

NOVEMBER

November stems from a Latin word for nine, a great name for the 11th month of the year.

By Richard Chamberlain

Miss Olene bested Table Tennis by a nose in the Bardella Handicap at Los Alamitos.

There's a certain revenge factor here. Just as Galobar ruined Miss Olene's All American and Miss Olene would ruin Table Tennis' Bardella, Table Tennis ruined Galobar's first start after the All American. But Galobar's defeat was not the end of the line for the highest money earner of 1959. This month marks 50 years since the first All American winner won her *second* stakes. When Galobar arrived in Southern California right after the All American, Keck found that a faulty exhaust pipe had been pumping carbon monoxide into the van. Hugh Huntley's homebred Three Bars (TB) filly started two more races that season, finishing sixth in both, including to Table Tennis in the trials to the September 21 Pacific Coast QHRA Futurity (now the Ed Burke Million Futurity, G1). After one more race in December, Keck gave Galobar nearly a year off to recover her wind.

In her first start back, Galobar scored over champions Missle Bar and Pap in the Fullerton Stakes at Los Alamitos. And though she would start another five races, the Fullerton – on November 23, 1960 – also was Galobar's final win in any race.

SO HERE WE ARE IN NOVEMBER, THAT OFT-GLOOMY TIME OF YEAR with summer long gone and the Harvest Moon of autumn faded, but winter not yet on us. Some of us are trying to recover from the yearling sales, most of us have stocked hay in the barn and *everybody* is starting next year's All American winner, all while people everywhere are looking forward to gorging on a big meal with family and friends at the end of the month.

Hey, November is a big deal. Over the years, a lot has happened this month. Like what? Glad you asked. To pick a few examples from this month, Pompeii was buried by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius in the year 79 AD, Michelangelo's painting of the Sistine Chapel ceiling was completed in 1512, the Stamp Act went into effect in the British Colonies in 1765, Mission San Juan Capistrano was founded in California in 1766 and the Lewis and Clark expedition returned to St. Louis in 1806. November 1897 saw the first frontier days rodeo celebration in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and prehistoric cave paintings were discovered in Lascaux, France, in November 1940, the same month that Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected to his third term as president, and Coventry and Birmingham, England, were virtually destroyed by the Nazi blitz. This month also marks the 50th anniversary of the duet with Jack Benny (violin) and Richard Nixon (piano), Ford's canceling of the Edsel – and, a little closer to home, the first stakes victory scored by the beaten favorite in the first All American Futurity (now Grade 1).

The favorite's name was Miss Olene. Bred and owned by A.B. Green, who raced Go Man Go and stood him on his Green Pastures stud farm at Purcell, Oklahoma, the Leo filly went to post as the crowd's choice on Labor Day 1959 at Ruidoso Downs. Miss Olene led early in the All American, but faded in the stretch to finish third to Galobar. On November 26, starting her first race since the All American,



Galobar

Hankerin' for a Cause

THE 11TH MONTH OF THE OPENING YEAR OF WHAT BECAME THE tumultuous '60s proved pivotal on the track for other sprinters, too. In what was shaping up to be a classic rivalry, Tonto Bars Hank defeated Rebel Cause in the November 17 Bardella Handicap, and then Rebel Cause shut the door on Tonto Bars Hank in the November 30 Los Ninos 'Cap, both at Los Alamitos.

Those were not their first meetings, nor would they be their last. Their rivalry was a very big deal for three years.

A freshman colt by Tonto Bars Gill, Tonto Bars Hank was

Tonto Bars Hank



bred by Wayne Rossen of Merino, Colorado. Racing for father and son C.G. and Milo Whitcomb of Sterling, Colorado, "Hank" on July 31 won Ruidoso's Kansas Futurity (a race supplanted in 1993 by the Ruidoso Futurity, G1).

Winner of the April 23 Juvenile Championship at Los Alamitos, the Top Deck (TB) colt Rebel Cause was a homebred racing for brothers Dale and Chet Robertsons' Haymaker Farms at Yukon, Oklahoma. At the same time "Reb" was making his mark, Dale was the well-known star of the popular TV western series "Tales of Wells Fargo."

Hank and Reb first met in a Ruidoso allowance on August 14, with the former winning and the latter finishing fourth, 2 3/4 lengths off his pace. Two weeks later, they were back in the gate for the All American trials. Winning by three parts of a side, with future champion Dynago Miss third, Rebel Cause evened the score at 1-1.

Hank came back to win the second running of the All American, with Three Deep second and Reb third, trailing by 2 1/4 lengths. They next faced each other in the aforementioned November races at Los Alamitos. Tonto Bars Hank then scored narrow wins over Rebel Cause in December's Newport Dunes Stakes and the Kindergarten Futurity (now G1), wrapping up 1960 as the sport's champion stallion and champion 2-year-old colt. Hank went home with a 5-2 advantage over Rebel Cause.

Hank beat Reb three times and Reb beat Hank twice the following year. One of Rebel Cause's wins was in the PCQHRA Derby (now the Los Alamitos Super Derby, G1), though the \$5,738 paid to the runner-up made Tonto Bars Hank the first Quarter Horse to go over \$100,000 in career earnings. At the end of 1961, the overall score was 8-4 in favor of Hank, though he and Reb split as co-champion 3-year-old colts. They both stood at stud for the '62 season, and when they returned to the track in 1962, Rebel Cause came close to tying the rivals' score, outrunning Hank in each of their three meetings and making it 8-7 Hank. But Reb got the nod as champion aged stallion.

Of course, that's getting *way* ahead of the story. We're talking about November, remember?

Cross-Country Jet

YEAH, NO. 9 HAS HAD ITS MOMENTS. NOVEMBER WAS THE MONTH in 1956-58 that Go Man Go won three consecutive runnings of the Clabbertown G Handicap at Los Al. It was on the 15th of that month in 1960 that Vandy's Flash also won the Clabbertown G, defeating marquee sprinters First Call, Table Tennis, Miss Louton, Breeze Bar and Pap, but also when Vandy's Flash – that season's world champion – returned one week later to be beaten by Triple Lady, No Butt, Pap, Breeze Bar, Miss Louton and First Call in the Hard Twist Stakes. In 1968, Kaweah Bar won his seventh and final stakes of the season, the November 9 Juvenile Invitational Handicap, on his way to the world title.

One of the most impressive romps in any November of any year came at the hooves of the '69 world champion, arguably the most precocious 2-year-old to ever wear the crown. Eleven months after winning the Blue Ribbon Futurity (now G2), five

months after winning the Kansas Futurity (now G2) and two months after winning the All American Futurity, Easy Jet went east to Beulah Park in Columbus, Ohio, where one week after winning the Rocky Mountain QHA Futurity (now G3) at Centennial Racetrack in Colorado, Walter Merrick's homebred Jet Deck colt won his trial to the All American Congress Futurity (now G3). Three days later – *days*, not weeks – Easy Jet was back in the gate to win the November 1 Congress final. Easy Jet then hopped in the trailer *again*, and Merrick returned him west, to win his November 21 trial and the November 30 final of the Sunland Park Fall Futurity (now the Sunland Park Winter Futurity (G2)).

There have been sundry other standout performances in November. One that comes to mind is First Down Dash's length score in the 1987 Quarter Horse Breeders Classics Championship (RG1), on the 7th at Los Alamitos. Another is See Me Do It's neck decision in the 1989 Champion of Champions (G1), on the 18th, that stakes' only running not in December. Then there was Refrigerator's win in the 1993 QHBC Championship Classic (by then an unrestricted Grade 1) on the 13th. And all but four of the 17 runnings of the season-ending Bank of America Racing Challenge Championships were in November.

So does any of this mean anything? At all? What the heck is so special about November, 'ol No. 9? (Or 11. Whatever.) You can argue the point till the cows come home, but here's

one final example – from last year, no less.

On November 1, 2008, Blane Schvaneveldt sent out Eddie Garcia on Tres Passes to win the \$1,314,670 Golden State Million Futurity (G1). Janet McKinnerney's homebred colt by champion Tres Seis gave the 74-year-old all-time-everything trainer his first score in a seven-figure race.

Now *that's* a big deal. ■



Rebel Cause



Blane Schvaneveldt

SCOTT MARTINEZ