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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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WEEKLY UPDATE: DEC. 14 – 20, 2009

SACRAMENTO, CA – This is the California Horse Racing Board's weekly update of all complaints filed. The update also includes stewards' rulings involving Class 1, 2, and 3 medication violations and other significant matters. All stewards' rulings can be viewed on the CHRB Website (www.chrb.ca.gov) through the Administrative Hearings link.

In accordance with a stipulated agreement between the CHRB and trainer Sergio Fiscal, the stewards at Los Alamitos fined Fiscal \$3,000 and suspended him for 30 days for violation of CHRB Rules 1843 (a) (d), 1844 (e) (9) (f) and 1887 after the Maddy Laboratory at UC Davis determined the blood and urine samples collected from Cosmic Brownie, a horse in his care, contained clenbuterol in excess of the authorized decision levels. Clenbuterol is a beta-2 agonist bronchodilator commonly used in horses. This is a Class 3 violation. Cosmic Brownie finished first in the 7th race at Los Alamitos on September 19, 2009. Pursuant to the agreement, the stewards stayed 25 days of the suspension provided Fiscal has no further Class 1, 2, or 3 violations during the term of his one-year probation. The stewards also disqualified Cosmic Brownie and ordered the redistribution of the purse for that September 19 race.

In accordance with separate stipulated agreements between the CHRB and trainer Guillermo Morales and between the CHRB and owner Victor Gonzalez, the stewards at Los Alamitos fined both Morales and Gonzalez \$3,000 and suspended them for 30 days for violation of CHRB Rules 1843 (a) (d), 1844 (e) (9) (f) and 1887 after the Maddy Laboratory at UC Davis determined the blood and urine samples collected from The Crunch, a horse trained by Morales and owned by Gonzalez, contained clenbuterol in excess of the authorized decision level. Clenbuterol is a beta-2 agonist bronchodilator commonly used in horses. This is a Class 3 violation. Gonzalez admitted administering the clenbuterol to the horse at his ranch about six days prior to the race. The Crunch finished first in the ninth race at Los Alamitos on October 24, 2009. Pursuant to the agreements, the stewards stayed 25 days of each suspension provided the licensee has no further Class 1, 2, or 3 violations during the term of his one-year probation. The stewards also disqualified The Crunch and ordered the redistribution of the purse for that October 24 race.

In accordance with a stipulated agreement between the CHRB and trainer Francisco Chavez, the stewards at Cal Expo fined Chavez \$3,000 and suspended him for 30 days for violation of CHRB Rules 1843 and 1887 after the Maddy Laboratory at UC Davis determined the urine sample collected from a horse in his care, Hold the Peace, contained ractopamine, a Class 3 prohibited substance. Ractopamine is a beta-2 agonist, the same drug class as clenbuterol and albuterol.

Ractopamine is used as a feed additive for increased weight-gain in livestock but is not approved for use in horses. Pursuant to the agreement, the stewards stayed 15 days of the suspension provided Chavez has no further Class 1, 2, or 3 violations during the term of his one-year probation. Hold the Peace finished third in the eighth race at Cal Expo on September 6, 2009. The stewards disqualified Hold the Peace and ordered the redistribution of the purse in that race.

In accordance with a stipulated agreement between the CHRB and trainer Frank Petrelli, the stewards at Cal Expo fined Petrelli \$3,000 and suspended him for 30 days for violation of CHRB Rules 1843.6 (d) (1), 1887, and 1890 after the Maddy Laboratory reported the blood sample taken from a horse in his care, Chartleysmonalisa, exceeded the regulatory threshold of 37.0mm1/1 for total carbon dioxide (TCO2). This is a Class 3 violation. Pursuant to the agreement, the stewards stayed 15 days of the suspension provided Petrelli has no further Class 1, 2, or 3 violations during the term of his one-year probation. Chartleysmonalisa finished second in the fifth race at Cal Expo on July 25, 2009. The stewards disqualified Chartleysmonalisa and ordered the redistribution of the purse in that race.

The stewards at Los Alamitos fined trainer Paul Jones \$1,000 for violation of CHRB Rules 1843 (a) (d), 1866, and 1877 after Jitter Done, a horse in his care, worked at Los Alamitos on September 12, 2009, to get off the Vet's list and the Maddy Laboratory at UC Davis reported the post-work blood sample contained flunixin in excess of the authorized decision level. Flunixin is a regulated non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication. The stewards previously conducted an informal hearing and issued a \$1,000 fine on October 8, 2009, for this same infraction. Jones appealed, which led to a rehearing and finally this new \$1,000 penalty.

The CHRB filed a complaint against trainer Rene Amescua alleging violation of CHRB Rules 1843 (a) (d) and 1887 after the Maddy Laboratory at UC Davis determined the sample collected from a horse in his care, Bonita Birdie, contained dexamethasone, a prohibited Class 4 drug substance. Bonita Birdie ran first in the fifth race at Golden Gate Fields on November 19, 2009. The stewards at Golden Gate have scheduled a January 21 hearing.

The CHRB filed a complaint against vendor Dale Edward McMihelk, DBA Dale E. McMihelk Hay and Grain, alleging violation of CHRB Rules 1489 (a) (b) (c) (i), 1900, and 1902 (b). The complaint states that on October 29, 2009, the Yolo County Superior Court reinstated a previously suspended four-year sentence after he failed to pay restitution in the amount of \$211,226 for a 2008 conviction under section 484 (A), 487 (B), and 120226 (A) (2) of the California Penal Code. The stewards at Golden Gate have scheduled a hearing for February 3.

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