



Bob and John named Aiken Horse of the Year

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By BEN BAUGH Staff writer

Robert and Janice McNair's Stonerside Stable's Bob and John was named "The Aiken Trained Horse of the Year" for 2006 by the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum.

Bob and John will be recognized by the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum, with an induction ceremony, Sunday March 18 at 12:30 p.m. Congaree, Wando and Limehouse were the previous winners of the prestigious honor. The public is encouraged to attend.

The dark bay son of Seeking the Gold, is out of the Deputy Minister broodmare, and graded stakes winner Minister's Melody.

Stonerside Stable's trainer Tim Jones broke and trained Bob and John in Aiken.

"I'm grateful that Bob and John was selected as the Aiken Trained Horse of The Year," said Jones. "We had a Aiken Trained Horse of the Year previously with Congaree. Bob and John was broke and trained in Aiken, and that makes it special. It was great to have him here the whole time."

The Bob Baffert charge won two stakes races during his sophomore campaign, the 1 1/8-miles Sham Stakes at Santa Anita Park on February 4, 2006, winning by four and a-half lengths.

He would go on to win the 1 1/8-miles Grade One Wood Memorial Stakes at Aqueduct on April 8, collaring the lead in the stretch, and holding off eventual Belmont Stakes winner Jazil by 1 1/2-lengths, over an off track.

He would carry Aiken's hopes into the Classic races, and would start in both the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes.

Bob and John would bounce back with a determined effort, finishing second in the One-mile El Cajon Stakes at Del Mar on Sept. 2.

"We're hopeful he's going to have a big year this year," said John Adger, Stonerside bloodstock and racing manager. "His first start will be in the next six weeks. I'm tickled to death, he looks great. Bob Baffert wants to get him pointed in the right direction. He'll probably start him in an allowance race next. We're very proud of what he accomplished during his three year-old year. We love Aiken, and the training center we have there. It's twice as nice that Stonerside bred and raised both Congaree and Bob and John."

The Kentucky-bred was equally as impressive during his juvenile campaign.

He broke his maiden in his second start, a one mile maiden special weight contest at Del Mar, on Sept. 5, 2005, leaving the competition in his wake, drawing off to win by an impressive 11 1/2-lengths.

Bob and John from 12 lifetime starts, has four wins, placed second twice and finished third three times, en route to bankrolling \$701,330.

The Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum is located at 135 Dupree Place S.W. in Aiken.

For more information call 642-7631.