

Kingpin
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This year's cross country portion of the Kentucky Rolex three-day event was a sad one for the eventing community.

Particularly for the Canadians.

Early into the day, Canadian eventer Mike Winters' horse collapsed and died on course.

Winter was sitting in 17th place after the dressage portion of the event, and had made it through the first third of the cross country course when his horse, Kingpin, negotiated jump 10, the trakehener jump, then collapsed and died on scene.

After preliminary examination of Kingpin, it was determined there was a bleed into the horse's abdomen. The cause of death is still under investigation, and they are waiting on the results of a necropsy.

"The body is undergoing complete examination at the state diagnostic laboratory", said Dr. Catherine Kohn, DVM

"It is possible that the cause of the bleeding may be determined, for example, the rupture of a large blood vessel. But we may not know what caused the rupture, even after we do the necropsy."

All horses competing in the event had to receive complete examination prior to competing. Kingpin, a 13-year-old Irish Sport Horse owned by Winter and the Kingpin Syndicate fully passed this examination.

Winter was evaluated by medical personnel on site, and was then taken to Georgetown Community Hospital for further evaluation, and was later released.

Lucinda Fredericks of Australia, the current leader after the cross-country portion, commented on the death along with Bettina Hoy of Germany, who sits in second place; "We would both just like to say how sorry we are for Mike today, and our thoughts are with him. There's nothing like losing a horse, and your best friend. We would just like to say on behalf of all the riders, how sorry we are."

At last year's Rolex event, Winter and Kingpin placed 12th.

The combination had also placed at several other three-star events in North America, and competed at the 2008 Olympics in Hong Kong.