

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**

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Honorable Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chairman
Honorable Dennis V. Alfieri, Member
Honorable John Carvelli, Member
Honorable Damascus Castellanos, Member
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Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director
Marc Shaw, Chief, Enforcement Division
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for the Week of Wednesday, December 11 through Sunday, December 15, 2024.

WEDNESDAY12/11/24¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward will be on the early shift this week for entries, changes and panel. Ward will also be writing minutes.

12/11/24²**DRAW FOR CHAMPIONS AND TWO MILLION**

The feature races of this weekend were drawn this afternoon in the Los Alamitos Clubhouse. The Champion of Champions, a season-ending race for older horses, and the Los Alamitos Two Million Futurity were drawn around 1:30 P.M. The “shake” had been held this morning to determine the order of selection for post positions for both races, bringing up memories of the Chris Lincoln debacle years ago. As expected, trainers opted for the post position as far out in the starting gate as available.

12/11/24³**TOUGH SLEDDING FOR ENTRIES**

The entry process for Saturday was extremely slow as with two races already in the book (Champion of Champions and 1000 Yard Winter Championship), it still took the racing office crew until 6:30 P.M. to fill the remaining six races.

THURSDAY12/12/24¹**SATURDAY PANEL**

The Los Alamitos entry panel met this morning to review entries for Saturday evening. A horse in the 1000 yard Winter Championship, #6 Project Leader, was declared as Racing Veterinarian Dr. Becky Fitzgerald and Equine Medical Director Dr. Jeff Blea had concerns regarding the horse’s soundness and limited work pattern. The trainer was informed. Other than the above-referenced scratches, one rider change and two equipment changes completed scratch time. Additionally, there were three “hard watch” horses on the program.

12/12/24²

SUNDAY ENTRIES/SATURDAY SCRATCHES AND CHANGES

Sunday entries mirrored the Saturday process, as the eight race card was not finalized until well into the dinner hour. Aside from the aforementioned “panel” scratch, there were no other changes of significance.

12/12/24³

THURSDAY HEARINGS

There were five hearings this morning and, miracle of miracles, all parties were in attendance, either in person or by telephone.

Trainer Pablo DeJesus was first in line, as he had been cited for being late to the Receiving Barn on more than one occasion. He acknowledged his tardiness when previously cited but said that in this instance his path to the assembly barn was blocked by a KC Horse Transportation van and he had to take a long detour around it. Case taken under submission.

Owner Sean Perry was in the office as he was the subject of two complaints filed against him by the Board. He was originally cited by track security for smoking marijuana while in the stable area and was tested by Board investigators. While the test proved negative for marijuana, it did show the presence of amphetamine and methamphetamine.

Mr. Perry was quite evasive in his testimony, stating that he did not use either drug, even though he did admit to marijuana usage in his interview with investigators. He also stated that the female he was with may have put methamphetamine in the marijuana she smoked. This generated a second-hand smoke positive. Mr. Perry produced two prescriptions he was taking under a doctor’s direction, both of which he said could result in a false positive.

We will review testimony and formulate a decision.

Mr. Perry was also the subject of a financial complaint filed by ZE Horse Transportation in the amount of \$1,700.00. He agreed that the money was due and signed a financial agreement to have the full amount paid by February 1, 2025.

12/12/24⁴

VETERINARIAN COMPLAINT

Dr. Nicola Hardgrove, accompanied by her attorney, Roger Licht, Esq., was in the office responding to a complaint which alleged her failure to enter pre-workout examination results into the Equitaps system. Dr. Hardgrove said that she relied on her assistant to follow through with entry of data found in the examination, but that somehow the information was not input into the system. She said it will not happen again. Decision to follow.

12/12/24⁵

TRAINER VS TRAINER FINANCIAL COMPLAINT

The final hearing of the morning involved a financial complaint filed by trainer Arturo Williams against trainer Librado Barocio. Mr. Williams claimed that he took over the training of a horse from Barocio and that they would split the training fee, with Barocio billing the owner. The horse ran twice under Williams, then was returned to Barocio’s barn. When Williams billed Barocio, he only received a portion of what was owed. Following a sometime rancorous hearing, with both trainers interrupting each other, the Stewards called a halt to the proceedings. We will review testimony and render a decision.

FRIDAY

12/13/24¹

PANEL MEETING/SUNDAY CHANGES

The Los Al panel met this morning, with three horses being placed on the “hard watch” list. Changes were limited to one rider change and one equipment change.

SATURDAY

12/14/24¹

RULING #185

Ruling #185

Trainer Satchell S. Stevens, having complied with the terms of a financial agreement with Gordon Feed Company, is restored to good standing. Ruling #184, issued at Los Alamitos Race Course on December 8, 2024, is set aside.

This ruling was issued as Robyn Gordon, from Gordon Feed Company, informed us that Mr. Stevens was compliant on his financial agreement.

12/14/24²

RULING #186

Ruling #186

Veterinarian Nicola Hardgrove is issued an OFFICIAL WARNING for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1842 (Veterinary Reports – Failed to Submit ETRS Forms in a Timely Manner) on July 6 and July 23, 2024, at Los Alamitos Race Course.

The preceding ruling was issued after the Stewards had discussed her case. We felt that since the most important part of the process had been completed, a warning would be proper.

12/14/24³

RULING #187

Ruling #187

Trainer Librado Barocio, having appeared to answer charges of complaint #24LA0235 alleging violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1876 (financial responsibility - \$2,100.00 to Arturo Williams). Librado Barocio is ordered to pay the amount of \$2,100.00 to Arturo Williams by December 21, 2024.

The foregoing ruling was issued to finalize the financial complaint filed against Mr. Barocio by Arturo Williams. We took the average cost per day to keep a horse and multiplied that figure by the number of days Mr. Williams cared for the animal.

12/14/24⁴

RULING #188

Ruling #188

Owner Sean Perry is suspended for THIRTY (30) DAYS (December 22, 2024 through January 21st, 2025) for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1489 (a) (Grounds for denial or refusal of license – use of Amphetamine and Methamphetamine), #1900 (Grounds for suspension or revocation).

We issued this ruling to finalize the case filed against Mr. Perry. While Mr. Perry maintained that his prescriptions were likely the cause of the positive finding, we were informed that such was not the case. Only “amphetamine” would have shown if the medications Mr. Perry submitted were the only things consumed. The test showed both Methamphetamine AND Amphetamine. This the standard penalty for a first-time Methamphetamine positive.

12/14/24⁵

STEWARDS' INQUIRY AND DISQUALIFICATION

The inquiry sign was posted following the second race as the Stewards reviewed an incident leaving the starting gate involving the second and fifth place finishers, #4 Grey Power (A. Aguilar) and #3 Strawberry Girl (A. Escobedo). After speaking with the riders involved and reviewing video of the start from all pertinent angles, the Stewards unanimously voted to disqualify Grey Power from second to fifth position. Video showed the horse coming in sharply to make very hard contact with Strawberry Girl, nearly forcing Escobedo out of the saddle. The incident, in the Stewards' opinion, cost the horse interfered with all chance for a better placing.

12/14/24⁶

STEWARDS' REVIEW

A "Stewards' Review" took place following the sixth race as the Stewards looked at the start of #5 Holmybeeranwatchthis, who broke slowly. After review, it was determined that no inquiry was necessary. The horse, which was equipped with a flipping halter, sat back when Starter Gary Brinson dispatched the field, causing the doors on the stall to open slowly. According to house policy, there are no refunds when this occurs.

12/14/24⁷

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race #4 Real Me (Tr. J. Uranga) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$284.00
2nd Race No Changes
3rd Race No Changes
4th Race #5 Chispa Roja (Tr. R. Quinonez) Stake – Stewards – Refund: \$686.36
5th Race No Changes
6th Race No Changes
7th Race No Changes
8th Race No Changes

12/14/24⁸

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	1,430	\$169,012.90
SCOTWINC	1,062	\$281,784.30
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$883,506.42
TOTAL	2,492	\$1,334,303.62

SUNDAY
12/15/24¹

RULINGS #189 & #190

Ruling #189

Jockey Noe Garcia, Jr. is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (b) (7 & 8) (Use of Riding Crop – more than twice in succession without giving the horse a chance to respond and more than six times during the running of the race) while riding Shakers No Secret in the eighth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on December 14, 2024.

Ruling #190

Jockey Eduardo Nicasio is fined SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS(\$750.00)* 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 Pattys Saint in the eighth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on December 14, 2024.

These rulings were issued as both riders violated the "crop" rule during the Saturday evening program.

12/15/24²

RULING #191

Ruling #191

Jockey Armando Aguilar who rode Grey Power in the second race at Los Alamitos Race Course on December 14, 2024, is suspended for THREE (3) RACING DAYS (December 22, 28, and 29, 2024) for failure to make the proper effort to maintain a straight course leaving the starting gate, causing interference which resulted in the disqualification of his mount from second to fifth position. This constitutes a violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1699 (Riding Rules- Careless Riding).

This ruling was issued after Mr. Aguilar had viewed the second race from Saturday evening, following which his mount was disqualified for interference at the start. The rider acknowledged

his error, stating that he left the gate with a long rein and did not have the proper leverage to correct his mount.

12/15/24³

A GUTSY RETURN

As was alluded to in a daytime meet minute entry, Starter Gary Brinson, who was injured prior to the start of an early race during the afternoon program, was released from the hospital and hightailed it back to Los Alamitos. He was on duty for the fourth race.

Mr. Brinson did not miss a beat, providing excellent starts for the remainder of the night program, including the Los Alamitos Two Million Futurity.

12/15/24⁴

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race #5 Echo Alpha Six (Tr. A. Williams) flipped in gate - Dr. Mosier – Refund: \$30,409.28

#6 Runaway Wywy (Tr. A. Aquino) sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$283.50

2nd Race #5 Smiling Widow (Tr. A. Aquino) injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$322.60

3rd Race #1 Pass the Woodford (Tr. E. Willis) injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$1,011.74

4th Race No Changes

5th Race No Changes

6th Race No Changes

7th Race No Changes

8th Race No Changes

12/15/24⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	798	\$116,057.60
SCOTWINC	1,013	\$228,239.70
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,027,945.72
TOTAL	1,811	\$1,372,243.02

SUMMARY

	Fri 12/13	Sat 12/14	Sun 12/15	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	0	0	0	5
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	15
Claims	R	0	0	0	119
Disqualifications	K	1	0	1	26
Inquiries	D	1	0	1	55
Refunds	A	2	4	6	301
Rulings	Y	4	3	7	191
Voided Claims		0	0	0	44

Tom Ward, Steward

James Dreyer, Steward

Ron Church, Steward