

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD  
1010 HURLEY WAY, SUITE 300  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825



**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS  
LOS ANGELES TURF CLUB, INC.  
Santa Anita Park**

**To the California Horse Racing Board**

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor  
Honorable John C Harris, Vice Chairman  
Honorable John Andreini, Member  
Honorable Jesse H. Choper, Member  
Honorable Bo Derek, Member  
Honorable David Israel, Member  
Honorable Jerry Moss, Member  
Kirk E. Breed, Executive Director  
Richard "Bon" Smith, Assistant Executive Director

For the period: Wednesday, February 4, through Sunday, February 8, 2009.

MINUTES – SEVENTH WEEK of SANTA ANITA

\* \* \* \* \*

**WEDNESDAY**  
02/04/09<sup>1</sup>

**FINLEY HEARING**

Veterinarian DR. JENNIFER FINLEY met with the stewards in an informal hearing to address a complaint alleging that she had failed to submit a necropsy report to the Official Veterinarian in a timely manner. Official veterinarian Dr. Bell was present to confirm the allegations. Dr. Finley agreed that she had technically violated the rule but claimed that she had made an attempt and did not fully understand the rule. The stewards explained that not knowing the rules is not a defense and that these seemingly technical rules do serve a larger purpose. A ruling will follow in the near future.

02/04/09<sup>2</sup>

**BECERRA RULING**

Trainer RAFAEL BECERRA called the stewards in advance of a scheduled hearing to address a complaint alleging a bute overage. The overage was discovered in a post race blood sample taken from one of his runners. Mr. Becerra requested that the phone call serve as his hearing, and acknowledged responsibility for the barn error. The following ruling was therefore published:

**LATS #027**

Trainer **RAFAEL BECERRA**, who started the horse Roar of Eagles in the second race at Santa Anita Park on January 9, 2009, is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS\* (\$500.00) pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1887 (Trainer to Insure Condition of Horse) for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1844 (c) (Authorized Medication – Phenylbutazone in excess of permitted levels).

02/04/09<sup>3</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Race #5 Skippy Due – Claimed – A. Sherman, trainer  
#6 Frankelstein – Claimed – R. Cardenas, trainer  
Refund \$349.00
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Race No changes; Refund \$158.00; Minus Pool \$3.89
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Race #9 Thinking of You – Veterinarian scratch, injured – Dr. Bailey  
#14 L’Aziza – Stewards’ scratch, also eligible  
#7 Timely Princess – Rider change – O. Vergara for J. Valdivia (sick)  
Refund \$1,641.93
- 4<sup>th</sup> Race #5 Toll Road – Claimed – M. Mitchell, trainer  
#6 No Ka Oi – Claimed – J. Carava, trainer  
#9 Brought It – Claimed – F. Monteleone, trainer  
Refund \$23.00
- 5<sup>th</sup> Race No changes; Refund \$154.24
- 6<sup>th</sup> Race #8 Sterling Misty – Rider change – C. Sutherland for J. Valdivia
- 7<sup>th</sup> Race #2 Persian Express – Rider change – B. Blanc for J. Valdivia
- 8<sup>th</sup> Race #7 Olympic Magic – Rider change – C. Nakatani for J. Valdivia

02/04/09<sup>4</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	3,172	916,994.60
Inter-track	5,796	1,541,784.00
Out of state	n/a	3,596,511.90
Total	8,968	\$6,055,290.50

**THURSDAY**  
02/05/09<sup>1</sup>

**VUTHA RULING**

Scientific Games employee DANNY VUTHA failed to appear for a hearing to answer a complaint alleging various criminal activities and violation of CHRB Rule 1902 (Conduct Detrimental to Horse Racing). The following ruling was issued in response to Mr. Vutha’s absence:

**LATS #028**

Scientific Games employee DANNY VUTHA, having failed to appear to answer charges alleging violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1902 (Conduct Detrimental to Horse Racing), is suspended pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1547 (Failure to Appear). During the term of suspension, all licenses and license privileges of Danny Vutha are suspended and in accordance with California Horse Racing Board rule #1528 (Jurisdiction of Stewards to Suspend or Fine), Mr. Vutha is denied access to all premises in this jurisdiction.

02/05/09<sup>2</sup>**FINLEY RULING**

After careful consideration, the stewards issued the following ruling based on Dr. Finley's hearing yesterday, which alleged a late necropsy report (see 02/04/09<sup>1</sup>):

**LATS #029**

Veterinarian JENNIFER C. FINLEY, D.V.M. is fined ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS\* (\$100.00) for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1846 (c) (e) (Failure to file a request for postmortem examination in a timely manner).

02/05/09<sup>3</sup>**MEETING WITH JOCKEYS**

The stewards held our weekly meeting with the riders, with specific emphasis on review of the seventh race from Sunday, February 1, 2009. This was a race which involved multiple incidents and several riders, occurring as the horses were entering the turn in a seven furlong event. This session was particularly productive in the sense that the jockeys had the opportunity to analyze a race and evaluate the effort and actions of fellow riders. What became clear was the importance of safety during races and the need for riders to be responsive to each other when in trouble.

02/05/09<sup>4</sup>**INQUIRY – NO CHANGE**

The stewards posted the inquiry sign after the running of the sixth race in order to examine an incident involving the first four finishers. Films showed initially that the winner #1 Play Nine, ridden by Joe Talamo, angles out at the eighth pole and seems to create a chain reaction with the two horses to her outside – second place finisher #8 Melody Makin ridden by Rafael Bejarano and fourth place finisher #9 Rev Her Up, Victor Espinoza up. Upon closer examination, however, it became clear that the initial contact was minor in nature and that it was actually the fourth place finisher overreacting to the situation. This analysis was confirmed by all three riders involved. Therefore, no change was appropriate.

02/05/09<sup>5</sup>**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

1 <sup>st</sup> Race	#1 Persian Honey (BRZ) – Veterinarian scratch, sick – Dr. Beck #9 Heathersdaddysbaby – Claimed – R. Cardenas, trainer Refund \$423.20
2 <sup>nd</sup> Race	No changes; Refund \$59.00; Minus Pool \$13.53
3 <sup>rd</sup> Race	No changes; Refund \$88.00
4 <sup>th</sup> Race	#6 Indian Pride – Stewards' scratch, veterinarians' list #1 Closing Speed – Late veterinarian scratch, injured in gate – Dr. Bailey Refund \$180,158.41

- 5<sup>th</sup> Race No changes; Refund \$177.62
- 6<sup>th</sup> Race #2 Winningdancer – Veterinarian scratch, sick – Dr. Beck  
#3 Jaylo's Mark – Veterinarian scratch, sick -- Dr. Bailey  
Refund \$2,495.77
- 7<sup>th</sup> Race #8 Thrust – Stewards' scratch, unmanageable, left course during  
warm-up  
Refund \$46,688.55
- 8<sup>th</sup> Race #4 Telatrish – Veterinarian scratch, unsound – Dr. Beck  
Refund \$945.44

02/05/09<sup>6</sup>**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	3,041	1,023,857.30
Inter-track	6,099	1,654,728.50
Out of state	n/a	3,666,815.22
Total	9,140	\$6,345,401.02

**FRIDAY**02/06/09<sup>1</sup>**BECCA HEARING**

Exercise rider ARIEL BECCA met with the stewards in an informal hearing to address a complaint (case number 09SA003) alleging that Mr. Becca had been working as a horseshoer without the proper test and license. This came to light when Mr. Becca was kicked and badly injured while shoeing a horse at Fairplex. In fact Mr. Becca appeared two weeks after surgery during which he had two metal plates implanted in his face. Mr. Becca acknowledged that he had been shoeing without a license but claimed that he only shod ponies. If true, the action would nevertheless represent a violation of the rule. However, under the circumstances, we felt that a warning was appropriate. The stewards are quite confident that Mr. Becca will not return to shoeing until he has procured a license.

02/06/09<sup>2</sup>**FILM REVIEW**

Jockey JOSE VALDIVIA met with the stewards to review the seventh race last Sunday. Mr. Valdivia did not attend the group review of this race outlined on **02/05/09<sup>3</sup>**. We explained that, as the rider on the outside of horses, Mr. Valdivia was in the best position to relieve pressure and problems on the inside. After reviewing the film, Mr. Valdivia agreed with our assessment.

Jockey JOE TALAMO met with the stewards to review the same race as Mr. Valdivia. Although Mr. Talamo was less culpable than some of the other riders, we wanted all of the participants to review the race in an effort to prevent future problems.

Jockey RAFAEL BEJARANO met with the stewards to review the fifth race on Thursday in which his mount is drifting out in the stretch. We have noticed that this drifting seems to be a developing pattern for Mr. Bejarano and wanted to

draw it to his attention before it resulted in a disqualification or suspension days. He pledged to do a better job in the future.

Jockey CHANTAL SUTHERLAND met with the stewards to discuss her ride in the third race last Sunday. As has been the case on more than one occasion, Ms. Sutherland allowed her mount to drift out in the lane under left handed whipping. Not only is this counterproductive with respect to winning races, but it can be dangerous. We explained that even if her horse is not the subject of an inquiry, her actions can nevertheless be characterized as careless riding and result in a suspension. Ms. Sutherland acknowledged her mistake and agreed to work on this problem.

02/06/09<sup>4</sup>**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

1 <sup>st</sup> Race	#3 Lucky Striker – Claimed – G. Mandella, trainer Refund \$822.86
2 <sup>nd</sup> Race	No changes; Refund \$640.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Race	#3 B's Lucky Strike – Stewards' scratch, off turf #4 Itsnotjustagame- Stewards' scratch, off turf #6 Deacon's Cat - Stewards' scratch, off turf #9 Prize Play - Stewards' scratch, off turf Refund \$3,145.81
4 <sup>th</sup> Race	#5 Radius – Veterinarian scratch, injured – Dr. Bailey #3 Soul City Slew – Claimed – J. Carava, trainer Refund \$214.50
5 <sup>th</sup> Race	No changes; Refund \$5.00
6 <sup>th</sup> Race	#7 Just Charmed – Veterinarian scratch, sick – Dr. Durenburger Refund \$382.36
7 <sup>th</sup> Race	#3 Ellen K. – Veterinarian scratch, injured – Dr. Bailey Refund \$433.80
8 <sup>th</sup> Race	#9 Delmando – Veterinarian scratch, unsound – Dr. Bailey #1 Dolrdolrbillyall – pulled up, ½ mile pole, vanned to barn (synthetic) Refund \$1,964.46

02/06/09<sup>3</sup>**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	3,655	972,348.40
Inter-track	5,414	1,722,743.60
Out of state	n/a	3,956,607.08
Total	9,069	\$6,651,699.08

**SATURDAY**  
02/07/09<sup>1</sup>

**NAKATANI RULING**

Jockey COREY NAKATANI withdrew the appeal of a three day suspension incurred earlier in the meet and was therefore given "like" days in the following ruling:

**LATS #030**

Jockey COREY NAKATANI, having withdrawn his appeal of LATS Ruling #13 dated January 16, 2009, is suspended for THREE (3) racing days (February 13, 14 and 15, 2009) for violation of Horse Racing Board rule 1699 (Riding Rules – Careless Riding). Terms of suspension shall not prohibit participation in designated races pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule 1766 (Designated Races).

02/07/09<sup>2</sup>

**SALDANA MEETING**

Jockey REED SALDANA met with the stewards regarding a financial matter involving the Board of Stewards in New York. We acted as an intermediary between the two parties in order to get the matter resolved before some action is taken against his license in New York and thus, by reciprocity, has some affect here in California.

02/07/09<sup>3</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Race | #2 Dynamic Heat – Stewards' scratch, off turf<br>#7 Meteore - Stewards' scratch, off turf<br>#8 Lemonbird - Stewards' scratch, off turf<br>#11 Career High - Stewards' scratch, off turf<br>Refund \$3,237.30 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Race | #3 Tiztime – Veterinarian scratch, injured – Dr. Bailey<br>#7 Gotthatfeeling – Stewards' scratch, track condition<br>Refund \$1,441.40; Minus Pool \$705.07   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Race | #1 Broctane (NZ) - Stewards' scratch, off turf<br>#9 Kewen - Stewards' scratch, off turf<br>#13 Rivergrade Boy - Stewards' scratch, off turf<br>Refund \$2,636.30   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Race | #2 Great Legacy – Late veterinarian scratch, injured in gate<br>Refund \$165,622.66   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Race | No changes; Refund \$359.80   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Race | #1 Navigator – Stewards' scratch, stake<br>Refund \$5,249.04; Minus Pool \$50,994.45  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Race | #5 Yankee Bravo – Stewards' scratch, stake<br>Refund \$3,856.40   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Race | No changes; Refund \$150.00   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Race | #12 Wesley – Rider change – C. Nakatani for J. Castellano (flight problem)  |

Refund \$88.00

10<sup>th</sup> Race #12 Kickin Caper – Veterinarian scratch, sick – Dr. Durenburger  
Refund \$581.20

02/07/09<sup>4</sup>**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	14,007	2,995,919.40
Inter-track	9,556	3,464,255.00
Out of state	n/a	7,804,971.00
Total	23,563	\$14,265,145.40

**SUNDAY**02/08/09<sup>1</sup>**HESS HEARING AND RULING**

Trainer BOB HESS JR. met with the stewards informally to discuss two complaints filed by the Official Veterinarian for being late to the receiving barn (case numbers 09SA030 and 09SA031). Mr. Hess took responsibility for the errors but had no idea what had happened at his barn to cause the tardiness. The stewards issued a warning for the first violation and fine for the second violation:

**LATS #031**

Pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1894 (Duties of Trainer), Trainer **ROBERT B. HESS, JR.** is fined ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS\* (\$100.00) for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1852 (Reporting to Receiving Barn).

02/08/09<sup>2</sup>**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

1<sup>st</sup> Race #4 Hollywood Mogul – Veterinarian scratch, injured – Dr. Bailey  
Refund \$1,739.90; Minus Pool \$11,191.18

2<sup>nd</sup> Race #2 Ford Island – Claimed – J. Lloyd, trainer  
#3 Guts – Claimed – J. Carava, trainer  
#4 Fantasy Free- Claimed – M. Marlow, trainer  
Refund \$1,119.20

3<sup>rd</sup> Race #3 Easy On The Eye (AUS) – Stewards' scratch, off turf  
#6 One Union - Stewards' scratch, off turf  
#9 Wine On the Porch - Stewards' scratch, off turf  
#10 Rathor (IRE) – Rider change – R. Bejarano for B. Blanc  
#4 Lit'sgoodlookngray – Claimed – M. Mitchell, trainer  
Refund \$62.94

4<sup>th</sup> Race #5 Magic Launch – Veterinarian scratch, injured – Dr. Durenburger  
Refund \$4,609.70

5<sup>th</sup> Race #2 Downtown Lover – Veterinarian scratch, injured – Dr. Bailey  
Refund \$662.40

6<sup>th</sup> Race #5 Trueno – pulled up 5/16 pole, walked off (synthetic)

Refund \$345.00

7<sup>th</sup> Race #2 Doneitagain – Veterinarian scratch, injured – Dr. Bailey  
 #4 Topper Shopper – Stewards’ scratch, off turf  
 #5 Storm Brave - Stewards’ scratch, off turf  
 #8 Lucky Honey – Claimed – J. Carava, trainer  
 Refund \$3,259.80

8<sup>th</sup> Race #2 Becrux (ITY) – Stewards’ scratch, stake  
 #7 Ferneley (IRE) - Stewards’ scratch, stake  
 Refund \$2,482.60

9<sup>th</sup> Race #6 Mo Cheese – Claimed – R. Becerra, trainer  
 #11 Red Hot Charlotte – Claimed – M. Mitchell, trainer

02/08/09<sup>3</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	5,879	1,797,431.80
Inter-track	8,249	2,416,289.80
Out of state	n/a	4,850,168.02
Total	14,128	\$9,063,889.62

**WEEKLY SUMMARY**

**ATTENDANCE REPORT** - The full Board of Stewards was in session each day during this reporting period for both morning business and the afternoon racing program.

**VETERINARIAN’S LIST**

Week of 02/02/09 – 02/08/09

Horses on Vet List 23  
 Horses off Vet List 18  
 Shock Wave Therapy 18  
 Deceased 1  
 Medication 14

**SUMMARY**

	Wed. 04 Feb	Thurs. 05Feb	Fri. 06Feb	Sat. 07Feb	Sun. 08Feb		<b>Week</b>	Meet
Accidents	0	0	0	0	0		<b>0</b>	2
Cal-Bred Races	1	0	1	0	3		<b>5</b>	29
Claims	5	1	2	0	9		<b>17</b>	88
Disqualifications	0	0	0	0	0		<b>0</b>	1
Inquiries	0	1	0	0	0		<b>1</b>	13
Refunds	5	8	8	10	8		<b>39</b>	147
Rulings	1	2	0	1	1		<b>5</b>	31

Respectfully submitted,

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 C. Scott Chaney, Steward

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 Tom Ward, Steward

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 Randy Winick, Steward

BOS:CSC/dm