



**Diesel Only, a 2005 AQHA bay colt owned by Gail Wilkinson.**



**Brian Baker and Diesel Only.**

# Diesel Only

## GAIL WILKINSON HAS BIG PLANS FOR THIS SIRE OF THE FUTURE

Buying a stallion is a lot like buying a house - you better be sure of your choice because it's a big part of your life and you're going to live with it a long time.

"That's one of the best stated and truest quotes I've ever heard," said Gail Wilkinson of Asheville, North Carolina. "I've been in horses a long time; my family and I say I got my horse "genes" from Dad. He bought my first horse when I was 4-years-old. I've spent much of my life searching for the perfect stallion. With patience, I knew I would find one that was really special.

Throughout the years, Wilkinson has learned from some talented people what qualities she should seek in her horses - qualities that are particularly important in a breeding horse. The starting point was confirmation - form to function; a mind to train; without which you probably won't get to the show pen; movement; rich color; pedigree; and certainly not the least to her, pretty! "I stop in my tracks for beautiful every time," she said.

Over the years, Wilkinson watched many wonderful stallions change the Quarter Horse world. Stallions such as Zippos Mr Good Bar.

"His impact on our industry is limitless," she said. "I have also admired Invitation Only - his size, color, and the 'pretty' he puts on his offspring and

Zips Chocolate Chip - the darling of our horse world. It was a big decision to introduce another stallion to these and others who have achieved so much excellence in so many areas."

After the purchase of her 2005 AQHA bay colt named Diesel Only, by Gucci Only and out of No Way By Me, Wilkinson had to choose a trainer.

"Over the years, I've been blessed with many great trainers so the decision was not an easy one," she said. "Early on, I worked with Barbara Prather who trained my beloved mare, Dollie. Donnie Dickerson, a hard worker and excellent teacher, and I shared Vinnys Uno. Brian Isabell is a talented guy and so much fun, too. Kenny Lakins is a great guy with loads of talent and heart. I also appreciate and enjoy his wife, Ashley. Cindy and Shane Young worked their hardest to prepare my horses and help me achieve my goals..."

"Here was a cast who provide me with years of fond memories and horses that captured my heart. The last name on my list was Brian Baker from Sunbury, Ohio. I noticed the quiet, young man at the 2006 Congress - after watching him for some time, I was struck by his hands - the softness in his hands - his patience and pure talent. In February 2007, Brian agreed to "try" my colt and we have been on a wonderful journey every since."

Wilkinson started with the usual decisions that go along with a show horse - a time frame, where to show, etc. The hope was to show in the the 2-Year-Old Masters Class at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress realizing all the while that it would take a very special horse.

"When I shared my dreams with Brian, he wisely responded the horse would let us know," Wilkinson said. "Patience was the key. The horse would let us know. Over time, the colt had his ups and downs. We discussed showing him during the summer but decided to stay with our original goal - Congress."

During the summer, Baker had to leave for two big shows and the decision had to be made whether to take Diesel on the road or leave him home for a vacation? If he remained behind there was a risk of missing the goal to show in the Master's Class. In the end, Diesel took almost a month's vacation.

"I was so anxious for Brian to return and ride my horse," Wilkinson said. "Finally, after the longest month in my life, Brian returned and rode Diesel. He called me excited - not his usual calm self. I heard a quiver in his voice, and he said 'I rode him 20 minutes and he's not forgotten one thing' I could have wept."

When October rolled around Diesel was ready and Baker showed him in the Congress Masters Class, earning a sixth place.

"They showed their hearts out and I couldn't have been prouder of them," Wilkinson said. "Thank you, Brian! I know how hard you worked."

Look for Baker and Diesel Only at the upcoming shows in 2008.

My life has been blessed and I'm so grateful to everyone who is a part of it. While I can't mention everyone, you know how much I love you, especially my parents. A special thanks to Dawn Baker, Brian's talented wife who is the glue for this team; to my dear friends Kim and Randy Haines who raised Diesel; and to John Wainscott who saves the best for me.

In 2008, while continuing his show career, Diesel Only will stand to a few proven mares, private treaty. For information, call Gail at (828) 273-1021, Brian Baker at (740) 816-5371, or John Wainscott at (513) 226-6839.

"I look forward to seeing you at the shows," Wilkinson said.



**Diesel Only & Brian Baker at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress.**



**Diesel Only will stand to a few proven mares in 2008.**