

## CAPTAIN BIANKIJS

Captain comes from a long line of proven winners. Glen and Vernice Fletcher in Dayton, WA raised him. They raised many other great barrel and pole horses which were related one way or another to Captain. I, Kelli Fletcher Currin, was lucky enough to be their granddaughter and be able to ride these natural barrel horses.

Glen Fletcher purchased his sire, Biankus, as a 2 or 3 year old. He was used in cow cutting and ran in the barrels and poles. Glen produced several colts by Biankus and then sold him to some people in California. As the colts matured and proved themselves to be natural barrel and poles horses, Glen purchased Biankus back and any colts he produced in California, sight unseen. Sam Bar Biankus, one of the colts bought sight unseen, so impressed Glen that he later purchased the mare. This would end up being Captain's mother.

Biankus produced many winners over the years including Captain. Some of these include: Annie Biankus who won four National High School Rodeo pole bending titles. She placed in the barrels too and won the National High School Rodeo All-around title in 1978 in Huron, South Dakota. She won many other numerous titles also, as us four kids rode her in all our events. Skippy Biankus was the other horse we High School rodeoed on. He held his ground by placing right behind Annie. We also used him in the cuttings and made the finals on him. Back in the 1970's Annie and Skippy were among the few horses that were running the poles in the 19's.

Sam Bar Biankus, a full brother to Captain, qualified for the Quarter Horse World when he was only a four-year-old. He also won the National High School pole bending title with my little sister in 1980. My sister then entered the WPRA and was quite successful by placing at such prestigious rodeos as The Cow Palace in San Francisco, Ca, The King Dome in Seattle, WA and others until he slipped on cement warming up for a competition and fractured his hip. After several years, he was brought back to competition when my niece learned how to run barrels on him. Being the great horse he was, he won her the Columbia River Circuit Rookie of the year in 1989. And, as a nineteen-year-old, has taken her to the National High School Finals in the pole bending by still running them in the 19's. He even set an arena record at Moses Lake by running the poles in 19. 1. They even remeasured the course to be able to prove it.

Bella Bar Biankus, a full sister to Captain, won several futurities in 1982 and has competed in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Finals after winning the

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Northwest Region three times. She consistently placed me in the top four in the WPRC Columbia River Circuit from 1984-1987.

I could go on and talk about the accomplishments of his other full brothers and sisters Kue Tee Bar Biankus, who was a good futurity mare and is currently winning in college ranks, as well as, the Pro ranks with owner Bridgett Coleman. Princess Biankus had a successful futurity career also and was sold to the Davidoffs in Texas where they continued to win many titles on her.

Other full brothers and sisters include Katy Bar Biankus, Hobo Biankus, not to mention his half brother Boogie Biankus who is currently winning in the Pro Ranks.

Other successful relatives of Captain include Handy Bar Biankus, Sand Bar Biankus, Blue Suede Shoes etc. And now many Biankus mares are producing successful colts, which are becoming to numerous to name.

Captain started his barrel racing career **in** 1985 when he was a four-year-old. He won the Idaho Barrel Futurity and placed at most all the others. His next step was into the Professional ranks or the WPRC when I took him over from my sister.

In 1988 and 1989, Captain and I won the Columbia River Circuit Barrel Racing title. Captain ended up winning four Columbia River Circuit titles. Besides 88 & 89, 1992 & 93.

We then went out on the road and qualified for the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, NV two years, 1990 and 1991. We placed or won many prestigious rodeos along the way such as: Tucson, AZ - Ponoka, Canada -Oakdale, CA - Denver, Co - Houston, TX - Calgary, Canada - Yuma, AZ El Paso, TX - Cloverdale, BC - Red Bluff, Ca - Ellensburg, WA - St. Paul, OR - Walla Walla, WA - and many more.

We qualified for the Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo (DNCFR) in Pocatello, ID several years. We won the DNCFR barrel racing title in 1991. This qualified him to go to the Wrangler Showdown in Scottsdale, AZ. This is where the top ten competitors in the National standings competed against Canada's top competitors. We also qualified in 1990 by being among the top barrel horses **in** the world.

We won the Columbia River Circuit for the third time in 1992. In 1993, I futuritized Lock Bar Biankus, a colt out of a Biankus mare. He did well by

placing at most all the futurities and winning the Reno futurity. I was also winning the Circuit on Captain, but I couldn't compete in the circuit finals because I was pregnant and had my son during that time. I ended up second for the year.

In 1994, Captain took a back seat when I futuritized Captain's oldest colt, Captain Kid Biankus, as a four year old and derbied Lock Bar Biankus. Kid did well by winning the Wenatchee futurity and placing in all the others: both Walla Walla's, Olympia's, Idaho's, Winnemucca's, and Reno's. His biggest accomplishment that year came when running at the Big Fort Day's Futurity in Fort Smith, Arkansas. There were about 500 entries and they take the top 30 to the finals. We made the cut in 16th place and won over \$5,000.00 there. Lock Bar won or placed at all the derbies I took him to. Between the other two horses and my new baby, Carter, Captain ended up third in the Circuit that year.

In 1995, I concentrated on Captain again and got him in better shape. He had a good year and we ended up winning our fourth CRC barrel title. Captain's half brother, Boogie Biankus was a close 2nd.

In 1996, I futuritized another colt out of Captain, Captain's Cash Us and derbied Kid. Cash won the Hermiston futurity and the Omak futurity and placed at the Walla Walla ones. I hauled him to his first rodeos that year too and won 2nd at a couple and won the other. He was able to compete in the Pro ranks already by placing me at the Last Chance Rodeo in Pasco, WA. Kid won both Walla Walla derbies and placed at the others I took him to. My husband has been roping on him too and has placed at jackpots, amateurs, as well as, some Pro Rodeos. He is also hazing on him and we both plan on using him in the future.

In 1997, I semi-retired Captain and went to using Captain Cash Us for the majority of rodeos. I first derbied him and won the Walla Walla derbies as well as the WBRA derby. When I found out what kind of times he could run, I decided to try him in the Pro Ranks. He ran a 17.09 that year and placed me at some very tough rodeos including Reno, NV. He still needs to be seasoned, but he ended up in the top five in the circuit.

In 1998, Cash ran several 17.0's and won some tough rodeos like Hillsboro, Or, Longview, WA, Cheney, WA etc. He is setting fourth in the circuit, but I

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won't be able to compete there because of the expected birth of our second child. Captain has taken it easy and has been breeding mares trying to produce horses, which will hopefully repeat the winning ways of their predecessors.

Other colts out of Captain, which have placed at several futurities, include IRS Biankus, Captain Currin, Barrelin Biankus, and Blazin Biankus.

1999, I had another baby, Shayla Kay, on January 26, and at the last moment I decided to futurity Bank on Biankus. He is by Captain and a Tonto's Jet mare. I was happily surprised to have him perform extremely well since I didn't get to ride him all winter. He won 4<sup>th</sup> at the WBRA futurity in Moses Lake and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Walla Walla Barrel Daze futurity. He placed at the Reno futurity and the Hermiston futurity too. I used him at a pro-rodeo and placed on him there too. Bank was derbied at Albany, Ridgefield and Walla Walla. He placed at all three and won 2<sup>nd</sup> at the VGBRA derby and the breeder's sweepstakes. He was then used at both pro rodeos and at the amateurs. He performed very well by placing at several of the top rodeos including Pendleton, Omak, Hillsboro, St. Paul, Toppenish, etc. He ran a 17.30 and 17.50. I am setting 7<sup>th</sup> in the CRC for 2000 with \$6,320 won and 7<sup>th</sup> in the NWPR. He acted a little green at some of the rodeos so I'm excited to see how far he can go in the future. He exceeded my expectations and has me excited for the future. Captain's colts are just getting to the age where I hope we will see more of them in the winner's circle.

2001 Bank did outstanding. He ran some low 17.'s with 17.2 at Moses Lake. He won several prestigious rodeos such as St. Paul and Pendleton, Oregon. Pendleton was the largest paycheck for the year with over \$7,000 won there with bonuses. He ended up 3<sup>rd</sup> in the circuit for the year. I was extremely pleased with him.

I also found out that Captain Cash Us has a ruptured in half inter-carpal ligament. It is the ligament that gives the knee support and keeps it from hyper extending. It isn't fixable so that will end his barrel career. It was a short career for a horse I think could have made it all the way.

2002 started out wonderful with Bank winning some of the biggest rodeos over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. He won Eugene and Molalla and ended up in the top five at St. Paul. However, he was slightly lame after this weekend and it was concluded he might have a small tear in his deep digital tendon. He was off of 6 months. That was the

end of my 2002 season on Bank. He did make enough money to this point to qualify me for the CRC finals. I borrowed Jaclyn Hale's mare, Sandy Biankus, and finished the year out on her.

2003 is the year I have two futurity colts to run. Hopefully, they will continue to keep me in the money.