

## **Bellinger**

### **Stewards Summary**

Review of race:

Bellinger broke well and was several lengths off the pace early, then was pulled up abruptly approaching the 3/8 pole. It was apparent that he had suffered a serious injury to his right foreleg and was attended to by the KHRC veterinarians. A claim that had been submitted for the horse was voided by the stewards.

Trainer:

Dallas Stewart stated that the horse came to him to train after his first start at Saratoga in late August. He made one start at Churchill Downs in September, finishing third in a maiden claiming race for \$50,000, the same claiming price as the Keeneland race in which he suffered this injury. He said that the horse worked and raced on a regular schedule with no lay off. Stewart said that thought the track looked good that day and had no issues with the surface.

Jockey:

Adam Beschizza stated that he had never ridden the horse and that he picked up the mount after the jockey named to ride the horse was injured early in the card. Beschizza said that the horse was good looking and moved well in the post parade. He did not take the horse away from the pony as he had been told that the horse was very strong. He said that the horse broke well but began to back up around the 5/8 pole prior to the incident. He thought that the track was ok that day, maybe a little deep.

### **Veterinary Review**

- This 2-year-old colt, owned by WinStar Farm LLC and Siena Farm LLC, and trained by Dallas Stewart, raced at Keeneland on October 22, 2021, in the 2nd race, a Maiden claiming \$50,000 run at 1 mile on a fast main track.
- The colt was racing in mid pack when he was pulled up at the 3/8 pole. The on-track KHRC veterinarian called for the equine ambulance and administered a sedative/analgesic to assist in loading onto the ambulance. While waiting to position the ambulance, the horse became severely distressed and was anesthetized on the track. Due to the severity of the injury and a poor prognosis, the colt was euthanized and loaded onto the ambulance.
- The body was submitted to the 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 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 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 minimal and routine.

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

- Age at first start  
Case horse: 866 days  
Controls range: 824-980 days  
Controls mean: 909 days  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze  
Case horse: 787 days  
Controls range: 754-914 days  
Controls mean: 818 days  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age on 10/22/2021  
Case horse: 948 days  
Controls range: 891-993 days  
Controls mean: 953 days  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?  
Case horse: No  
Controls horses: No: 8/11, Yes: 3/11
- Horse acquired through claim?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 9/11, Yes: 2/11
- Days in training (1<sup>st</sup> published work to race date)  
Case horse: 161 days  
Controls range: 66-176 days  
Controls mean: 131 days  
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)  
Case horse: 77 f  
Controls range: 29-74.5 f  
Controls mean: 56 f  
Comments: Slightly above the range of controls.

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

Case horse: .478 f/day

Control horses range: .292-.568 f/day

Control mean: .439 f/day

Comments: Within the range of controls.

- Interval from previous start

Case horse: 22 days

Control horses range: 0-83 days, (There were 3 first time starters)

Control horses mean: 40 days

Comment: Within the range of controls.

- First time starter?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 8/11, Yes: 3/11

- Apprentice Jockey?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 11/11

- Drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 4/11, Yes: 7/11

- Double drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 9/11, Yes: 2/11

- Raise in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 11/11

- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months

Case horse: 0

Control horses: 0: 9/11, 1: 2/11

- Number of starts in preceding 30 days

Case horse: 1

Control horses: 0: 8/11, 1: 3/11

- Number of starts in preceding 60 days

Case horse: 1

Control horses: 0: 4/11, 1: 6/11, 2: 1/11

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days  
Case horse: 12.5 f  
Control horses range: 7-19 f  
Control horses mean: 13.8 f  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days  
Case horse: 20.5 f  
Control horses range: 19-34 f  
Control horses mean: 26.7 f  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs  $\geq 30$  days in preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 1  
Control horses: 0: 4/11, 1: 6/11, 2: 1/11
- First start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 10/11, Yes: 1/11
- Second start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 11/11
- Length of  $\geq 60$  day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months  
Case horse: N/A  
Control horses range (n=1) 83 days  
Control horses mean: 83 days
- History of being vet listed  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 10/11, Yes: 1/11 for lameness.

#### **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: R Forelimb: There was a lateral condylar fracture and biaxial sesamoid fractures. The fetlock joint was open and luxated. There was severe soft tissue damage. L forelimb: There was a dorsal P1 chip fracture.

Stomach: There was multifocal, severe, subacute, squamous ulceration with hyperkeratosis and mild lymphoplasmacytic gastritis.

Lung: There was focally extensive, acute, hemorrhage.

No significant lesions of the brain, heart, liver, kidney, spleen, small and large gastrointestinal tract.

**Conclusions (below)**

- **Horse specific factors:** None
- **Race specific factors:** None
- **Other factors:** None