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Lambert Recalls Winning
First All American Futurity

RUIDOSO DOWNS, New Mexico (August 30, 2008) -Cliff Lambert, who rode Galobar to win the first All American Futurity at Ruidoso Downs in 1959, will lead the post parade for the 50th running of the race on Monday.

The race has been a big deal since the beginning, he said. “We had a bigger crowd (for the inaugural running) than they'll have this time probably,” said Lambert, who still wears the belt buckle he received for winning the race when he was 21. “It was huge. There were a lot of people here.”

Lambert rode Galobar, a daughter of Three Bars (TB) who was a full sister to 1954 world champion Josie's Bar, for breeder-owner Hugh Huntley and trainer Newt Keck. The race was worth \$129,686—then a record purse for the sprinters—and helped put Ruidoso on the map for quarter horse racing enthusiasts around the country. Ruidoso, which first was called Hollywood Park, had been conducting pari-mutuel racing since 1947.

Lambert helped to break Galobar during the spring at Bay Meadows in California, and she made her first start that April at Los Alamitos, finishing second to Table Tennis.

“She was real fast, but she was real crooked-legged so we didn't run her much,” he said about Galobar. “She could really run, she was good in the gates and she didn't make any mistakes.”

After running second in her trial for the All American, Galobar was the 3.55-1 third choice for the final. The favorite was Miss Olene. “But we were pretty confident that she would win,” Lambert recalled about Galobar.

Galobar did, by a half-length over Panama Ace with Miss Olene third. But Lambert's day wasn't finished. He returned to win the next race, a 1 1/16-mile race for Thoroughbreds. He was the leading jockey that season at Ruidoso.

Lambert said Galobar's connections celebrated their historic victory at a restaurant located at the present-day The Quarters Night Club and Grill in downtown Ruidoso, but he soon had to get on the road.

“I started college the next day, so we had to leave that night,” Lambert said. He drove to Fort Collins, Colorado, and Colorado State University. At the time, Lambert wanted to be a veterinarian, but he returned to riding. He rode in two more runnings of the All American, finishing eighth in 1960 on Angie Miss and fourth in 1961 on Mr Three Bars.

Galobar went on to face some of the noted runners of the day. She was retired at four in 1961 with four wins, including the Fullerton Stakes at Los Alamitos, in 13 starts and earnings of \$68,282. Galobar produced only one foal, the Depth Charge (TB) colt Low Charge. He won five of 44 races and earned \$4,700.

Lambert rode until 1964 and spent the next two years as a racing official. He then began training full time and currently conditions about 30 thoroughbreds and six quarter horses in New Mexico. He said he'll ride one of his racehorses “once in awhile,” then added with a laugh, “But I'm so stiff I can hardly get on them.”

As the Ruidoso season comes to a close, Galobar's victory is only one of two golden anniversaries that Lambert is recognizing. On Wednesday, he and his wife, Glenna, celebrated their 50th anniversary with a party at the track. The Lamberts have four children: son Casey, a successful jockey in the Southwest; son Cliff Jr., assistant trainer to his father; son Cody, a former leading bull rider who is livestock director of the Professional Bull Riders; and daughter Cheyenne, a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines.