



NSA®

NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION

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STEWARDS' REPORT

RACE MEETING: Willowdale

DATE: May 11, 2024

WEATHER: Sunny and cool

COURSE CONDITION: Good

Compaction: Avg 9 (wet)

Moisture: Avg 100 (good)

CLERK OF SCALES: Teena Appleby

STARTER: Joe Mcvey

STEWARDS: Charles Fleischman
Wayne Van Sant
Brook Hawkins
Doris Paxson (Safety)

OFFICIAL ACTIONS:

In the second race, WILLOW WOOD was randomly selected for TCO2 testing.

Pre Race: DON'T SHOUT, was scratched by the veterinarians. The horse had been given its Lasix before the scratch was confirmed.

Second Race: DIZZY KITTY was pulled up before last, tired.

Third Race: FIESTY KITTEN pulled up two out, LOWCOUNTRY pulled up one out. Rider Jack Power on WESTERLAND, who finished third, claimed interference against Brian Berry, rider of CODIGIO, who finished first, and Freddie Procter, rider of FOX IN THE PARK, who finished second. Video of the incident and testimony of the patrol judge at the fence did not corroborate the claim and it was disallowed.

Fourth Race: RHEBUS ROAD pulled up one out, MINELLA PLUS pulled up two out, FACTOTUM pulled up one out, SEISMIC WAVE pulled up three out, and WEBB pulled up one out.

Fifth Race: On the turn after the 9th fence, DRUID'S ALTAR was observed to hit a beacon. BOB's BAR lost his rider at the 17th. DRUID'S ALTAR'S ride Dan Nevin was observed to hit his horse an excessive amount in achieving second place. A careful review of the incident at the beacon on the turn after the 17th revealed that DRUID'S ALTAR attempted to duck the beacon but was held out by the rider. The horse hit

the flagpole head-on with his nose. The flagpole went to the right of the horse's head thereby making him off course. For this reason, he was disqualified. Due to the difficulty in determining that the horse had gone off course, the fact that Nevin continued in the race was excused. A claim of interference by Nevin as the cause of his issue with the beacon was disallowed after video review.

A review of the finish revealed that Nevin had hit his horse at least 11 times during the running of the race. The issue was referred to the Steward's Advisory Committee.

Sixth Race: FASHION LINE fell at the 11th badly impeding PADDY'S CROWN who pulled up shortly after. HUYANA fell at the 14th. Rider Dan Nevin on FASHION LINE was not cleared to ride.

The winner COURT RULER went wide on the approach to the final fence around a fence in the next race that was closed and guarded by the wings being folded across and with a white flag from the previous hurdle races on it. No claims were made against the winner.

A review of the race showed no interference or intimidation at the last. While he did go wide, in the opinion of the stewards he stayed on the prescribed course which in that area was delineated by the white flags of the "inside rail" and the hard fence on the outside rail, there being no red flags in that area to indicate otherwise.

Seventh Race: TAKE PROFIT was scratched since a rider to replace Dan Nevin was not available. ERYX fell at the 3rd and the fence was closed. Rider Brian Barry was transported to the hospital. BROOKLYN SPEIGHTS and REASON TO PRAY pulled up, distanced.

Other Comments:

The starts initially were not tight but improved somewhat. It was noticeable that number order entry caused gaps in the line which persisted as the riders behind the gapping horse did not have the permission to move up along or ahead of the horse that caused a separation.

The organization at Willowdale is to be congratulated on another well run and accommodating meet. The proposal to enhance the course maps for next year to show the fences of the other races with the prescribed course to be run indicated on them is a good one.

Respectfully,
Charles Fleischmann