

BLOOD-HORSE PIECE FROM W.VA. NOMINATED FOR BERGSTEIN AWARD FRANK ANGST DETAILS FAULTY INVESTIGATION INTO HORSE'S DEATH FAILURE TO GATHER KEY POTENTIAL EVIDENCE LEADS TO SLAP ON WRIST

Team Valor International has nominated a *Blood-Horse* story on a faulty investigation into the death of a horse at Mountaineer Racetrack for the second annual Stan Bergstein Writing Award.



The Stanley Bergstein Award

Staff writer Frank Angst details the failure of racetrack and regulatory personnel to gather key evidence of what was deemed to be a “suspicious” death of a horse in the Mountaineer receiving barn before a race in April.

“According to a track security guard, on April 19 at Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack & Resort trainer Kathy

Jarvis paused from what would prove unsuccessful efforts to resuscitate her dying horse Slippin' Around to walk to a garbage barrel and push down trash,” Angst begins the story, posted at BloodHorse.com on July 24. “Moments earlier, that same guard heard Slippin' Around collapse and watched Jarvis place a plastic bag with an unknown item, or items, in the same barrel.”

Angst outlined the process in which the racetrack and West Virginia Racing Commission not only lost the bag in question but also failed to interview Jarvis that night and allowed the horse's body to be disposed before a necropsy could be conducted. Lacking evidence, the commission reached a settlement with Jarvis, fining her \$1,000 for a lesser infraction.

The full story is [here](#).

Team Valor CEO Barry Irwin saluted Angst and the *Blood-Horse* for shining a light on the case.

“This is exactly the kind of story we hoped that our award would encourage,” Irwin said.

The Stan Bergstein Writing Award carries a \$25,000 prize and will be presented at the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program's Global Symposium on Racing and Gaming on December 10.

Team Valor previously nominated stories from a *Thoroughbred Daily News* series on drugs in racing and a piece from the *Paulick Report* on the absence of veterinary records in California's mandatory post-mortem examinations for equine fatalities.

Stories may be submitted for consideration to Jeff Lowe at jeff@teamvalor.com by November 1.