

Caramelito

Stewards Summary

Review of race:

Caramelito was pulled up near the 1/16 pole and required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians and the horse ambulance. It was later reported that the horse had been transported to a Lexington clinic for further evaluation.

Trainer:

Genaro Garcia said that he claimed the horse at Churchill Downs in June 2022. He stated that he raced the horse several times in Indiana prior to moving him to Turfway Park for the meet. He said that the horse worked and raced regularly, had no soundness issues, and required minimal vet work. He noted that the track seemed good that night and described the track condition as normal. He ran another horse later that night without incident.

Jockey:

Santo Sanjur stated that he had never been aboard the horse in a morning workout or race. The rider said that the horse warmed up well in the post parade and that he had no concern riding him. He said that the horse had changed leads fine and was running well when the incident occurred in the stretch without warning. He noted that the track was good on the day of the incident.

Veterinary Review

- This 6-year-old gelding, owned by Southwest Racing Stable and Steve Lewis, and trained by Genaro Garcia, ran at Turfway Park on February 10, 2023 in an Allowance race. This race was run at 6 furlongs over a fast Tapita track.
- This gelding pulled up near the 1/16th pole with a catastrophic injury. The KHRC veterinarian and the horse ambulance responded. The horse was sedated, a Kimzey splint was applied and the horse was loaded onto the ambulance. The horse was shipped to Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital for evaluation and possible treatment. After evaluation at the hospital the decision was made to euthanize the gelding due to a poor prognosis
- 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 moderately to heavily 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: 840 days
Controls range: 861-1399 days
Controls mean: 1034 days
Comments: Just below the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 796 days
Controls range: 766-1168 days
Controls mean: 879 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age on 2/10/2023
Case horse: 2151 days
Controls range: 1391-1824 days
Controls mean: 1613 days
Comments: Above the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?
Case horse: No
Controls horses: No: 8/10, Yes: 2/10
- Horse acquired through claim?
Case horse: Yes
Control horses: No: 9/10, Yes: 1/10
- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 1356 days
Controls range: 549-998 days
Controls mean: 735 days
Comment: Above the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs (racing and training)
Case horse: 548.5 f
Controls range: 161.5-395.5 f
Controls mean: 228.5 f
Comments: Above the range of controls.
- High speed furlongs per day in training (Day 1=date of 1st published work)

Case horse: .405 f/day
Control horses range: .167-.412 f/day
Control mean: .317 f/day
Comments: Within the range of controls.

- Interval from previous start
Case horse: 42 days
Control horses range: 15-300 days
Control horses mean: 57 days
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- First time starter?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 10/10
- Apprentice Jockey?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 10/10
- Drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/10, Yes: 2/10
- Double drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/10, Yes: 1/10
- Raise in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 6/10, Yes: 4/10
- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 9/10, 1: 1/10
- Number of starts in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 4/10, 1: 6/10
- Number of starts in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 1/10 1: 4/10, 2: 4/10 3:1/10
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 8 f
Control horses range: 4-19 f
Control horses mean: 10.6 f

Comments: Within the range of controls.

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 14 f
Control horses range: 14-33 f
Control horses mean: 23 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 1: 4/10, 2: 4/10, 3: 2/10
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/10, Yes: 1/10
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/10, Yes: 3/10
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: N/A
Control horses range (n=7) 62-448 days
Control horses mean: 232 days
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: Yes, for meds.
Control horses: No: 7/10, Yes 3/10 one for meds and two for sick.

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 severe, extensive tearing of the superficial digital flexor tendon, with rupture of the tendon near the level of the fetlock joint. The distal portion of the ligament was severely torn, with extensive fibrillation and fraying of the fibers. The proximal portion was contracted and wavy.

Lungs: Mild, multifocal, subacute to chronic alveolar histiocytosis (previous EIPH)

Liver: Moderate, multifocal, subacute suppurative hepatitis (background lesion).

Stomach: Moderate hyperkeratosis with lymphocytic gastritis.

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

Conclusions (below)

- **Horse specific factors:** This horse had a very unusual injury. Rupture of the superficial digital flexor tendon is not common. He had been noted with an enlargement of the structure for the past two years, with no lameness noted. It appears to be an old injury which was not causing lameness. This enlargement put him on the list for extra scrutiny every time he ran, with no lameness noted.
- **Race specific factors:** None
- **Other factors:** None