

## **Emely Heart**

### **Stewards Summary**

Emely Heart was racing in mid pack when the rider began to pull her up near the 5-1/2 pole. The rider was able to jump off near the 1/2 mile pole and hold onto her until help arrived. It was apparent that she had suffered a serious injury that she required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians and the horse ambulance.

#### **Trainer:**

Maria Pinzon stated that she had the filly for her entire career, having obtained her in October as a yearling and preparing her for racing. Prior to this start she had raced 7 times at 4 different tracks. The filly was racing and working consistently without a layoff. She had not had any soundness issues and required minimal veterinary care. The trainer did not voice any concern about the condition of the racing surface.

#### **Jockey:**

Carlos Diaz stated that he had breezed the mare in her last 2 morning works, but had not ridden her in a race prior to this one. He said that she warmed up fine in the post parade and he had no concern about her soundness. He stated that when coming out of the first turn onto the backstretch she had a lot of power and he took her out slightly to pass another horse. It was then that she switched leads and he felt the injury occur. He pulled her up as quickly as possible, and when able to dismount he held onto her until the KHRC veterinarians arrived. He stated that the racetrack was in good condition.

### **Veterinary Review**

- This 3 year-old filly, owned and trained by Maria Pinzon, raced at Turfway Park on March 20th, 2020 in the 3rd race, an claiming race for \$15,000 contested at 1 1/16th mile over a fast All Weather Track.
- The filly was racing in the pack and suddenly pulled up near the 3/8's pole with an injury to her left front limb. The on track KHRC veterinarian summoned the equine ambulance and administered a sedative/analgesic to assist loading onto the ambulance and minimize further injury. A Kimzey splint was applied to the forelimb. She was ambulated off the track and after consulting with the private veterinarian the decision was made to euthanize the mare due to the extent of her injuries and a poor prognosis.
- 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 lightly to moderately campaigned in their racing careers. Pre-race exam findings were consistent with horses at this stage of their careers. One cohort horse exhibited a minor gait abnormality which she warmed up out of on a

subsequent jog. 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: 965 days  
Controls range: 832-1183 days  
Controls mean: 977.4 days  
Controls median: 954 days  
Comments: In the range of cohorts.
- Age at first breeze  
Case horse: 804 days  
Controls range: 832-1088 days  
Controls mean: 855 days  
Controls median: 818 days  
Comments: Slightly below cohorts.
- Age on 3/20/2020  
Case horse: 1147 days  
Controls range: 1082-1469 days  
Controls mean: 1375 days  
Controls median: 1410 days  
Comments: In the range of cohorts.
- Owner/breeder?  
Case horse: No  
Controls horses: No: 7/7
- Horse acquired through claim?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 5/7 Yes: 2/7
- Days in training (1<sup>st</sup> published work to race date)  
Case horse: 307 days  
Controls range: 251-673 days  
Controls mean: 520 days  
Controls median: 601 days  
Comment: In the range of cohorts.

- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)  
 Case horse: 106  
 Controls range: 110.5-247.5  
 Controls mean: 179  
 Controls median: 182  
 Comments: Slightly below cohorts
- High speed furlongs per day in training (Day 1=date of 1<sup>st</sup> published work)  
 Case horse: .35f/day  
 Control horses range: .27-.48f/day  
 Control mean: .36f/day  
 Control median: .32f/day  
 Comments: In the range of cohorts.
- Interval from previous start  
 Case horse: 56 days  
 Control horses range: 15-42 days  
 Control horses mean: 24 days  
 Control horses median: 28 days  
 Comment: Slightly above cohorts.
- First time starter?  
 Case horse: No  
 Control horses: No: 7/7
- Apprentice Jockey?  
 Case horse: No  
 Control horses: No: 4/7 Yes: 3/7
- Drop in class from previous start?  
 Case horse: Yes  
 Control horses: No: 5/7 Yes: 2/7
- Double drop in class from previous start?  
 Case horse: Yes  
 Control horses: No: 6/7 Yes: 1/7
- Raise in class from previous start?  
 Case horse: No  
 Control horses: No: 5/7 Yes: 2/7
- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months  
 Case horse: 0  
 Control horses: 0: 5/7 1: 2/7

- Number of starts in preceding 30 days  
Case horse: 0  
Control horses: 0: 1/7 1: 4/7 2: 2/7
- Number of starts in preceding 60 days  
Case horse: 1  
Control horses: 1: 1/7 2: 4/7 3: 2/7
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days  
Case horse: 4  
Control horses range: 4-16  
Control horses mean: 11  
Control horses median: 12  
Comments: In the range of cohorts.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days  
Case horse: 14.5  
Control horses range: 16-36  
Control horses mean: 27  
Control horses median: 27  
Comments: Slightly below cohorts
- Number of layoffs  $\geq 30$  days in preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 1  
Control horses: 0: 1/7 1: 3/7 2: 2/7 3: 1/7  
Comments: In the range of cohorts.
- 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: 6/7 Yes: 1/7
- Length of  $\geq 60$  day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months  
Case horse: N/A  
Control horses range (n=6) 69-329 days  
Control horses mean: 147  
Control horses median: 115
- History of being vet listed  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 5/7 Yes: 2/7 for illness or trainer reported injury.

### **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 a fracture of the lateral condyle of MCIII with a comminuted mid-body fracture of the medial sesamoid and an axial avulsion fracture of the lateral sesamoid. The fetlock was open and disarticulated. There was extensive soft tissue damage.

Moderate diffuse, acute, pulmonary congestion in the lungs.

No significant lesions were present on brain, heart, liver, spleen, kidneys, stomach and small and large intestines.

#### **Conclusions (below)**

- **Horse specific factors:**

No risk factors in regards to this horse.

- **Race specific factors:**

No race specific factors in regards to this fatality.