

= Go Man Go =

Go Man Go (1953 ? 1983) was an American Quarter Horse stallion and race horse . He was named World Champion Quarter Running Horse three times in a row , one of only two horses to achieve that distinction . Go Man Go was considered to be of difficult temperament . While waiting in the starting gate for his very first race , he threw his jockey , broke down the gate , and ran alone around the track ; he was eventually caught and went on to win the race . During his five years of competition until his retirement from racing in 1960 he had 27 wins , earning more than \$ 86 @, @ 000 (approximately \$ 726 @, @ 000 as of 2016) .

Neither of Go Man Go 's parents raced . His sire (father) , the Thoroughbred stallion Top Deck , was bred by the King Ranch . His dam (mother) hailed from Louisiana ; Go Man Go is thought to have gained his swiftness on the track from her . For the first years of Go Man Go 's racing career , his owner faced difficulty in registering him with the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) , a matter that remained unresolved until 1958 .

Go Man Go went on to sire two All American Futurity winners and seven Champion Quarter Running Horses . He was inducted into the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame , as were two of his offspring . His daughters also produced , or were the mothers of , a number of race winners , including the Hall of Fame members Kaweah Bar and Rocket Wrangler . The director of racing for the AQHA once compared his impact on Quarter Horse racing and breeding to that of Man o ' War in Thoroughbred racing , or that of human athletes such as Ben Hogan and Babe Ruth .

= = Background and early life = =

Go Man Go was foaled in Wharton , Texas in 1953 , as a result of the second breeding between the Thoroughbred stallion Top Deck and the Appendix Quarter Horse mare Lightfoot Sis . Top Deck was bred by the King Ranch , and was unraced . J. B. Ferguson had purchased Lightfoot Sis when her then @-@ owner , Octave Fontenot of Prairie Ronde , Louisiana , decided to get out of the horse breeding business . Ferguson paid \$ 350 for her (approximately \$ 3 @, @ 100 as of 2016) and bred her in 1952 to Top Deck (TB) , resulting in Go Man Go 's birth the next year . Ferguson also purchased Top Deck , after the stallion injured himself as a yearling .

Lightfoot Sis showed classic short speed in her pedigree , although she was unraced due to an injury as a filly that left her blind in one eye . Her sire was the Thoroughbred stallion Very Wise , and her dam was a Quarter Horse mare named Clear Track .

Scott Wells , a racing correspondent , wrote in The Speedhorse Magazine that Go Man Go " grew up lean and hard @-@ boned , long @-@ bodied and long @-@ hipped , but not the best looking horse in the world . Not the best looking , just the best . " Go Man Go had a reputation for being difficult to handle . His trainer once told Walt Wiggins , Sr. that Go Man Go was " jes plain mean as a bear most of the time " . Throughout his racing career , Go Man Go stayed mean . One of his jockeys , Robert Strauss , recalled later that Go Man Go " was ornery from the day I met him , but he was the greatest horse I ever rode " .

= = Racing career = =

In his five @-@ year racing career , Go Man Go competed in 47 races . He appeared to take naturally to racing ; during his training he ran off with his rider ? his eventual jockey Robert Strauss ? before he was supposed to run . As Strauss said , " When we were breaking him , he ran off with me before we ever wanted him to run . I mean , just flat ran off with me . " Robert 's brother Eldridge , who was the trainer , once worked the colt minus half a shoe and Go Man Go still managed a time of 18 @. @ 9 seconds for a 350 @-@ yard (320 m) distance .

In the moments before his very first race began , Go Man Go flipped over in the starting gate , unseated his rider , crashed through the front , and ran around the whole track . He finally allowed himself to be caught and reloaded into the starting gate and went on to win that race . He won his next five races with a total lead of nine horse @-@ lengths . He faced Vandy 's Flash , himself a

World Champion Quarter Racing Horse , twelve times . Their last meeting , on September 6 , 1959 at Ruidoso Downs , was also Go Man Go 's final race , and was the only one of their races won by Vandy 's Flash .

Go Man Go won 27 times , placed second 9 times and was third 3 times . Because he placed so regularly , by the end of his racing career tracks had difficulty filling races if other racing stables knew he was entered . His race earnings were \$ 86 @, @ 151 (approximately \$ 725 @, @ 900 as of 2016) with 88 AQHA racing points , which earned him a Superior Race Horse award as well as a Race Register of Merit from the AQHA . The best speed rating , or racing grade , he achieved was AAAT , the highest grade awarded at the time . Go Man Go was named World Champion Quarter Running Horse for three years running , from 1955 to 1957 . He was the first two @-@ year @-@ old to win the title . He was a multiple stakes winner , and his wins included the Pacific Coast Quarter Racing Association Futurity , LA Autumn Championship , and the Clabbertown G Stakes , which he won three times in a row . At his retirement , he held the world records at 440 yards (400 m) and 350 yards (320 m) , as well as age and sex records at 400 yards (370 m) . Go Man Go is still the only stallion who has been World Champion Quarter Running Horse three times , and , along with the mare Woven Web (TB) , is one of only two horses to be three @-@ time winners of the award .

= = Ownership and registration problems = =

In 1955 , when Go Man Go was a two @-@ year @-@ old , A.B. Green bragged that he intended to buy the horse from Ferguson . Although Ferguson did not want to sell , he felt he had to at least set a price . After hearing rumors that Green was prepared with a cashier 's check for \$ 40 @, @ 000 (approximately \$ 353 @, @ 300 as of 2016) , Ferguson set the price at \$ 42 @, @ 000 cash (approximately \$ 371 @, @ 000 as of 2016) and twenty @-@ one breedings to the stallion . To Ferguson 's surprise , Green had that much cash available ; Ferguson felt compelled to sell Go Man Go . Two years later , at a Los Alamitos race meet , Green claimed that his newest horse , Double Bid , could outrace Go Man Go . This incensed Ferguson , who had just entered Go Man Go 's full brother Mr Mackay in a race with Double Bid . Ferguson bet Green \$ 42 @, @ 000 (approximately \$ 353 @, @ 900 as of 2016) against Go Man Go that Mr Mackay would beat Double Bid in the upcoming race . Mr Mackay won the race , and Ferguson regained ownership of Go Man Go . Later in 1960 , because he also owned Go Man Go 's full brother , father , and mother , he sold Go Man Go to Frank Vessels Sr. and Bill and Harriet Peckham for \$ 125 @, @ 000 (approximately \$ 999 @, @ 900 as of 2016) . Later , however , all three horses retained by Ferguson died prematurely .

Green ran into problems with Go Man Go 's registration . At that time , the AQHA had two types of registration , the Appendix and the Tentative . Appendix @-@ registered horses were the offspring of Thoroughbreds and either Tentative @-@ registered Quarter Horses or Appendix @-@ registered Quarter Horses . Go Man Go was originally registered in the Appendix , as his dam was an Appendix @-@ registered mare . The way to advance out of the Appendix into the Tentative registry was to qualify on performance grounds and pass a conformation examination conducted by the AQHA . Go Man Go certainly qualified under the performance criteria , but his conformation was such that he resembled a Thoroughbred more than he resembled a Quarter Horse . Green knew that in order to increase his stud fees ? the price paid for the right to breed a mare to a stallion ? Go Man Go needed to acquire a regular registration number instead of his Appendix number . So Green appealed to the Executive Committee of the AQHA , which had the authority to award Tentative numbers to horses regardless of conformation exam results . In both 1956 and 1957 , the committee declined to take action , waiting to evaluate the quality of Go Man Go 's first foals before making a decision . Finally , in 1958 , they awarded Go Man Go number 82 @, @ 000 in the Tentative registry .

= = Breeding career and legacy = =

Retired to the breeding shed , Go Man Go early on proved his worth as a stallion . Of his first foal

crop , born in 1958 , three reached the finals of the All American Futurity : Mr Meyers , Dynago Miss and Angie Miss . His stud fee in 1960 was \$ 500 (approximately \$ 3 @, @ 999 as of 2016) , but by 1963 it had risen to \$ 2 @, @ 500 (approximately \$ 19 @, @ 323 as of 2016) . He sired 942 foals , of which 552 earned their Race Register of Merit . Seventy @-@ two of his offspring were awarded a Superior Race Horse award . Among his get , or offspring , were Go Josie Go , Dynago Miss , Duplicate Copy , Story Man , and Hustling Man . His daughter Goetta won the All American Futurity and was inducted into the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame . Another daughter , Ought To Go was also inducted into the AQHA Hall of Fame . Two grandget were also inducted into the AQHA Hall of Fame : Kaweah Bar and Rocket Wrangler . Eight of his offspring won Champion Quarter Running Horse awards . His entry listing his offspring who won Race Register of Merits in the Quarter Racing Digest covers five full pages plus part of another . As a broodmare sire , or maternal grandsire , his daughters have produced Rocket Wrangler , Mr Kid Charge , Kaweah Bar , and Go Together . As of April 2008 , his offspring had earned over \$ 7 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 on the racetrack .

As a breeding stallion , Go Man Go continued to have a reputation as a scoundrel , although Kathlyn Green , wife of A. B. Green , disputed that image . She said that he liked to have his lip tugged , and would lean over the stall door waiting for people to come along and tug on it for him . However , she said of him " he absolutely hated getting his feet dirty " . Go Man Go passed through a number of hands after Green owned him , including Les Gosselin , Frank Vessels , and Harriett Peckham , who was his owner by 1972 . In 1967 , when Vessels sold his half @-@ interest in Go Man Go to Briarwood Farms , the deal was said to be a record price for a Quarter Horse . Go Man Go died in 1983 and was buried near the headquarters of the Buena Suerte Ranch in Roswell , New Mexico . His crown @-@ shaped granite headstone is engraved : " Go Man Go , The King . "

Go Man Go was inducted into the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame in 1990 . A further honor was the naming of a stakes race after him , the Grade I Go Man Go Handicap run in September at Los Alamitos . Walt Wiggins , a racing commentator and author , said of Go Man Go : " He was a brilliant speedhorse , some say the fastest ever . He was wild and reckless , a rogue at first , and often a clown who seldom saw the uniqueness of his talents or the seriousness of his commission . He had intrinsic greatness and couldn 't care less . " Dan Essary , who was Director of Racing for the AQHA for many years , described Go Man Go 's impact on the Quarter Horse breed as " He was to Quarter Horse racing what Babe Ruth was to baseball , what Ben Hogan was to Golf and what Man o 'War was to Thoroughbred racing . Horses may have run faster and horses have earned more money , but the fame of Go Man Go lingers . "

= = Pedigree = =