

Fort Defiance

Stewards Summary

Review of race:

Fort Defiance broke sharply, sped to the front of the field, and was in the lead when he fell and unseated his rider near the quarter pole. It was apparent that the horse was injured and that he required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians and the horse ambulance.

Trainer:

Jonathan Wong stated that he claimed the horse for his client at Churchill Downs in November 2022. He said that he worked the horse several times at Churchill Downs Trackside before moving him to Turfway Park to train and race. He said that the horse did not require much vet work, but that he had the horse gelded after he raced in January. Wong did not express any concern about the racing surface.

Jockey:

Jose Nava-Marin stated that he was the regular gallop and morning workout rider for the horse, but had never ridden him in a race. He said that the horse felt fine and warmed up to his liking in the post parade. He noted that the horse was traveling well and switching leads normally until the incident occurred without warning. Nava-Marin said that he thought the track surface was in good shape and was not a factor in the incident.

Veterinary Review

- This 4-year-old gelding, owned by Brent Malmstrom, and trained by Jonathan Wong, ran at Turfway Park on March 17, 2023 in a Claiming \$15,000 race. This race was run at 1 1/16 mile over a fast Tapeta track.
- This colt pulled up near the 3/16th's pole with a catastrophic injury. The KHRC veterinarian and the horse ambulance responded. The horse was euthanized on the track due to the severe nature 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 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 minimal and routine.

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

- Age at first start
Case horse: 911 days
Controls range: 771-1480 days
Controls mean: 1058 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 775 days
Controls range: 699-1187 days
Controls mean: 883 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age on 3/17/2023
Case horse: 1418 days
Controls range: 1103-1830 days
Controls mean: 1623 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?
Case horse: No
Controls horses: No: 10/11, Yes: 1/11
- Horse acquired through claim?
Case horse: Yes
Control horses: No: 3/11, Yes: 8/11
- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 643 days
Controls range: 320-1015 days
Controls mean: 742 days
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)
Case horse: 227 f
Controls range: 113.5-343 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- High speed furlongs per day in training (Day 1=date of 1st published work)
Case horse: .353 f/day
Control horses range: .179-.465 f/day
Control mean: .305 f/day
Comments: Within the range of controls.

- Interval from previous start
Case horse: 29 days
Control horses range: 14-56 days
Control horses mean: 33 days
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- First time starter?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 11/11
- Apprentice Jockey?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 11/11
- Drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: Yes
Control horses: No: 9/11, Yes: 2/11
- Double drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/11, Yes: 2/11
- Raise in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 6/11, Yes: 5/11
- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 6/11, 1: 3/11, 2: 2/11
- Number of starts in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 4/11, 1: 7/11
- Number of starts in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 2
Control horses: 1: 7/11, 2: 4/11
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 12 f
Control horses range: 0-13 f
Control horses mean: 8 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 20 f
Control horses range: 11-24 f

Control horses mean: 18.7 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.

- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 2
Control horses: 1: 2/11, 2: 7/11, 3: 2/11
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 11/11
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 7/11, Yes: 4/11
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 62
Control horses range (n=8) 60-632 days
Control horses mean: 182 days
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: Yes for illness
Control horses: No: 5/11, Yes 6/11, three for meds, two for injury, one for lameness.

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 an open comminuted lateral condylar fracture and a fracture of the lateral sesamoid. There was severe soft tissue damage with rupture of the intersesamoidian ligament and the straight sesamoidian ligament. The fetlock was disarticulated.

Lungs: Moderate, diffuse, acute congestion with mild, multifocal hemorrhage.

Stomach: Multifocal, multifocal, acute erosion and hemorrhage of the glandular mucosa.

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

Conclusions (below)

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