

## **Stella d'Oro**

### **Stewards Summary**

Stella d'Oro had an awkward start and was trailing the field when he was pulled up quickly approaching the 5-1/2 pole. The rider dismounted after pulling up and it was apparent that he required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians and the horse ambulance.

#### **Trainer:**

Jack Sisterson stated that the horse had been shipped to him from Europe and was given time off from racing due to the travel and the fact horses by that sire tend to be late bloomers. He had time between races but continued to work consistently. Sisterson had no concern about his soundness as he never had any physical problems and was always checked by the private veterinarian prior to working and racing. He had been scheduled to work on the turf prior to the race and when the turf works were cancelled he breezed on the Keeneland training track.

#### **Jockey:**

Joel Rosario stated that he had ridden the colt his previous race, that he warmed up fine and he had no concern about him or the racing surface during the post parade. Rosario said that he was an easy colt to ride and the awkward start was not a problem for him due to the distance of the race. He stated that he felt something going wrong with him in the turn, pulled him up quickly and dismounted.

### **Veterinary Review**

- This 4-year-old colt, trained by Jack Sisterson and owned by Calumet Farm, sustained an injury to his left forelimb at Keeneland on October 4, 2019 in the 4<sup>th</sup> race, an allowance race on a firm turf course. The colt was pulled up at the 5-1/2 pole.
- KHRC veterinarians administered a sedative/analgesic to assist in loading the horse for transport and minimize further injury. He was evaluated on the ambulance by the KHRC veterinarians and by Dr. Mark Cheney, the private veterinarian for the stable. He was euthanized after determining that the injuries were too severe to give anything but a grave prognosis. Blood was collected by KHRC veterinarians for submission to Industrial Laboratories for analysis.
- The body was submitted to 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 moderately campaigned in their racing careers. Pre-race exam findings were consistent with horses at this stage of their careers. All findings were minimal. The nature and extent of the findings were consistent between the Case and Controls. No persistent gait abnormalities were noted in the pre-race exams or during the post parade.

## Review of the 60-day treatment report

- The trainer provided veterinary records for the previous 60 days. All work performed was routine with the exception of a procedure to alleviate a soft palate displacement. No procedures were related to a skeletal breakdown.

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

- Age at first start  
Case horse: 1224 days  
Controls range: 869-1646 days  
Controls mean: 1175 days  
Controls median: 1175 days

Comments: No significant difference from cohorts

- Age at first breeze  
Case horse: undetermined due to horse starting its career overseas.  
Controls range: 736-1271  
Controls mean: 957  
Controls median: 892  
Comments: Undetermined due to horse starting its career overseas.
- Age on 10/4/2019  
Case horse: 1673 days  
Controls range: 1661-2388 days  
Controls mean: 1921 days  
Controls median: 1986 days  
Comments: Horse was at the low end of the range but not significant.
- Owner/breeder?  
Case horse: no  
Controls horses: Yes: 1/7 No: 6/7
- Horse acquired through claim?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 7/7
- Days in training (1<sup>st</sup> published work to race date)  
Case horse: undetermined, see above  
Controls range: 651-1265 days  
Controls mean: 993 days  
Controls median: 1078 days  
Comment: Undetermined
- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)  
Case horse: undetermined, see above

Controls range: 124-538

Controls mean: 336

Controls median: 340.5

Comments: Although the overseas data is not available, the US data appears to be of a normal distribution after the layoff.

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

Case horse: Undetermined, see comments above

Control horses range: .161-.435f/day

Control mean: .334f/day

Control median: .338f/day

- Interval from previous start

Case horse: 48 days

Control horses range: 13-29 days

Control horses mean: 22 days

Control horses median: 25 days

Comment: Slight layoff due to the procedure for the soft palate correction.

- First time starter?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No 7/7

- Apprentice Jockey?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 7/7

- Drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: no

Control horses: No: 7/7

- Double drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 7/7

- Raise in class from previous start?

Case horse: Yes

Control horses: Yes: 5/7 No: 2/7

- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months

Case horse: 0

Control horses: 0: 4/7 1: 2/7 2: 1/7

- Number of starts in preceding 30 days

Case horse: 0

Control horses: 1: 7/7

- Number of starts in preceding 60 days  
Case horse: 1  
Control horses: 1: 3/7 2: 2/7 3: 2/7
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days  
Case horse: 12  
Control horses range: 8-20  
Control horses mean: 13  
Control horses median: 12
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days  
Case horse: 35  
Control horses range: 13.5-31  
Control horses mean: 22.7  
Control horses median: 25
- Number of layoffs  $\geq 30$  days in preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 3  
Control horses: 0: 1/7 1: 3/7 2: 3/7
- First start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 7/7
- Second start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 7/7
- Length of  $\geq 60$  day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 322  
Control horses range (n=4) 63-110  
Control horses mean: 81.5  
Control horses median: 76.5  
Comment: See trainer comments about this horses sires offspring being late bloomers.
- History of being vet listed  
Case horse: Yes  
Control horses: No: 4/7 Yes: 3/7  
Comments: Reasons for horses being on vets lists were minor, i.e. sick, temp, etc.

#### 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: Multiple comminuted fractures of the fetlock. Open condylar fracture, biaxial sesamoid fractures and P1 fractures, comminuted. Soft tissue damage with near rupture of the suspensory.

No abnormalities were present on heart, liver, spleen, kidneys, stomach, small and large intestines.

- **Conclusions:**

There were no factors apparent which would be thought to have an impact on this breakdown. It was early in a long race and the pace of the race had not yet quickened to a high speed, which is not a usual part of the race for an incident to occur.