

Tell It Ina Melody

Stewards Summary

Tell It Ina Melody quickly dropped back after the break, was well behind the field down the backside, was quickly pulled up turning for home with what appeared to be a serious injury to her left foreleg.

Jockey: Eddie Zuniga said that the horse warmed up fine in the post parade and he had no concern about her soundness or the track condition.

Veterinary Review

- This 4-year-old filly, trained by Deborah Hernandez and owned by Jose L. Hernandez, sustained an injury to her left forelimb at Turfway Park on March 28, 2019 in the 3rd race, \$5,000 Claiming (NW2L) at five furlongs over a fast synthetic surface. Purse to claim ratio was 1.2. She pulled up in the vicinity of the 1/8 pole.
- KHRC veterinarians administered a sedative/analgesic and applied external stabilization to the affected limb to minimize further injury and for safe transport back to the barn for further evaluation. Blood was collected by KHRC veterinarians for submission to Industrial Laboratories for analysis.
- The filly was euthanized following consultation with the trainer's veterinarian who diagnosed biaxial comminuted sesamoid fractures and advised of a poor prognosis.
- The body was transported to the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and submitted for necropsy.
- Review of pre-race exam findings and exam history

Pre-race exam findings were reviewed for the Case horse and the unaffected Controls from the same race. There were exam findings recorded on all horses; several of the Controls demonstrated more prominent changes than those noted in the Case horse. There was no change in the Case horse's exam findings from those recorded in her previous exam on 3/7.

- Analysis of risk factors and other criteria (Case horse compared to uninjured cohorts in the same race)
 - Age at first start
 - Case horse: 959 days.
 - Controls range: 824-1094 days.
 - Controls Mean: 960 days
 - Controls Median: 966 days
 - Age at first breeze
 - Case horse: 803 days.
 - Controls range: 778-947 days.
 - Controls Mean: 880 days
 - Controls Median: 881
 - Age on 3/28/19
 - Case horse: 1415 days
 - Controls range: 1143-2201 days

Controls Mean: 1471 days

Controls Median: 1471

Comments: The conditions of this race were written for fillies and mares three years old and upward. The age range for entered horses was 3-6 years. Total lifetime starts ranged from 3-42. The Case horse had 12 starts.

○ Owner / breeder?

Case horse: No.

Control horses: No: 6/6

○ Horse acquired through claim?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 6/6

Comments: To the extent that these horses had changed ownership, these were all private transactions that could likely have included pre-purchase examinations—affording the purchaser advance knowledge of the horse's musculoskeletal health. These horses would be at decreased risk of fatality when compared to horses acquired through claiming races.

○ Days in training (1st published work to race date)

Case horse: 612 days.

Controls range: 250-1276 days.

Controls Mean: 591 days

Controls Median: 564

Comments: This is reflective of the range of ages represented in the entered horses and is not particularly informative.

○ Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)

Case horse: 136 f

Controls range: 83.5-443.5

Controls Mean: 192 f

Comments: This is reflective of the range of ages represented in the entered horses and is not particularly informative. For the 4 4-year-olds in this race (Case & 3 Controls) the range was 83.5-217.5. The Case horse was well within that range.

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

Case horse: 0.22 f / day

Controls range: 0.13-0.46 f / day

Controls Mean: 0.34 f / day

Controls Median: 0.34 f / day

○ Interval from previous start

Case horse: 21 days

Controls range: 13-112 days

Controls mean: 37 days

Controls median: 25 days

○ First time starter?

Case horse: No

Controls: No: 6/6

- Apprentice jockey?
Case horse: No
Controls: No: 5/6 Yes: 1/6
- Drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Controls: No: 3/6 . Yes: 3/6.
- Double drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: No.
Controls: No: 3/6 Yes: 3/6.
- Raise in class from previous start?
Case horse: No.
Controls: No: 6/6
- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 0
Controls: 0: 6/6
- Number of starts in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 1
Controls: 1: 5/6 0: 1/6
- Number of starts in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 2
Controls: 2: 4/6 1: 1/6 0: 1/6
- Cumulative high speed furlongs preceding 30 days
Case horse: 8 f
Controls range: 6-15 f
Controls mean: 8 f
Controls medial: 6 f
- Cumulative high speed furlongs preceding 60 days
Case horse: 18 f
Controls range: 10-19 f
Controls mean: 14 f
Controls median: 15 f
- Number of layoffs $30 \geq$ days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 1/6 1: 2/6 2: 3/6
Comments: Although 2 Control horses had more layoffs ending in the preceding 6 months, the Case horse is distinguished by the combination of layoffs and racing performance. The first layoff was 130 days, ending with her start on 10/2/18. She was eased in that race and had another layoff (133 days) that ended with her race on 2/15 in which she ran last by 19 ¼ lengths. She raced back three weeks later on 3/7 under the same conditions (NW2L) and ran last by 42 ½ lengths.
First start off \geq 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 5/6 Yes: 1/6

- Second start off \geq 60 day layoff?
 - Case horse: No.
 - Control horses: No: 5/6 Yes: 1/6
- Length of \geq 60 day layoff ending in preceding 6 months
 - Case horse: 133 days
 - Controls range (n=2): 112-553 days
 - Controls mean: 332.5 days
- History of being Vet Listed?
 - Case horse: 1x
 - Control horses: 0x: 2/6 1x: 4/6
- Review of necropsy report and drug testing results
 - Drug testing: No prohibited substances detected. No therapeutic medications detected above regulatory threshold concentrations.

Note: Only blood was submitted for analysis. Urine collection typically does not 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. So 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 and urine) sample.

- Necropsy report:

Musculoskeletal system:

Left forelimb: Lateral sesamoid: apical fracture. Medial sesamoid: comminuted basilar fracture. The palmar annular ligament was ruptured. The following structures were torn: Medial annular ligament, medial and lateral branches of the suspensory ligament, superficial and deep digital flexor tendons, and all distal sesamoidean ligaments. There were changes noted in the synovial tissues of the fetlock joint.

Right forelimb: Numerous subtle findings scored 1/5, with the only finding of note cartilage loss on the sesamoids (2/5).

Lungs: Pulmonary congestion, edema and hemorrhage; alveolar histiocytosis with hemosiderosis (evidence of previous EIPH).

Stomach: Mild hyperkeratosis, without ulceration.

No significant lesions: Kidney, liver, brain, heart, spleen, small intestine, and colon.