

## **Winning Impression**

### **Stewards Summary**

Winning Impression was jostled at the start and was racing near the back of the field. He began to make up good ground leaving the ¼ pole and finished third, beaten a length. This was his first start on the turf course after ten career starts on the main track including his race previous to this one, the Kentucky Derby. The horse was pulled up abruptly just past the finish line. It was apparent that he had suffered serious injury to his left foreleg and required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians.

#### **Trainer:**

Dallas Stewart stated that he had trained the horse his entire career. The horse raced and worked consistently the entire time he had him. He had success with the horse in early 2020 at The Fairgrounds and had a third place finish in the Arkansas Derby at Oaklawn Park before competing in the Kentucky Derby. The horse had no soundness issues and required only minimal vet work. The horse trained well leading up to the race and he expected a big effort.

#### **Jockey:**

Joseph Rocco, Jr. stated that he had ridden the horse once in Arkansas and in his last 3 races in Kentucky. He had never worked the horse as the regular exercise rider was aboard for all the workouts. He said that the horse warmed up fine and he had no concern about his soundness. There had been no change in the horse since he had previously ridden him. He commented that although the chart stated there was bumping at the start, he did not think it was a factor in the injury. He stated that the horse did not handle the soft turf course well and bobbed throughout the race.

### **Veterinary Review**

- This 3 year-old gelding, owned by West Point Thoroughbreds and Pearl Racing, raced at Churchill Downs on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in the 9<sup>th</sup> race, an Allowance race run at 1 1/16<sup>th</sup> on a turf course listed “good”.
- The gelding was racing near the back of the pack throughout the race until making a move at the ¼ pole to finish third. The rider pulled the horse up abruptly after the wire and dismounted. The on track KHRC vet summoned the ambulance and administered a sedative/analgesic to assist loading onto the ambulance. The gelding was ambulated to his barn where the private veterinarian took radiographs. After consultation, the decision was made to euthanize the horse due to the severity of the 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. 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 veterinarian provided veterinary records for the previous 60 days. Veterinary work was routine.

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

- Age at first start  
Case horse: 987 days  
Controls range: 760-1572 days  
Controls mean: 979 days  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze  
Case horse: 927 days  
Controls range: 677-847 days  
Controls mean: 787 days  
Comments: Above the range of controls.
- Age on 11/12/2020  
Case horse: 1363 days  
Controls range: 1298-1740 days  
Controls mean: 1465 days  
Comments: In the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?  
Case horse: No  
Controls horses: No: 4/9, Yes: 5/9
- Horse acquired through claim?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 9/9
- Days in training (1<sup>st</sup> published work to race date)  
Case horse: 436 days  
Controls range: 500-954 days  
Controls mean: 677 days  
Comment: Below the range of controls.
- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)  
Case horse: 240.5 f  
Controls range: 182-343 f  
Controls mean: 239 f  
Comments: Within the range of controls.

- High speed furlongs per day in training (Day 1=date of 1<sup>st</sup> published work  
Case horse: .552 f/day  
Control horses range: .254-.518 f/day  
Control mean: .367 f/day  
Comments: Above the range of controls.
- Interval from previous start  
Case horse: 68 days  
Control horses range: 24-243 days  
Control horses mean: 75 days  
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- First time starter?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 9/9
- Apprentice Jockey?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 9/9
- Drop in class from previous start?  
Case horse: Yes  
Control horses: No: 7/9, Yes: 2/9
- Double drop in class from previous start?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 7/9, Yes: 2/9
- Raise in class from previous start?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 8/9, Yes: 1/9
- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 0  
Control horses: 0: 9/9
- Number of starts in preceding 30 days  
Case horse: 0  
Control horses: 0: 8/9, 1: 1/9
- Number of starts in preceding 60 days  
Case horse: 0  
Control horses: 0: 4/9, 1: 4/9, 2: 1/9

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days  
Case horse: 12  
Control horses range: 9-16  
Control horses mean: 12  
Comments: In the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days  
Case horse: 24  
Control horses range: 17-34  
Control horses mean: 27  
Comments: In the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs  $\geq 30$  days in preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 3  
Control horses: 1: 1/9, 2: 3/9, 3: 2/9, 4: 1/9, 5: 2/9
- First start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?  
Case horse: Yes  
Control horses: No: 5/9, Yes: 4/9
- Second start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 8/9, N/A: 1/9
- Length of  $\geq 60$  day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 68  
Control horses range (n=9) 62-251  
Control horses mean: 161
- History of being vet listed  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 6/9, Yes: 3/9, 1 for an injury, 1 for EIPH, 1 for unknown reason (FLA)

#### **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: L forelimb: Closed comminuted biaxial sesamoid fractures. There was a large amount of hemorrhage and edema in the distal limb.

There was marked gastric hyperkeratosis and ulceration of the squamous mucosa of the stomach.

There was moderate, diffuse, acute pulmonary congestion and edema in the lungs.

No significant lesions of the brain, heart, liver, kidney, small and large intestines.

**Conclusions (below)**

- **Horse specific factors:**

- **Race specific factors:**

- **Other factors:**

The turf course was listed as good on the day of the incident. Turf races were discontinued for the remainder of the meet following this days racing. Track management announced that the turf course will be replaced in 2021.