

## **Petit Verdot**

### **Stewards Summary**

Review of race:

Petit Verdot bobbled and unseated his rider near the 3/8ths pole while in tight quarters. The horse ran loose before being caught by the outriders, but it was apparent that he had suffered an injury. When caught, the horse required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians and the horse ambulance. The stewards posted an inquiry into the incident, but concluded that no other horse had been involved.

Trainer:

Thomas Van Berg said that he claimed the horse for himself at Churchill Downs in November 2021. He stated that he raced the horse regularly with great success, winning several allowance races and also a Claiming Crown race last November at Churchill Downs. Van Berg described the horse as the soundest horse he had ever trained, and that he couldn't have wanted the horse to be training any better. He said that the horse worked and raced regularly, had no soundness issues, and required minimal vet work. He thought that the horse had clipped heels during the race to cause the rider to be unseated, but then was shocked when he realized that the horse had been injured. He didn't speculate on whether the racing surface was a factor, but said that horses either take to a synthetic track or they don't.

Jockey:

Rafael Hernandez stated that he had never been aboard the horse in a morning workout or race. The rider said that the horse warmed up well in the post parade and that he had no concern riding him. He said that the horse was running well and sitting perfect when the incident occurred without warning. He noted that the horse had lost a shoe, but speculated that it happened when the horse went wrong and tried to catch himself.

### **Veterinary Review**

- This 5-year-old gelding, owned by Grit to Glory Racing LLC, and trained by Thomas Van Berg, ran at Turfway Park on February 17, 2023 in an Optional Claiming for \$50,000 race. This race was run at 6 furlongs over a fast Tapeta track.
- This gelding unseated his rider near the 3/8ths pole. The outriders caught the horse near the 3/16ths pole and it was apparent that he had suffered an injury. The KHRC veterinarian and the horse ambulance responded. The horse was loaded onto the ambulance and after he became severely shocky from an apparent shoulder injury he was euthanized. The colt was euthanized 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 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 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: 753 days  
Controls range: 765-1609 days  
Controls mean: 962 days  
Comments: Just below the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze  
Case horse: 666 days  
Controls range: 667-900 days  
Controls mean: 778 days  
Comments: Just below the range of controls.
- Age on 2/17/2023  
Case horse: 1754 days  
Controls range: 1404-2559 days  
Controls mean: 2081 days  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?  
Case horse: No  
Controls horses: No: 7/9, Yes: 2/9
- Horse acquired through claim?  
Case horse: Yes  
Control horses: No: 6/9, Yes: 3/9
- Days in training (1<sup>st</sup> published work to race date)  
Case horse: 1088 days  
Controls range: 617-1772 days  
Controls mean: 1302 days  
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs (racing and training)  
Case horse: 363 f  
Controls range: 299-638.5  
Controls mean: 409 f

Comments: Within the range of controls.

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

Case horse: .334 f/day

Control horses range: .208-.490 f/day

Control mean: .326 f/day

Comments: Within the range of controls.

- Interval from previous start

Case horse: 97 days

Control horses range: 8-112 days

Control horses mean: 41 days

Comment: Within the range of controls.

- First time starter?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 9/9

- Apprentice Jockey?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 9/9

- Drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: Yes

Control horses: No: 5/9, Yes: 4/9

- Double drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 5/9, Yes: 4/9

- Raise in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 7/9, Yes: 2/9

- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months

Case horse: 0

Control horses: 0: 7/9, 1: 1/9, 2: 1/9

- Number of starts in preceding 30 days

Case horse: 0

Control horses: 0: 4/9, 1: 4/9, 2: 1/9

- Number of starts in preceding 60 days

Case horse: 0

Control horses: 0: 1/9, 1: 6/9, 2: 2/9

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days  
Case horse: 13 f  
Control horses range: 0-16 f  
Control horses mean: 10.6 f  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days  
Case horse: 29 f  
Control horses range: 6-26 f  
Control horses mean: 16.7 f  
Comments: Slightly above the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs  $\geq 30$  days in preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 1  
Control horses: 2: 4/9, 3: 2/9, 4: 1/9, 5: 2/9
- First start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?  
Case horse: Yes  
Control horses: No: 8/9, Yes: 1/9
- Second start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 8/9, Yes: 1/9
- Length of  $\geq 60$  day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 97  
Control horses range (n=7) 65-147 days  
Control horses mean: 103 days
- History of being vet listed  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 5/9, Yes 4/9, three for meds and one 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: Left forelimb: There was a complete fracture of the scapula, with comminuted fractures of the glenoid, and a fracture line that extended proximally to the spine of the scapula.

Postmortem preservation was poor with marked autolysis.

**Conclusions (below)**

- **Horse specific factors:** This horse had a 90+ day layoff from racing. This triggers closer observation in the pre-race exam and warmups. This concern is somewhat abated as the horse did not have a layoff from training as seen in his work pattern. If there had been weakening of the scapula from the lay-off, there should have been a gait abnormality, which was not noted.
- **Race specific factors:** None
- **Other factors:** None