

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 John Carvelli, Member
Honorable Damascus Castellanos, Member
Honorable Brenda Washington Davis, Member
Honorable Thomas C. Hudnut, 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, December 18 through Sunday, December 22, 2024.

WEDNESDAY12/18/24¹**DUTY STEWARD**

James Dreyer has the privilege of closing the meet out and will record the minutes during the final week.

12/18/24²**CAL-BRED REPORT**

The first race in the book, maidens two years old, was used open. 1 Cal-Bred.

12/18/24³**THE DRAW**

A mid-afternoon draw resulted in the eight races with a total of fifty-seven horses.

THURSDAY12/19/24¹**SCRATCHES**

Scratch time resulted in one declaration, one rider and three weight changes.

12/19/24²**CAL-BRED REPORT**

The first race in the book, maidens two years old, was used open. 2 Cal-Breds.

12/19/24³**THE DRAW**

Sunday's closing night feature will be the \$157,400 2024 Southern California Derby.

12/19/24⁴**COMPLAINT #24LA0257**

Trainer O'Dell spoke with the investigators concerning the complaint and decided that in lieu of a hearing he would accept whatever penalty the Stewards chose to mete out. A decision will be forthcoming.

12/19/24⁵**COMPLAINT #24LA0270**

An informal hearing was conducted this morning to address the above complaint. The explanation was quite clear, two vets treated Sweet Ella Rae with Phenylbutazone on the same day, one in the morning the other in the afternoon. The vets admitted guilt unfortunately, trainer Hernandez, Jr., is still the responsible party. A ruling to follow.

FRIDAY
12/20/24¹

SCRATCHES

Scratch time was completed at 10:00 a.m. with no changes or declarations on the program.

SATURDAY
12/21/24¹

RULINGS #192 AND #193

Ruling #192

Jockey Martin Arriaga is fine ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (b) (8) (Use of Riding Crop – more than six time during the running of the race) while riding Devils Tower in the eighth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on December 15, 2024.

Ruling #193

Jockey Cesar Franco is fine ONE THOUSAND HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,000)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (b) (8) (Use of Riding Crop – more than six time during the running of the race) while riding Show N Tell Cartel in the eighth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on December 15, 2024.

The above rulings were issued after both riders were in violation of rule #1688 apparently laboring under the misconception that excessive crop equates into additional speed.

12/21/24²

RULING #194 (Refer 12/19/24 - #5)

Ruling #194

Trainer Jose Hernandez, Jr., who started the horse Sweet Ella Rae, the second place finisher in the second race at Los Alamitos Race Course on October 6, 2024, is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* and assessed ½ point in accordance with California Horse Racing Board Rule #1843.4 (Multiple medication violations – expires October 5, 2025) pursuant to California Horse Racing Board Rules #1887 (Trainer or Owner to insure condition of horse), for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rules #1843 (a, b & d) (Medication, drugs and other substances) and #1843.1 (a) (Prohibited drug substances – Phenylbutazone – first Class C violation within the past 365 days).

After due consideration the above ruling was issued.

12/21/24³

RULING #195 (Refer 12/19/24 - #4)

Ruling #195

Trainer Christopher O'Dell who started the horse Thunderstruq, the second place finisher in the fifth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on September 21, 2024, is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* and assessed ½ point in accordance with California Horse Racing Board Rule #1843.4 (Multiple medication violations – expires September 20, 2025) pursuant to California Horse Racing Board Rules #1887 (Trainer or Owner to insure condition of horse), for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rules #1843 (a, b & d) (Medication, drugs and other substances) and #1843.1 (a) (Prohibited drug substances – Phenylbutazone – first Class C violation within the past 365 days).

The above ruling was issued after trainer O'Dell waived his right to a hearing and accepted full responsibility.

12/21/24⁴

RULING #196

Ruling #196

Owner Gilberto Verduzco, having failed to comply with the terms of Ruling #108, issued at Los Alamitos Race Course on July 20, 2024, is suspended pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1760 (Purse Award or Prize to Be Withheld – failed to return purse money).

The foregoing ruling was generated after Gilberto Verduzco failed to comply with Los Alamitos ruling #108 dated July 20, 2024.

12/21/24⁵

VET SHIFTS

With Dr. Beck still on the injured list Dr. Fitzgerald will remain in the test barn and Dr. Reese will be on the track.

12/21/24⁶

STEWARDS' INQUIRY – NO CHANGE

The Stewards hung the inquiry following the second race to review the stretch run. After a review of the race the Stewards felt that although there was some contact between #2 Instinct D'Oro (1st E. Payeras) and #5 My Man Baga (2nd A. Escobedo) the final outcome of the race was not affected.

12/21/24⁷

ANOTHER PHOTO FINISH MALFUNCTION

Following the seventh race we were notified by placing that the photo finish camera had malfunctioned again. This is twice in a short period of time. Their explanation is that it is in some way tied into the electric timer. To compound the situation the backup camera is also out of commission. Calls have been made to the individual responsible and we are waiting for a response.

12/21/24⁸

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race #5 Top Wolf (Tr. M. Stortz) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$231.60
 2nd Race #1 Seattle Breakout (Tr. S. Morfin) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$124.20
 3rd Race No Changes
 4th Race No Changes
 5th Race No Changes
 6th Race No Changes
 7th Race No Changes
 8th Race No Changes

12/21/24⁹

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	758	\$80,681.90
SCOTWINC	704	\$174,949.30
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$773,907.77
TOTAL	1,462	\$1,029,538.97

SUNDAY
12/22/24¹

RULINGS #197 & #198

Ruling #197

Jockey Marin Arriaga is fine ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00)* 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 Cattail Cove in the eighth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on December 21, 2024.

Ruling #198

Jockey David E. Morones is fine 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 Docs Best Style in the fifth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on December 21, 2024.

The foregoing rulings were issued after both riders were in violation of the crop rule.

12/22/24²

FILMS

Jockey Edgar Payeras reviewed last evening's second race with the Stewards this afternoon. We felt that days were not warranted but he was warned that in the future a better effort would be expected.

12/22/24³

OBJECTION – NO CHANGE

Following the seventh race the trainer of #5 McWherter (8th A. Escobedo), Santos Perez, lodged an objection against #7 Equipo A (4th G. Lara) at the break. After reviewing several angles of the start the Stewards could find nothing to support his claim. No change was warranted.

12/22/24⁴

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race No Changes
 2nd Race No Changes
 3rd Race #5 Luv Who I Am (Tr. B. Cunningham) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$316.56
 #7 He'squite Mischief (Tr. E. Alvarez) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$341.96
 4th Race No Changes
 5th Race #4 Such Is Life (Tr. H. Botello, Jr.) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$353.60
 6th Race #5 Proud Veteran (Tr. B. Pitnick) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$429.10
 7th Race No Changes
 8th Race No Changes
 9th Race No Changes
 10th Race #1 Silver Bac (Tr. J. Flores) Stake – Stewards – Refund: \$553.56

12/22/24⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	603	\$92,290.50
SCOTWINC	625	\$201,241.10
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,216,652.44
TOTAL	1,228	\$1,510,184.04

SUMMARY

	Fri 12/20	Sat 12/21	Sun 12/22	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	0	0	0	5
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	15
Claims	R	1	1	2	121
Disqualifications	K	0	0	0	26
Inquiries	D	1	1	2	57
Refunds	A	2	5	7	308
Rulings	Y	5	2	7	198
Voided Claims		0	0	0	44

James Dreyer, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

Tom Ward, Steward

BOS:JD:dj