

Vezipa (BRZ)

Stewards Summary

Review of race:

Vezipa (BRZ) raced mid-pack and was in good position when she began to lose ground in the second turn. She unseated her rider approaching the quarter pole and required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians and the horse ambulance.

Trainer:

Paulo Lobo stated that he had trained the mare since she was sent to him in 2021. He said that she came to him from a trainer in South America where she had made several starts, including her maiden win. When first in Lobo's care, the mare had a bone chip removed from an ankle and recovered nicely. Lobo raced the horse many times without issue, and she had a regular, consistent work schedule.

She had a very good race record during the Turfway Park Holiday and Winter-Spring meets, running in several allowance races with a win, two seconds, and a third-place finish. She was running in a stakes race when the injury occurred. Lobo did not express any concern about the racing surface and stated that he had a large stable of horses training at Turfway Park and had no problems with the track.

Jockey:

Joseph Ramos stated that he had ridden the horse in all of her starts at Turfway Park and was pleased with her success. He said that he had also worked the mare several times at The Thoroughbred Center for Lobo. He noted that the horse felt fine and warmed up "perfectly" in the post parade. He said that the horse was traveling well, and he was anticipating that she would make her usual move in the race, when the incident occurred without warning. Ramos described the track as good that day, maybe a little fast.

Veterinary Review

- This 7-year-old mare, owned by Mondesir Farm and trained by Paulo Lobo, ran at Turfway Park on March 25, 2023 in the Latonia Stakes (\$250,000). This race was run at 1 1/16 mile over a fast Tapeta track.
- This mare pulled up near the 1/4 pole with an injury to the RF fetlock. The KHRC veterinarian and the horse ambulance responded. The mare was sedated and she was loaded onto the ambulance. She was euthanized on the ambulance due to a poor prognosis.
- The body was submitted to the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for necropsy. The horse was insured.

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 moderately 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. These records showed that the RF fetlock was radiographed to evaluate the previous surgery site. No significant abnormalities were noted and the joint was injected.

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

- Age at first start
Case horse: 1297 days
Controls range: 789-1237 days
Controls mean: 998 days
Comments: Just above the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 1297 days *
Controls range: 734-1000 days
Controls mean: 828 days
Comments: Above the range of controls. SEE COMMENTS BELOW
- Age on 3/25/2023
Case horse: 2423 days
Controls range: 1433-1876 days
Controls mean: 1648 days
Comments: Above the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?
Case horse: Yes
Controls horses: No: 4/8, Yes: 4/8
- Horse acquired through claim?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8

- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 784 days *
Controls range: 520-1069 days
Controls mean: 820 days
Comment: Within the range of controls. SEE COMMENTS BELOW
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs (racing and training)
Case horse: 284 f
Controls range: 182-425 f
Controls mean: 313 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- High-speed furlongs per day in training (Day 1=date of 1st published work)
Case horse: .362 f/day
Control horses range: .268-.481 f/day
Control mean: .391 f/day
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Interval from previous start
Case horse: 24 days
Control horses range: 24-122 days
Control horses mean: 51 days
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- First time starter?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Apprentice Jockey?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Double drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Raise in class from previous start?
Case horse: Yes
Control horses: Yes: 7/8, No: 1/8

- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 8/8
- Number of starts in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 3/8, 1: 5/8
- Number of starts in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 2
Control horses: 0: 3/8, 1: 4/8, 2: 1/8
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 12 f
Control horses range: 9-18 f
Control horses mean: 14.75 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 24 f
Control horses range: 17-34 f
Control horses mean: 26.75 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 3
Control horses: 1: 1/8, 2: 3/8, 3: 2/8, 4: 2/8
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 6/8, Yes: 2/8
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: Yes
Control horses: No: 6/8, Yes: 2/8
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: N/A
Control horses range (n=7) 71-219 days
Control horses mean: 107 days
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: Yes, for meds
Control horses: No: 5/8, Yes: 3/8, two for meds, one for sick.

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: Right forelimb: The RF fetlock was open and disarticulated. There was avulsion of the length of the suspensory ligament insertion. The sesamoidian ligaments were ruptured from the base of the intersesamoidian ligament, with avulsion of the straight and oblique sesamoidian ligaments from the first phalanx. The flexor retinaculum, deep and superficial digital flexor tendons are torn, as are the extensor tendons

Post-mortem preservation was poor precluding any further analysis.

Conclusions (below)

- **Horse specific factors:** The statistical analysis is slightly skewed by the fact that this horse was imported from Brazil. While the race records appear to be complete, the training records are not available. Only the U.S. training data was available to compare.
- This horse had the RF fetlock injected 16 days prior to this race. This triggered closer scrutiny on the pre-race exam and the warm-up in the race. No gait abnormalities were noted. It also should be noted that the injury was soft tissue with no bony involvement.
- **Race specific factors:** None
- **Other factors:** None