

Lost in Limbo

Stewards Summary

Review of race:

Lost in Limbo unseated his rider in the post parade and ran loose briefly before being apprehended by the outrider. The horse was examined by the KHRC veterinarian and approved to start. Lost in Limbo got slightly squeezed at the start and raced mid-pack until he began to weaken at the top of the stretch. The gelding fell and unseated his rider inside the sixteenth-pole and was quickly attended to by the KHRC veterinarians.

Trainer:

Michael Lauer stated that the horse was claimed in September 2021 for his wife and a partner. The horse, won several races for the new connections. He worked and raced regularly up until he was injured in a morning accident that occurred in the barn area. The horse had surgery on a hind ankle to repair the damage from the freak accident and was off for an extended period before returning to the races. Lost in Limbo made three starts at Oaklawn Park after his layoff and before the Churchill Downs race. The horse was stabled and training with Lauer's division at Indiana Grand and shipped in to race at Churchill Downs the day prior to the race. He stated that the horse was sound and required only minimal vet work. He declined to comment about the racing surface at Churchill Downs as he was training elsewhere.

Jockey:

Ricardo Santana, Jr. stated that he had never been aboard the horse in a race or morning workout. He said that he was unseated in the post parade, when the horse ducked out toward the gap and brushed the outer rail. Santana confirmed that the horse felt fine after he remounted and that the KHRC veterinarian observed the horse warming up after the incident. He said that neither had a concern about the horse's soundness. He noted that the horse felt fine in the early going, but that he began to weaken at the top of the stretch. Santana said that he was easing up on the horse when the fall occurred. He said 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 7-year-old gelding, owned by Penny Lauer and Warren Griffin, and trained by Michael Lauer, ran at Churchill Downs on May 26, 2023 in a \$40,000 claiming race. This race was run at 6 furlongs over a fast dirt track.
- This horse suffered a catastrophic injury to the LF fetlock and near the 1/16th pole. The KHRC veterinarian and the horse ambulance responded. After consultation with the private veterinarian, the owner, and the trainer the horse was euthanized due to 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 to heavily 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: 1088 days
Controls range: 832-1311 days
Controls mean: 1010.5 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 969 days
Controls range: 776-854 days
Controls mean: 804 days
Comments: Above the range of controls.
- Age on 5/26/2023
Case horse: 2620 days
Controls range: 1848-2294 days
Controls mean: 2023 days
Comments: Above the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?
Case horse: No
Controls horses: No: 6/6
- Horse acquired through claim?
Case horse: Yes
Control horses: No: 1/6, Yes: 5/6
- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 1652 days
Controls range: 1065-1518 days
Controls mean: 1221 days
Comment: Above the range of controls.

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs (racing and training)
 Case horse: 627 f
 Controls range: 283.5-438.5 f
 Controls mean: 343.75 f
 Comments: Above the range of controls.
- High-speed furlongs per day in training (Day 1=date of 1st published work)
 Case horse: .380 f/day
 Control horses range: .202-.336 f/day
 Control mean: .285 f/day
 Comments: Above the range of controls.
- Interval from previous start
 Case horse: 42 days
 Control horses range: 17-41 days
 Control horses mean: 25 days
 Comment: Above the range of controls.
- First time starter?
 Case horse: No
 Control horses: No: 6/6
- Apprentice Jockey?
 Case horse: No
 Control horses: No: 6/6
- Drop in class from previous start?
 Case horse: No
 Control horses: No: 3/6, Yes: 3/6
- Double drop in class from previous start?
 Case horse: No
 Control horses: No: 4/6, Yes: 2/6
- Raise in class from previous start?
 Case horse: No
 Control horses: No: 3/6, Yes: 3/6
- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months
 Case horse: 0
 Control horses: 0: 4/6, 1: 2/6

- Number of starts in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 1/6, 1: 5/6
- Number of starts in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 1: 3/6, 2: 1/6, 3: 2/6
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 4 f
Control horses range: 8-13 f
Control horses mean: 10.75 f
Comments: Below the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 18 f
Control horses range: 17-31.5 f
Control horses mean: 22.8 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 3
Control horses: 1: 2/6, 2: 2/6, 3: 2/6
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 6/6
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 4/6, Yes: 2/6
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 234
Control horses range (n=4) 62-84-252 days
Control horses mean: 161.75
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: Yes, for meds and an illness
Control horses: No: 1/6, Yes: 5/6, four for meds, four for illness, one for injury.

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: There was a semilunar laceration over the distal-palmar aspect of the fetlock joint. The connective tissues were expanded by a moderate amount of hemorrhage. There was severe tearing of the connective tissues associated with the fetlock joint. There was complete rupture of the distal sesamoidian ligaments, with massive fiber tearing. There were small basilar chip fractures (avulsion fractures) of both sesamoids.

Lungs: Moderate, multifocal, acute, congestion.

Heart: Minimal, focal, subacute, lymphocytic myocarditis (background lesion).

Stomach: Moderate, multifocal, chronic, ulceration of the squamous mucosa, hyperkeratosis, and lymphoplasmacytic gastritis; mild, multifocal, acute, glandular erosion and hemorrhage with neutrophilic gastritis.

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

Conclusions (below)

- **Horse specific factors:** This horse got loose in the post parade, but was caught quickly and examined by the veterinarian. Neither the veterinarian nor the rider had any concerns with soundness. The above average number of high-speed furlongs/day in training causes some concern about a horse being pushed hard with less recovery time than cohorts. The below average number of high-speed furlongs in the last 30 days gives concern as to a horse's soundness, and being able to train. The morning exam and the post parade exam showed no abnormalities. The laceration over the caudal aspect of the fetlock in the necropsy report causes me to question if this may have been an over-reach with a hind hoof causing the laceration and contributing to the ligament ruptures.
- **Race specific factors:** None
- **Other factors:** None

