

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

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**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS**  
**Los Alamitos Race Course**  
**Cypress, 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 the Week of Wednesday, January 17 through Sunday, January 21, 2024.**

**WEDNESDAY**1/17/24<sup>1</sup>**DUTY STEWARD**

Steward Dave Nuesch was present to oversee entries for Saturday January 20, 2024. Nine races were assembled by the racing office for the Saturday card.

**CAL-BRED REPORT**

The first race in the condition book, for California Bred maidens going 300 yards, only received four entrants, so the race was opened-up to all runners. The race was ultimately used with six three-year-olds and went as the 8<sup>th</sup> race on the card.

**THURSDAY**1/18/24<sup>1</sup>**DUTY STEWARD**

Once again, Steward Nuesch was present to oversee entries for Sunday and to approve scratches and changes for Saturday evening's card. Additionally, he participated in the entry-panel review of Saturday's runners.

1/18/24<sup>2</sup>**CAL-BRED REPORT**

Once again, the lone California Bred race offered had to be opened-up to all runners to get enough entries to be used as the 8<sup>th</sup> race on Sunday's card.

1/18/24<sup>3</sup>**RUFFU HEARING**

The Board of Stewards was in to hear a complaint, in the form of a citation, issued by Los Alamitos security, against trainer Gail Ruffu. The complaint was lodged by trainer Martin Valenzuela Jr, after it was reported that Ms. Ruffu was in his shed row without permission. In the office was trainer Gail Ruffu, trainer Martin Valenzuela, Jr., trainer Duff Shidaker, investigator Barrett Halcomb, sergeant Fernando Gomez, groom Marvin Lopez, and licensing tech Claudia Tobar as a translator. Court reporter Michelle Derieg was on-hand to transcribe

the proceedings. Mr. Valenzuela explained that his groom contacted him regarding Ms. Ruffu being in his shed row and produced a cell phone recording of her standing in the entrance/breezeway of his barn. Mr. Lopez was concerned with Ms. Ruffu being in their barn because trainer/outrider Lorenzo Ruiz keeps his outriding pony in that barn, and the issues he and Ms. Ruffu had in the past (Ref. 12/07/23<sup>1</sup>). Ms. Ruffu explained that she was only there looking for jockey Ricardo Ramirez, who was scheduled to ride a race for her the following evening. After deliberating all the facts heard, the Stewards ultimately decided to dismiss the complaint, as they felt the evidence presented didn't warrant a penalty.

**FRIDAY**  
1/19/24<sup>1</sup>

**SCRATCHES AND PANEL**

Steward Nuesch was in the office to oversee scratches and changes for Sunday evening's card, and to participate in the entry-panel review of Sunday's runners.

**SATURDAY**  
1/20/24<sup>1</sup>

**RACING CANCELED**

With a rainstorm hitting Southern California today and rain continuing through tonight, management opted to cancel this evening's nine-race card. The track will remain closed tomorrow morning, with hopes of protecting the surface for tomorrow evening's scheduled nine-race program.

**SUNDAY**  
1/21/24<sup>1</sup>

**JOCKEY FILM REVIEW**

Jockey Jose Elias Rodriguez came into our office to review the first race from last Saturday. The Stewards were concerned that he shifted in, without proper clearance, impeding one of his rivals. After reviewing all the available angles, and hearing Mr. Rodriguez's explanation, the Stewards gave him a warning. Steward Nuesch was the dissenting vote, feeling a suspension was warranted.

1/21/24<sup>2</sup>

**CLEAR DAY OF RACING**

This evening's nine races were conducted smoothly and free of any notable incidents. With the rain moving out of the area, the track was listed as Wet-Fast all evening long. All late program changes, claims, scratches, and refunds are noted below.

1/21/24<sup>3</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS & REFUNDS**

1<sup>st</sup> Race #2 Three Point Oh (Tr. J. Uranga) Stewards - Track condition Refund: \$343.89  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Race #2 Above The Stars (Tr. J. Raudales) claim VOIDED  
 #4 After Sundown (Tr. S. Perez) claimed by Tr. A. Aquino  
 #6 Rock N Roll Song (Tr. J. Nunez) claimed by Tr. A. Farias  
 #7 Shvere Arbeter (Tr. A. Aquino) Stewards - Track condition Refund: \$331.03  
 4<sup>th</sup> Race #8 Arickaree (Tr. J. Nunez) Stewards - injured post parade Refund: \$7,535.44  
 5<sup>th</sup> Race #5 Honest Coop (Tr. G. Headley) Vet - injured - Dr. Fitzgerald Refund: \$289.89  
 6<sup>th</sup> Race #5 Perfect D (Tr. S. Morfin) claimed by Tr. S. Rivera  
 8<sup>th</sup> Race #2 Eye Blinker (Tr. V. Zamudio) Stewards - Owner unlicensed  
 #4 Tres of Curl (Tr. P. Jones) Vet - injured - Dr. Fitzgerald Refund: \$393.27

1/21/24<sup>4</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	470	\$58,378.20
<b>SCOTWINC</b>	N/A	\$180,476.20
<b>OUT OF STATE + ADW</b>	981	\$1,067,907.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,451	\$1,306,761.45

**SUMMARY**

	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat 1/20</b>	<b>Sun 1/21</b>	<b>Week</b>	<b>Meet</b>
<b>Accidents</b>	D	C	0	0	1
<b>Cal-Bred Races</b>	A	A	0	0	0
<b>Claims</b>	R	N	3	3	11
<b>Disqualifications</b>	K	C	0	0	2
<b>Inquiries</b>		E	0	0	3
<b>Refunds</b>	D	L	5	5	22
<b>Rulings</b>	A	E	0	0	15
<b>Voided Claims</b>	Y	D	1	1	7

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David Nuesch, Steward

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Tom Ward, Steward

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James Dreyer, Steward