

# Still Having Fun named 2018 Aiken-trained Horse of the Year

The colt has earned \$516,653 over his career

BY DEDE BILES

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STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Maddie Hamlin, center, accepts the award for 2018 Aiken-trained Horse of the Year Still Having Fun during a ceremony at the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum on Sunday. Also pictured are Barry Bornstein, left, a member of the Hall of Fame and Museum's Advisory Board, and Aiken Mayor Rick Osbon. Hamlin is representing Cary Frommer, who trained Still Having Fun when he was in Aiken.

From the fall of 2016 until the summer of 2017, Still Having Fun was in Aiken being prepared for racing, but he didn't make much of an impression.

"He was what we call an invisible horse," said Cary Frommer, who trained the bay colt while he was here, recently. "He did his job every day. Anybody could ride him and you never noticed him."



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Lisa Hall speaks during the ceremony honoring 2018 Aiken-trained Horse of Year Still Having Fun at the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum on Sunday. Hall is the coordinator of the Hall of Fame and Museum.

But after Still Having Fun left Aiken, he blossomed as a competitor and starting attracting attention. On Sunday, a ceremony was held at the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum to honor the 4-year-old colt as the 2018 Aiken-trained Horse of the Year. "He goes out there (on the racetrack) and runs his heart out," said Frommer, who is the Aiken Training Track's president.

Frommer was unable to attend Sunday's ceremony but sent one of her assistant trainers, Maddie Hamlin, to accept Still Having Fun's award on her behalf.

Gary Barber, Wachtel Stable and Terp Racing own Still Having Fun. The colt's trainer now is Tim Keefe, who bred him in partnership with Charles and Cynthia McGinnes. Terp Racing purchased Still Having Fun for \$12,000 at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale in Maryland.

In a bit of an understatement, Lisa Hall, who is the Hall of Fame and Museum's coordinator, said during the Horse of the Year ceremony that the colt had provided a "pretty good return" on that investment.

Still Having Fun has captured four of his 14 career races while earning \$516,653.

In 2018, he won the grade II Woody Stephens Stakes at Belmont Park in New York and the Frank Whately, Jr. Stakes and Miracle Wood Stakes at Laurel Park in Maryland.

In addition, Still Having Fun finished third in the grade I Malibu Stakes at Santa Anita Park in California. Last June in the Woody Stephens, the colt was a 13-1 longshot.

Ridden by Joel Rosario, Still Having Fun rallied from well off the pace to win by 1¼ lengths while the favored World of Trouble finished fourth.

Still Having Fun completed seven furlongs in 1:21.45.

"Still Having Fun is certainly living up to his name, and we hope he continues to have fun in 2019," Hall said. After the Hall of Fame and Museum issued a press release in January announcing that the colt was the 2018 Aiken-trained Horse of the Year, Keefe told the Aiken Standard: "He is a really cool horse because he just loves what he's doing. Nothing bothers him. Nothing gets under his skin."

Still Having Fun is the first Aiken-trained Horse of the Year for Frommer.

The colt's sire (father) is Old Fashioned and his dam (mother) is Casual Kiss.

Members of the Hall of Fame and Museum's Advisory Board select the Aikentrained Horse of the Year, and 12 thoroughbreds in addition to Still Having Fun have received the honor.

They include Congaree (2002), Wando (2003), Limehouse (2005), Bob and John (2006), Country Star (2007) and Midshipman (2008).

The others are Quality Road (2009 and 2010), It's Tricky (2011), Alpha (2012), Palace Malice (2013 and 2014), Curalina (2015 and 2016) and Dickinson (2017). The eligibility requirements for a thoroughbred to be considered for the Aikentrained Horse of the Year honor were changed in 2018. Previously, a thoroughbred that spent time in Aiken had to win grade I stakes during the year for which it was being considered and/or surpass \$1 million in career earnings.

Now a thoroughbred that spent time in Aiken must capture a graded stakes during the year for which it is being considered and/or surpass \$500,000 in career earnings.

For more information about the Racing Hall of Flame and Museum, visit [aikenracinghalloffame.com](http://aikenracinghalloffame.com). The Racing Hall of Fame and Museum is in HopelandsGardensat135Dupree Place.

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