

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 263-6000
www.chrb.ca.gov



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS
Los Alamitos Race Course
Cypress, California
TO THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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Report for the Week of Wednesday, March 13 through Sunday, March 17, 2024.

WEDNESDAY3/13/24¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward will be in the office this week for entries, scratches, and panel. Ward will also be writing minutes for the week.

3/13/24²**SATURDAY ENTRIES**

The entry process for the Saturday card was extremely slow, as Racing Secretary Jordan Castaneda did not call a “final” until 6:30 p.m. A nine race, albeit light, card ultimately made the overnight.

3/13/24³**FATALITY REVIEW**

Ward sat in with Safety Steward Ron Church and Regulatory Veterinarian Alina Vale for a fatality review of the Sergio Perez-trained horse Bound to Bet, which was euthanized late last year after suffering a fractured fetlock in the right front leg. Mr. Perez did not have much information to add other than he lightened the horse’s training schedule as it was racing on a regular basis.

THURSDAY3/14/24¹**SUNDAY ENTRIES/ SATURDAY SCRATCHES AND SATURDAY PANEL**

The entry process for Sunday was considerably easier than for Saturday, as an eight race program was finalized by 5:00 p.m. There was one horse scratched by the panel as it did not have a “shed row” exam and therefore was not eligible to enter.

3/14/24²**HEARING DAY**

The Stewards heard a complaint filed by Dr. Nicola Hardgrove against owner Greg Ruiz for unpaid veterinary services in the amount of \$2,900.00 on the horses Boomer Justice and Tiz a Master. Dr. Hardgrove stated that she started working for Mr. Ruiz in February of 2023 and

continued until November of that year. Mr. Ruiz countered by saying that he sold Boomer Justice in May of 2023. This was verified by a check of Equibase charts. Mr. Ruiz also said that he never dealt with Dr. Hardgrove, but paid his trainer for any veterinary work that was performed on his horses. He indicated that he never received a statement for veterinary services. Dr. Hardgrove admitted that she did not bill Mr. Ruiz during that time period, but said she never received payment from anyone for the work she did. This case will be put on hold as Mr. Ruiz will send his payment records to the Stewards.

FRIDAY
3/15/24¹

SUNDAY PANEL AND SCRATCHES

The Los Alamitos panel met again this morning and while there were no recommended scratches, three horses are on the “hard watch” list for enhanced veterinary scrutiny.

SATURDAY
3/16/24¹

RIDER EXCUSED

Jockey Juan Pablo Leon was excused from his mounts this evening due to illness. Replacement riders were announced.

3/16/24²

RULINGS

Ruling #35

Jockey Abraham Arreola is fined TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1688(b)(1) (Use of Riding Crop – during training) on March 1, 2024.

This ruling was issued after Mr. Arreola, in the company of trainer Martin Valenzuela, admitted to striking his mount with the crop while on the track. Mr. Valenzuela said he probably contributed to Arreola’s problem as the rider was not going to take a crop, but Mr. Valenzuela convinced him to take one.

Ruling #36

Jockey Lido Barrientos is fined ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1530 (Cases not covered by rules and regulations-failing to pull his mount up while the sirens and warning lights were activated).

The preceding ruling was written as Mr. Barrientos admitted working a horse when the emergency lights were on.

Ruling #37

Jockey Cesar Franco is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (b)(8) (Use of Riding Crop – more than six times during the running of the race) while riding Above in the seventh race at Los Alamitos Race Course on March 10, 2024.

This ruling was issued after Mr. Franco came to the office and viewed the seventh race from March 10, 2024, during which he committed a “crop” violation. He was very forthcoming, stating that he simply lost count on the number of strikes.

3/16/24³

VOIDED CLAIMS

Two claims were voided this evening due to soundness issues. Following the first race, Official Veterinarian Gary Beck observed #3 Pop Pop’s Ride, who was claimed by Jorge Farias, to be unsound in the left foreleg. The horse went back to the barn of trainer Jesus Uranga. In race number 6, Tiz The Prospect, claimed by Troy Dial, was “off” in the right foreleg during its time in the detention barn and was also sent back to trainer Jesus Uranga’s barn.

3/16/24⁴

STEWARDS' INQUIRY – NO CHANGE

The Stewards posted the Inquiry sign after the second race to review an incident coming off the far turn involving #4 Rainbows on Ice (3rd, A. Escobedo) and #3 Girth (5th, E. Hernandez). After reviewing video and speaking with the riders, by majority vote (Steward Nuesch dissenting) the original order of finish was allowed to stand. While Girth did suffer to some degree, the majority felt that the incident did not cost the horse a better finish position.

3/16/24⁵

TRACK LIGHTING ISSUE

The fourth race was delayed for a short period as management tried to fix a problem with a bank of lights in the 4 1/2 furlong chute. While a solution was being discussed, the riders in the race were canvassed as to running the race without the first set of lights and all were good with the situation. The race was run without incident and the problem was rectified by the next race. It turned out that a circuit breaker caused the outage.

3/16/24⁶

ACCIDENT/ INQUIRY/ NO CHANGE

The Inquiry sign was posted following the seventh race as the Stewards determined the cause of jockey Armando Cervantes, aboard #4 LJ Lucky 7, being unseated at the start. After reviewing video of the break and speaking with Starter Gary Brinson, it was verified that the horse lost its action when the doors opened, causing the rider to lose his balance and tumble off. Neither horse nor rider suffered any injury.

3/16/24⁷

STEWARDS' INQUIRY AND DISQUALIFICATION

The Stewards once again posted the Inquiry sign, this time after the eighth race, to look into an incident at the start involving the fourth through sixth place finishers - #4 Jazzy Girl (P. Alegria), #2 Anita Tequila (J. Roman), and #3 Strangely (C. Franco). After reviewing video of the start, the Stewards unanimously voted to disqualify Jazzy Girl from fourth to sixth position. Video showed the horse, a first-time-starter, breaking in sharply despite the efforts of the rider, to cause significant contact to the two competitors to its inside. The Stewards were of the opinion that both horses bothered were cost a better placing. The rider was not held responsible.

3/16/24⁸

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	760	\$116,192.60
SCOTWINC	1,149	\$301,756.90
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$986,875.41
TOTAL	1,909	\$1,404,824.91

SUNDAY

3/17/24¹

EARLY DECLARATIONS

1st Race #1 Acceleray (Vet-Injured) Refund of 152.60
5th Race #6 Not Gonna Last (Vet-sick) Refund of \$190.90
6th Race #1 Crazy About You (Vet-Injured)
#3 Shvere Arbetter (Vet-Injured) Refund of \$388.10

3/17/24²

JOCKEY OBJECTION – NO CHANGE

The objection sign was posted after the first race as Barrington Harvey (5th, Rocky Jack) lodged a claim of foul against Edgar Payeras (3rd, #4 King Adrock) for interference in the far turn. After speaking with the riders involved and reviewing video of the incident, the Stewards unanimously voted to dismiss the objection. Video showed that both horses contributed equally to the contact between them.

3/17/24³

REFUND

A refund was ordered in the fourth race as Racing Veterinarian Becky Fitzgerald reported that #5 Maycee Jo flipped while being saddled and recommended that the horse be scratched. The refund amounted to \$1,286.30.

3/17/24⁴

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	613	\$60,802.40
SCOTWINC	964	\$157,925.40
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,011,866.69
TOTAL	1,577	\$1,230,594.49

SUMMARY

	Fri	Sat 3/16	Sun 3/17	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	1	0	1	2
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	0
Claims	R	3	1	4	31
Disqualifications	K	1	0	1	8
Inquiries		3	1	4	16
Refunds	D	0	4	4	72
Rulings	A	3	0	3	37
Voided Claims	Y	2	0	2	16

Tom Ward, Steward

James Dreyer, Steward

David Nuesch, Steward

BOS:TW:ap