

Parents Pride

Stewards Summary

Review of race

Parents Pride (Tyler Gaffalione) collapsed and unseated her rider near the 3/16ths pole while being eased. The KHRC veterinarians rushed to aid the fallen horse. Before the filly could be evaluated, she became agonal and died.

Veterinary Review

- This 4-year-old filly, owned by Kenneth Ramsey and trained by Saffie Joseph Jr., ran at Churchill Downs on April 29, 2023 in an Allowance Optional Claiming \$80,000 race. This race was run at 5 ½ furlongs over a firm turf course.
- This filly pulled up after the 3/16ths pole with severe weakness in the hind limbs. The rider dismounted and the horse went down laterally recumbent. She then became agonal and died. The KHRC veterinarian and the horse ambulance responded. She was loaded onto the ambulance and transported off the course.
- 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 was performed. This filly was lightly raced. Pre-race exam findings were consistent with horses at this stage of their careers. She was 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)

- Comparative statistical analysis with the cohorts in the field was not done due to this being a sudden death.

Review of necropsy and Drug Testing results

- **Drug testing:** No prohibited substances detected. No therapeutic medication detected above regulatory threshold concentrations.
- **Toxicology testing:** No substances on the anticoagulant screen were noted. All other substances were within normal limits.

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:**

Dr. Kennedys remarks were:

“Exercise-associated sudden death (EASD) is defined as non-traumatic, non-catastrophic musculoskeletal injury (CMI) that occurs during or within two hours of exercise. It can be difficult to determine the cause of EASD, as many cases are autopsy-negative (Molesan et al) and some findings can be equivocal. Myocarditis can be identified in clinically normal racehorses that are euthanized for a variety of reasons, including CMI. Judgements on the significance of certain findings can vary between laboratories and pathologists (Lyle et al). The pathologist on this case defines myocarditis to be a significant finding when greater than 30% of the histologic sections exhibit inflammation. In this case, 5% of sections were affected. The heart was examined using the protocol outlined in Diab et al. Horses that suffer an EASD rarely "drop in their tracks," rather they are described by the rider and observers to be wobbly, weak, or ataxic prior to collapsing. In other cases, the horse may die after exercise, such as during unsaddling, while walking back to the barn, being hotwalked, or being bathed”.

Heart: Minimal, focal, subacute, lymphoplasmacytic myocarditis (background lesion)

Brain: Mild, multifocal, acute, congestion and hemorrhage.

Lung: Moderate, multifocal, acute, pulmonary hemorrhage.

Stomach: Marked, multifocal, subacute to chronic, squamous ulceration and hyperkeratosis.

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Conclusions (below)

- **Horse specific factors:** Mild to moderate changes were noted in the heart, brain and lung, but these were not thought to be significant enough to be the cause of the sudden death. The pathologist (in her summary above) points out that many sudden deaths are “autopsy-negative”.
- **Race specific factors:** None
- **Other factors:** None

