

Master of the Ring

Stewards Summary

Review of race:

A Stewards Inquiry was posted involving the unofficial winner #1 "Foreign Relations" (Flavien Prat) and #11 "Master of the Ring" (Tyler Gaffalione) who fell and unseated his rider near the 1/8 pole. After reviewing the race replay and interviewing Flavien Prat, the stewards determined that #1 bore in and caused #11, who was between horses, to clip his heels and fall. For the interference, #1 was disqualified and placed last. #11 Master of the Ring" suffered a catastrophic injury to his right knee in the fall and he was humanely euthanized. Tyler Gaffalione escaped injury.

Veterinary Review

- This 5-year-old gelding, owned by Michael Ryan, and trained by Michael Maker, ran at Keeneland on April 19, 2023 in an Allowance race. This race was run at 1 1/2 mile over a good turf course.
- This horse was dueling with another horse down the stretch when he was bumped off balance by the rival. When he landed on the right fore leg it buckled and he went down. He suffered a severe injury to the right fore limb and he was unable to rise. 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)

Statistical analysis was not performed on this race as the injury was due to a racing accident.

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: There was complete disarticulation of the radiocarpal joint, with tearing of both branches of the medial collateral ligament, the palmar radiocarpal ligaments and the flexor retinaculum. There were comminuted fractures of the palmar aspect of the radius, with comminuted fractures of the radial, intermediate and ulnar carpal bones.

Lungs: Moderate, multifocal, acute pulmonary congestion and hemorrhage.

Stomach: Focally extensive ulceration of the squamous mucosa. Moderate, multifocal, acute erosion and hemorrhage.

Liver: Mild, multifocal, subacute suppurative hepatitis (background lesion)

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

Conclusions (below)

- **Horse specific factors:** This horse had an explosive catastrophic injury to his right carpus after being bumped off balance during the race. This is considered an accident.
- **Race specific factors:** None
- **Other factors:** None