

CHURCHILL DOWNS - September 16, 2026 - Race 4

CLAIMING - Thoroughbred
FOR THREE YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD. Three Year Olds, 120 lbs.; Older, 124 lbs. Non-winners Of A Race At A Mile Or Over Since August 16 Allowed 2 lbs. Claiming Price \$32,000 (Races Where Entered For \$25,000 Or Less Not Considered In Allowances). **Claiming Price:** \$32,000

Distance: One And One Sixteenth Miles On The Dirt **Current Track Record:** (Fierceness - 1:40.66 - May 2, 2025)

Purse: \$71,000

Includes: \$8,400 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund

Available Money: \$71,000

Value of Race: \$67,076 1st \$40,096, 2nd \$14,200, 3rd \$7,100, 4th \$3,550, 5th \$2,130

Weather: Clear, 85° **Track:** Fast

Off at: 2:14 **Start:** Good for all **Timing Method:** Electronic

EQUIBASE

[Video Race Replay](#)

[GPS Race Chart](#)

Last Raced	Pgm	Horse Name (Jockey)	Wgt	M/E	PP	Start	1/4	1/2	3/4	Str	Fin	Odds	Comments
18Jul26 ⁴ ELP ⁶	3	Dai Vernon (Saez, Luis)	122	L	bf	2 3	5	⁴ Head	5	⁴ 1/2	¹ 2 ³ 4	3.74	strong 4 wide rally
26Jul26 ³ ELP ⁵	6	Smoken Boy (Emigh, Christopher)	122	L		4 1	² 1	² 1/2	² 1	¹ 1/2	² 3/4	18.39	fwd, clear 1/8, caught
26Jul26 ⁵ CNL ⁴	1	Bestfriend Rocket (Morales, Edgar)	122	L	b	1 2	³ 1/2	³ 1/2	⁴ 1	³ 1	³ 1	3.61	waited 5/16ths,ins bid
1Mar25 ¹⁰ SA ⁵	7	J B Strikes Back (Machado, Luan)	122	L	b	5 5	¹ 1 ¹ 2	¹ 1	¹ Head	² 1/2	⁴ 2 ¹ 4	2.41	clr far turn, gave way
17Jun26 ⁹ CD ¹⁰	5	California Burrito (Torres, Cristian)	122	L		3 4	⁴ 1	5	³ Head	5	5	1.27*	bid far turn, empty

Fractional Times: 24.26 48.66 1:13.09 1:37.98 **Final Time:** 1:44.23 **Time from Gate:** 1:46.31

Split Times: (24:40) (24:43) (24:89) (6:25)

Run-Up: 50 feet

Winner: Dai Vernon, Chestnut Gelding, by Good Magic out of Charladora, by Scat Daddy. Foaled Jan 21, 2020 in Kentucky.

Breeder: Don Alberto Corporation

Owner: Sargent, Michele and Sargent, Lawrence E.

Trainer: David, Carlos

2 Claimed Horse(s): **Bestfriend Rocket** New Trainer: Matthew P. Sims New Owner: Patrick K. Botner
J B Strikes Back New Trainer: Ron Moquett New Owner: Bald Chew Racing, LLC

Claiming Prices: 3 - Dai Vernon: \$32,000; 6 - Smoken Boy: \$32,000; 1 - Bestfriend Rocket: \$32,000; 7 - J B Strikes Back: \$32,000; 5 - California Burrito: \$32,000;

Scratched Horse(s): Curlin's Malibu (PrivVet-Injured), Real Fast (PrivVet-Illness)

Total WPS Pool: \$83,649

Pgm	Horse	Win	Place	Show	Wager Type	Winning Numbers	Payoff	Pool
3	Dai Vernon	9.48	4.96	3.68	\$2.00 Exacta	3-6	98.84	52,149
6	Smoken Boy		10.28	3.70	\$0.50 Trifecta	3-6-1	68.22	28,722
1	Bestfriend Rocket			2.44	\$1.00 Daily Double	3-3	12.18	19,904
					\$0.50 Pick 3	5-3-3 (3 correct)	29.01	20,196
					\$0.50 Consolation Pick 3	5-7-3 (3 correct)	8.59	0

Past Performance Running Line Preview

Pgm	Horse Name	Start	1/4	1/2	3/4	Str	Fin
3	Dai Vernon	3	⁵ 4	⁴ 2	⁵ 2 ¹ 4	⁴ 2	¹ 2 ³ 4
6	Smoken Boy	1	² 1 ¹ 2	² 1	² Head	¹ 1/2	² 2 ³ 4
1	Bestfriend Rocket	2	³ 2 ¹ 2	³ 1 ¹ 2	⁴ 1 ¹ 4	³ 1	³ 3 ¹ 2
7	J B Strikes Back	5	¹ 1 ¹ 2	¹ 1	¹ Head	² 1/2	⁴ 4 ¹ 2
5	California Burrito	4	⁴ 3	⁵ 2	³ 1	⁵ 2 ¹ 2	⁵ 6 ³ 4

Trainers: 3 - David, Carlos; 6 - Vanden Berg, Brittany; 1 - Blair, Jordan; 7 - O'Neill, Doug; 5 - Drury, Jr., Thomas

Owners: 3 - Sargent, Michele and Sargent, Lawrence E.; 6 -Wayne Sommers; 1 -Craig Peerenboom; 7 - Purple Rein Racing (Buss); 5 - Haberman, Aaron and Haberman, Victoria;

Footnotes | [View Glossary Of Terms](#)

DAI VERNON reserved in the early going, advanced between foes up the back stretch run, rallied while four wide in the stretch and responded to steady pressure to prevail. SMOKEN BOY led early, remained in contention around the far turn, went clear at the eighth pole but was caught inside of the sixteenth pole. BESTFRIEND ROCKET saved ground, waited for a seam on the far turn, was angled in back in to take aim and offered a bid. J B STRIKES BACK gained the lead around the first turn, led clearly into the far turn, was headed turning for home and gave way. CALIFORNIA BURRITO settled while three wide, lodged a brief bid on the far turn, went four wide into the stretch and came up empty.