

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 Peter Stern, Member
C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director
Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for the Week of Wednesday, May 28, through Sunday, June 1, 2025.

WEDNESDAY05/28/25¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward will be in the office this week for entries, scratches and panel duty. Ward will also document events of the week.

05/28/25²**SATURDAY ENTRIES**

The racing office was open this morning for Saturday entries. Nine races filled, with four "turn" races for Thoroughbreds and five Quarter Horse sprints.

05/28/25³**ROMAN FIGUEROA MEDICATION HEARING**

Stewards John Herbeveaux, David Nuesch, and Tom Ward were in the office today for a medication complaint filed against trainer Roman Figueroa. His horse Sweet Millie, the winner of the third race at Los Alamitos Race Course on August 4, 2024, tested positive for 23 pg/ml of the Class 3/Penalty B drug Clenbuterol.

Present at the hearing, in addition to the Stewards, were the respondent, accompanied by his counsel, Darrel Vienna; Deputy Attorney Kenneth Wang, representing the Board, and Investigator Stuart Ida. Michelle Derieg recorded the proceedings.

The first part of the bifurcated hearing involved the disqualification of the horse Sweet Millie. Counselor Vienna stated that there would be no opposition from his client with respect to the disqualification and redistribution. He could not speak for either the owner, Wayne Swisher, or the jockey, Ricardo Ramirez, as he did not represent them. It should be noted that neither Mr. Swisher nor Mr. Ramirez appeared at the hearing.

During the penalty phase of the hearing, which charged Mr. Figueroa with violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1843(a,b &d) #1843.1(a), #1843.4 and #1887, testimony was heard from Dr. Jeffrey Blea, Equine Medical Director for the CHRB; Dr. Benjamin Moeller PhD, Associate Professor and Director of the Kenneth Maddy Laboratory; Stuart Ida, California Horse

Racing Board Investigator; Dr. Steven Barker PhD, Professor Emeritus of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Louisiana State University. All testified as to their knowledge and opinions regarding the drug and the specifics of this case.

There were numerous objections raised by both sides during the hearing; too many, to be quite frank. Mr. Herbeveau, who chaired the hearing, did a yoeman's job of keeping the matter "between the rails", while still affording the attorneys an opportunity to present and argue their case.

Once closing arguments ended and all exhibits were properly identified, marked, and accepted, the case was closed – approximately five and one-half hours after its start. We will review testimony and exhibits presented and formulate a proposed decision to be sent to the Commissioners for review.

THURSDAY

05/29/25¹

SUNDAY ENTRIES, CHANGES, AND PANEL

Entries are being taken for the Sunday card this morning. It is hoped that the races fill as well as yesterday, as the Racing Office was closed and locked by the time the Stewards completed the aforementioned hearing.

The Panel met this morning, with one horse being scratched due to lingering veterinary issues. Scratch time resulted in one horse running under the "no claim waiver" and several weight corrections. There were also two gelding changes due to errors in Equibase past performances.

05/29/25²

THURSDAY HEARING

Trainer Guillermo Preciado was in the office this morning as he was the subject of a complaint stating that he failed to have a pre-entry examination on his horse Una Brava performed at the proper time. Mr. Preciado, who had been racing in Northern California, said that horsemen in the North were able to have their horses examined up to ten o'clock on the morning following entries. He now knows the correct procedure. An Official Warning will be issued.

FRIDAY

05/30/25¹

FRIDAY SCRATCHES AND PANEL

Ten races have been carded for the Sunday evening program, with eight Thoroughbred races and two Quarter Horse events. The Panel met this morning, with one horse scratched from a maiden special weight race as "non-competitive" and another as a "hard watch". Scratches and changes were uneventful.

SATURDAY

05/31/25¹

RULINGS

In what must be a record, or close to it, ten rulings emanated from this office this afternoon. They are as follows:

Ruling #69

Trainer Satchell S. Stevens, having complied with the terms of a financial agreement with Chett Marketing, is restored to good standing. Ruling #63, issued at Los Alamitos Race Course on May 10, 2025 is set aside.

Ruling #70

Acting on a report from the University of California Davis, an official testing laboratory for the California Horse Racing Board, that urine sample #PR00531, taken from the horse SWEET MILLIE, the first place finisher in the third race at Los Alamitos Race Course on August 4, 2024, tested positive for Clenbuterol (Class 3B), it is ordered that SWEET MILLIE be disqualified from all purse monies earned in said race, in accordance with California Horse Racing Board rule #1859.5 (Disqualification Upon Positive Test Finding).

It is further ordered that all purse monies (\$5,880.00) earned by Owner Wayne Swisher, Trainer Roman Figueroa, and Jockey Ricardo Rodriguez be returned to the Paymaster of Purses at Los

Alamitos Race Course by June 30, 2025, for redistribution pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1760 (Purse Award or Prize to be Withheld).

Ruling #71

Trainer Guillermo Preciado is issued an OFFICIAL WARNING for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1581.1(b) (Entry examination required).

Ruling #72

Jockey Gabriel Lara is suspended for ONE (1) ADDITIONAL RACING DAY (June 8, 2025) pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1766 (h) (Designated Races – participated in more than one trial heat while under suspension) on May 25, 2025.

Ruling #73

Jockey Gabriel Lara 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 Nymphis in the sixth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on May 25, 2025.

Ruling #74

Jockey Armando Cervantes 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 Themanfromsnowriver in the seventh race at Los Alamitos Race Course on May 25, 2025.

Ruling #75

Jockey Ricardo S. Ramirez 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 Crypto Favorite in the eighth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on May 25, 2025.

Ruling #76

Jockey Cesar Franco 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 French Valley in the ninth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on May 25, 2025.

Ruling #77

Jockey Martin Arriaga is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (b) (7) (Use of Riding Crop – more than twice in succession without giving the horse a chance to respond) while riding Accelerated in the ninth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on May 25, 2025.

Ruling #78

Jockey Cruz Mendez 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 Flaming Jess Candy in the tenth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on May 25, 2025.

05/31/25²

RECIPROCITY ISSUE

The Stewards received notice that trainer Eddie Willis, whose horse Coo Joe was slated to run in the seventh race tonight, was the subject of a ruling issued by the Oklahoma Racing Commission. It stated that he was suspended for six months and fined Ten Thousand Dollars for engaging in a fight on the grounds and using offensive and derogatory language toward another licensee.

Since the penalties were issued by a competent racing jurisdiction, the Stewards felt compelled to scratch the horse in tonight and one in on Sunday. Arrangements will be made to transfer horses out of Mr. Willis' name.

05/31/25³

RIDER INJURED BEHIND GATE

There was a delay to the start of the fifth race as #1 Lady Commando became fractious, reared up and unseated her rider, Cruz Mendez. The horse was not injured, but Mendez suffered an ankle injury and couldn't ride. The horse was returned to the paddock for a replacement rider while the rest of the field remained at the gate. The switch went well; the horse returned and ran on to a second place finish under Jockey Erasmo Gasca.

05/31/25⁴

DELAY TO START OF SEVENTH RACE

There was a fifteen-minute delay to the start of the seventh race as, following the running of race six, #6 Mr. Favorite Jess, suffered a catastrophic injury to the left front ankle and had to be euthanized on the track by Racing Veterinarian Becky Fitzgerald. This venue only uses one equine ambulance, and since it was already in use; the seventh event had to be delayed until it was free.

05/31/25⁵

STARTING GATE MISHAP/REFUND

A refund was ordered in the ninth race as #4 AB Corona De Ray flipped while awaiting the start and was declared on the advice of Racing Veterinarian Fitzgerald. The refund from the scratch amounted to \$23,663.05.

05/31/25⁶

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

- 1st Race #3 Midnight Meal (Tr. A. Aquino) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$118.90
- #5 Exhalting (Tr. J. Farias) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$593.15
- 2nd Race #2 Akbar (Tr. M. Stortz) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$434.55
- 3rd Race #2 Naukanauka (Tr. T. Dial) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$485.34
- 4th Race No Changes
- 5th Race No Changes
- 6th Race No Changes
- 7th Race #6 Coo Joe (Tr. E. Willis) Stewards – Refund: \$441.82
- 8th Race #9 Betz Cartel (Tr. M. Fales) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$194.36
- 9th Race No Changes

05/31/25⁷

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	734	\$112,610.30
SCOTWINC	1,141	\$319,934.10
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,042,410.47
TOTAL	1,875	\$1,474,954.87

SUNDAY
06/01/25¹

POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Stewards received a call from Jockey Agent Leslie Navarro, who stated that jockey Eduard F. Rojas, named on #5 Harlan Trooper in tonight's first race, was riding against his wife, Karen Norton, the owner of #4 Salsa On The Beach. She felt that this was a possible conflict of interest. The matter was investigated, and it was learned that Ms. Norton and Mr. Rojas are indeed married.

After a discussion, Stewards Church and Nuesch felt that a conflict of interest did exist and ordered a change in riders. Ward was in the minority opinion, feeling that a rider switch within an hour of first post was not warranted. The final decision put Mr. Rojas on his wife's horse and Efrain Hernandez on Harlan Trooper. The result on the track: Harlan Trooper finished second, while Salsa On The Beach, with Mr. Rojas aboard, finished fourth.

06/01/25²

NO PROBLEMS ON TRACK

The ten race card was completed without reportable incident.

06/01/25³

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

- 1st Race #8 Pat Can't Count (Tr. R. Guillen) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$780.72
- 2nd Race No Changes
- 3rd Race No Changes
- 4th Race No Changes
- 5th Race #5 My Om Song (Tr. S. Paldanius) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$333.09
- 6th Race No Changes
- 7th Race No Changes
- 8th Race #3 Freedom Fyrst (Tr. E. Willis) Stewards – Refund: \$471.89
- 9th Race No Changes
- 10th Race No Changes

06/01/25⁴

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	637	\$97,397.70
SCOTWINC	901	\$224,523.00
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,297,548.05
TOTAL	1,538	\$1,619,468.75

SUMMARY

	Fri 5/30	Sat 5/31	Sun 6/01	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	0	0	0	4
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	1
Claims	R	0	1	1	39
Disqualifications	K	0	0	0	10
Inquiries	D	0	0	0	11
Refunds	A	7	3	10	160
Rulings	Y	10	0	10	78
Voided Claims		0	0	0	12

Tom Ward, Steward

David Nuesch, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

BOS:TW:dj