

Lucky Asset

Stewards Summary

Lucky Asset was pulled up abruptly near the 5 ½ pole and it was apparent that he had suffered an injury to his right foreleg and required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians, who attended to the horse and loaded him into the horse ambulance. The horse was released to the care of the private veterinarian and was transported to a clinic for evaluation.

Trainer:

Pavel Matejka stated that the horse was sent to him four weeks prior to the race from New York when the previous trainer passed away. He had breezed the horse twice at The Thoroughbred Center after he began training him and before this race. He stated that the horse was quite sound and required very little vet work. He indicated that the horse had suffered a few serious cuts to his right hind leg and surmised that the injury had been a result of a racing accident. Early in the race, the horse had crossed in front of a rival, and as he was being pulled up a horse that was traveling behind him may have made the contact, but it could not be determined conclusively by the stewards.

Jockey:

Corey Lanerie stated that he had previously ridden the horse during the summer Keeneland meet and had asked to ride him back. He said he warmed up fine in the post parade and had no concern about his soundness. He said that the injury occurred without warning and took him by surprise as he thought the horse had a good chance to win the race. He was unable to say when the cuts to the right hind leg occurred as he did not feel anything hit the horse from behind.

Veterinary Review

- This 3 year-old gelding, owned by James Spry and trained by Pavel Matejka, raced at Churchill Downs on September 26th, 2020 in the 7th race, a Maiden Special Weight run at 7 furlongs on a fast main track.
- The gelding was pulled up at the 5 ½ pole and the on track KHRC veterinarian summoned the equine ambulance. An analgesic/sedative was administered to assist in placing of the Kimzey splint and loading onto the ambulance. The gelding was taken to his barn, a private practitioner radiographed the horse, and the decision was made to transport him to an equine hospital for evaluation and possible surgical repair. After being evaluated at the hospital the gelding was euthanized due to the extent of his 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 3 year-olds were very 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 persistent 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 veterinarians provided veterinary records for the previous 60 days. Veterinary work was routine and very minimal.

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

- Age at first start
Case horse: 1027 days
Controls range: 886-1326 days
Controls mean: 1210 days
Comments: Within the range of cohorts.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 926 days
Controls range: 785-940 days
Controls mean: 846 days
Comments: Within the range of cohorts.
- Age on 9/26/2020
Case horse: 1217 days
Controls range: 1262-1332 days
Controls mean: 1293 days
Comments: Slightly below the range of cohorts.
- Owner/breeder?
Case horse: No
Controls horses: No: 6/8, Yes: 2/8
- Horse acquired through claim?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 291 days
Controls range: 325-504 days
Controls mean: 127-447days
Comment: Just below the range of cohorts.
- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)
Case horse: 106
Controls range: 41.5-152.5
Controls mean: 88.2
Comments: Within the range of cohorts

- High speed furlongs per day in training (Day 1=date of 1st published work)
Case horse: .364 f/day
Control horses range: .128-.328 f/day
Control mean: .213 f/day
Comments: Above the range of cohorts
- Interval from previous start
Case horse: 36 days
Control horses range: 21-190 days. N=4
Control horses mean: 67 days
Comment: Within the range of the controls
- First time starter?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 4/8, Yes: 4/8
- Apprentice Jockey?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Double drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Raise in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 8/8
- Number of starts in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 6/8, 1: 2/8
- Number of starts in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 2
Control horses: 0: 5/8, 1: 2/8, 2: 1/8

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 9
Control horses range: 4-24
Control horses mean: 15.7
Comments: Within the range of cohorts.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 21.5
Control horses range: 26.5-37
Control horses mean: 34
Comments: Below the range of cohorts
- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 2
Control horses: 0: 6/8, 1: 1/8, 2: 1/8
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 7/8, Yes: 1/8
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 98 days
Control horses range (n=2) 190-301 days
Control horses mean: 245.5 days
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 3/8, Yes: 5/8, 2 for illness, 1 for lameness, 1 for shockwave, 1 for shockwave and 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: Biaxial sesamoid fractures. Severe soft tissue damage with tearing of both the deep and superficial digital flexor tendons, the palmar annular ligament, the lateral branch of the suspensory ligament, and rupture of the intersesmoidian ligament.

Histologic exam of the other tissues was hindered by autolysis.

Conclusions (below)

- **Horse specific factors:**

Although this horse had not been claimed recently, he was transferred from another trainer within the past 4 weeks. Anytime a horse has changed trainers it triggers extra scrutiny by the regulatory veterinarians.

- **Race specific factors:**

No race specific factors in regards to this fatality.

- **Other factors:**