

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS

Los Alamitos Racing Association

Los Alamitos, 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 C. Hudnut, Member
Honorable Wendy Mitchell, Member
C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director
Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director
Marc Shaw, Chief, Enforcement Division
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for Monday, September 18, 2023, through Sunday, September 24, 2023.

TUESDAY

9/19/23¹

ENTRIES

Steward Luis Jauregui was available to supervise entries for Friday.

WEDNESDAY

9/20/23¹

DUTY STEWARD

Luis Jauregui was present to oversee entries for Saturday (9 races) and approve scratches and program changes for Friday (8 races).

THURSDAY

9/21/23¹

DARK DAY STEWARD

Luis Jauregui was again present to oversee entries for Sunday (9 races) and approve scratches and program changes for Saturday (9 races).

9/21/23²

SEVILLA HEARING CASE 23DM0027

The CHRB filed a complaint against apprentice jockey Rigoberto Sevilla for violation of CHRB rules 1489 (a)(8) (Grounds for Denial or Refusal of License) and 1900 (Grounds for Suspension or Revocation).

Present for the hearing before the BOS were, respondent Mr. Sevilla and Winners Foundation Executive Director Darin Scharer via telephone. Mr. Sevilla was employed by trainer Hector Palma when Mr. Palma's trainee "Baladi" tested positive for methamphetamine post-race (July 30, 2023). On August 24, 2023, during a barn search, Mr. Sevilla, already on a CHRB testing agreement, reluctantly surrendered a urine sample. Supervising Investigator Mike Barker observed the level, the Quest Express Cup had a presumptive result to be positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine. Testimony was given, Mr. Sevilla stated he

never indulged in drugs prior to the positive test submitted. The complaint was entered into evidence and the hearing was closed. The Quest Toxicology Report was not in any of the complaint packages heard today. Mr. Sevilla renewed his CHRB testing agreement and tested negative today. Decision to follow.

9/21/23³

HUERTA HEARING CASE 23DM0028

The CHRB filed a complaint against groom Roberto Huerta for violation of CHRB rules 1489 (a)(8) (Grounds for Denial or Refusal of License) and 1900 (Grounds for Suspension or Revocation).

Present for the hearing before the BOS were, respondent Mr. Huerta and Winners Foundation Executive Director Darin Scharer available via telephone. Mr. Huerta was in the employment of trainer Hector Palma when the Palma horse "Baladi" tested positive for methamphetamine post-race (July 30, 2023). On August 24, 2023, during the barn inspection, Hector Palma directed Mr. Huerta to submit a urine sample. Supervising Investigator Mike Barker observed the level on the Quest Express Cup had a presumptive result to be positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine. The record was opened, and testimony was given, Mr. Huerta testified to using and he was the groom of the horse "Baldi" when it raced on July 30, 2023. He signed a CHRB testing agreement and tested positive today per the Quest Express Cup. Decision to follow.

9/21/23⁴

GAITAN HEARING CASE 23DM0026

The CHRB filed a complaint against groom Jose Gaitan for violation of CHRB rules 1489 (a)(8) (Grounds for Denial or Refusal of License) and 1900 (Grounds for Suspension or Revocation).

Present for the hearing before the BOS were, respondent Mr. Gaitan and Winners Foundation Executive Director Darin Scharer available via telephone. Mr. Gaitan was in the employment of trainer Hector Palma when the Palma horse "Baladi" tested positive for methamphetamine post-race (July 30, 2023). During the barn search (August 24, 2023) Mr. Gaitan submitted a urine sample. Supervising Investigator Mike Barker observed the level on the Quest Express Cup had a presumptive result to be positive for methamphetamine. Mr. Gaitan stated he used fifteen days prior to being tested, he also signed a CHRB testing agreement and tested negative today.

All testimony was recorded, evidence was entered into the record and the hearing was closed. Decision to follow.

9/21/23⁵

MOLINA HEARING CASE 23DM0034

The CHRB filed a complaint against groom Leonel Molina for violation of CHRB rules 1489 (a)(8) (Grounds for Denial or Refusal of License) and 1900 (Grounds for Suspension or Revocation).

Present for the hearing before the BOS were, respondent Mr. Molina and Winners Foundation Executive Director Darin Scharer available via telephone. Mr. Molina was in the employment of trainer Hector Palma when Mr. Palma's horse "Baladi" tested positive for methamphetamine post-race (July 30, 2023). On August 24, 2023, Mr. Molina voluntarily submitted a urine sample. Supervising Investigator Mike Barker observed the level on the Quest Express Cup had a presumptive result to be positive for amphetamine. During testimony Mr. Molina admitted to taking drugs during a visit to Mexico. Evidence was submitted without objection and Mr. Molina signed a CHRB testing agreement. Decision to follow.

FRIDAY
9/22/23¹

SADLER RULING

The following ruling was issued after trainer John Sadler failed to register his runner on Lasix prior to entry.

LATL RULING 09

Trainer JOHN SADLER is fined FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$400.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1845 (Authorized Bleeder Medication – late registration – on Lasix) of SORBET in the first race on September 17, 2023, at Los Alamitos Race Course.

9/22/23²

JOCKEY FILM REVIEW

Cesar Ortega met with the Stewards to review the use of his crop in the fifth race Sunday. After a review of the race, it was evident he went one strike over the limit. His penalty is listed in the following ruling.

LATL RULING 10

Having violated the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2280 (Use of Riding Crop) and pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties – Class 3), Jockey CESAR ORTEGA, who rode WHOA BUDDY in the fifth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on September 17, 2023, is suspended for (1) day (September 29, 2023), and fined TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00)* for one (1) strike over the limit.

Furthermore, Jockey CESAR ORTEGA is assigned three (3) violation points that will be expunged on March 22, 2024, six (6) months from the date of final adjudication pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties) – second offense. Jockey CESAR ORTEGA has accrued a total of six (6) points.

Pursuant to California horse Racing Board rule #1766 (Designated Races), the term of suspension shall not prohibit participation in designated races.

LAFL #010 on 07-03-23

9/22/23³

PEREZ RULING

Groom Humberto Perez appeared when he was made aware he had a ruling issued at Del Mar Race Track (DMTD #17) suspending him for failure to appear for a hearing. After he appeared we learned the original complaint was not previously scanned into the CHRIS system, hence the hearing could not go forward. This was discovered for the BOS by Investigator Kevin Kitashima. The following ruling was issued, and Mr. Perez is scheduled to appear before the BOS at Santa Anita on September 28, 2023, to participate in the hearing.

LATL RULING 11

Groom HUMBERTO PEREZ, having appeared before the Board of Stewards, is reinstated, and the California Horse Racing Board Ruling DMTD #017 (Failure to Appear) dated 08/11/2023 is set aside. Furthermore, HUMBERTO PEREZ will have a hearing before the Board of Stewards on September 28, 2023, to address the alleged violation of CHRB rule #1874 (Disorderly Conduct – under the influence of alcohol while performing his duties).

9/22/23⁴

INQUIRY /NON-STARTER /SECOND RACE-6 furlongs

Following the running of the race the inquiry sign was posted to review the start that involved #1 DRIZELLA (D. Herrera). In a majority opinion the horse did not receive a fair start per CHRB rule 1696 (The Start) and was declared a non-starter. Steward Sawyer voted to declare the horse a starter.

9/22/23⁵

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st race	No Changes; Refund \$0
2nd race	#5 Awesome Taylor (Tr.D. O'Neill) claimed by Tr. S. Stevens #6 Quite Secretary (Tr. I. Kruljac) claimed by Tr. Ryan Hanson Refund \$26,010.96
3rd race	#2 Sassitude (J. Sadler) Veterinarian-unsound post parade-Dr. Stead

Refund \$10,651.89
 4th race No Changes; Refund \$0
 5th race #1 Modera (Tr. S. Scolamieri) claimed by Tr. K. Craigmyle. Refund \$0
 6th race No Changes; Refund \$0
 7th race #4 Principe Carlo (Tr. L. Barocio) Veterinarian-sick-Dr. Pattio
 Refund \$706.18
 8th race No Changes; Refund \$0

9/22/23⁶

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	644	\$177,368.29
SCOTWinc	1,919	\$715,724.13
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$3,495,192.66
Total	2,563	\$4,388,285.07

SATURDAY

9/23/23¹

HUERTA RULING ref 09-21-23³

The following ruling was issued after a unanimous judgment was formulated.

LATL RULING #12

Groom ROBERTO HUERTA is suspended for NINETY (90) days (September 24, 2023, through December 22, 2023) pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1900 (Grounds for Suspension or Revocation) for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1489 (a)(8) (Grounds for Denial or Refusal of License - engaged in the use of drugs, positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine).

Furthermore, ROBERTO HUERTA shall be evaluated by the Winners Foundation and abide by their recommendations. ROBERTO HUERTA shall also sign a test agreement with the California Horse Racing Board and remain on a test agreement for as long as he holds a license in California. During the term of suspension, all licenses and license privileges of ROBERTO HUERTA are suspended and pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1528 (Jurisdiction of Stewards to Suspend or Fine) ROBERTO HUERTA is denied access to all premises in this jurisdiction.

9/23/23²

MOLINA RULING ref 09-21-23⁵

The following ruling was issued after all the facts were taken into consideration and a decision was made.

LATL RULING #13

Groom LEONEL MOLINA is suspended for THIRTY (30) days (September 24, 2023, through October 23, 2023) pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1900 (Grounds for Suspension or Revocation) for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1489 (a)(8) (Grounds for Denial or Refusal of License - engaged in the use of drugs, positive for amphetamine).

Furthermore, LEONEL MOLINA shall be evaluated by the Winners Foundation and abide by their recommendations. LEONEL MOLINA shall also sign a test agreement with the California Horse Racing Board and remain on a test agreement for as long as he holds a license in California.

During the term of suspension, all licenses and license privileges of LEONEL MOLINA are suspended and pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1528 (Jurisdiction of Stewards to Suspend or Fine) LEONEL MOLINA is denied access to all premises in this jurisdiction.

9/23/23³

GAITAN RULING ref 09-21-23⁴

The following ruling was issued after an undisputed decision was made.

LATL RULING #14

Groom JOSE GAITAN is suspended for THIRTY (30) days (September 26, 2023, through October 25, 2023) pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1900 (Grounds for Suspension or Revocation) for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1489 (a)(8) (Grounds for Denial or Refusal of License - engaged in the use of drugs, positive for methamphetamine)

Furthermore, JOSE GAITAN shall be evaluated by the Winners Foundation and abide by their recommendations. JOSE GAITAN shall also sign a test agreement with the California Horse Racing Board and remain on a test agreement for as long as he holds a license in California.

During the term of suspension, all licenses and license privileges of JOSE GAITAN are suspended and pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1528 (Jurisdiction of Stewards to Suspend or Fine) JOSE GAITAN is denied access to all premises in this jurisdiction.

9/23/23⁴

SEVILLA RULING ref 09-21-23²

The following ruling was issued after scrutiny was given to the testimony and facts presented, allowing a decision to be made.

LATL RULING #15

Apprentice Jockey RIGOBERTO SEVILLA is suspended for THIRTY (30) days (September 26, 2023, through October 25, 2023) pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1900 (Grounds for Suspension or Revocation) for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1489 (a)(8) (Grounds for Denial or Refusal of License - engaged in the use of drugs, positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine).

Furthermore, RIGOBERTO SEVILLA shall be evaluated by the Winners Foundation and abide by their recommendations. RIGOBERTO SEVILLA shall also sign a test agreement with the California Horse Racing Board and remain on a test agreement for as long as he holds a license in California.

During the term of suspension, all licenses and license privileges of RIGOBERTO SEVILLA are suspended and pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1528 (Jurisdiction of Stewards to Suspend or Fine) RIGOBERTO SEVILLA is denied access to all premises in this jurisdiction.

9/23/23⁵

VOIDED CLAIMS

After a physical examination of Keychain Girl who raced in the second race by Official Veterinarian Nolton Pattio, the horse was placed on the Veterinarian's List. The Stewards voided the claim and the horse returned to the stable of trainer Keith Craigmyle.

The same physical examination was afforded to #6 Paco's Pico who performed in the third race. The horse was placed on the Veterinarian's List and the Stewards voided the claim. The horse returned to the stable of trainer John Sadler.

9/23/23⁶

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st race	NO SHOW WAGERING #2 Bandeena (Tr. S. Miyadi) claimed by Tr. I. Tamayo #3 Jacrodra's Devil (Tr. S. Morfin) Stewards #4 Shvere Arbeter (Tr. L. Campuzano) Veterinarian-sick-Dr. Stead #5 Pens Street (Tr. A. Sanchez) claimed by Tr. M. Glatt Refund \$1,231.19
2nd race	#1 Lasting Love (Tr. S. Naranjo) claimed by Tr. M. Badilla #3 Keychain Girl (Tr. K. Craigmyle) claimed by Tr. D. Winick VOID #4 Crimson Rose (Tr. V. Belvoir) claimed by Tr. S. Knapp. Refund \$0
3rd race	#5 Established (Tr. D. O'Neill) claimed by Tr. S. Knapp #6 Paco's Pico (Tr. J. Sadler) claimed by Tr. R. Diodoro VOID Refund \$0
4th race	#2 King Zog (Tr. S. Miyadi) claimed by S. Knapp #9 Mt. Zeror (Tr. R. Hanson) E. Garcia replaced A. Cedillo (2 nd call) #11 Mandella Effort (Tr. R. Batcher) Veterinarian-sick-Dr. Stead Refund \$132.70
5th race	No Changes; Refund \$0
6th race	#5 Tizzy Twister (Tr. J. Valdez) Stewards. Refund \$550.61
7th race	No Changes; Refund \$0
8th race	#5 Tom Horn (Tr. S. Miyadi) Veterinarian-sick-Dr. Stead

#7 Rifey (Tr. G. Stute) claimed by Tr. R. Diodoro. Refund \$1,599.02
9th race No Changes; Refund \$0

9/23/23⁷

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	1,264	\$389865.89
SCOTWinc	3,425	\$1267555.87
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$4116858.30
Total	4,689	\$5774280.06

SUNDAY

9/24/23¹

GARCIA RULING

The following ruling was issued after Erick Garcia telephoned the BOS and agreed he violated the rule.

LATL RULING #16

Having violated the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2280 (Use of Riding Crop) and pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties – Class 3), Jockey ERICK GARCIA, who rode MT. ZEROR in the fourth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on September 23, 2023, is suspended for (1) day (October 1, 2023), and fined TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00)* for one (2) strikes over the limit.

Furthermore, Jockey ERICK GARCIA is assigned three (3) violation points that will be expunged on March 24, 2024, six (6) months from the date of final adjudication pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties) – third offense. Jockey ERICK GARCIA has accrued a total of nine (9) points.

Pursuant to California horse Racing Board rule #1766 (Designated Races), the term of suspension shall not prohibit participation in designated races.

LAQL #099 on 08-13-23 and LAFL #009 on 07-02-23

* California Horse Racing Board Rule #1532 requires “that fines shall be paid (to the paymaster of purses) within seven calendar days from the date of the ruling, or the license of the person upon whom the fine has been imposed shall be suspended.”

9/24/23²

INQUIRY /NO CHANGE /NINTH RACE-1 mile

Following the running of the race an inquiry sign was posted to review an incident approaching the ¾ pole. Involved were, #2 Luka Grazie (G. Franco 6th), #3 Whine and Whisky (K. Frey 3rd), #4 Star Prospect (A. Cedillo 7th) and #7 Jerry Jeff Walker (Epifanio Garcia 4th). In a four-horse spread coming out of the first turn the placement of the horses were as such, #2 on the rail, #3 second out, #4 third out and #7 on the outside. There was a review of relevant angles, a report from the Patrol Judge and conversation with the jockeys. In a majority opinion, #2 (inside) drifted out first and then #7 drifted in, pressure was applied to #3 who beat both culpable horses. #4 was impeded the least and was beat seven (7) lengths for a better placing. The majority believed the original order of finish was not affected by the incident. Steward Jauregui voted to disqualify #7 and place him behind #4.

9/24/23³

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st race No Changes; Refund \$0
2nd race #1 Don't Bring Crazy (Tr. D. O'Neill) Veterinarian-injured-Dr. Stead Refund \$916.57
3rd race No Changes; Refund \$0
4th race #4 Bossy Bruin Gal (Tr. D. O'Neill) Veterinarian-sick-Dr. Stead Refund \$467.00
5th race No Changes; Refund \$0
6th race #4 Betty's Song (Tr. B. Baffert) claimed by Tr. M. Badilla

7th race #7 Doozy (Tr. L. Powell) Veterinarian-sick-Dr. Pattio. Refund \$221.45
 #5 Kiss My Kat (J. Periban) claimed by Tr. S. Knapp. Refund \$902.00
 8th race #1 Bound to Bet (Tr. A. Aquino) claimed by Tr. J. Uranga
 #6 Hot Pursuit (Tr. O. Heredia) Veterinarian-unsound-Dr. Lorbiecki
 #7 Midnight Special (Tr. M. Valenzuela, Jr.) claimed by Tr. S. Rivera
 #9 Midnight Lightning (Tr. S. Knapp) claimed by Tr. S. Morfin
 Refund \$177.92
 9th race No Changes. Refund \$0

9/24/23⁴

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	1092	\$265,411.05
SCOTWinc	2349	\$1,095,674.28
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$3,723,117.49
Total	3741	\$5,084,202.82

SUMMARY

	Fri 9/22	Sat 9/23	Sun 9/24	Week	Meet
Accidents	0	0	0	0	1
Cal-Bred Races	2	1	2	5	9
Claims	3	7	4	14	19
Disqualifications	0	0	0	0	0
Inquiries	1	0	1	2	4
Refunds	4	4	5	13	25
Rulings	3	4	1	8	16
Voided Claims	0	2	0	2	2

VETERINARIAN REPORT – WEEK OF 9/18/23 TO 9/24/23

Horses on Vet List 14
 Horses off Vet List 7
 Shock Wave Therapy 1
 Fatalities 0
 Medication 0

Kim Sawyer, Steward

Luis Jauregui, Steward

David Nuesch, Steward

George Yniguez, Steward