

Licensee: BLISS, RICHARD DEAN
Date of Birth: 11/16/1949 License Number: 207055

**IN AND BEFORE THE BOARD OF STEWARDS
AT HARRAH'S COLUMBUS RACES
NEBRASKA RACING AND GAMING COMMISSION
STATE OF NEBRASKA**

DATE AUGUST 31, 2024
RULING; 2024-HCN-02

IN THE MATTER OF RICHARD DEAN BLISS (OWNER/TRAINER)
836 2ND STREET
COLUMBUS, NE. 68601
D.O.B. 11/16/1949

Now on this 29th day of August comes before the Board of Stewards at Harrah's Columbus Races the complaint against OWNER/TRAINER, RICHARD DEAN BLISS. Mr. Bliss, after having been personally notified of a hearing scheduled for 11:30 a.m. at Harrah's Columbus Races in Columbus, Nebraska did appear in person, and was represented by Legal Counsel, Ms. Lynne McNally. Mr. Bliss requested and was granted that his hearing be held in conjunction with the Hearing for TRAINER, PAULA K. THOMSEN.

After hearing the testimony and viewing the evidence, the Board of Stewards enters the following Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDING OF FACT

1. Richard Dean Bliss was issued an Owner/Trainer License by the Nebraska Racing and Gaming Commission on January 11, 2024, valid through December 31, 2024.
2. Richard Dean Bliss was the Trainer of Record for the six year old mare "DOLLY DIMPLE" on Saturday May 4, 2024 at Fonner Park.
3. Richard Dean Bliss did enter and race or cause to be entered and raced, "DOLLY DIMPLE", First (1st) place finisher in the Sixth (6th) race at Fonner Park on Saturday May 4, 2024.
4. On May 17, 2024, Industrial Laboratories, Wheat Ridge, Colorado, reported in a Certificate of Analysis signed by Petra Hartmann, Director-Drug Testing Services, that Blood Sample E500944, collected at Fonner Park on May 4, 2024, confirmed the presence of the Prohibited substance 7-CARBOXYCANNABIDIOL.
5. On May 22, 2024, Dr. Dave Radechel, State Commission Veterinarian for the Nebraska Racing and Gaming Commission, issued a Report of Medication Violation, stating that sample Tag Number E500944, Collected from "DOLLY DIMPLE", First (1st) place finisher in the Sixth (6th) race at Fonner Park on Friday May 4, 2024, Trained by Richard Dean Bliss, tested positive for the Prohibited Substance 7-CARBOXYCANNABIDIOL.
6. 7-CARBOXYCANNABIDIOL is commonly called and referred to in the hearing as CBD.
7. An E-mail to Paula K. Thomsen from Daniel Cook at USDA on August 14, 2024 states a single sample of unmarked Hay was analyzed for CANNABINOIDS. It was found to be Positive for CANNABINOIDS.
8. The Testing of the hay sample was not analyzed by a Testing Laboratory approved by the Nebraska Racing and Gaming Commission and was not under the supervision of the Nebraska State Racing and Gaming Official Veterinarian.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

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The fact that "DOLLY DIMPLE", Plasma or Serum Sample # E500944, First (1st) place finisher in the Sixth (6th) race on Saturday May 4, 2024 at Fonner Park, Grand Island, Nebraska tested Positive for the Prohibited Substance 7-CARBOXYCANNABIDIOL is a Violation of Nebraska Racing and Gaming Commission Rule, Title 294, Chapter 18, Rule Number 18.011 which reads.....

The trainer is the absolute insurer of the condition of horses entered in an official workout or race and is responsible for the presence of any prohibited drug or medication, or other prohibited substance in such horses. A positive test for a prohibited substance, or the presence of permitted medication in excess of maximum allowable levels, as reported by an official laboratory approved by the commission shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this rule.

The Board of Stewards at Harrah's Columbus Races does find Owner/Trainer Richard Dean Bliss to be in Violation of Nebraska Racing and Gaming Commission Rule 18.011 for a horse in his care and custody "DOLLY DIMPLE", sample # E500944, First (1st) place finisher in the Sixth (6th) race on Saturday May 4, 2024 at Fonner Park testing Positive for the prohibited substance 7-CARBOXYCANNABIDIOL. Trainer Richard Dean Bliss was the Absolute Insurer of the condition of "DOLLY DIMPLE" at Fonner Park on Saturday May 4, 2024.

ORDER

Therefore, it is the Order of the Board of Stewards at Harrah's Columbus Races that Owner/Trainer Richard Dean Bliss, D.O.B. 11/16/1949 shall be and is hereby fined the sum of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (500.00).

Furthermore, the six year old mare "DOLLY DIMPLE" is ordered **Disqualified** from First (1st) place and shall remain unplaced in the Sixth (6th) race at Fonner Park on Saturday May 4, 2024.

The New Order of Finish is as follows:

1st #5 "LOVENSEEK"
2ND #10 "DILLON ROCKS"
3RD #6 "REVIVAL"
4TH #2 "MASTERPIECE DAY"
5TH #7 "LIBERTARIAN"
6TH #3 "WEBCAM"
7TH #8 "R T'S IRON MAN"
8TH #4 "DOUBLETROUBLE BEAR"
SCRATCHED #1 "TOUGH COMPANY"
UNPLACED #9 "DOLLY DIMPLE"

RIGHT OF APPEAL

7:00 DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

7.001.01 A person or persons may request review by the Racing Commission when penalized or disciplined under the law or under these rules.

7.001.01A A final appeal in the case of any person penalized or disciplined by the stewards of an association

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acing under a license issued by the Commission, may be taken to the Commission.

7.001.01B Such appeal must be filed in writing at the office of the Commission within five (5) days of the date of said penalty or imposition of said discipline.

7.001.01C The request shall be signed by the person making it and must set forth reasons why said hearing should be granted.

7.001.01D Any applicant for a hearing will be heard in person or by counsel or the case may be submitted in writing.

7.001.01E All complaints and requests to the Commission must be in writing and all papers filed with the Commission shall become the property of the Commission.

7.001.01F An appeal from a decision of a racing official to the Commission shall not affect such decision until the appeal has been acted upon by the Commission unless otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction (See Chapter 12-001.02 and Revised Statutes of Nebraska Chapter 2, Article 12).

By Order of
The Board of Stewards



