

Vertical Threat

Stewards Summary

Review of race:

A Stewards Inquiry was posted when #3 "Vertical Threat" ridden by Adam Beschizza fell and unseated his rider near the 5/16 pole. #5 "Rough Entry" with Brian Hernandez, Jr. aboard was unable to avoid the horse and fell over him, unseating his rider. After reviewing the race replay and interviewing the riders, the stewards determined that #3 ran up into the heels of third place #7 "Sir Alfred James" ridden by John McKee and caused the fall.

#3 "Vertical Threat" required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians and the horse ambulance. He was later transported to a clinic for evaluation.

Veterinary Review

- This 4-year-old colt, owned by MyRacehorse and Slam Dunk Racing, and trained by Richard Baltas, raced at Churchill Downs on November 6, 2021, in the 10th race, the Bet on Sunshine Stakes, with a \$300,000 purse. The race was run at 6 furlongs over a fast main track.
- The colt was racing near the lead when he ran up onto the #7 "Sir Alfred James", clipped heels, and fell. The #5 "Rough Entry" was unable to avoid "Vertical Threat" and fell over him unseating his rider. "Rough Entry" regained his feet and ran off uninjured. "Vertical Threat" was severely lame after getting to his feet. The on-track KHRC veterinarian called for the ambulance and administered a sedative/analgesic to aid in getting the horse onto the equine ambulance. The horse was sent to Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington KY. Diagnostics performed at the hospital revealed a fracture of the scapula. The colt was euthanized due to a poor prognosis.
- The colt was submitted to 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 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

Veterinary records were not requested as this was an obvious accident.

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

- Analysis of risk factors on the case horse and uninjured cohorts was not performed as this was an obvious 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: L forelimb: The connective tissues surrounding the shoulder were massively expanded by hemorrhage and edema with severe tearing of the muscles surrounding the proximal humerus and distal scapula. There were multiple fractures of the scapula and a large fracture on the head of the humerus. R forelimb: there was a complete fracture of the accessory carpal bone.

The stomach had mild, multifocal, hyperkeratosis.

The lungs had mild, multifocal, acute, congestion and hemorrhage; mild alveolar histiocytosis.

There were no significant lesions of the brain, heart, liver, kidney, adrenal, spleen, small and large intestines.

Conclusions (below)

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