

Absolutely Aiden

Stewards Summary

Absolutely Aiden was racing near the front of the field when he fell abruptly and unseated his rider near the 1/4 pole. It was apparent that he had suffered serious injury to his left foreleg and required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians.

Trainer:

Wesley Hawley stated that he and a partner claimed the horse for \$40,000 in the fall of 2019. The horse raced and worked consistently the entire time he had him. He had success with the horse, winning 3 allowance races and a stakes race. The horse had a minor foot issue and was fitted with glue on shoes, but no soundness issues were reported and he required only minimal vet work. The horse had a great work leading up to the race. Hawley commented that the day of the race there were several track records set and that the track was hard and quite fast.

Jockey:

Chris Landeros stated that he had ridden the horse in all his races in Kentucky, including 3 of the wins. He also worked the horse regularly for Hawley. He stated that he was a nice horse that always tried really hard in all his races. He said that the horse warmed up fine and he had no concern about his soundness. He commented that the horse was laying second and moving on the leader when he fell without warning. Landeros said that the track was very fast that day.

Veterinary Review

- This 4 year-old colt, owned by Greg Frye and Wesley Hawley, and trained by Wesley Hawley, raced at Keeneland on November 7th, 2020 in the 2nd race, the Lafayette stakes, contested at 7 furlongs over a fast main track.
- This colt was racing near the lead when he fell suddenly near the head of the stretch. He got back to his feet and the KHRC veterinarian summoned the equine ambulance. A sedative/analgesic was administered to assist in applying the Kimzey splint and loading onto the ambulance. After consulting with the owner/trainer the colt was euthanized due to the severity of his injuries and a poor prognosis.
- The body was submitted to 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 routine and very minimal.

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

- Age at first start
Case horse: 872 days
Controls range: 803-1322 days
Controls mean: 963 days
Comments: Within the range of cohorts.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 786 days
Controls range: 682-980 days
Controls mean: 828 days
Comments: Within the range of controls. *One horse in the Control group began its career overseas. Work data was not available for this horse while overseas. Data became available when the horse came to the United States and is considered incomplete for data analysis.
- Age on 11/7/2020
Case horse: 1701 days
Controls range: 1671-2495 days
Controls mean: 1908 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: 10/11, Yes: 1/11
- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 919 days
Controls range: 784-1616 days
Controls mean: 1102 days
Comment: In the range of controls. * See asterisk above
- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)
Case horse: 355.5 f
Controls range: 210-681 f
Controls mean: 423.9 f
Comments: Within the range of controls. * See asterisk above

- High speed furlongs per day in training (Day 1=date of 1st published)
Case horse: .389 f/day
Control horses range: .248-.622 f/day
Control mean: .382 f/day
Comments: Within the range of controls. *See asterisk above
- Interval from previous start
Case horse: 36 days
Control horses range: 29-252 days
Control horses mean: 60 days
Control horses median: 42 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: No
Control horses: No: 11/11
- Double drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 11/11
- Raise in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/11, Yes: 2/11
- 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: 10/11, 1: 1/11
- Number of starts in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 1/11, 1: 9/11, 2: 1/11

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 8
Control horses range: 4-19
Control horses mean: 13.7
Comments: In the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 27
Control horses range: 13-37
Control horses mean: 28.7
Comments: In the range of controls
- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 4
Control horses: 1: 2/11, 2: 2/11, 3: 4/11, 4: 2/11, 5: 1/11
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 10/11, Yes: 1/11
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: Yes
Control horses: No: 9/11, Yes: 1/11, N/A: 1/11
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 68 days
Control horses range (n=8) 60-329 days
Control horses mean: 155 days
Control horses median: 112.5 days
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 4/11, Yes: 7/11, 1 for lameness and meds, 2 for meds, 4 for shockwave treatments.

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: L forelimb: Biaxial, open fractures of the sesamoids, with disarticulation of the fetlock joint. Rupture of the superficial digital flexor tendon, annular ligament, and intersesamoidian ligament

There was mild, diffuse ulceration of the squamous mucosa of the stomach with hyperkeratosis.

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

Conclusions (below)

- **Horse specific factors:**

No horse specific factors in regards to this fatality.

- **Race specific factors:**

No race specific factors in regards to this fatality.

- **Other factors:**

Both trainer and rider commented on the fast track. There are always concerns when a track is so hard and fast that multiple track records are set in a day.