

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, August 5, through Sunday, August 9, 2026.

WEDNESDAY8/05/26¹**DUTY STEWARD**

The cycle has once again placed John Herbuveaux in the position of overseeing weekly entries, scratches and changes. Herbuveaux will also be responsible for composing the minutes this week.

8/05/26²**ENTRIES**

The Racing Office labored valiantly and came up with an eight-race card that contained 52 entrants.

THURSDAY8/06/26¹**SATURDAY SCRATCHES**

There were no defections from the eight-race card and only two minor changes to the program.

8/06/26²**PANEL REVIEW**

Steward Herbuveaux was a member of the panel set to review the lineup of contenders for Saturday's eight race program. While there were a few horses who will remain under further scrutiny the remainder were given the okay to parade to the post.

8/06/26³**NUNEZ HEARING (CASE #26LA0055 & 26LA0058)**

Two separate hearings were held this morning revolving around the same incident involving Trainer Jesus Nunez after a horse he trained, Unblemished V, showed the presence of the prohibited substance Tramadol.

The first case was the disqualification of the horse, Unblemished V pursuant to CHRB rule #1859.5 (Disqualification Upon Positive Test Finding). Present at the hearing were Mr. Nunez, his attorney, Michael Flory and the Board of Stewards. Owner Samuel Valeriano and the jockey who rode the horse, Ricardo Ramirez, were notified of the hearing but chose not to attend.

According to the complaint Unblemished V started in and won the fifth race on April 12, 2026, at Los Alamitos Race Course. He was trained by Jesus Nunez. After the race a urine sample (#PR05272) was taken from Unblemished V and sent to the Maddy Laboratory at UC Davis for analysis. The lab reported the presence of Tramadol at a level of 3.9 ng/ml. Tramadol is a Class 2 Drug Substance that carries a Category B penalty which calls for minimum 30-day suspension and a minimum fine of \$1,500.00. Both penalties are subject to mitigating and aggravating circumstances.

Nunez requested a split sample that was sent to Industrial Laboratories which confirmed the presence of Tramadol.

Evidence and testimony was entered and received into the record and, after deliberation, the Stewards will render a decision in the near future.

The second portion of the hearing centered upon Mr. Nunez' culpability for the positive test results as the trainer of record for Unblemished V. Mr. Nunez was alleged to have violated CHRB rules #1843 (a)(b) & (d) (Medication, Drugs and Other Substances), #1843.1 (b) (Prohibited Drug Substances), #1843.4 (Multiple Medication Violations) and #1887 (Trainer or Owner to Insure Condition of Horse).

Nunez did not dispute the test results and testified that he has a prescription for Tramadol. Although the trainer did not state cross contamination was responsible for the positive test, he did feel it could be a mitigating circumstance.

In closing Attorney Flory requested that the penalty meted out to Nunez be a ten-day suspension and a \$500.00 fine.

The Stewards will take the testimony and evidence under submission and prepare a proposed decision that will be forwarded to the Board for its consideration.

FRIDAY

8/07/26¹

SCRATCH DUTY

Scratches and changes for Sunday's card were accomplished without noteworthy incident.

8/07/26²

PANEL REVIEW

Steward Herbuveaux once again sat in for Sunday's panel review and no action was recommended by the panel at this time.

8/07/26³

FATALITY REVIEW

Steward Herbuveaux attended a panel discussion concerning the necropsy report for the horse Stanley Cartel who was euthanized following a race at Los Alamitos on December 13, 2025. Present were Dr. Jocelyn Lorbiecki, who chaired the panel, CHRB Equine Medical Director Dr. Jeff Blea, Safety Steward Eddie Rich and trainers Ramiro Castillo and Luke Lindsey. Two trainers were present because the horse was transferred from Castillo to Lindsey five days before the race.

The horses' medical and training history along with the injuries sustained following the finish line in December were discussed in detail to help prevent a recurrence to either Castillo or Lindsey in the future.

SATURDAY

8/08/26¹

RULING #67

Ruling #67

Jockey CESAR FRANCO, who rode Fancy Upp in the seventh race at Los Alamitos Race Course on July 26, 2026, is suspended for SIX (6) RACING DAYS (August 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 30th, September 5th and 6th, 2026) 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 – Third Offense).

The above ruling was issued after Mr. Franco appeared to review the films of the race with the Stewards. Franco was in no hurry to appear as he is currently under suspension for a similar

offense in the recent past. He could not argue with the replay as it clearly demonstrated he applied the crop on eight occasions.

8/08/26²

RULING #68

Ruling #68

Acting on a report from the University of California Davis, the official testing laboratory for the California Horse Racing Board, that urine sample #PR05272, taken from the horse UNBLEMISHED V, the first place finisher in the fifth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on April 12, 2026, tested positive for Tramadol (Class II), it is ordered that UNBLEMISHED V 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 (\$4,170.00) earned by Owner Valeriano Racing Stables LLC, Trainer Jesus Nunez, and Jockey Ricardo S. Ramirez be returned to the Paymaster of Purses at Los Alamitos Race Course within thirty (30) days of this ruling for redistribution, pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1760 (Purse Award or Prize to be Withheld).

The above ruling was published after Thursday's formal hearing. While the culpability portion of the hearing will be a proposed decision forwarded to the Board the disqualification of Unblemished V is within the Stewards purview.

8/08/26³

QUIET EVENING

Tonight's eight race program was conducted without an incident of note.

8/08/26⁴

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race #5 A Kitten for Sue (Tr. F. Rodriguez) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$197.89
2nd Race #4 Punchy (Tr. J. Glenn Jr.) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$230.00
(No Show Wagering)
3rd Race #4 Tascadero (Tr. T. Dial) Claimed by Trainer Santos Perez (\$3,500.00)
4th Race #2 Desert Dawg (Tr. A. Farias) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$180.23
5th Race No Changes
6th Race No Changes
7th Race #3 Love To Flirt (Tr. V. Zamudio) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$91.35
8th Race No Changes

8/08/26⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	813	\$84,355.90
SCOTWINC	951	\$291,706.60
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$731,168.91
TOTAL	1,764	\$1,107,231.41

SUNDAY

8/09/26¹

FILM REVIEW

Jockey Henry Lopez came in to review the fourth race from August 1st with the Stewards. At issue was his use of the whip during the running of the race. After reviewing the tapes, the Stewards issued a warning as it was inconclusive as to whether he violated the rule.

8/09/26²

STEWARDS INQUIRY – FIFTH RACE – NO CHANGE

The Stewards posted the Inquiry sign to evaluate the start of the fifth race as #5 Recuerdas never left the starting gate. After a thorough review the Stewards declared that Recuerdas was a starter.

Tapes showed the starting gate stall door opening properly and the assistant starter releasing the horse's head. Recuerdas stood in the stall and refused to leave the starting gate. The horse is now on the Starter's List.

8/09/26³

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race #1 Misty Heart (Jockey Edgar Payeras) replaced by Pedro Flores
 2nd Race #1 Winhappy (Tr. J. Uranga) claimed by Jorge Farias (\$5,000.00)
 3rd Race No Changes
 4th Race No Changes
 5th Race No Changes
 6th Race No Changes
 7th Race #2 Echicera (Tr. J. Nunez) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$129.00
 8th Race #3 Competent (Jockey Martin Arriaga) Replaced by Irving Lara

8/09/26⁴

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	650	\$63,168.70
SCOTWINC	820	\$161,175.20
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$804,179.74
TOTAL	1,470	\$1,028,523.64

SUMMARY

	Fri 8/07	Sat 8/08	Sun 8/09	Week	Meet
Accidents	0	0	0	0	9
Cal-Bred Races	0	0	0	0	16
Claims	0	1	1	2	44
Disqualifications	0	0	0	0	12
Inquiries	0	0	1	1	33
Refunds	0	4	1	5	212
Rulings	0	2	0	2	68
Voided Claims	0	0	0	0	17

John Herbuveaux, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

Tom Ward, Steward

BOS:JH:dj