

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS
LOS ALAMITOS QUARTER HORSE RACING ASSOCIATION****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, Assistant Executive Director

Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report of the Board of Stewards for the week of April 18, 2023, through April 23, 2023.

Tuesday

04/18/2023

(1) TUESDAY HEARING

The full Board of Stewards was present this morning to hear case #22LA0229, filed against trainer Heath Taylor for an alleged violation of California Horse Racing Board #1866.4 (c) (Thyroxine Restricted). The complaint stated that Thyroxine was dispensed for the horse Empressum on September 12, 2022, and the horse ran within 30 days (it should be noted that Dr. Ashley Troncatty, Mr. Taylor's veterinarian, was penalized earlier this year for a violation related to this complaint).

After being sworn in, Mr. Taylor testified that Empressum was tested for low thyroid and the levels indicated that the horse could use medication to boost the levels. Consequently, Dr. Troncatty dispensed Thyro-L for the horse. However, Mr. Taylor was adamant that, despite the fact that the medication was dispensed, it was not administered to Empressum. He stated that he got too busy with other horses in his barn to give the medication to the horse in question. Empressum finished second in the race run on October 8th, was tested, and the test came back clean.

The investigative report indicated that investigators found a jar of Thyro-L in Taylor's office during their search of the barn and that it looked as though some of the contents had been used. However, investigator Stuart Ida informed us that he was told by the trainer during the search that the open jar was dropped and some of the contents had spilled on the tack room floor.

The Stewards will review testimony and render a decision this coming week.

Wednesday

04/19/2023

(1) DUTY STEWARD / SATURDAY ENTRIES

Tom Ward will be on hand this week for entries, scratches, and changes. Ward will also be writing minutes for the week. The Saturday card was extremely difficult to fill, as the draw was not completed until after 7:15 PM. A total of 63 horses will face the starter on Saturday evening exclusive of scratches.

Thursday
04/20/2023

(1) SUNDAY ENTRIES / SATURDAY PANEL

Entries are being accepted for the Sunday card, the majority of which will likely be two-year-olds attempting to qualify for the Robert Adair Kindergarten Futurity. It appears that there will be from six to eight trials for the babies. The Los Alamitos entry panel met this morning via telephone. A number of horses were discussed; however, only one runner was scratched. In race number ten, #7 I'm Delighted needed a veterinary exam due to a layoff and did not receive one. The horse was therefore ineligible to enter. The trainer was notified.

Friday
04/21/2023

(1) SUNDAY PANEL AND SCRATCHES

The Sunday night offerings will include eight trials for the Robert Adair Kindergarten Futurity. There will be one Mixed Breed race and a maiden race for Quarter Horses. The ten-race card was drawn in the early afternoon. There were no scratches this morning. The panel met briefly, with one two year old making the "Hard Watch" list for enhanced scrutiny.

Saturday
04/22/2023

(1) EARLY DECLARATIONS

1st Race #5 Naomi Fraley (Vet-injured) Refund of \$87.70
4th Race #4 Spring Spinning (Vet-unsound) Refund of \$47.00
5th Race #5 Epic Drama (Vet-sick) Refund of \$59.93
8th Race #4 Tabasco Jess (Vet-unsound) Refund of \$197.69
10th Race #7 Im Delighted (Stewards – no layoff exam) Refund of \$99.33

(2) RIDERS EXCUSED

Jockey Armando Aguilar was replaced in the third race as he was delayed in traffic coming from Santa Anita and could not fulfill his engagement. A replacement rider was named. Jockeys Rodrigo Aceves and Ruben Lozano were excused due to illness, with replacements being announced.

(3) HEATH TAYLOR DECISION

After reviewing testimony in the case and a discussion of the facts, the Stewards have made a decision to dismiss the complaint. The fact that Mr. Taylor adamantly maintained, under oath, that the horse Empressum did not receive Thyro-L, and tests of the horse following the race in question proved negative, we feel that the State has not proven its case.

(4) JOCKEY OBJECTION - DISQUALIFICATION

The objection sign was posted after the first race as jockey Barrington Harvey (5th, #6 Truth Prevails) lodged an objection against jockey Francisco Orduna Rojas (4th, #8 Charming Alexis) for interference shortly after the start. After speaking with the riders involved and reviewing video of the race, the Stewards unanimously voted to disqualify Charming Alexis from fourth to fifth position. The video showed a four horse spread vying for the lead while leaving the chute, with Mr. Harvey's mount second in. The #8 horse shifted in just enough to tighten the spread to the point that Mr. Harvey had to steady sharply from tight quarters, and in doing so was cost the opportunity for a better finish position.

(5) STEWARDS INQUIRY AND DISQUALIFICATION

The Stewards posted the inquiry sign after the third race to review an incident in the first sixteenth of the race involving the second place finisher, #3 Takeittothebank (E. Payeras), and the fourth place horse #2 Edinburgh Express (B. Harvey). After speaking with the riders and reviewing video of the race, the Stewards unanimously voted to disqualify Takittothebank from second to fourth place. The video shows the horse lugging in to take the path of Edinburgh Express and forcing that horse's rider to take up. The incident, in the Stewards' opinion, cost Mr. Harvey and his mount the chance for a better placing.

(6) CLAIM VOIDED

The claim submitted in the sixth race by trainer Salvador Naranjo for #3 Herecomesauntlucy was voided as the horse was "off" in the right foreleg while in the detention barn. The horse went back to the barn of trainer Angela Aquino.

(7) RIDER OVERWEIGHT

Jockey Juan Pablo Leon was removed from his three mounts this evening as all horses were in with 126 lbs. and Mr. Leon could not come with the five-pound overweight limit. Replacement riders were announced for him in the seventh, eighth, and ninth races.

(8) ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	738	\$113,103.00
Off track	1,241	\$255,291.20
Out of state	N/A	\$877,841.70
Total	1,979	\$1,246,235.90

Sunday
04/23/2023

(1) EARLY DECLARATIONS

- 1st Race #4 Pleasant Impact (Vet-sick) Refund of \$147.88
- 2nd Race #4 Mitole Magic (Vet- injured) Refund of \$113.63
- 3rd Race #1 UR So Vain (Trial Scratch)
- #4 Bruno Czech (Vet-sick) Refund of \$300.87
- 5th Race #8 Smile To Fly (Vet-unsound) Refund of \$49.80
- 7th Race #5 CH Apollitical First (Vet-unsound) Refund of \$121.69
- 10th Race #2 KR Stingray (Vet- injured) Refund of \$224.00

(2) RIDERS EXCUSED

Cerapio Figueroa and Eduardo Nicasio were excused from their mounts this evening due to illness. Replacement riders were named.

(3) RULING

Ruling # 38

JOCKEY JUAN PABLO LEON IS FINED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1683 (MAXIMUM OVERWEIGHT) RESULTING IN A LATE RIDER CHANGE IN THE SEVENTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON APRIL 22, 2023.

This ruling was issued as Mr. Leon was, once again, over the maximum allowed overweight and had to be replaced. (Ref. 4-22-2023-6)

(4) A GOOD EVENING OF RACING

This evening's ten race card was free of incidents which would have required the Stewards to get involved. The eight trials went smoothly, with only a few bumps and stumbles to speak of. However, several riders will be making an appearance in the Stewards' office due to possible "crop" violations.

(5) ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	752	\$94,538.20
Off track	1,011	\$201,086.20
Out of state	N/A	\$1,179,682.33
Total	1,763	\$1,475,306.73

TRACK SAFETY REPORT

The weekly inspection was conducted on April 23, 2023. There were no equine deaths to report this week. During this reporting period, 16 horses were added to the Veterinarian's List as follows: 9 for soundness, 4 for injury, and 3 for sickness. This report was submitted by Steward Tom Ward.

2023

SUMMARY

	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat 04/22	Sun 04/23	Week	Meet
Accidents	D			0	0	0	5
Cal-Bred Races	A			0	0	0	0
Claims	R			1	0	1	49
Disqualification	K			2	0	2	6
Inquiries		D		2	0	2	10
Refunds		A		5	6	11	109
Rulings		Y		0	1	1	38
Voided Claims		S		1	0	1	8

Stewards' Attendance: Stewards Tom Ward, James Dreyer, Ron Church, and Safety Steward Paul Atkinson were in attendance during this reporting period.

Tom Ward, Steward

James Dreyer, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

Paul Atkinson, Safety Steward