

Swanson Lake

Stewards Summary

Review of race:

Swanson Lake raced toward the back of the field, down the backside and into the turn. Leaving the quarter pole, the filly began to make up ground and she finished fourth. While galloping out after the race, she was pulled up abruptly while approaching the seven-eighths pole, and the rider dismounted. The filly required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians and the horse ambulance.

Trainer:

Michael McCarthy stated that he had received the horse to train three months before she made her first start at Aqueduct in mid-February. He said that the filly, who had never missed any training, had regular consistent works, and had no soundness issues. He noted that the filly had been scratched in her previous race at Churchill Downs due to a post parade incident that was not related to soundness. McCarthy did not speculate on whether the track was a factor in the cause of the injury.

Jockey:

James Graham stated that he had not ridden the filly in a race, but had been aboard her for many morning workouts. He said that she seemed to be improving with each work. He noted that the horse felt fine and changed leads normally during the running of the race. He described her as a “free moving filly” that never took a bad step in the race. Graham said that the filly was running very well to the wire, and that the injury occurred without warning while galloping out after the race. Graham did not think that the track surface was a factor.

Veterinary Review

- This 3-year-old filly, owned by BG Stables and trained by Michael McCarthy, ran at Churchill Downs on May 20, 2023 in a Maiden Special Weight. This race was run at 5 ½ furlongs over a fast dirt track.
- This filly pulled up during the gallop out after the race with an injury to the LH fetlock. The KHRC veterinarian and the horse ambulance responded. The filly was sedated and taken to her barn for further evaluation. Radiographs revealed a LH, closed, displaced lateral condylar fracture. A displaced, complete, bi-articular sagittal P1 fracture and biaxial sesamoid fractures. After consultation with the private veterinarian and 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 lightly 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: 1121 days
Controls range: 1053-1188 days
Controls mean: 1126 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 1052 days
Controls range: 761-1068 days
Controls mean: 895 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age on 5/20/2023
Case horse: 1213 days
Controls range: 1100-1217 days
Controls mean: 1165 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?
Case horse: No
Controls horses: No: 2/8, Yes: 6/8
- Horse acquired through claim?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 162 days
Controls range: 138-413 days
Controls mean: 271 days
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs (racing and training)
Case horse: 81 f
Controls range: 49-91 f
Controls mean: 72 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.

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

Case horse: .500 f/day

Control horses range: .127-.558 f/day

Control mean: .316 f/day

Comments: Within the range of controls.

- Interval from previous start

Case horse: 93 days

Control horses range: 19-134 days

Control horses mean: 32 days

Comment: Within the range of controls.

- First time starter?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 4/8, Yes: 4/8

- Apprentice Jockey?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 8/8

- Drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 8/8

- Double drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 8/8

- Raise in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 5/8, Yes: 3/8

- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months

Case horse: 0

Control horses: 0: 8/8

- Number of starts in preceding 30 days

Case horse: 0

Control horses: 0: 6/8, 1: 2/8

- Number of starts in preceding 60 days

Case horse: 0

Control horses: 0: 6/8, 1: 1/8, 3: 1/8

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 14 f
Control horses range: 9-15.5 f
Control horses mean: 12.7 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 28 f
Control horses range: 17-34.5 f
Control horses mean: 27.2 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 6/8 1: 2/8
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: Yes
Control horses: No: 6/8, Yes: 2/8
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 93
Control horses range (n=2) 74-134 days
Control horses mean: 104 days
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/8

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 Hind limb: There were multiple fractures within the fetlock joint, including a lateral condylar fracture, biaxial sesamoid fractures, and a comminuted, bi-articular fracture of the first phalanx, with marked soft tissue disruption.

No other histologic examination due to autolysis.

Conclusions (below)

- **Horse specific factors:** The only factor which prompted closer scrutiny was a 90 day break from racing, but the work-tab was uninterrupted. No gait abnormalities were noted in pre-race exam or in the warm-ups.
- **Race specific factors:** None
- **Other factors:** None