

Snake Doctor

Stewards Summary

Review of race:

Snake Doctor was racing in mid pack when he fell suddenly and unseated his rider approaching the 5/16 pole. The horse then got up and attempted to run before being caught by the outrider nearing the ¼ pole. It was apparent that the horse had suffered an injury and was attended to by the KHRC veterinarians.

Trainer:

Jack Sisterson stated that the horse had come into him at Keeneland in early May and the horse breezed once a week prior to his first race in July at Keeneland. The horse was easy to train, was all business and there were high expectations for his future. The horse was without any soundness issues and required minimal vet work. He stated that the horse appeared to be handling the hard turf course well before the incident occurred.

Jockey:

Ricardo Santana, Jr. stated that he had never been on the horse before this race but had previously ridden for Jack Sisterson and liked riding for him. He stated that he stayed with the pony and the horse warmed up to his liking in the post parade. He said that the horse had started to move with the horse to his inside when he switched leads while going down the slight hill, and fell suddenly. He said that he had no concern about the condition of the turf course and that it was in good shape.

Veterinary Review

- This 2 year-old colt, owned by Calumet Farm, and trained by Jack Sisterson raced at Kentucky Downs on September 7th, 2020 in the 10th race, a stake race contested at 1 mile on firm turf.
- The colt raced in mid pack until falling at the 5/16's pole, unseating his rider. He regained his feet and ran on until being caught by the outrider at the ¼ pole. The on track KHRC veterinarian summoned the equine ambulance and administered a sedative/analgesic to assist loading and to allow placing of the Kimzey splint. The horse went down again while placing the splint and the decision was made to euthanize the horse due to the extent of his injuries and a grave prognosis.
- The body was submitted 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 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. Most of the veterinary work done on this colt was routine with the exception of a minor procedure done on his airway. This procedure would have had no impact on the breakdown.

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

- Age at first start
Case horse: 860 days
Controls range: 752-869 days
Controls mean: 832.5 days
Comments: In the range of cohorts.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 803 days
Controls range: 661-827 days
Controls mean: 775 days
Comments: In the range of cohorts.
- Age on 8/28/2020
Case horse: 918 days
Controls range: 865-956 days
Controls mean: 902 days
Comments: In the range of cohorts.
- Owner/breeder?
Case horse: Yes
Controls horses: Yes: 3/8 No: 5/8
- Horse acquired through claim?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 115 days
Controls range: 79-204 days
Controls mean: 127 days
Comment: In the range of cohorts.
- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)
Case horse: 63 furlongs
Controls range: 43-94.5 furlongs
Controls mean: 74.2 furlongs
Comments: In the range of cohorts

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

Case horse: .548f/day
Control horses range: .453-.800f/day
Control mean: .612f/day
Comments: In the range of cohorts.

- Interval from previous start

Case horse: 29 days
Control horses range: 22-49 days.
Control horses mean: 31.5 days
Comment: In the range of cohorts.

- First time starter?

Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8

- Apprentice Jockey?

Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8

- Drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8

- Double drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8

- Raise in class from previous start?

Case horse: Yes
Control horses: Yes: 8/8

- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months

Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 8/8

- Number of starts in preceding 30 days

Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 2/8 1: 6/8

- Number of starts in preceding 60 days

Case horse: 2
Control horses: 1: 4/8 2: 4/8

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 15
Control horses range: 8-22
Control horses mean: 15.9
Comments: In the range of cohorts.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 33
Control horses range: 20-40.5
Control horses mean: 31.44
Comments: In the range of cohorts
- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 1/8 1: 5/8 2: 2/8
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: N/A
Control horses range: N/A
Control horses mean: N/A
Control horses median: N/A
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 6/8 Yes: 2/8 1 for illness, 1 for EIPH

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: Right forelimb, biaxial sesamoid fractures, comminuted. There was a massive amount of soft tissue damage.

No significant lesions or abnormalities of the heart, lungs, liver or kidney. There was some rare mild ulceration in the stomach.

Conclusions (below)

- **Horse specific factors:**

No horse specific factors in regards to this fatality. No risk factors noted.

- **Race specific factors:**

No race specific factors in regards to this fatality.