

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**

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Honorable Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chairman
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C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director
Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for the Week of Wednesday, May 27, through Sunday, May 31, 2026.

WEDNESDAY5/27/26¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward will be on hand for entries, scratches and changes this week. Ward will also be on panel duty and minutes. The entry process should be considerably easier this week as races from last Saturday's canceled card will be offered as extras for Saturday, while trials for the Ed Burke Million are on tap for Sunday.

5/27/26²**FATALITY REVIEW**

Ward participated in a fatality review for the horse Expect Love, trained by Vann Belvoir. Also involved were Mr. Belvoir, Dr. Jocelyn Lorbecki, Equine Medical Director Jeff Blea, and Safety Steward Brice Blanc.

Mr. Belvoir, who comes from a generations-long family of old-school horsemen, was very open and forthcoming during the review. It was refreshing to hear his comments about this horse, in particular, and the state of game in general.

THURSDAY5/28/26¹**SUNDAY ENTRIES/SATURDAY PANEL AND CHANGES**

Entries for the Ed Burke Million trials are being accepted this morning, with an estimated 100 horses expected to pass the entry box. The Saturday card filled well, as ten races were carded. The Los Alamitos entry panel met this morning to review Saturday entries. There were no scratches or "hard watch" horses. Changes were limited to one rider change and several weight corrections.

5/28/26²**HEARING DAY**

Trainer Ramiro Zuazo was in the office this morning in response to a complaint filed against him by Board investigators for a Clenbuterol positive detected in his horse Butterfly Thru Fire following an out-of-competition test.

Present at the hearing, in addition to the Board of Stewards, were the Respondent, stable employee Emily Moncada, owner Rosario Jimenez, and interpreter Ana Gan. Court reporter Michelle Derieg recorded the proceedings.

Shortly after the start of the hearing Mr. Zuazo indicated that he wished to invoke his right to counsel. A brief recess was called. Mr. Zuazo returned and said he had changed his mind and wanted to proceed without an attorney.

Mr. Zuazo insisted that he did not give the horse Clenbuterol, nor did any of his employees. He testified that the horse was shipped to his barn by the owner in preparation for the Kindergarten Futurity. Shortly after the horse arrived it was subjected to an out-of-competition test. The owner of the horse, Rosario Jimenez, testified that two horses – the one in question and a three-year-old – look almost identical and he assumes the ranch employee gave Clenbuterol to the wrong horse. Photos were submitted which corroborated his testimony. When the line of questioning switched to the three-year-old, Mr. Jimenez' testimony became a bit evasive. In our opinion, that horse was likely heading to the match races and was to receive the drug.

We will discuss information received during the hearing and formulate a decision.

5/28/26³

EXERCISE RIDER RESPONDS

Lidio Barrientos was in our office regarding a citation issued against him for galloping near the inside rail. He said that the trainer, Rafael De Leon, instructed him to do so as the horse had attempted to bolt to the outside the morning prior to this incident. He was told that while he was responding to Mr. De Leon's orders, he knew it was against track rules. A ruling will be issued this coming weekend.

FRIDAY

5/29/26¹

SUNDAY ENTRIES/PANEL/CHANGES

The Sunday entry process, as expected, went very well. One hundred and eight horses will comprise twelve trials, nine head in each race. The Los Alamitos panel met this morning with nothing of significance to report. Two rider changes and two Lasix changes completed scratch time.

5/29/26²

FATALITY REVIEW

Trainer James Gonzalez II participated remotely in a fatality review this morning as he had a filly injured in the Two Million trials last November. Dr. Jocely Lorbeicki chaired the discussion, and in attendance were Equine Medical Director Jeffrey Blea, along with Safety Steward Eddie Rich and Tom Ward. Mr. Gonzalez was knowledgeable and articulate – a good round-table exchange took place.

SATURDAY

5/30/26¹

VIDEO REVIEW

Jockey Armando Aguilar was in the office to review the first race from May 17th, during which he contributed to interference entering the far turn. He acknowledged that he should have given the rider to his inside a bit more room and assured us he will be more observant in the future. A warning was issued.

5/30/26²

LATE REFUND

A refund was ordered in the second race as #6 Not My Rodeo flipped in the starting gate, prompting Racing Veterinarian Fitzgerald to recommend the horse be declared. The refund amounted to \$11,868.07. The rider, Salvador Vargas, was fortunate to have escaped with no injury.

5/30/26³

ACCIDENT/INQUIRY/NO CHANGE

The Inquiry sign was posted following the fifth race this evening as the Stewards reviewed a serious incident at the start involving #4 Yo Yamamoto (I. Lara), #5 Sixth Sense (E. Nicasio), and #6 Golden Warfighter (G. Lara).

After reviewing the break from all angles, the Stewards voted to take no action. #4 Yo Yamamoto the solely responsible for the entire incident as it made a right turn leaving the barrier, creating hard contact between itself and the other two competitors. That horse's rider, Irving Lara, was unseated due to the contact, but was found to be uninjured.

5/30/26⁴

GATE SCRATCHES/DOUBLE REFUND

Two refunds were ordered prior to the start of the eighth race tonight. #2 Quickie Shine broke through the starting stall doors when it reacted to #4 Go North breaking through its gate. Quickie Shine unseated its rider and ran off, prompting the Stewards to order it scratched. When the field was re-loading, Go North resumed its antics and broke through a second time, suffering a cut lip in the process. Dr. Fitzgerald advised the horse be declared. The refund from the scratch of #2 resulted in a refund of \$12,941.90, while the refund from the scratch of #4 totaled \$33,805.20. Some serious gate schooling is in order

5/30/26⁵

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

- 1st Race No Changes
- 2nd Race #6 Not My Rodeo (Tr. J. Uranga) Gate – Stewards – Refund: \$11,868.07
- 3rd Race No Changes
- 4th Race #2 Went To London (Tr. J. Uranga) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$298.78
- 5th Race No Changes
- 6th Race No Changes
- 7th Race No Changes
- 8th Race #2 Quickie Shine (Tr. M. Casselman) Gate – Stewards – Refund: \$12,941.90
#4 Go North (Tr. S. Willoughby) Gate – Stewards – Refund: \$33,805.20

5/30/26⁶

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	769	\$101,985.30
SCOTWINC	1,034	\$304,034.30
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$974,032.22
TOTAL	1,803	\$1,380,051.82

SUNDAY

5/31/26¹

RULING #43

Ruling #43

Pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1530 (Cases Not Covered by Rules or Regulations), Exercise Rider LIDIO BARRIENTOS is fined ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)* for failure to follow the orders of the morning outrider – Galloping too close to the inside rail.

This ruling was issued to finalize the citation issued against Mr. Barrientos for violation of morning track rules.

5/31/26²

RIDERS EXCUSED

Christian Cardenas was excused from his first mount of the evening as his plane connection was delayed. He completed his remaining engagements.

Eduardo Nicasio was excused from his mount in the eleventh race after injuring his knee in the previous trial. A replacement rider was named.

5/31/26³

STEWARDS' INQUIRY AND DISQUALIFICATION

The inquiry sign was posted after the second race to review an incident involving the second and third place finishers, #8 Pevs Jess Eye Candy (H. Lopez) and #7 Contentious (I. Lara). After speaking with the riders involved and reviewing video of the incident the Stewards unanimously voted to disqualify Pevs Jess Eye Candy from second to third position. Video review showed the

horse coming in mid-race, making hard contact with its opposition and costing the horse a chance at a better placing.

Pevs Jess Eye Candy received a time of 0.001 second slower than Contentious due to the disqualification.

5/31/26⁴

REFUND

A refund was ordered in the ninth race as #8 Kissallthecowboys “froze up” during the post parade, then tried to flip and lost the rider. The horse was declared, with the refund amounting to \$4,534.33.

5/31/26⁵

SLIGHT DELAY TO START

There was a short delay to the start of the eleventh race as Starter Brinson encountered a problem with his starting cord – it would not cut power to the gate magnets when he pressed the start button. A replacement cord was installed and, after a re-load, the field was sent on their way.

5/31/26⁶

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

- 1st Race No Changes
- 2nd Race No Changes
- 3rd Race #4 Cyberscurve (Tr. D. Cervantes) House Rule – Stewards – Refund: \$165.48
- 4th Race #7 Czech Berry Delight (Tr. F. Gonzalez) House Rule – Stewards – Refund: \$219.60
- 5th Race No Changes
- 6th Race No Changes
- 7th Race No Changes
- 8th Race No Changes
- 9th Race #8 Kissallthecowboys (Tr. J. Flores) Lost Rider – Stewards – Refund: \$4,534.33
- 10th Race No Changes
- 11th Race No Changes
- 12th Race No Changes

5/31/26⁷

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	882	\$136,334.10
SCOTWINC	852	\$280,214.60
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,859,894.98
TOTAL	1,734	\$2,276,443.68

SUMMARY

	Fri 5/29	Sat 5/30	Sun 5/31	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	1	0	1	6
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	0
Claims	R	1	0	1	32
Disqualifications	K	0	1	1	6
Inquiries	D	1	1	2	23
Refunds	A	6	3	9	155
Rulings	Y	0	1	1	43
Voided Claims		0	0	0	13

Tom Ward, Steward

David Nuesch, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

BOS:TW:dj