

## **Sticky Issue**

### **Stewards Summary**

Review of race:

Sticky Issue was racing mid-pack, when he was pulled up abruptly near the 5/16 pole and required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians and the horse ambulance. The horse was transported off the track and diagnostics were performed by the private veterinarian.

Trainer:

John Ennis said that the horse was sent to him to train in early fall of 2021 from a trainer in New York. He described the horse as a solid, sound horse who ran hard and was a star. The horse ran several times at Churchill Downs in November, before the owner wanted him to have the winter off to rest for his spring campaign. Ennis said that he was the horse's regular exercise rider at The Thoroughbred Center. The horse had hit the board in all five previous starts under his care. He stated that he had switched the horse back to dirt from turf due to the lack of turf racing at Churchill Downs but did not think that contributed to the incident.

Jockey:

James Graham stated that he had been aboard the horse in five previous races and quite a few morning workouts. The rider said that the horse warmed up in the post parade as he had in his previous starts. The horse had no issues, and did everything right. He said that he was comfortable and confident that the horse had a good chance to win the race before the incident occurred near the 5/16 pole. He commented that the surface seems to vary from day to day, but that it did not appear to be a factor in the incident.

### **Veterinary Review**

- This 4-year-old colt, owned by Richard Perkins, and trained by John Ennis, ran at Churchill Downs on July 1, 2022 in a Maiden Special Weight race. This race was run at 1 1/16 mile over a fast main course.
- This colt ran in mid-pack until he was abruptly pulled up at the 3/8's pole. The KHRC veterinarian and the horse ambulance responded. The attending KHRC veterinarian sedated and examined the horse. A Kimzey splint was applied and the horse was loaded onto the horse ambulance. Diagnostic radiographs were taken by the attending veterinarian at the horse's barn. Due to the extent of his injuries and a poor prognosis the horse was euthanized.
- 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 lightly to 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 minimal and routine.

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

- Age at first start  
Case horse: 1181 days  
Controls range: 902-1507 days  
Controls mean: 1159 days  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze  
Case horse: 991 days  
Controls range: 777-1459 days  
Controls mean: 958 days  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age on 7/1/2022  
Case horse: 1543 days  
Controls range: 1139-1573 days  
Controls mean: 1274 days  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?  
Case horse: No  
Controls horses: No: 4/7, Yes: 3/7
- Horse acquired through claim?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 7/7
- Days in training (1<sup>st</sup> published work to race date)  
Case horse: 552 days  
Controls range: 89-745 days  
Controls mean: 316 days  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)  
Case horse: 172 f  
Controls range: 39.5-193 f  
Controls mean: 112 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: .312 f/day

Control horses range: .224-.563 f/day

Control mean: .400 f/day

Comments: Within the range of controls.

- Interval from previous start

Case horse: 32 days

Control horses range: 23-70 days

Control horses mean: 36 days

Comment: Within the range of controls.

- First time starter?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 7/7

- Apprentice Jockey?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 7/7

- Drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 7/7

- Double drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 7/7

- Raise in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 6/7, Yes: 1/7

- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months

Case horse: 0

Control horses: 0: 7/7

- Number of starts in preceding 30 days

Case horse: 0

Control horses: 0: 3/7, 1: 4/7

- Number of starts in preceding 60 days

Case horse: 2

Control horses: 0: 1/7 1: 4/7 2: 2/7

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days  
Case horse: 4 f  
Control horses range: 8-16 f  
Control horses mean: 11.6 f  
Comments: Below the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days  
Case horse: 24 f  
Control horses range: 16-30 f  
Control horses mean: 25 f  
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs  $\geq 30$  days in preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 2  
Control horses: 0: 2/7 1: 2/7, 2: 1/7, 3: 2/7
- First start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 6/7, Yes: 1/7
- Second start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 7/7
- Length of  $\geq 60$  day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 155 days  
Control horses range (n=1) 70days  
Control horses mean: 70 days
- History of being vet listed  
Case horse: Yes, for medications.  
Control horses: No: 6/7, Yes: 1/7, for lameness.

### 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 closed biaxial comminuted sesamoid fractures. The distal limb was expanded by a large amount of hemorrhage and edema.

Stomach: Mild, multifocal, hyperkeratosis.

No significant lesions of the brain, heart, lung.

**Conclusions (below)**

- **Horse specific factors:** None
- **Race specific factors:** None
- **Other factors:** None