

## **Rio Moon**

### **Stewards Summary**

Review of race:

Rio Moon laid just off the pace until the top of the stretch, when the rider had to steady slightly while between horses. The horse was then eased in the stretch and finished tenth. Just past the finish line, the horse appeared to suffer an injury and the rider quickly pulled him up and dismounted. The colt required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians and the horse ambulance.

Trainer:

Dale Romans stated that the horse was sent to him to train at Churchill Downs in the spring of 2022 where he prepared him for his debut there in September 2022. The horse ran at Churchill Downs again in November before racing several times at Gulfstream Park during the winter and early spring. In his last race in Florida, the horse finished second and was beaten by a neck. Romans said that he had the horse in his care throughout his training, that he was very familiar with him, and that the horse never had a problem. He noted that the StrideSAFE data for the race was shared with him. The horse did not show anything abnormal until he suffered the injury. Romans commented that he did not have a complaint about the racing surface and thought it was in good shape.

Jockey:

Martin Garcia said that this was the first time he had ridden the horse since the September and November races at Churchill Downs. Garcia said that the horse warmed up to his liking in the post parade. He stated that the horse was running well and "everything was good" until he took the bad step without warning just past the finish line. Garcia did say that he had to take back slightly while between horses at the top of the stretch and that he began to ease the horse when he started getting passed by the others. He maintained that the horse felt good under him, although he thought that the horse was getting a little tired. Garcia stated that he thought that the track was in good shape and that he had no complaint about the surface.

### **Veterinary Review**

- This 3-year-old colt, owned by Kyle Nagel and trained by Dale Romans, ran at Churchill Downs on May 14, 2023 in a Maiden claiming \$50,000. This race was run at 1 1/16th mile over a good dirt track.
- This colt suffered a catastrophic injury to his LF near the finish line. The KHRC veterinarian and the horse ambulance responded. There was an open, comminuted injury of the LF MCIII with loss of column support. The colt was sedated and euthanized due to the severity of his injury.
- 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 persistent 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 very minimal and routine.

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

- Age at first start  
Case horse: 962 days  
Controls range: 856-1168 days  
Controls mean: 997 days  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze  
Case horse: 907 days  
Controls range: 781-1072 days  
Controls mean: 859 days  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age on 5/14/2023  
Case horse: 1196 days  
Controls range: 1098-1933 days  
Controls mean: 1234 days  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?  
Case horse: No  
Controls horses: No :8/10, Yes: 2/10
- Horse acquired through claim?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 9/10, Yes: 1/10
- Days in training (1<sup>st</sup> published work to race date)  
Case horse: 290 days  
Controls range: 123-1077 days  
Controls mean: 375.6 days  
Comment: Within the range of controls.

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs (racing and training)  
 Case horse: 143 f  
 Controls range: 52-328 f  
 Controls mean: 139 f  
 Comments: Within the range of controls.
- High-speed furlongs per day in training (Day 1=date of 1<sup>st</sup> published work)  
 Case horse: .491 f/day  
 Control horses range: .211-.594 f/day  
 Control mean: .399 f/day  
 Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Interval from previous start  
 Case horse: 39 days  
 Control horses range: 23-204 days  
 Control horses mean: 69 days  
 Comment: Within the range of controls.
- First time starter?  
 Case horse: No  
 Control horses: No: 10/10
- Apprentice Jockey?  
 Case horse: No  
 Control horses: No: 10/10
- Drop in class from previous start?  
 Case horse: No  
 Control horses: No: 5/10, Yes: 5/10
- Double drop in class from previous start?  
 Case horse: No  
 Control horses: No: 8/10, Yes: 2/10
- Raise in class from previous start?  
 Case horse: Yes  
 Control horses: Yes: 2/10, No: 8/10
- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months  
 Case horse: 0  
 Control horses: 0: 9/10, 2: 1/10
- Number of starts in preceding 30 days  
 Case horse: 0  
 Control horses: 0: 8/10, 1: 2/10

- Number of starts in preceding 60 days  
Case horse: 1  
Control horses: 0: 4/10, 1: 5/10, 2: 1/10
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days  
Case horse: 8 f  
Control horses range: 4-16 f  
Control horses mean: 12 f  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days  
Case horse: 24 f  
Control horses range: 17-35 f  
Control horses mean: 24 f  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs  $\geq 30$  days in preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 4  
Control horses: 0: 1/10, 1: 3/10, 2: 3/10, 3: 3/10
- First start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 6/10, Yes: 4/10
- Second start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 7/10, Yes: 3/10
- Length of  $\geq 60$  day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 66  
Control horses range (n=8) 67-204 days  
Control horses mean: 107 days
- History of being vet listed  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 8/10, Yes: 2/10, one for meds, one for lameness.

### 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: There was an open, spiral fracture that spanned the diaphysis of the third metacarpal bone, originating in the lateral parasagittal groove and extending into the carpometacarpal joint. There was extensive comminution which included fragments imbedded in the suspensory ligament.

Lungs: Moderate, multifocal, acute, pulmonary congestion and hemorrhage.

Stomach: Moderate, multifocal, subacute, ulceration of the squamous mucosa of the stomach.

No significant lesions: Brain, heart, liver, kidney, spleen, small and large intestines.

### **Conclusions (below)**

- **Horse specific factors:** There were no risk factors which caused concern with this horse.
- **Race specific factors:** None
- **Other factors:** None