

Mountain Bear

Stewards Summary

Mountain Bear broke well and was racing in mid-pack when he was pulled up abruptly near the 4-1/2 pole. It was apparent that he had suffered a serious injury to his right hind leg and required the assistance of the KHRC veterinarians.

Trainer:

Ben Colebrook stated that he received the horse to train at Churchill Downs in August 2020 from the owner, who was also the breeder. The horse had previously been with another trainer at Keeneland. He moved the horse to Turfway Park in December. He stated that the horse had no soundness issues and required minimal veterinary care. He noted that he was present at Turfway Park on the night of the incident and that the racing surface was quite hard.

Jockey:

Declan Cannon stated that he had been aboard the horse in his previous start in January in which he finished second. He said that he had never been on the horse for a morning work. He stated that the horse warmed up well in the post parade. He said the horse was shaking his head leaving the starting gate and was slow to get in stride. Cannon stated that he let the horse, who was stabby in front, run on his own without pushing him. He commented that he thought the racing surface had no bounce that night.

Veterinary Review

- This 3 year-old gelding, owned by Sumaya U.S. Stable and trained by Ben Colebrook, raced at Turfway Park on February 5, 2021, in the 5th race, a Maiden Special Weight run at 1-1/16 miles on the Tapeta All Weather track.
- The gelding was racing in mid-pack when he was pulled up abruptly at the 4 ½ furlong pole. The on-track KHRC veterinarian called for the equine ambulance and administered a sedative/analgesic to assist in loading onto the ambulance. The gelding was euthanized on the ambulance due to the severity of his injury 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 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 routine and very minimal.

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

- Age at first start
Case horse: 1018 days
Controls range: 975-1093 days
Controls mean: 1015days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age at first breeze
Case horse: 843 days
Controls range: 740-924 days
Controls mean: 812 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Age on 2/5/2021
Case horse: 1090 days
Controls range: 1018-1093 days
Controls mean: 1049 days
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- Owner/breeder?
Case horse: No
Controls horses: No: 3/9, Yes: 6/9
- Horse acquired through claim?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/9
- Days in training (1st published work to race date)
Case horse: 247 days
Controls range: 159-293 days
Controls mean: 238 days
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- Cumulative high speed furlongs (racing and training)
Case horse: 70 f
Controls range: 59-105 f
Controls mean: 76.7 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.
- High speed furlongs per day in training (Day 1=date of 1st published work)
Case horse: .283 f/day
Control horses range: .201-.563 f/day
Control mean: .340 f/day
Comments: Within the range of controls.

- Interval from previous start
Case horse: 28 days
Control horses range: 28-48 days
Control horses mean: 34 days
Comment: Within the range of controls.
- First time starter?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 7/9, Yes: 2/9
- Apprentice Jockey?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/9
- Drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 6/9, Yes: 1/9, N/A: 2/9
- Double drop in class from previous start?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 7/9, N/A: 2/9
- Raise in class from previous start?
Case horse: Yes
Control horses: No: 7/9, N/A: 2/9
- Number of times claimed in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: 0
Control horses: 0: 9/9
- Number of starts in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 6/9, 1: 3/9
- Number of starts in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 2/9, 1: 7/9
- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 30 days
Case horse: 8 f
Control horses range: 8-15 f
Control horses mean: 11.8 f
Comments: Within the range of controls.

- Cumulative high-speed furlongs in preceding 60 days
Case horse: 16 f
Control horses range: 21-38 f
Control horses mean: 28.2 f
Comments: Below the range of controls.
- Number of layoffs ≥ 30 days in preceding 6 months
Case horse: 1
Control horses: 0: 2/9, 1: 4/9, 2: 1/9, N/A: 2/9
- First start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/9
- Second start off ≥ 60 day layoff?
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 9/9
- Length of ≥ 60 day layoff ending in the preceding 6 months
Case horse: N/A
Control horses range (n=0) N/A
Control horses mean: N/A
- History of being vet listed
Case horse: No
Control horses: No: 8/9, Yes: 1/9 for meds, 14 day vet 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: R Hind limb: Multiple fetlock fractures in P1 and an MTIII lateral condylar fracture. There is severe soft tissue damage, including tearing of the deep and superficial flexor tendons, palmar annular ligaments, and sesamoidian ligaments. The fetlock joint was luxated.

Stomach: There was severe chronic ulceration with hyperkeratosis of the stomach.

Liver: There was mild, multifocal, subacute, suppurative hepatitis.

Lungs: There was mild to moderate diffuse edema.

No significant lesions of the brain, heart, kidney, spleen, or small and large intestines.

Conclusions (below)

- **Horse specific factors:** None
- **Race specific factors:** None
- **Other factors:** Both trainer and jockey noted that the surface was hard, or had no bounce.