

Clear Steps

Stewards Summary

Review of race:

Clear Steps set the pace early, then was pulled up abruptly approaching the 3/8 pole. It was apparent that she had suffered a serious injury and was attended to by the KHRC veterinarians.

Trainer:

Kenneth Miller stated that he claimed the horse for his owner at Indiana Grand in early July. She made several more starts prior to her race at Churchill Downs. He said that the filly was sound and did not require any vet work. He stated that she did not even require bandages. He said that the rider told him that a horse was coming up on her inside, and he moved her over slightly toward the rail to close the gap. Miller said that he had another horse in the race and thought the track was fine that day. He speculated that the horse had taken a bad step to cause the injury.

Jockey:

Joseph Ramos stated that he had never ridden the filly, but that he had seen her run in Indiana. He had ridden a few other horses for Kenneth Miller in Indiana. Ramos said that the horse warmed up a little funny in the post parade, that she was sweating and seemed to be stressed. He said that she stumbled slightly coming out of the starting gate. He said that the track at Churchill is always very good.

Veterinary Review

- This 3-year-old filly, owned by Steve Isaac, and trained by Kenneth Miller, raced at Churchill Downs on September 26, 2021, in the 1st race, a claiming \$20,000 run at 7 furlongs on a fast main track.
- The filly was racing at on the lead when she 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 ambulance. After consulting with the trainer, the filly was euthanized due to the severity of her 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 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 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: 795 days
Controls range: 777-1170 days
Controls mean: 922 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 766 days
Controls range: 686-1034 days
Controls mean: 791 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age on 9/26/2021
Case horse: 1267 days
Controls range: 1239-1681 days
Controls mean: 1477 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?
Case horse: No
Controls horses: No: 7/7
- Horse acquired through claim?
Case horse: Yes
Control horses: No: 1/7, Yes: 6/7
- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 501 days
Controls range: 205-951 days
Controls mean: 686 days
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)
Case horse: 117.5 f
Controls range: 80.5-357 f
Controls mean: 207.9 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.

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

Case horse: .235 f/day

Control horses range: .206-.478 f/day

Control mean: .326 f/day

Comments: Within the range of controls.

- Interval from previous start

Case horse: 15 days

Control horses range: 9-46 days

Control horses mean: 21.7 days

Comment: Within the range of controls.

- First time starter?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 7/7

- Apprentice Jockey?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 7/7

- Drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 3/7, Yes: 4/7

- Double drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 6/7, Yes: 1/7

- Raise in class from previous start?

Case horse: Yes

Control horses: No: 5/7, Yes: 2/7

- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months

Case horse: 2

Control horses: 0: 1/7, 1: 2/7, 2: 2/7, 3: 2/7

- Number of starts in preceding 30 days

Case horse: 1

Control horses: 0: 2/7, 1: 5/7

- Number of starts in preceding 60 days

Case horse: 3

Control horses: 1: 1/7, 2: 4/7, 3: 2/7

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 6.5 f
Control horses range: 4-13.5 f
Control horses mean: 8.5 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 18 f
Control horses range: 11-29 f
Control horses mean: 19.9 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 2
Control horses: 0: 1/7, 1: 2/7, 2: 3/7, 3: 1/7
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 7/7
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 7/7
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: N/A
Control horses range (n=2) 98-108 days
Control horses mean: 103 days
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 3/7, Yes: 4/7, 1 for illness, 3 for meds.

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 an open comminuted fracture of the medial sesamoid. There was complete failure of the suspensory apparatus including the distal sesmoidian ligaments. There was severe soft tissue damage with disarticulation of the fetlock joint.

Stomach: There was moderate ulceration of the squamous mucosa with hyperkeratosis.

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

Conclusions (below)

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