

## **Triggerman**

### **Stewards Summary**

Triggerman raced several lengths behind the leaders, began to lose some ground in the stretch, fell suddenly and unseated his rider approaching the finish. The horse did not attempt to get up and was tended to by the KHRC veterinarians on the turf course.

#### **Trainer:**

Trainer Joe Sharp stated that he had the horse since he was a yearling and was bought back by his owner at a 2 year-old in training sale. The horse had been in training at Ellis Park throughout the summer, then was moved to Churchill Downs. Sharp stated that he breezed the horse himself at Churchill Downs in the work prior to the race and the horse had no soundness issues.

#### **Jockey:**

Adam Beschizza suffered a fractured collarbone in the incident. He stated that he had ridden the horse in his first race, that he warmed up fine and he had no concern about him during the post parade. He stated that he worked the horse several times and he was very strong and willing. He did comment that the turf was yielding, although listed as good, and that contrary to horses that train abroad, horses in the U.S. do not have opportunity to train on a yielding course, they only race over them.

### **Veterinary Review**

- This 3-year-old colt, trained by Joe Sharp and owned by Brad Grady, sustained an injury to his left forelimb at Keeneland on October 9<sup>th</sup> in the 5<sup>th</sup> race, a maiden special weight on a good turf course contested at 1 mile.
- KHRC veterinarians euthanized the horse on the track due to the extensive nature of the injury.
- The body 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 lightly to moderately campaigned in their racing careers. Pre-race exam findings were consistent with horses at this stage of their careers. All findings were minimal. The nature and extent of the findings were consistent between the Case and Controls. No persistent gait abnormalities were noted in the pre-race exams or during the post parade.

### **Review of the 60-day treatment report**

The trainer 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: 1251 days  
Controls range: 915-1583 days  
Controls mean: 1079 days  
Controls median: 1008 days

Comments: Slightly above cohorts

- Age at first breeze  
Case horse: 941  
Controls range: 771-906  
Controls mean: 807  
Controls median: 787  
Comments: Slightly above cohorts

- Age on 10/9/2019  
Case horse: 1277 days  
Controls range: 1109-1646 days  
Controls mean: 1339 days  
Controls median: 1283 days  
Comments: No difference from cohorts.

- Owner/breeder?  
Case horse: No  
Controls horses: Yes: 3/9 No: 6/9

- Horse acquired through claim?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 7/9 Yes: 2/9

- Days in training (1<sup>st</sup> published work to race date)  
Case horse: 339  
Controls range: 236-883 days  
Controls mean: 527 days  
Controls median: 466 days  
Comment: Slightly below cohorts.

- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)  
Case horse: 114  
Controls range: 70-197.5  
Controls mean: 131  
Controls median: 118.5  
Comments: Same as cohorts.

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

Case horse: .34f/day

Control horses range: .09-.43f/day

Control mean: .27f/day

Control median: .26f/day

Comments: In the range of cohorts.

- Interval from previous start

Case horse: 26 days

Control horses range: 0-199 days

Control horses mean: 55 days

Control horses median: 32 days

Comment: In the range of cohorts.

- First time starter?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No 8/9 Yes: 1/9

- Apprentice Jockey?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 9/9

- Drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: no

Control horses: No: 9/9

- Double drop in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 9/9

- Raise in class from previous start?

Case horse: No

Control horses: No: 9/9

- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months

Case horse: 0

Control horses: 0: 8/9 1: 1/9

- Number of starts in preceding 30 days

Case horse: 1

Control horses: 0: 8/9 1: 1/9

- Number of starts in preceding 60 days

Case horse: 1

Control horses: 0: 3/9 1: 3/9 2: 3/9

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days  
Case horse: 11  
Control horses range: 0-18  
Control horses mean: 8.7  
Control horses median: 9  
Comments: In the range of cohorts.
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days  
Case horse: 35  
Control horses range: 4-33.5  
Control horses mean: 21.2  
Control horses median: 23  
Comments: Slightly above cohorts
- Number of layoffs  $\geq 30$  days in preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 0  
Control horses: 0: 2/9 1: 3/9 2: 1/9 3: 1/9 4: 2/9
- First start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 7/9 Yes: 2/9
- Second start off  $\geq 60$  day layoff?  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 9/9
- Length of  $\geq 60$  day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months  
Case horse: 0  
Control horses range (n=4) 63-196  
Control horses mean: 126.5  
Control horses median: 174.5
- History of being vet listed  
Case horse: No  
Control horses: No: 8/9 Yes: 1/9  
Comments: One horse on Vet List for previous lameness, worked off the list.

### 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 an open, biaxial fracture of the sesamoids, with complete disarticulation of the joint. The medial sesamoid fracture was apical, the lateral fracture was a comminuted mid body to basilar fracture. There was severe soft tissue damage associated with these fractures.

There were ulcers found in the stomach.

No abnormalities were present on heart, liver, spleen , kidneys, small and large intestines.

- **Conclusions:**

There were no risk factors apparent which would be thought to have an impact on this breakdown.

The jockey Adam Beschizza noted that he felt that the turf course was yielding but no determination of whether that may have been a factor can be made. There were three turf races that day and this was the only incident.