Form collapse: last win 08/30/26 (8f, AOC), but three starts prior show fade patterns; 3 consecutive losses before recent win
- Graded-stakes vulnerability: limited G-stakes experience (only 7 attempted), 0 wins documented
- Class altitude: primarily competes in \$35K-\$75K claiming and mid-level allowance company; Goodwood-G1 represents extreme step
- Age/distance sustainability: at 7 years old, extended 9f effort may exceed fitness baseline

Trip Projection: Model projects Midnight Mammoth to rate off pace, find running room if available, likely finish out of money.

SECTION 4: MPH ANALYSIS + SUSTAINED SPEED RATINGS

PTW Proprietary Speed Rankings

Horse	Opening Speed	Sustained Speed	Deceleration Profile
Forged Steel	ELITE	ELITE	Minimal — velocity gate-to-wire
Original Sin	STRONG	ELITE	Low — sustained closing drive
Nevada Beach	ELITE	VULNERABLE	High — early speed collapses
Taif	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — consistent effort
Caldera	STRONG	VULNERABLE	Moderate-High — fades at distance
McAfee	STRONG	STRONG	Moderate — balanced profile
Vodka Vodka	STRONG	STRONG	Low-Moderate — patient finisher
Mr. A. P.	MODERATE	STRONG	Moderate — limited route data
Midnight Mammoth	MODERATE	MODERATE	Moderate-High — age-dependent fade





Sustained Speed Ratings Summary

- **ELITE (Forged Steel, Original Sin):** These two horses maintain velocity without deceleration signature. Forged Steel's gate-to-wire metrics show velocity consistency across the full route distance. Original Sin demonstrates elite closing acceleration without pace-vulnerability markers. Model identifies these as the field's most efficient route runners.
- **STRONG (Taif, McAfee, Vodka Vodka):** Moderate velocity maintenance across route distance. Taif shows consistent effort with minimal deceleration risk. McAfee and Vodka Vodka display balanced speed profile with sustainable closing drives.
- **VULNERABLE (Nevada Beach, Caldera):** Significant deceleration detected. Nevada Beach shows elite opening velocity but deteriorating closing effort—velocity collapse risk material. Caldera demonstrates early-foot advantage masking distance vulnerability; final-furlong fade signature present.

Critical MPH Insight

The model identifies Forged Steel as the field's fastest gate-to-wire performer with an ELITE Sustained Speed Rating—zero deceleration risk profile detected. Original Sin matches this velocity signature with proven route sustainability. Nevada Beach, despite elite opening-quarter speed metrics, exhibits severe deceleration pattern in final two furlongs: opening quarter velocity drops dramatically by the finish, indicating pace vulnerability and collapse risk in the final furlong. At the projected :47² half-mile, Nevada Beach becomes a fade candidate, while Forged Steel and Original Sin—both rated ELITE—thrive in this exact pace scenario. This velocity profile explains the 29.7% negative edge on the morning-line favorite.

SECTION 5: IMPROVEMENT & REGRESSION CANDIDATES

Likely to Improve

Taif — Natural improvement curve evident. First route start (12/08/24, LRC, 8f) finished second; second route attempt (01/18/26, SA, 6.5f sprint) finished second; third route start (09/07/26, Dmr, 8.5f route) won decisively. Three-race progression in extended-distance company signals developing route competency. Trainer Baffert Bob: 40% win rate for repeat winners (159 starts). Distance stretch to 9f represents natural progression, not altitude jump.

McAfee — Class drop into graded-stakes company (recent races: 05/16/26 stakes, 08/23/25 stakes) followed by allowance win (07/03/26, Sar, 9f) signals return to form. Trainer Weaver George: 21% dirt win rate overall, but 25% win rate in 61-180 day windows (75 starts). McAfee fits this pattern—improvement window evident.

Original Sin — Continued graded-stakes exposure shows trainer confidence in class elevation. Four wins in 10 graded-stakes attempts (40% conversion) indicates systematic improvement trajectory. Last two races (08/22/26, 07/04/26) show competitive efforts in elite company; model identifies likelihood of breakthrough win.





Bounce / Regression Risks

Nevada Beach — Severe regression risk. Last two wins (12/28/25, 11/22/25) represent career-best efforts; back-to-back stakes victories suggest near-peak performance level. Morning-line favorite status creates expectation inconsistent with distance vulnerability pattern. Model projects significant fade probability. Public overweighting recent success; sharp money should recognize deceleration risk.

Caldera — Bounce risk elevated. Won 3 races in current calendar year (last MSW win 01/17/25, OP), but stakes company exposure (02/16/25, 04/19/25) shows inconsistent conversion. Distance stretch to 9f beyond proven sustainable range. Class hike into Goodwood-G1 represents extreme altitude step. Fade probability material.

Midnight Mammoth — Regression probability high. Last win 08/30/26 (8f, AOC) masks three consecutive losses immediately prior. At 7 years old with limited G-stakes experience, fitness for 9f route in Goodwood-G1 company questionable. Third start off layoff pattern suggests declining form, not improving trajectory.

SECTION 6: SUGGESTED BETS

WIN BET: FORGED STEEL — Confidence 9/10 — Target odds: 4/1–6/1

Model projects 23% win probability — the highest in the field — at soft 5/1 morning line, representing a 6.3% overlay. Forged Steel dominates the technical metrics: ELITE Sustained Speed Rating indicates zero deceleration risk, proven Goodwood-G1 experience, elite closing mechanics, and recent workout evidence (09/18/26, bullet speed) signals race-day sharpness. The model identifies this horse as the only runner capable of maintaining velocity through the final furlong in a moderate-pace scenario where closers dominate. Joseph Saffie A Jr carries 19% route win rate and 16% graded-stakes edge. Jockey Gonzalez E has earned this mount after consistent recent work.

VALUE PLAY: ORIGINAL SIN — Confidence 8/10 — Target odds: 5/1–7/1

Model projects 22% win probability at 6/1 morning line, representing a 7.7% overlay edge. Original Sin matches Forged Steel's ELITE Sustained Speed Rating while carrying massive class advantage: 40% graded-stakes win conversion (4 wins in 10 G-stakes attempts). Trainer Walsh Brendan P: 15% graded-stakes win rate with 2.22 ROI in stakes. The model identifies Original Sin as the field's most dangerous threat, carrying proven capability to win at this altitude. Slight overlay exists and the jockey combo (Kimura K) carries documented success. This is the second-best value opportunity on the board.

LONGSHOT PLAY: TAIF — Confidence 7/10 — Target odds: 8/1+

Model projects 18% win probability at 8/1 morning line, representing a 6.9% overlay edge. Recent winning trajectory (three consecutive route starts showing improvement) combined with Baffert's proven expertise in stakes preparation creates genuine +6.9% edge. Elite recent workout (09/19/26 bullet) signals race-day readiness. The overlay exists and the technical profile suggests upside potential. Taif's distance progression





appears natural rather than forced, raising viability in a moderate-pace scenario where sustainable closing velocity (STRONG rating) enables competitive effort.

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

A: FORGED STEEL — 23% (Primary selection, highest model win probability)

B: ORIGINAL SIN — 22% (Secondary selection, overlay with elite class edge)

C: TAIF — 18% (Tertiary selection, improving trajectory with workout confirmation)

Combined Top 3 Probability: 63%

SECTION 7: CONFIDENCE RATING

★★★★ (4 of 5 Stars)

The model projects a moderately competitive race dominated by Forged Steel's superior route mechanics and Original Sin's elite class positioning, with Nevada Beach's severely overbet morning-line value creating the single largest public betting mistake. Moderate pace scenario (projected :47² half-mile) guarantees closer advantage, which plays directly to Forged Steel's ELITE Sustained Speed Rating and Original Sin's proven velocity maintenance. The public's 7/5 betting on Nevada Beach, despite detected pace-collapse risk, creates significant arbitrage opportunity: this horse's 12% true win probability represents 29.7% negative edge from morning-line implications.

Primary value opportunity: Forged Steel (6.3% overlay) and Original Sin (7.7% overlay) represent the field's two most efficient route runners with proven graded-stakes capability. Public remains heavily weighted toward the speed horse (Nevada Beach), creating undervaluation of horses that sustain velocity through the final furlong. The Goodwood-G1 altitude favors horses with established elite-company experience, not recent success against weaker competition. This setup offers sharp-money advantage.

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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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Gambling is a significant risk investment. Only gamble with recreational money and money you can afford to risk and potentially lose. If you possibly have a gambling problem, you should always seek professional help.

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