

Bonnie Joe — His Influence On Quarter Horse Racing

BY GENE NICHOLS

I would like to speak for Bonnie Joe as one of our top foundation sires of the breed. I think everything else being equal, an infusion of Bonnie Joe, even far removed, can tip the balance and make the difference between a good and a great horse.

Leo, one of the best speed horses and one of the very best sire sires is a double Bonnie Joe. Some of his very top get are also out of mares tracing to Bonnie Joe. Robin Reed who set several records was out of a Joe Reed mare. Miss Meyers, world's champion mare one year, was out of an Oklahoma Star mare that goes to Bonnie Joe. Leo's top three-year-old son last year was Palleo Pete out of a granddaughter of Oklahoma Star. This colt holds or co-holds several world records.

Bud Warren has bred a lot of top colts out of 89'er by King. I asked Mr. Warren why 89'er was his best producing King mare and he said the only reason was that 89'er was out of the Bonnie Joe-bred mare High Glee.

Three of the top sons of Three Bars (leading speed sire and sire of money winners in 1955) are out of Bonnie Joe-bred mares. Barred, a top racer and also sire of top horses was out of Ready by Red Joe of Arizona. Bario was also out of a mare by the same sire. One of the top two-year-old colts in the country this year was Jayhawker Bar who was runner-up to the sensational Bob's Folly in several stakes this past season. His dam goes to Bonnie Joe by way of Reed McCue.

My Texas Dandy Jr. (Texas Jr.) co-holder of the world's record for 220 yards is out of a Bonnie Joe-bred mare by way of Tom Mix. Dandy Dutchess by Texas Dandy is out of Nelly Bly by Red Joe of Arizona.

Little Egypt one of the best show mares in the country, holder of world's records and one of the top get of her good sire Texas Dandy is out of Jezebel, who goes to Bonnie Joe.

Many of us recall Miss Tacubava of a few years back. She was by Depth Charge and out of a mare that goes to Bonnie Joe by way of Major Speck. The sensational three-year-old and winner of several big races and derbies this past season, Ridge Butler by Top Deck, is out of the same

mare. Along with Ridge Butler I would like to mention some other Lester Goodson horses. Mr. Goodson owns Bull's Eye, a Bonnie Joe-bred horse. Bull's Eye sired Bull Eagle, a top race horse; also Lassie's Dream, holder of a new world's record.

Vandy, one of our best sires, goes to Bonnie Joe through his dam. Among his many get are Vanetta Dee, top-ranking three-year-old filly racing at Centennial this season. (The brilliant Arrive, top runner-up for this honor, also goes to Bonnie Joe through her dam.)

Another Vandy filly, Pokey Vandy, recently equaled the world's record for 440 yards. She also had a Bonnie Joe-bred dam by Beggar Boy. Just another example of Bonnie Joe blood.

At the same race meet there was a two-year-old filly, Tinky Ann, that upset the bettors and paid a long price. She couldn't have been overlooked as her sire goes twice to Bonnie Joe through his dam over Beggar Boy, over Oklahoma Star.

Joe Reed II, top sire and world's champion stallion himself, has for years been among our top. His sire line is direct to Bonnie Joe.

Uncle Jimmy Gray was by Bonnie Joe. He was a popular sire in Oklahoma and West Texas. I have a list of 26 of his sons who appear in pedigrees in our stud book. He had lots of mares who were much sought after by prominent breeders. The dam of Clabber is said to have been by Uncle Jimmy Gray. (There has been some disagreement on this). Regardless, he was world's champion stallion one year, a great horse and head of a great family.

War Star set a world's record for geldings at Denver in 1951 and was declared world's champion gelding the same year. He was by Oklahoma Star Jr. The early day stallion champion Nobody's Friend was out of a Bonnie Joe-bred mare by Alamo. Bonnie Joe not only bred speed but he established some of the best families of all round horses. Bonnie Joe has long been overlooked. When the all-important lesson of bloodlines is learned Bonnie Joe will be one of the best teachers—then he will be recognized as one of the greats in all short horse history.