



## Past Champions

# Tourulla: A Filly Of Substance

by JACKIE BARNES

The balloting for the 1978 California Champion Two-Year-Old Female was one of the closest in years. The eventual winner was Tourulla, a daughter of Gin Tour. With three wins in four starts, she beat out her divisional rivals Rhonda F., Hand Crème and Spiffy Laree for the top honor.

Her sire Gin Tour was a roan son of the 1954 Kentucky Derby winner Determine. He was annually among the leading juvenile sires and sired more than 20 stakes winners, including champion two-year-old colt Warfare and Decidedly, winner of the 1962 Kentucky Derby. Gin Tour was regarded as a very promising youngster. His racing career suffered when he sustained an injury requiring a lengthy layoff. He returned to win two races, one an allowance race at the distance of 1 1/4 miles at Bay Meadows Racecourse.

At stud, Gin Tour was the sire of many winners, including Talent Tour (\$126,771) and Mr. Machine, victorious in the 1975 Sacramento Derby. His female family boasted the names of some of racing's best, including Horse of the Year Sword Dancer and French champion Silver Cloud.

Laurulla, the dam of Tourulla, won once in five starts and her sire Our Rulla was a son of the legendary sire Nasrullah (Eng). Our Rulla won a couple of stakes races, including the La Jolla Mile Handicap, while Laurulla also produced the graded stakes winner Simple Magic. This 1981 daughter of Taylor's Falls was undefeated as a two-year-old in her only two career starts, taking the grade II Landaluce Stakes (formerly the Hollywood Lassie) over subsequent grade I winner and \$1,275,255-earner Althea.

Tourulla made her debut for trainer Richard Mulhall at Hollywood Park on May 18 of her juvenile year. She won

in convincing fashion coming from off the pace to win easily. Her next stop was the Junior League Stakes and a date with Churchill Downs speedster Nervous John.

The Kentucky invader came into the race with impressive credentials. She was unbeaten in four starts, including three in stakes company, and her wins had been by a total of more than 20 lengths. However, what was supposed to be a cakewalk for Nervous John, turned into an impressive come-from-behind win for Tourulla.

She then took the Cinderella Stakes by defeating a short field of three opponents. She trounced race favorite and divisional rival Rhonda F. who finished last in the field. Next stop was the grade II Hollywood Lassie Stakes. Tourulla was now taking a major step up in class where she was about to engage the brilliant speedster Terlingua.


The Lassie was one of the most anticipated races of the Hollywood Park meeting. There was no lack of quality in the field of seven runners who went to the starting gate that day. The D. Wayne Lukas entry of Terlingua and Tikchik were the heavy favorites at post time. Tourulla was the second choice in the wagering. Joining the field were two highly regarded individuals in Caline and Joi'ski.

Terlingua never left a doubt about who was the best filly on the grounds. She won in brilliant fashion by three and a half lengths in a heart stopping 1:08 4/5 for six furlongs. Joi'ski finished second, followed in third by Caline. Tourulla failed to mount her usual closing rally and settled for fifth in what would be the last start of her two-year-old season.

After some well deserved time off, Tourulla returned to the racing wars at age three. Trainer Richard Mulhall sent her to Golden Gate Fields for the Vallejo Stakes at the distance of one mile. Bred to handle the extra furlongs, Tourulla posted a 3/4-length win in 1:34 4/5 and later finished fifth in the Kentucky Oaks.

The daughter of Gin Tour would also finish second in both the California Oaks at Golden Gate and San Francisco Stakes at Bay Meadows, as well as third in the Bay Meadows Oaks. She eventually retired early in her four-year-old season with a record of 18-6-4-1 and \$120,525 in earnings.

As a broodmare, Tourulla subsequently produced 15 foals, 12 of whom raced and 11 won. Her best runners were Sondeed and Erica Lyn. The former won the Desert Wine Sales Stakes and earned \$82,200 while the latter finished second in the Blooming Hills Stakes during a career in which she earned \$137,171.

Tourulla was owned and bred by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Hoffman. She held her own against the very best fillies on the grounds and stamped her races with the class and substance truly befitting a California-bred champion. 



Tourulla—Junior League Stakes—June 1, 1978