

Conversational

Stewards Summary

Review of race:

Conversational was racing near the front, made a slight lead leaving the quarter pole, then unseated her rider nearing the 1/16 pole. Conversational was caught just past the finish line and required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians and the horse ambulance.

Trainer:

Michael McCarthy stated that he had the filly in training at Churchill Downs for about 3 months prior to this race but was very familiar with the family as he had previously trained the dam of Conversational. The filly was prepped at a farm in Ocala, and McCarthy said that he had visited the farm multiple times to see her prior to her arrival to him at the racetrack. He stated that the horse, who had made one previous start at Ellis Park in July, was always healthy and sound and required very little vet work. McCarthy commented that he thought the racing surface at Churchill had been a little deeper than in previous years but declined to speculate that it was a contributing factor.

Jockey:

John Velazquez stated that he had never been aboard the filly in a morning workout or in a race. He said that he was pleased with the way the filly warmed up in the post parade. Velazquez said that the filly broke sharply and was traveling perfect when the incident occurred with no warning. He commented that the surface seemed good and did not think it was a factor in the incident.

Veterinary Review

- This 2-year-old filly, owned by Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, and trained by Michael McCarthy, ran at Churchill Downs on August 13, 2022 in a Maiden Special Weight race. This race was run at 6 furlongs over a fast main course.
- This filly was racing near the lead when she suffered a catastrophic injury near the finish line. The KHRC veterinarian and the horse ambulance responded. The filly was sedated and examined. Due to the extent of her injuries and a poor prognosis the horse was euthanized.
- The body was submitted to the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for necropsy.

Review of pre-race exam findings and exam history

- A review of pre-race exam findings for the Case horse and unaffected cohorts (Controls) from the same race was performed. These horses were lightly campaigned in their racing careers. Pre-race exam findings were consistent with horses at this stage of their careers. All horses in this race were deemed sound in the pre-race exams with no gait abnormalities noted. Scrutiny during the warmup on track prior to the race revealed no gait abnormalities.

Review of the 60-day treatment report

The trainer's veterinarian provided veterinary records for the previous 60 days. Veterinary work was minimal and routine.

Analysis of risk factors and other criteria (case horse compared to uninjured cohorts)

- Age at first start
Case horse: 804 days
Controls range: 771-920 days
Controls mean: 835 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 746 days
Controls range: 617-834 days
Controls mean: 753 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age on 8/13/2022
Case horse: 826 days
Controls range: 809-933 days
Controls mean: 863 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?
Case horse: Yes
Controls horses: No: 8/9, Yes: 1/9
- Horse acquired through claim?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/9
- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 80 days
Controls range: 39-220 days
Controls mean: 110 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)
Case horse: 38.5 f
Controls range: 29.5-53.5 f
Controls mean: 42.1 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.

- High speed furlongs per day in training (Day 1=date of 1st published work)
Case horse: .481 f/day
Control horses range: .243-756 f/day
Control mean: .440 f/day
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Interval from previous start
Case horse: 22days
Control horses range: 6-43 days
Control horses mean: 22 days
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- First time starter?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 7/9, Yes: 2/9
- Apprentice Jockey?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/9
- Drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/9, Yes: 1/9
- Double drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/9, Yes, 1/9
- Raise in class from previous start?
Case horse: Yes
Control horses: No: 5/9, Yes: 4/9
- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 9/9
- Number of starts in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 6/9, 1: 2/9, 2: 1/9
- Number of starts in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 2/9, 1: 5/9, 2: 2/9

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 13.5 f
Control horses range: 9-22.2 f
Control horses mean: 14.2 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 29.5 f
Control horses range: 18-33 f
Control horses mean: 25.7 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 7/9, 1: 2/9
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/9
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/9
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: N/A
Control horses range N/A
Control horses mean: N/A
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/9

Review of necropsy and Drug Testing results

- **Drug testing:** No prohibited substances detected. No therapeutic medication detected above regulatory threshold concentrations.

Note: Only blood was submitted for analysis. Urine collection does not usually occur for horses euthanized. The diagnostic laboratory is instructed to collect urine if it is present in the horse's bladder, but it rarely is. While a blood-only sample is subjected to the broadest scope of analysis possible, that scope is reduced compared to what can be applied to a paired blood/urine sample.

- **Necropsy report:**

Musculo-skeletal diagnosis: Left forelimb: LF fetlock is open and disarticulated. There is a lateral condylar and a lateral sesamoid fracture. The condylar fracture extends 13 cm. proximally, with fracture of the splint bone. There is severe soft tissue damage. There is a partial fracture of the proximomedial aspect of P1.

Postmortem preservation is poor with marked autolysis.

Conclusions (below)

- **Horse specific factors:** None
- **Race specific factors:** None
- **Other factors:** None