

Wolfe County

Stewards Summary

Review of race:

Wolfe County set the pace along the inside around the first turn, but was pulled up abruptly near the six-furlong pole and required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians and the horse ambulance.

Trainer:

Kenneth McPeek stated that the horse was transferred to him from another trainer in early spring 2022. He said that he gave the horse some time off before having two successful starts at Churchill Downs in June 2022. McPeek noted that the horse had a bit of a puffy ankle, but that he remained sound on it and did not require much vet work overall. He did not express a concern about the racing surface.

Jockey:

Brian Hernandez, Jr. stated that he had ridden the horse in one of his starts at Churchill Downs and had been aboard him for several morning workouts. He commented that the horse had always felt sound. He said that the horse warmed up great and left the starting gate in front. He noted that the horse was running aggressively on the front end and that the incident occurred without warning when he switched leads. Hernandez said that the track at Keeneland seemed to be in good shape on the day of the incident.

Veterinary Review

- This 4-year-old colt, owned by Joseph Murphy and trained by Kenneth McPeek, ran at Keeneland on April 26, 2023 in a Starter Allowance \$50,000. This race was run at a mile and a 1/16th over a fast dirt track.
- This colt pulled up near the 5/8's pole with an injury to the LF fetlock. The KHRC veterinarian and the horse ambulance responded. Initial palpation suggested biaxial sesamoid fractures with severe injury to the associated soft tissue structures. The colt was sedated, a Kimzey splint was applied and he was loaded onto the ambulance. He was taken to the barn where radiographs were taken by the private veterinarian. After consultation with the private veterinarian, the trainer elected to euthanize the colt 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 lightly to 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. 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: 917 days
Controls range: 828-1354 days
Controls mean: 1028 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 837 days
Controls range: 756-960 days
Controls mean: 836 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age on 4/26/2023
Case horse: 1488 days
Controls range: 1164-2183 days
Controls mean: 1646 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?
Case horse: Yes
Controls horses: No: 5/5
- Horse acquired through claim?
Case horse: No
Control horses: Yes: 4/5, No: 1/5
- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 652 days
Controls range: 292-1414 days
Controls mean: 811days
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs (racing and training)
Case horse: 222.5 f
Controls range: 142.5-560.5 f
Controls mean: 288 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.

- High-speed furlongs per day in training (Day 1=date of 1st published work)

Case horse: .341 f/day

Control horses range: .311-.488 f/day

Control mean: .366 f/day

Comments: Within the range of controls.

- Interval from previous start

Case horse: 27 days

Control horses range: 15-75 days

Control horses mean: 47 days

Comment: Within the range of controls.

- First time starter?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 5/5

- Apprentice Jockey?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 5/5

- Drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 5/5

- Double drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 5/5

- Raise in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: Yes: 3/5, No: 2/5

- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months

Case horse: 0

Control horses: 0: 2/5, 1: 1/5, 2: 2/5

- Number of starts in preceding 30 days

Case horse: 1

Control horses: 0: 4/5, 1: 1/5

- Number of starts in preceding 60 days

Case horse: 1

Control horses: 0: 1/5, 1: 3/5, 2: 1/5

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 16 f
Control horses range: 8-16 f
Control horses mean: 11.4 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 30 f
Control horses range: 11-26 f
Control horses mean: 18.4 f
Comments: Above the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 2: 1/5, 3: 2/5, 4: 2/5
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 4/5, Yes: 1/5
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: Yes
Control horses: No: 4/5, Yes: 1/5
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 245
Control horses range (n=3) 68-250 days
Control horses mean: 131 days
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 3/5, Yes: 2/5, Two for meds, one injury, one unsoundness.

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 were biaxial mid-body sesamoid fractures. Soft tissue damage in the area was severe. The flexor retinaculum was torn, the superficial digital

flexor tendon was torn and the deep digital flexor tendon was ruptured. The intersesamoidian ligament was ruptured, the straight and oblique sesamoidian ligaments were torn, as were both branches of the suspensory ligament.

Right forelimb: The joint fluid of the fetlock was hemorrhagic and there was an acute basilar chip fracture of the medial sesamoid.

Lung: Mild, multifocal, acute, pulmonary congestion and hemorrhage.

Liver: Mild multifocal, subacute, lymphoplasmacytic hepatitis (background lesion).

Stomach: Marked, multifocal, chronic, squamous ulceration and hyperkeratosis.

No significant lesions: brain, heart, kidney, spleen, small and large intestine.

Conclusions (below)

- **Horse specific factors:** Notably, while the LF fetlock suffered the catastrophic injury there was also an acute basilar sesamoid fracture in the RF fetlock. It was also noted by the rider that the injury seemed to occur at the time of a lead change. It would be difficult to tell if these injuries are related or just separate incidental findings.
- **Race specific factors:** None
- **Other factors:** None