

## **Kinley Karole**

### Stewards' Summary

#### Review of race:

Kinley Karole broke with the field and fell back to last, trailed the field and appeared to have a serious injury to her left hind leg when quickly pulled up near the 1/4 pole.

#### Jockey:

Carlos Diaz had been on the horse in a breeze from the starting gate at The Thoroughbred Center on May 11 when the filly had been approved to start and issued a gate card. He stated that she had warmed up fine in the post parade and he had no concern about her soundness. He said that she felt good in the race until the incident.

#### Trainer:

Larry Demeritte, who had the filly in training since mid-January, had not had any issues with her soundness. He provided a training chart and veterinary records. The horse had only one published work and two that were provided by the trainer and announced and posted on the day of the race. To verify the works, the stewards contacted the starter at the TTC, who confirmed that the horse had been to the gate numerous times to school, and also had a work from the gate on April 27 with an exercise rider aboard. The stewards contacted the exercise rider who verified that he had breezed the filly once a week since early March, and had taken her to the starting gate many times, including breezing her from the gate. A check of The Jockey Club database indicated that the filly was unnamed until May 8, 2019 which may have been a factor in her works not being published.

### Veterinary Summary

- This 3-year-old filly sustained an injury to her left hind limb in her first lifetime start at Churchill Downs in the 1st race on May 16, 2019, a \$10,000 Maiden Claiming race at one mile over a fast dirt surface. (Purse to claim ratio was 2.5.)
- The filly was administered a sedative/analgesic, assisted into the equine ambulance, and promptly euthanized due to the severity of her injuries. Blood was collected by KHRC veterinarians for submission to Industrial Laboratories for analysis.
- The body was transported to the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and submitted for necropsy.

#### Findings:

- Review of pre-race exam findings and exam history  
No gait abnormalities were observed on this filly at pre-race exam or during the post parade. Exam findings for her forelimbs were consistent with the range of findings recorded for the uninjured cohorts in the race. However, as a first time starter it would be reasonable to expect fewer observable changes when compared to the uninjured cohorts that had from 2-12 previous starts. That said, the findings observed on this filly showed no evidence for inflammation, resistance to palpation or manipulation, or offered any indication that intervention was

warranted. Pre-race exams are focused on the forelimbs, which sustain fracture injuries with a substantially higher occurrence than the hindlimbs. Hindlimbs are palpated and passively flexed (and otherwise examined) only when indicated by visual inspection or observed gait abnormality. Nothing in the course of the exam triggered an examination of this filly's hindlimbs.

- Review of veterinary treatment reports and medical records  
Submitted at the request of the Stewards was a 60 day treatment record that reflected routine veterinary procedures, a highly conservative medication history, and no evidence of unsoundness, diagnostic imaging, or lameness work up. There were no 'maintenance' medications to potentially mask an emerging injury or unsoundness. There is nothing in the record to indicate that the trainer or veterinarian had reservations about the horse's musculoskeletal health.
  
- Analysis of risk factors (case horse compared to uninjured cohorts in the same race)
  - Age at first start  
Case horse: 1099 days.  
Controls range: 829-1384 days.  
Controls Mean: 1045 days
  - Age at first breeze  
Case horse: Insufficient data.  
Controls range: 765-1039 days.  
Controls Mean: 844 days  
Comments: Analyses tied to breeze information cannot be performed for this horse. Her first and only published work was May 11—five days prior to her race. Through their interviews of the trainer, review of the trainer's records and clocker's records, the Stewards determined that she had been in training since January but because she was not named until 8 days before her race, those breezes were recorded under her birth year and dam's name and were not retroactively attributed to her. While reviewers came to understand that the filly had been actively training for a period of 5 months, the analyses performed in these reports rely on published data.
  - Age on 5/16/19  
Case horse: 1099 days  
Controls range: 1116-1521 days  
Controls Mean: 1217 days  
Comments: The race was populated with 3 and 4 year olds all of whom had made previous starts. The age differences observed here do not raise concern.
  - Owner / breeder?  
Case horse: Yes  
Control horses: Yes: 1/8 No: 7/8

Comments: It would be reasonable to expect an owner/breeder to be more risk averse as there may be an incentive to enhance the value of the broodmare through successful performance by her offspring. Risking both poor performance and injury—through racing a horse known to be physically compromised—risks both the safety and welfare of the affected horse and the value of future progeny from the mare.

- Horse acquired through claim?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Days in training (1<sup>st</sup> published work to race date)  
Case horse: Insufficient data. (See comments above.)  
Controls range: 80-709 days.  
Controls Mean: 332 days  
Controls Median: 351 days
- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)  
Case horse: Insufficient data.  
Controls range: 44-242 f  
Controls Mean: 89 f  
Controls Median: 82 f
- High speed furlongs per day in training (Day 1=date of first published work)  
Case horse: Insufficient data.  
Controls range: 0.17-0.55 f/day  
Controls Mean: 0.30 f/day  
Controls Median: 0.32 f/day
- Interval from previous start  
Case horse: NA, first time starter  
Controls range: 19-28 days  
Controls mean: 22 days  
Controls median: 19 days
- First time starter?  
Case horse: Yes  
Controls: No: 8/8
- Apprentice jockey?  
Case horse: No  
Controls: No: 8/8
- Drop in class from previous start?  
Case horse: NA, first time starter  
Controls: No: 5/8 Yes: 3/8
- Double drop in class from previous start?  
Case horse: NA, first time starter  
Controls: No: 7/8 Yes: 1/8  
Comments: A double-drop in class (MCL \$100,000 to MCL \$10,000) resulted in enhanced race day scrutiny. Intervention was not warranted and that Control horse completed the race without incident.

- Raise in class from previous start?
  - Case horse: NA, first time starter
  - Controls: No: 8/8
  - Comments: \$10,000 is the lowest tier for maiden claiming races at CD for this meet.
- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months
  - Case horse: NA, first time starter
  - Controls: No: 8/8
  - Comments: One would not expect much claiming activity at this level unless horses were claimed to race elsewhere or were spotted as having untapped talent. Interestingly, 3 horses were claimed from this race
- Number of starts in preceding 30 days
  - Case horse: 0
  - Controls: 2: 2/8 1: 6/8
- Number of starts in preceding 60 days
  - Case horse: 0
  - Controls: 3: 1/8 2: 4/8 1: 3/8
- Cumulative high speed furlongs preceding 30 days
  - Case horse: Insufficient data
  - Controls range: 3-19 f
  - Controls mean: 12.25 f
  - Controls medial: 13 f
  - Comments: As above, lack of published works information for the affected horse prevents any conclusions about high-speed exercise in this case.
- Cumulative high speed furlongs preceding 60 days
  - Case horse: Insufficient data
  - Controls range: 11-38
  - Controls mean: 22.25
  - Controls median: 21.5
  - Comments: See above
- Number of layoffs  $30 \geq 30$  in preceding 6 months
  - Case horse: NA, first time starter
  - Control horses: 2: 4 1: 2 0: 2
- First start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?
  - Case horse: NA, first time starter
  - Control horses: No: 8/8
- Second start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?
  - Case horse: NA, first time starter
  - Control horses: No: 6/8 Yes: 2/8
- Length of  $\geq 60$  day layoff ending in preceding 6 months
  - Case horse: NA, first time starter
  - Controls range (n= 4): 67-212 days
  - Controls mean: 154 days

Controls median: 168 days

- History of being Vet Listed?  
Case horse: No.  
Control horses: 0x: 5 1x: 3  
Comments: History of having been Vet Listed is associated with increased risk of fatal fracture injury. This risk is significantly elevated for approximately 6 months and then lowers, but never returns to baseline (risk prior to Vet Listing).

- Review of necropsy report and drug testing results

- Drug testing: On May 22, Industrial Laboratories e-mailed notification to the KHRC that the two blood tubes submitted to the laboratory from the injured horse could not be subjected to analysis. The sample could not be analyzed because of a lack of suitable fluids (serum or liquid whole blood) in the collection container. This was most likely related to post-mortem collection complications, such as reduced sample volume and coagulation of the blood sample.

- Necropsy report:

Musculoskeletal system: Left hindlimb: compound, comminuted fracture of the third metatarsal. Woven bone mid-dorsal and distal-plantar MT3. Right hindlimb: parasagittal groove scoring medial and lateral 2/3. Sesamoids: cartilage loss and marginal remodeling 2/3.

Lungs: Moderate pulmonary congestion and mild hemorrhage

Stomach: Mild, multifocal hyperkeratosis

Comments: The cartilage loss and parasagittal groove scoring were pronounced and more severe than one would expect to see in a first time starter with a limited amount of high-speed exercise (based on trainer's records and when compared to Control horses' exercise history). Pre-existing bone pathology, as evidenced by the woven bone at the site of failure and the parasagittal groove scoring noted on the contralateral limb, are harbingers of the fracture that occurred.

Other tissues examined: Brain, heart, liver, kidney, spleen, small and large intestine.