

Thank you Simbalu...

When I met Simbalu, he was already famous. He was showing in the regular working division and it was easy to see why he had won so much. He had a great canter, naturally great balance and athleticism that gave him the ability to match up all his jumps from a range of "distances". The definition of a great hunter! He also had a great attitude which showed in his expression and the effort he put into his jump. The thing that impressed me the most though, was his intelligence. This was by far the smartest horse I had ever met. He wanted to win, and disliked distractions that kept him from concentrating on the job at hand. At that point in my life, I had never known a horse that I thought knew or cared about winning in the show ring.

When Sue was unable to ride him due to illness or injury, the opportunity arose for me to show Simbalu. After a few lessons, I wasn't sure which of them was teaching me more. I was a novice show rider with good instincts. Simbalu quickly let me know that if I rode him correctly and didn't do anything stupid, (like kick him coming out of the turn) he would be happy to share his success with me. Nerves became an issue when Kathy Newman told me I was getting to ride the horse that every professional in the country wanted to ride! Then there were the masses of spectators who swarmed to the ring the first few times we entered. We persevered over the next few years until the culmination of effort brought us to be grand local champion at Washington.

I am thankful to Sue and Simbalu for all I learned from them. Details matter! Do your homework! Don't go to a show unprepared. I have only ever owned Thoroughbred show horses and a big part of my love for the breed and my continued success in the ring came from my relationship with this great stallion.

Caren Brouse