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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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WEEKLY UPDATE

SACRAMENTO, CA – This is the California Horse Racing Board’s weekly update of complaints, accusations, stewards rulings, and Board decisions involving Class 1, 2, and 3 medication violations and other significant matters.

The stewards at Hollywood Park suspended trainer Thomas Bell II for 15 days (stayed) and issued a \$2,500 fine for violation of CHRB Rules 1843, 1844, and 1887 after the Maddy Laboratory at the University of California, Davis, reported that a sample taken from a horse in his care, Zanda Blue, exceeded the regulatory threshold for procaine. The finding was confirmed by Iowa State University Racing Chemistry Laboratory. Procaine is a local anesthetic and is found in procaine penicillin G, a commonly administered antibiotic. For this reason procaine is a Class 3 violation rather than a Class 2 violation, as are most other anesthetics. The stewards stayed the 15-day suspension based on evidence presented at the hearing and Bell’s otherwise unblemished disciplinary record. The stay remains in effect provided Bell has no Class 1, 2, or 3 violations during the term of his one-year probation. Zanda Blue finished first in the first race at Hollywood Park on July 2, 2008. In an earlier decision, the stewards disqualified Zanda Blue and ordered the redistribution of the purse for that July 2 race.

The CHRB filed a complaint against trainer Frank Petrelli for violation of CHRB Rules 1843 (a) (b) (d) and 1887 after the Maddy Laboratory reported that a sample taken from a horse in his care, Keystone Comotion, contained yohimbine and hydroxyl-yohimbine, a metabolite of yohimbine. The finding was confirmed by Pennsylvania Equine Laboratories. Yohimbine is a plant alkaloid and an alpha-2 adrenergic antagonist. This drug is used in veterinary medicine as a reversal agent for the commonly used alpha-2 agonist tranquilizer xylazine. Yohimbine is a Class 2 drug and a Category A penalty. Keystone Comotion finished first in the fourth race at Cal Expo on April 11, 2009. The stewards at Cal Expo have scheduled a hearing on June 10.

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