

Add in his career as a sire, which has inspired English enthusiasts to predict that he might replicate *Bask's influence in the discipline. It has not been unusual to see his sons and daughters make up as much as half of a championship line-up, and in AEPA competition alone, he has sired 58 titlists to date. In the last 10 years, his youngsters have won the AHT \$100,000 Saddle Seat Futurity six times, and in both 2016 and 2021, one was champion and another reserve. Perhaps more importantly, most of his get have continued to build their resumes, accounting for U.S.

Afires Heir ... A GIANT

by MARY KIRKMAN

INFLUENCE

What do you get the horse who has everything?

Take Afires Heir, for example.

He already owns a perfect show record. Not just accomplished, but perfect: four straight U.S. National Championships in English Pleasure (one in junior competition, three in open), all unanimous. Two championships at Scottsdale, unanimous. He never entered the ring that he didn't win, and if there was more than one judge, they all agreed on his excellence.

National Championships in nearly all of the English divisions, several topping the prestigious open competition.

And as if all that weren't enough, he's happy in the environment he has known since 2004 at Kiesner Training Center, where everyone knows him.

So what do you get for a horse like that? When his longtime owners, Bill and Shirley Reilich, made him available, only a new owner. And from the stallion's point of view, it would be nice if it were one already "in the family," so that he might not be ruffled by a change in his routine. He didn't have to look far. One of his biggest fans was already a barn client and a friend, someone he's known since he arrived. From the beginning, breeder and exhibitor Dr. Joe Kinnarney responded not only to the formidable reputation the stallion developed, but also to him personally, to the critical mix of talent and willing personality that made him who he was. Kinnarney has had several Afires Heir's offspring in his program, fielding such national champions as Sin City, Futurama, Enchanted Heir, Movin On Heir WA, and most recently, KT Heir Lord. Generally, they start with Joel Kiesner, and when they are ready, Joe rides or drives them. And there are more growing up out in the pasture, as well as three of the stallion's daughters in his broodmare band.



Fast forward 17 years, from a 3-year-old Afires Heir (left), and countless achievements, to a reflective moment (above) with new owner and lifetime fan, Dr. Joe Kinnarney.

The AEPA Winners ...



2021 KT Heir Lord



2020 The Heiristocratt



2019 KT Mahalo

So it seemed appropriate that given the chance to own Afires Heir himself, Kinnarney was front and center. It was, he says, a natural result of his own history in the breed. "I've been in Arabians since as far back as the 1970s," he reflects. "I remember when *Bask was the most influential horse in the breed, and so now, to own a stallion with that stature is very special."

One of the keys to success for "Captain," as Afires Heir is known around the barn, is his user-friendly personality. Despite all the awards, Joel observes that the stallion's greatest legacy may be how happy he has made people, and as a signature achievement, that is as valuable as his electric, exciting show ring persona. "He has sired so many show horses that people have exhibited successfully and enjoyably," Kiesner observes. "That is a contribution in itself."

Perhaps the stallion's biggest challenge is reproducing a son as good as he is, but with several national champion sons on the ground, his team enjoys looking forward to the future. Already he has a daughter writing history. Heirs Noble Love's show record, with ten national championships (four in open English Pleasure) is even more stellar than her sire's, and her breeding career looks like a capsule version of his, with a growing list of nationally decorated



2018 GSF Insider



2016 Movin On Heir WA

progeny, which reveals an intriguing fact: Afires Heir daughters are being seen often now as the dams of some of the English division's top competitors, a rare and valuable attribute for a stallion. Astute horsemen often point out that as incandescent as a top sire is, often supplying the brilliance in his get, it is the dam line that anchors a pedigree. Characteristically thorough, Captain has both sides covered.

Now there is a special appreciation in the air when he is in the barn. "I've always had a relationship with him," Joe says. "I don't think he knows the change, but I certainly do. To have this great horse who made so many of my dreams come true, and to be able to do that for others, was one of the thoughts [when I bought him]." It won't change his breeding strategy, he adds; he's already been using the stallion for years. But it is definitely a new chapter in his life. "We'll move on together, and I think it will be fun for all of us." ♦



2013 Heirs Noble Love



2012 Bel Heir LR

Breed your piece of the legend ...

Afires Heir



KIESNER

2022 Overall Leading Sire

For breeding information contact Ashton Kiesner 865-556-0412
Afire Bey V x Brassmis | Multi-Program Nominated Sire | Proudly owned by Dr. Joe Kinnarney