

Sports

HORSE RACING

Shocking end at Kentucky Derby

■ Maximum Security leads throughout but is disqualified for interference

By John Cherwa
Los Angeles Times

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — In a Kentucky Derby that will be talked about long after the name of the winner has been forgotten, Maximum Security became the first horse disqualified in the 145-year history of the event and Country House, a 65-to-1 longshot, became the only winner to not cross the finish line first.

It was an excruciating 22 minutes after the race when stewards, who watched and re-watched video, rendered their decision. What they determined was that Maximum Security came off the inside of the track and impeded the running of War of Will, Long Range Toddy and Bodexpress.

Maximum Security, according to the rules of horse racing, was placed 17th, behind Long Range Toddy. Bodexpress was 13th and War of Will was placed seventh.

Country House got the blanket of roses, with his second victory in seven career races.

The incident happened deep in the far turn before the homestretch.

Country House, ridden by Flavien Prat, was on the outside of his competitors and was the least affected by the incident.

Prat, who is a regular rider at Santa Anita, said, “That horse drifted out, kind of turned me sideways, and there were two horses inside of us.”

The stewards did not mention that Country House was affected.

Prat and Jon Court, who was riding Long Range Toddy, filed objections with the stewards.

“We had a lengthy review of the race,” said Barbara Gordon, chief steward of the Kentucky Racing Commission. “We interviewed affected riders. We determined that the seven horse (Maximum Security) drifted out and impacted the progress of No. 1 (War of Will), in turn interfering with the 18 (Long Range Toddy) and 21 (Bodexpress). Those horses were all impacted by the interference. Therefore, we unanimously determined to disqualify No. 7 and place him behind the 18.”

It was the first Kentucky Derby win for Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott, who previously was best known as the trainer of Cigar, who won 16 consecutive races in 1996.

“It will give somebody something to talk about for a long time,” Mott said. “They’ll be speaking about the result of this race from now until they run the next Kentucky Derby, the next 10 Kentucky Derbies and 20 Kentucky Derbies.

“There is always a lot of controversy in this sport and we are probably going to be involved with it for a long time.”

The only other time a Derby winner was denied a victory came in 1968 when Dancer’s Image later tested positive for a banned medication and Kentucky racing officials redistributed the purse, making Forward Pass the winner. The stewards’ decision in that case was upheld in court.

Maximum Security is owned by Gary and Mary West, who live in Rancho Santa Fe near San Diego. Gary West said he plans to take a couple of days to review his options and decide if he plans to file an appeal.

Jason Servis, the trainer of Maximum Security, was hop-



Andy Lyons / Getty Images-TNS

Country House, middle, with jockey Flavien Prat up, battles for position with War of Will, Maximum Security and Code of Honor in the final turn during the 145th running of the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs on Saturday.

“You know, as far as the win goes, it’s bittersweet. I would be lying if I said it was any different. You always want to win with a clean trip.”

— **Bill Mott, who trained Country House, the winning horse after Maximum Security was disqualified for interference**

ing to join his brother John as a Kentucky Derby-winning trainer. John Servis won with Smarty Jones in 2004.

“I don’t think it changed the outcome of the race,” Jason Servis said. “It looks like something scared him in the infield. ... I feel bad for the Wests. ... It’s tough. It hasn’t sunk in yet, but it will.”

Most in the crowd of 150,729 were shocked. It resulted in about a \$116 difference in the win payoff and tens of thousands of bettors who went from a winner to a loser, not just at Churchill Downs but those who wagered remotely. More than \$65.6 million was bet on win, place and show in the race.

One online gambling site, SportsBetting.ag, returned all bets made on Maximum Security that came before race day, totaling in the “mid six figures,” according to its website.

Country House was the second-longest priced horse to win the Derby. He paid \$132.40 to win, \$56.60 to

place and \$24.60 to show on a \$2 mutuel wager. Donerail paid \$184.90 in 1913.

Country House finished 1½ lengths behind Maximum Security. After the disqualification, Code of Honor was placed second, followed by Tacitus, Improbable and Game Winner.

“You know, as far as the win goes, it’s bittersweet,” Mott said. “I would be lying if I said it was any different. You always want to win with a clean trip and have everybody recognize the horse as a very good horse and for the great athlete that he is. I think, due to the disqualification, probably some of that is diminished. But this is horse racing.”

Maximum Security broke alertly from the gate and immediately went for the lead, which he held to the finish. It was an impressive performance in that the first part of the race was extremely fast for 1¼ miles. The Derby is traditionally the first time that 3-year-olds run that far.

He ran the quarter-

mile in 23.31 seconds and the half-mile in 46.35 seconds. Normally, horses that run opening fractions that fast tend to fade to the back as the race continues. But not Maximum Security. It seemed as if jockey Luis Saez was trying to slow the race down on the far turn to conserve energy for the finish. It could have contributed to the interference, especially because it appeared that War of Will was speeding up.

“I thought I never put anyone in danger,” Saez said. “My horse shied away from the noise of the crowd and may have ducked out a little.”

The race was run on a track that was labeled as sloppy, with water standing on the surface that had not penetrated the hardened base of dirt.

The next race in the Triple Crown series is the Preakness Stakes in two weeks at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore. It’s unclear if there will be a rematch between Country House and Maximum Security. Country House will definitely be there if he comes out of the race healthy.

Gary West indicated it was too soon to tell if Maximum Security would be up for another race with a new track, new stewards and the possibility of a new outcome.

SPORTS BRIEFING

Mariners end six-game losing streak

CLEVELAND (AP) — Erik Swanson didn’t run into any trouble until after his first major league win.

Seattle’s rookie right-hander was grabbed by teammates, thrown into a laundry cart and pushed into the showers after allowing just one hit in six innings as the Mariners snapped a six-game losing streak with a 10-0 blowout of the Cleveland Indians on Sunday.

Jay Bruce blasted a grand slam in the first inning as the Mariners salvaged the series finale.

Making his fourth career start, Swanson (1-3) had no issues with the Indians, who managed just two hits and had their AL-low batting average fall to .215. The right-hander lost his no-hit bid with two outs in the sixth when José Ramírez doubled.

Swanson was pulled after six innings and 106 pitches. Brendon Brennan, Mike Wright and Zac Rosscup completed the combined two-hitter.

Once the Mariners returned to their clubhouse, they targeted Swanson, who was doused with numerous substances.

“A little greasy, but it was cool,” Swanson said of the postgame party. “I had to pick ketchup out of my ears.”?

Bruce homered in the first inning off Cody Anderson (0-1), Mitch Haniger hit a solo shot in the second and Edwin Encarnación belted a two-run homer in fifth as the heavy-hitting Mariners ended a slide that threatened to drop them to .500 after a 13-2 start.

They also salvaged their last game this season against the Indians, who had beaten them five consecutive times.

Seattle leads the majors with 68 homers — 45 on the road.

The Mariners staked Swanson to a big lead, and he did the rest.

He was perfect through three innings and worked around a pair of walks in the fourth. He got two outs in the sixth before the switch-hitting Ramírez pulled a 3-2 pitch into the right-field corner.

Swanson was aware he had not given up a hit, but stayed focused on getting outs.

“I knew I had it, especially when I had a couple of good plays made behind me,” Swanson said. “I kind of looked back at those. I wasn’t thinking about it too much. It was the sixth inning. There was a lot of game left to go.”

Blues win to force deciding Game 7

DALLAS — Colton Parayko was shooting to score for the St. Louis Blues, and delivered a stunning blow to the Dallas Stars even without getting the puck in the net.

Parayko’s hard shot from the slot hit Ben Bishop’s left shoulder, knocking the goalie onto his back and deflecting the puck to deep in the circle. Alexander Steen took a shot from there that was redirected by Jaden Schwartz over the still laid-out goalie in a 4-1 victory to force Game 7 in the second-round Western Conference semifinal series.

“That’s a hard shot. A really hard shot. Shoot the puck, right? It’s a great play by (Steen) to put it right back on the net,” Blues captain Alex Pietrangolo said. “Great job Schwartz. He’s been around that all series long and keeps getting rewarded.”

Schwartz’s eighth goal of the playoffs with 12:23 left made it 3-1, and was the first of two goals by the Blues in a 33-second span.

Bishop was tended to by a trainer and initially stayed in the game, but a switch was made soon after when Sammy Blais, playing his first postseason game, got a slap shot past him.



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