

**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  
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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  
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

**Report for the week of December 30, 2024 through January 5, 2025.**

**MONDAY**12/30/24<sup>1</sup>**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward will be on duty for the last week of 2024. Due to the New Year holidays, entries will be taken today, Monday, and on Thursday, January 2, 2025. Ward will be writing minutes during the period.

12/30/24<sup>2</sup>**SATURDAY ENTRIES**

Entries on the next-to-last day of the year were quite hard to come by as it took Racing Secretary Nate Estrada and his crew until the late afternoon to put an eight-race program together. A total of 48 horses, exclusive of panel actions, will face the Starter on Saturday evening.

**THURSDAY**1/02/25<sup>1</sup>**SUNDAY ENTRIES/SATURDAY PANEL AND SCRATCHES**

Entries for the Sunday program were accepted this AM. Horsemen were more active at the entry box as the nine-race card filled close to 4:00 P. M. The Los Alamitos “panel” convened this morning, the result of which was a horse being declared. In race number two, #1 Beyond Compare was on the Veterinarian’s List for being injured and had not been examined by a “regulatory veterinarian” prior to entry. There were no other scratch requests and changes to the card were limited to rider and equipment changes.

1/02/25<sup>2</sup>**NO HEARING DAY**

There were no administrative hearings scheduled for this morning.

**FRIDAY**1/03/25<sup>1</sup>**SUNDAY SCRATCHES AND PANEL**

The panel meeting resulted in one horse being placed on the “hard watch” list due to on-going veterinary concerns. Scratch time changes were limited to one scratch and three jockey changes.

**SATURDAY**

1/04/25<sup>1</sup>

**RIDER EXCUSED**

Armando Cervantes was excused from his riding assignment this evening due to illness. A replacement rider was named.

1/04/25<sup>2</sup>

**INQUIRY INTO START**

The first race this evening was less than stellar as the field had five starters, but only three finishers. The inquiry sign was posted as the Stewards took a closer look at the circumstances which caused the debacle. After speaking with Starter Gary Brinson and reviewing all angles of video, the inquiry sign was removed and the race made “Official”. Video verified that #1 Rookie Mistake said “No Thanks” when the stall doors opened and “refused”.

Additionally, #3 Runaway Wywy stumbled sharply in the first stride and lost the rider, Jose E. Rodriguez.

The race had Superfecta wagering as there was a six-horse field when wagering opened at this venue. One veterinarian scratch reduced the field to five interests. With only three finishers, the payoff for the wager was the order of finish – 2/4/5 – and All, meaning either the #1 or the #3. Superfecta wagering has no requirements for a minimum number of finishers, only a minimum number of runners when wagering opens.

1/04/25<sup>3</sup>

**CLAIM VOIDED**

A claim in the first race deposited by trainer Troy Dial for #2 Pavel Puff was voided as Official Veterinarian Gary Beck reported that the horse was unsound in the right foreleg while in the test barn. The horse was returned to trainer Jorge Farias.

1/04/25<sup>4</sup>

**RIDER EXCUSED**

Jose Rodriguez, who was unseated at the start of the first race, was excused from his remaining mounts as he became increasingly sore as the evening progressed. Riders were named in his place.

1/04/25<sup>5</sup>

**ACCIDENT FOLLOWING RACE**

Jockey Francisco Orduna-Rojas was unseated following the conclusion of the fourth race as his mount, #7 Acceleray, which finished fourth, suffered a catastrophic injury to its left foreleg while being pulled up and fell. Mr. Orduna-Rojas was examined by paramedics and found to be not seriously injured. His mount, unfortunately, had to be euthanized on the racetrack by Racing Veterinarian Becky Fitzgerald, DVM.

1/04/25<sup>6</sup>

**LATE RIDER CHANGE**

A late rider change in the sixth race was required as Rodrigo Aceves, named to ride #1 Specialmiraclerunner, could not get within the five-pound overweight limit. The mare was in with 121 lbs., and Mr. Aceves could only tack 127 lbs. A replacement rider was named.

1/04/25<sup>7</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUNDS**

1<sup>st</sup> Race #6 Neah Bay (Tr. J. Nunez) injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$333.84

1/04/25<sup>8</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	689	\$53,206
<b>SCOTWINC</b>	1,141	\$120,119.40
<b>OUT OF STATE + ADW</b>	N/A	\$715,586.53
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,830	\$888,911.93

**SUNDAY**

1/05/25<sup>1</sup>

**STAKES SHIP-IN ISSUE**

Shortly before the first race, Official Veterinarian Gary Beck informed the Stewards that two John Steinbaugh-trained horses in the ninth race, the Grade 1 Charger Bar Stakes, did not have veterinary records on file with his office and he recommended that they be scratched. Rule #1846.1 dictates that horses shipping to race or work off of the Veterinarian’s List from a jurisdiction not under the auspices of the Board must have their veterinary records on file with the Official Veterinarian with 24 hours of arrival.

The two horses involved, First Time For Wine and Curls Joyful Wagon, had shipped in from Zia Park in mid-December, and had worked here on December 27<sup>th</sup>.

Trainer Steinbaugh was contacted and said that he had been attempting to contact the vet who did his work prior to shipping from Zia Park but was unsuccessful. He submitted a list of medication given and injections administered to Dr. Beck during the racing program.

While we can understand Dr. Beck’s concerns, we felt that to scratch Mr. Steinbaugh’s horses for a paperwork mistake would be too harsh a position to take. Nothing in the rule Dr. Beck cited dictates horses are to be scratched for non-compliance. Also, rule #188 (Horses Ineligible to Start in a Race) has no language to prevent a horse from starting under the circumstances mentioned above. Consequently, we informed Dr. Beck that we were not inclined to take his recommendation, the horses would run, and he could file a complaint against Mr. Steinbaugh.

1/05/25<sup>2</sup>

**SLIGHT DELAY IN POST – SADDLE SWITCHED**

There was a slight delay to the start of the fifth race as #1 Real Me and #6 Secret Of War were returned to the saddling paddock due to their riders’ saddles being placed on the wrong horses. The riders were re-weighed with the correct tack. Why it took so long for the error to be discovered is a question begging for an answer.

1/05/25<sup>3</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUNDS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Race #1 Mischief’s King (Tr. J. Farias) sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$847.37
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Race #3 Charming Roy (Tr. P. De Jesus) no insurance – Stewards – Refund: \$73.66
- 4<sup>th</sup> Race #1 Sophie Jean (Tr. L. Mendez) sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$433.33
- 8<sup>th</sup> Race #3 Milagro Lady (Tr. M. Casselman) stakes – Stewards – Refund: \$120.08

1/05/25<sup>4</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	554	\$82,634.30
<b>SCOTWINC</b>	934	\$231,813.70
<b>OUT OF STATE + ADW</b>	N/A	\$1,155,805.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,488	\$1,470,253.73

**SUMMARY**

	<b>Fri 01/03</b>	<b>Sat 01/04</b>	<b>Sun 01/05</b>	<b>Week</b>	<b>Meet</b>
<b>Accidents</b>	D	2	0	2	2
<b>Cal-Bred Races</b>	A	0	0	0	0
<b>Claims</b>	R	2	0	2	4
<b>Disqualifications</b>	K	0	0	0	0
<b>Inquiries</b>	D	1	0	1	1
<b>Refunds</b>	A	1	4	5	13
<b>Rulings</b>	Y	0	0	0	1
<b>Voided Claims</b>		1	0	1	2

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Tom Ward, Steward

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James Dreyer, Steward

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David Nuesch, Steward

BOS:TW:dj