

California Horse Racing Board

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS

Watch And Wager, LLC

Cal Expo, Sacramento, California

TO THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

Honorable Gregory L. Ferraro, DVM, Chairman
Honorable Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chairman
Honorable Dennis V. Alfieri, Member
Honorable Damascus Castellanos, Member
Honorable Brenda Washington Davis, Member
Honorable Thomas Hudnut, Member
Honorable Wendy Mitchell, Member
C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director
Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for the Week of Tuesday, March 14, 2023, Through Sunday, March 19, 2023.

TUESDAY
03/14/23¹

DARK DAY DUTY

Steward Yinger was present for entries for Friday, March 17, 2023 and Sunday, March 19, 2023. There were one hundred and seventy-five (175) horses entered with one hundred and seventy-five (175) drawing in. There are eleven (11) races with a scheduled post time of 6:45 PM for Friday and thirteen (13) races with a scheduled post time for Sunday with a 4:55 PM post time.

In addition on Friday, March 17, 2023 there will be two (2) non-wagering California Sire Stakes races with a post time of 5:55 PM.

03/14/23²

DARK DAY

WEDNESDAY
03/15/23¹

CHANGES

The Stewards' office was open to take changes for Friday, March 18, 2023. There were numerous driver changes.

03/15/23²

DARK DAY

THURSDAY
03/16/23¹

CHANGES

The Stewards' office was open to take changes for Sunday, March 20, 2023. There were numerous driver changes.

03/16/23²

INFORMAL HEARING

Stewards met with Trainer Ms. Alexia Kehl regarding her leaving the paddock with the horse without wearing a safety vest/helmet after the eighth race on Saturday, March 11, 2023. Ms. Kehl received a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00). Also, driver Luke Plano stopped in to review the film of the 10th race on Saturday, March 11, 2023, where Mr. Plano was observed with his foot out of the stirrup making contact with the horse. Mr. Plano accepted the penalty one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

03/16/23³

STEWARDS HEARING

Complaint documents were received from investigator Mr. David Aguilar for Trainer Michael Meza (case #23Sw0004) and Trainer Travis Ellis (case #23SW0005). Both were involved in a barn search conducted by California Horse Racing Board Commission Mr. Aguilar, Mr. Bartholomew and Safety Steward Thomas McCarthy. Contraband was found in the barn area and a hearing was scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2023, in the stewards office. California Horse Racing Board Rule for Violations #1874, #1890 (a), #1489 (a)(b) and #1900.

Both parties were present in the steward's office and completed a hearing waiver form. Both Mr. Meza and Mr. Ellis have taken full responsibility for their actions will accept any penalty the stewards deem appropriate. See Rulings #40 and #41 attached.

03/16/23⁴

CALIFORNIA SIRE STAKES ISSUE

On Friday, March 17, 2023, Non-Wagering Race One (1)- Purse ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00).

Stewards will be scratching #2 CASANOVA who is deemed ineligible at "time of entry". Trainer Doug Stout entered said horse with prior knowledge of this, however he thought something could be done prior to race day to allow his horse to participate. Stewards contacted CHHA President Mr. David Neumeister who oversees the Sire Stakes rules on entering into their stake races. We explained our stance on the scratching of the horse CASANOVA and he affirmed our decision without hesitation.

Owners Ms. Nancy Retzlaff was not satisfied with our decision and advised us she would be filing an appeal with the California Horse Racing Board.

03/16/23⁵

DARK DAY

FRIDAY

03/17/23¹

RULINGS WRITTEN

The following rulings were written:

Ruling # 38

Trainer Alexia Kehl is hereby fined the sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for violating California Horse Racing Board Rule #1689.1 (b) (Safety Vest required). On March 11, 2023, after the eighth race Ms. Kehl was observed leaving the paddock on the sulky of #1 DEWEYDIDDONEGOOD without wearing a safety vest and/or helmet returning to her barn.

Ruling # 39

Driver Luke Plano, is hereby fined the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for violating California Horse Racing Board Rule #1530 (cases not covered/Driving with foot out of stirrup/urging by contact). While driving #4 BESTALUCK IN THE

10th race on Saturday, March 11, 2023. Mr. Plano did remove his foot from the stirrup and made contact with the horse several times during the final quarter.

Ruling # 40

Trainer Michael Meza, having waived his right to a hearing, is hereby fined the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00)* for violation California Horse Racing Board Rule #1874 (Disorderly Conduct-Marijuana) on February 17, 2023 at Cal Expo Harness.

Ruling # 41

Trainer Travis Ellis, having waived his right to a hearing, is hereby fined the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for violation of the California Horse Racing Board Rule #1874 (Disorderly Conduct-Marijuana) on February 17, 2023 at Cal Expo Harness.

03/17/23²

QUALIFIERS

One (1) race went to post at 5:40 PM over a track rated "Sloppy" with three (3) out of five (5) participants meeting the qualifying standards.

03/17/23³

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

4th Race Declaration- #7 I WILL DO IT- Trainer Travis Ellis-Scratched- injured. During the post parade the horse was observed to be unsound warming up and was subsequently scratched on the advice of track veterinarian Dr. Thomas Bergstrom. A refund was issued of three thousand five hundred fifty-eight dollars and forty-three cents(\$3,558.43).

03/17/23⁴

RACE DAY

Eleven (11) races were scheduled with a post time of 6:40 PM over a track rated "Fast". Also two (2) non-wagering California Sire Stakes with a post time of 5:55 PM.

Non-Wagering Race 1-California Sire Stakes, Purse ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00). Scratch #2 CASANOVA- Stewards (ineligible).

1st Race, Driver Gerald Longo who was driving #6 EL'S DISCO JOHNNY, was informed to appear for an informal hearing on Thursday, March 26, 2023. Violation of California Horse Racing Board Whipping Rule #1734 (b) (8) (Use of the whip more than six times during a race, excluding showing or waiving the whip). Second offense.

3rd Race, Groom Douglas Castillo was observed by Safety Steward Tom McCarthy leaving the paddock area on a sulky without the use of safety vest and/or helmet. Was advised to see the stewards on Thursday, March 26, 2023.

The remainder of the racing card went without and incident.

03/17/23⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	125	\$10,360.50
SCOTWinc	N/A	\$230,431.50
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$496,375.76
Total		\$745,510.76

SATURDAY

03/18/23¹

DARK DAY

SUNDAY

03/19/23¹

RANDOM DRUG TESTING

Senior Investigator Mr. Hunter Bartholomew and Investigator Mr. David Aguilar conducted a random human drug test for the following nine (9) drivers prior to the evening races.

Brad Irvine, James Lackey, Mark Kennedy, Ryan Grundy, Lemoyne Svendsen, Vod Farris, Luke Plano, Jessie Pacheco and Rene Goulet.

03/19/23²

DECLARATION, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

4th Race Declaration- #7 GEORGE M- Trainer Travis Ellis-Scratched- Sick- Dr. Eduardo De La Cruz. A refund was issued for one hundred forty-one dollars and thirty-seven cents (\$141.37).

11th Race Declaration- #2 THREE GRAND-Trainer Quentin Schneider-Scratched- Injured- Dr. Eduardo De La Cruz. A refund was issued of two hundred eighty-two dollars and seventy-three cents (\$282.73).

03/19/23³

RACE DAY

Thirteen (13) races were scheduled with a post time of 4:55 PM over a track rated "Sloppy" with a two (2) second time variant.

2nd Race- Inquiry sign was posted due to an incident in the first turn. Two (2) geese were making their way onto the racing surface. #4 LUKES PROCLAMATION shield slightly from the birds. Did not affect the outcome of the race and this race was made official. The remainder of the racing card went without and incident.

03/19/23⁴

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	80	\$12,339.40
SCOTWinc	N/A	\$155,486.40
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$748,034.61
Total		\$915,860.41

SUMMARY

	Wed 03/15	Thurs 03/16	Fri 03/17	Sat 03/18	Sun 03/19	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	D	0	0	0	0	0
Cal-Bred Races	A	A	0	0	0	0	0
Claims	R	R	0	0	0	0	6
Disqualifications	K	K	0	0	0	0	5
Inquiries	D	D	0	0	1	1	8
Refunds	A	A	1	0	2	3	43
Rulings	Y	Y	4	0	0	4	40
Voided Claims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

VETERINARIAN RECOMMENDED SCRATCHES

Date	Race	No.	Horse	Trainer	Reason	Vet	Refund
17-Mar.	4	7	I WILL DO IT	Travis Ellis	Injured	Bergstrom	\$3,558.43
19-Mar.	4	7	GEORGE M	Travis Ellis	Sick	De La Cruz	\$141.37
19-Mar.	11	2	THREE GRAND	Q. Schneider	Injured	De La Cruz	\$282.73

Respectfully submitted,

John Yinger, Steward

Rod Newhart, Steward

Calvin Rainey, Steward

Tom McCarthy, Steward

BOS:JY:tw