

Ceekey

Stewards Summary

Review of race:

Ceekey was laying third early in the race, quickly faded to last, and was pulled up abruptly leaving the 3/8 pole. It was apparent that he required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians and the horse ambulance.

Trainer:

Tom Van Berg stated that he purchased the horse from another trainer in 2017 for an owner and later became partners with his owner. He said that the horse was always sound, not a problem horse at all, and that the horse was very easy to be around. He further disclosed that in the spring of 2021 the horse developed an abscess on his right fore ankle. He stated that it looked like a possible spider bite and his veterinarian took x-rays, scans, and ultrasounds of the ankle but no conclusion was made. He stated that even during the attempt to find the source of the abscess, the horse always traveled sound. When the injury occurred, the horse was in tight quarters and he thought maybe the horse had clipped heels. He stated that he thought the track may have been just a bit quicker and harder than usual on that day.

Jockey:

Tyler Gaffalione stated that he had ridden the horse one time three years prior to this race and won on him, but he had never been on the horse for a morning workout. Gaffalione stated that the horse warmed up to his liking in the post parade and he had no concern about him before the race. He said that the horse carried his head low and that he took a long hold of him going down the backside, letting him run along. He said that he thought the horse jumped a shadow on the track and then switched leads when the injury occurred. Gaffalione stated that he thought the track may have been a little deeper than in previous meets, but that the footing was fine.

Veterinary Review

- This 7-year-old gelding, owned by Pear Orchard Road Stable, LLC and Thomas Van Berg, and trained by Thomas Van Berg ran at Churchill Downs on November 3, 2021, in a claiming race for \$8,000, run at 6 furlongs on a fast main track.
- The gelding 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 placing the Kimzey splint and loading onto the equine ambulance. After consulting with the trainer and private veterinarian, the gelding was euthanized due to the severity of his injuries and 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 extensively 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 routine.

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

- Age at first start
Case horse: 904 days
Controls range: 767-1407 days
Controls mean: 1006 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 854 days
Controls range: 751-1054 days
Controls mean: 862 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age on 11/3/2021
Case horse: 2778 days
Controls range: 1712-3118 days
Controls mean: 2322 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?
Case horse: No
Controls horses: No: 8/9, Yes: 1/9
- Horse acquired through claim?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 3/9, Yes: 6/9

- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 1924 days
Controls range: 886-2320 days
Controls mean: 1460 days
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)
Case horse: 584 f
Controls range: 208-612.5 f
Controls mean: 351 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- High speed furlongs per day in training (Day 1=date of 1st published work)
Case horse: .304 f/day
Control horses range: .155-.359 f/day
Control mean: .246 f/day
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Interval from previous start
Case horse: 38 days
Control horses range: 6-89 days
Control horses mean: 33 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: No
Control horses: No: 1/9, Yes: 8/9
- 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: 6/9, 1: 3/9
- Number of starts in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 4/9, 1: 5/9
- Number of starts in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 1/9, 1: 4/9, 2: 3/9, 3: 1/9
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 8 f
Control horses range: 0-15.5 f
Control horses mean: 8 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 18 f
Control horses range: 6-32 f
Control horses mean: 16.2 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 2
Control horses: 1: 2/9, 2: 3/9, 3: 2/9, 4: 2/9
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/9, Yes: 1/9
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: Yes
Control horses: No: 79/9
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 84
Control horses range (n=8) 62-453 days
Control horses mean: 209 days
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: Yes, for medications
Control horses: No: 1/9, Yes: 8/9, 3 for illness, 3 for meds, 1 for lameness, 1 for injury.

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 complete luxation of the fetlock joint, with massive soft tissue damage. The straight, oblique and cruciate sesamoidian ligaments were severely torn, with complete rupture at the base of the sesamoids. There was a small, basilar avulsion fracture of the medial sesamoid. Left forelimb: There was a small dorsal chip fracture of the first phalanx.

Stomach: There was marked, diffuse ulceration of the squamous mucosa with hyperkeratosis.

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

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

Conclusions (below)

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