

Freezing Point

Stewards Summary

Review of race

Freezing Point was racing between horses while leaving the chute and entering the main track. He was pulled abruptly approaching the five-eighths pole. The colt required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians and the horse ambulance.

Trainer:

Joe Lejzerowicz stated that the horse was purchased in June 2022, was stabled at Keeneland and had been in his care for all of his workouts and races. He said that the horse had a thirty day break in training after his maiden win in early November 2022 at Churchill Downs. He stated that the horse was perfectly sound and did not require any medication. He noted that he had worked the horse eight days prior to the race and that there was nothing wrong with him. Lejzerowicz said that this horse was the first one of his to be injured in a race in his thirty-five years training horses. He also noted that he had never had a medication violation in his training career. He commented that he thought that issues with the racing surface had been a factor in the injury.

Jockey:

Corey Lanerie stated that he had ridden the horse when he broke his maiden in November 2022 at Churchill Downs. He said that the horse warmed up fine in the post parade as he had in the past race. Lanerie said that horse broke well, and he was angling to the inside when the injury occurred without warning. He noted that while he was between horses, he did not think that his horse got bumped prior to the incident. Lanerie stated that he thought that the track was in good shape and that he did not think track condition was a factor that contributed to the injury.

Veterinary Review

- This 3-year-old colt, owned by Randy Gootzeit, and trained by Joe Lejzerowicz, ran at Churchill Downs on May 6, 2023 in the Pat Day Mile stakes. This race was run at 1 mile over a fast dirt track.
- This colt pulled up at the 5 furlong pole with an injury to his left forelimb. The KHRC veterinarian and the horse ambulance responded. The colt was sedated, a Kimzey splint applied, and the horse was loaded onto the horse ambulance. He was transported to the medical center where radiographs were taken by the private practitioner. After consultation between the private veterinarian, the trainer, and the owner the horse was euthanized.
- The body was submitted to the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for necropsy. The horse was insured.

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 lightly to 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 very minimal and routine.

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

- Age at first start
Case horse: 892 days
Controls range: 775-1002 days
Controls mean: 890 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 824 days
Controls range: 682-933 days
Controls mean: 807 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age on 5/6/2023
Case horse: 1117 days
Controls range: 1086-1202 days
Controls mean: 1150 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?
Case horse: No
Controls horses: No: 8/12, Yes: 4/12
- Horse acquired through claim?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 12/12
- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 294 days
Controls range: 231-405 days
Controls mean: 344 days
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs (racing and training)

Case horse: 107.5 f
Controls range: 108-201 f
Controls mean: 163 f
Comments: Just below the range of controls.

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

Case horse: .366 f/day
Control horses range: .336-.617 f/day
Control mean: .479 f/day
Comments: Within the range of controls.

- Interval from previous start

Case horse: 30 days
Control horses range: 21-92 days
Control horses mean: 42 days
Comment: Within the range of controls.

- First time starter?

Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 12/12

- Apprentice Jockey?

Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 12/12

- Drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 12/12

- Double drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 12/12

- Raise in class from previous start?

Case horse: Yes
Control horses: Yes: 12/12

- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months

Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 12/12

- Number of starts in preceding 30 days

Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 7/12, 1: 5/12

- Number of starts in preceding 60 days

Case horse: 1

Control horses: 0: 2/12, 1: 10/12

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 14 f
Control horses range: 9-22 f
Control horses mean: 14 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 23 f
Control horses range: 13-44 f
Control horses mean: 28 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 1: 3/12, 2: 2/12, 3: 3/12, 4: 4/12
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 10/12, Yes: 2/12
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: Yes
Control horses: No: 8/12, Yes: 4/12
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 64
Control horses range (n=11) 64-212 days
Control horses mean: 99 days
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 10/12, Yes: 2/12, one for meds, one for poor performance.

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: LF fetlock: There were biaxial, mid-body fractures of the sesamoids with complete rupture of the intersesamoidian ligament in a transverse plane. The superficial and deep digital flexor tendons were torn, with tearing of the medial and lateral suspensory branches. The connective tissues of the distal limb were expanded by a large amount of hemorrhage and edema.

Lungs: Mild to moderate, multifocal, acute, pulmonary congestion and edema.

Liver: Mild to moderate, multifocal, subacute, suppurative hepatitis.

Stomach: Mild, multifocal, hyperketaosis with clefting.

No significant lesions: Brain, heart, kidney, spleen, small and large intestines.

Conclusions (below)

- **Horse specific factors:** This horse had no major issues to trigger closer scrutiny. He was sound pre-race and in the warmups.
- **Race specific factors:** The trainer noted that he thought track conditions may have played a factor, but the rider did not think so. Evaluations of the racing surface by the consultant revealed no issues.
- **Other factors:** None