

CHURCHILL DOWNS - September 26, 2026 - Race 2

STARTER ALLOWANCE - Thoroughbred
FOR THREE YEAR OLDS AND UPWARD WHICH HAVE STARTED FOR A CLAIMING PRICE OF \$20,000 OR LESS IN 2025 - 2026. Three Year Olds, 120 lbs.; Older, 123 lbs. Non-winners Of A Race Since August 26 Allowed 2 lbs. (Races Where Entered For \$20,000 Or Less Not Considered In Allowances). (C) **Claiming Price:** \$20,000 - \$0
Distance: Six Furlongs On The Dirt **Current Track Record:** (Indian Chant - 1:07.55 - July 8, 2007)
Purse: \$76,000
Includes: \$8,900 KTDF - Kentucky TB Devt Fund
Available Money: \$76,000
Value of Race: \$68,016 1st \$40,916, 2nd \$13,420, 3rd \$7,600, 4th \$3,800, 5th \$2,280
Weather: Clear, 74° **Track:** Fast
Off at: 1:17 **Start:** Good for all **Timing Method:** Electronic

Last Raced	Pgm	Horse Name (Jockey)	Wgt	M/E	PP	Start	1/4	1/2	Str	Fin	Odds	Comments
12Jul26 ⁸ ELP ²	2	Defending Albert (Arrieta, Francisco)	121	L b	2	1	2 ^{1/2}	2 ¹	1 ^{1/2}	1 ^{1 1/2}	3.47	2wbtw,duel,drft,cleard
22Aug26 ⁴ ELP ⁴	6	Margin of Air (Ortiz, Jose) VA CERTIFIED	121	L b	5	4	5	5	5	2 ^{Neck}	7.63	4p,6-7p upr,late gain
22Aug26 ⁷ CNL ⁴	4	Cool Cowboy (Saez, Luis)	121	L bf	3	5	3 ²	3 ^{1 1/2}	3 ^{1/2}	3 ^{Neck}	8.00	prmppt 3w,shft in,outkk
19Aug26 ⁴ SAR ⁷	1	Gardiner (Gaffalione, Tyler)	121	L b	1	3	1 ^{1/2}	1 ^{Head}	2 ^{1 1/2}	4 ^{3/4}	4.68	ins pair,dueld,yielded
16Aug26 ⁸ ELP ¹	5	Show Time (Bejarano, Rafael)	121	L	4	2	4 ¹	4 ²	4 ¹	5	0.70*	trk 2p,5-6p upr,no bid

Fractional Times: 22.70 45.70 57.49 **Final Time:** 1:09.90 **Time from Gate:** 1:11.75
Split Times: (23:00) (11:79) (12:41)
Run-Up: 40 feet

Winner: Defending Albert, Gray or Roan Gelding, by Practical Joke out of Jetbird, by Wildcat Heir. Foaled May 15, 2022 in Kentucky.
Breeder: Burton Johnson
Owner: Schroer, Cathy and Schroer, Paul
Trainer: Watkins, James

Scratched Horse(s): Coach Cronin (RegVet-Unsound), Shadow Coast (PrivVet-Illness)

Total WPS Pool: \$202,459

Pgm	Horse	Win	Place	Show	Wager Type	Winning Numbers	Payoff	Pool
2	Defending Albert	8.94	5.08	5.64	\$2.00 Exacta	2-6	51.94	125,421
6	Margin of Air		5.98	5.00	\$0.50 Trifecta	2-6-4	64.60	53,432
4	Cool Cowboy			6.28	\$1.00 Daily Double	3-2	23.92	75,801
					\$1.00 Consolation Double	3-3	4.82	0

Past Performance Running Line Preview

Pgm	Horse Name	Start	1/4	1/2	Str	Fin
2	Defending Albert	1	2 ^{1/2}	2 ^{Head}	1 ^{1/2}	1 ^{1 1/2}
6	Margin of Air	4	5 ⁴	5 ^{4 1/2}	5 ^{3 1/2}	2 ^{1 1/2}
4	Cool Cowboy	5	3 ¹	3 ¹	3 ²	3 ^{1 3/4}
1	Gardiner	3	1 ^{1/2}	1 ^{Head}	2 ^{1/2}	4 ²
5	Show Time	2	4 ³	4 ^{2 1/2}	4 ^{2 1/2}	5 ^{2 3/4}

Trainers: 2 - Watkins, James; 6 - Jacobson, David; 4 - Simms, Jr., Mark; 1 - Sharp, Joe; 5 - Jacobson, David

Owners: 2 - Schroer, Cathy and Schroer, Paul; 6 -Lawrence P. Roman; 4 - Dark Knight Racing; 1 - Stable 323; 5 -David Jacobson;

Footnotes | [View Glossary Of Terms](#)

DEFENDING ALBERT vied two wide and between horses into and around the turn, dueled with his inner counterpart while floating to the three to four path in upper stretch, forged an advantage leaving the three sixteenths pole then drifted out subtly while driving clear. MARGIN OF AIR trailed along the inside before shifting out to the four path into the turn, fanned out to the six then seven path in upper stretch then rallied with a late gain to reach place in the closing stages. COOL COWBOY prompted outside of the top pair, failed to sustain pressure while being floated to the four path entering the lane, shifted inwardly while sustaining pursuit in the final furlong, issued a rebid for place but got outkicked. GARDINER led narrowly inside of an outer pair into and around the turn, dueled with his most immediate counterpart whlie moving off of the inside in upper stretch, got headed passing the three sixteenths pole then yielded between horses in the final furlong. SHOW TIME tracked from the two path, chased in the five to six path in upper stretch and lacked a bid.

VA CERTIFIED Denotes Virginia-Certified Thoroughbred