

City Tavern

Stewards Summary

City Tavern was racing toward the back of the field when he was pulled up abruptly near the 3/16 pole. The rider dismounted and it was apparent that the horse required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians.

Trainer:

Danny Gargan stated that he bought the horse at a 2-year-old in training sale. He took the horse home and rested him after the sale. Gargan had the horse in training at Palm Meadows in Florida and made his 1st start at Gulfstream Park in late March. He then shipped the horse to Keeneland where he was in training until his race at Churchill Downs. He stated that the horse had no soundness issues, had never had any surgery, and required minimal veterinary care. He said the horse was treated with shockwave therapy for a shin issue and had received one joint injection. He said that he couldn't comment on the turf course as he had never been out on it.

Jockey:

Rafael Bejarano stated that this was his first time aboard City Tavern, and also the first horse he had ridden for the trainer. He had not worked the horse, who was stabled at Keeneland. Bejarano spoke to the rider who had ridden him in his only previous start. The rider told Bejarano that the horse was a good horse to ride. Bejarano said the horse warmed up fine in the post parade and during the race he thought he had a chance to win the race. When the incident occurred he was in traffic and had to wait several strides to pull the horse up. He said that he thought the horse had taken a bad step or stepped in a hole on the course.

Veterinary Review

- This 3-year-old colt, owned by Brian Turner and Danny Gargan, and trained by Danny Gargan, raced at Churchill Downs on May 16th, 2021, in the 9th race, a Maiden Special Weight run at 1 mile on a firm turf course.
- The colt was racing at the back of the pack when he was pulled up at the 1/4 pole. The on-track KHRC veterinarian called for the equine ambulance and administered a sedative/analgesic to assist in loading onto the ambulance. The colt was taken back to his barn for further evaluation, and after consulting with the private veterinarian, the colt was euthanized due to the severity of his injury 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 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 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 from the billing records did not match the submitted veterinary treatment sheets to the KHRC. Treatments from the billing records would have placed this horse on the vets list for a time period and would have flagged him for extra pre-race scrutiny.

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

- Age at first start
Case horse: 1080 days
Controls range: 852-1310 days
Controls mean: 1046 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 866 days
Controls range: 760-1245days
Controls mean: 891 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age on 5/16/2021
Case horse: 1136 days
Controls range: 1075-1829 days
Controls mean: 1234 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?
Case horse: No
Controls horses: No: 7/11, Yes: 4/11
- Horse acquired through claim?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 11/11
- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 270 days
Controls range: 151-584 days
Controls mean: 318.7 days
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)
Case horse: 76 f
Controls range: 60-119.5 f
Controls mean: 93.2 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.

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

Case horse: .281 f/day
Control horses range: .108-.524 f/day
Control mean: .332 f/day
Comments: Within the range of controls.

- Interval from previous start

Case horse: 50 days
Control horses range: 25-479 days
Control horses mean: 117.4 days
Comment: Within the range of controls.

- First time starter?

Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 10/11, Yes: 1/11

- Apprentice Jockey?

Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 11/11

- Drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 10/11, N/A: 1/11

- Double drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 10/11, N/A: 1/11

- Raise in class from previous start?

Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/11, Yes: 1/11, N/A: 1/11

- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months

Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 11/11

- Number of starts in preceding 30 days

Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 7/11, 1: 4/11

- Number of starts in preceding 60 days

Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 4/11, 1: 3/11, 2: 4/11

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 8 f
Control horses range: 8-23 f
Control horses mean: 12.7 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 24 f
Control horses range: 15-35.5 f
Control horses mean: 27 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 4/10, 1: 3/10, 2: 3/10, N/A: 1
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 7/10, Yes: 3/10, N/A: 1
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 10/10
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: N/A
Control horses range (n=4) 197-479 days
Control horses mean: 287 days
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 11/11

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: Rt. Carpus: Slab fractures of the third and intermediate carpal bone, comminuted fracture of the ulnar carpal bone and fracture of the fourth carpal bone.

Lungs: There was moderate diffuse, acute, pulmonary congestion and edema.

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:** In comparing submitted veterinary records with the veterinary billing records, there were treatments which would have placed this horse on the vets list and subjected him to extra scrutiny on pre-race exam. The treatments were not in the timeframe which would have placed him in violation of KHRC rules.