

# STALL OF FAME HORSE

## Elson Desmond (nominated in 2000)

by Kristen Howard & Julie Phair

Elson Desmond, was born on May 10, 1983 in Indianapolis, Indiana. A son of Elcyn (Carycyn x Elstera) and out of Aararap (Aaraf x Karapella), Desmond was of polish and crabbet breeding. Shortly after Desmond's birth, Earle Baxter, an OCTRA member from Millbank, Ontario, imported him. In 1987, Desmond partnered with Julie Phair, an OCTRA member from Kincardine, Ontario.

In 1988, Julie and Desmond completed their first 50 mile endurance ride together. During their 8 year career, this dynamic duo completed 32 out of 32 endurance competitions including 3 one-day 100 mile rides; 1-75 mile ride; 5-60 mile rides; 2-55 mile rides; and, 21-50 mile rides. Of those rides, Desmond finished in the Top Ten 56% of the time. Desmond was awarded Best Condition three times -- an amazing accomplishment considering Julie was a lightweight! Desmond has 1830 AERC miles.

In Arabian Horse Association (AHA) Regional Endurance Championships, Desmond garnered a Reserve Championship and 4-Top Fives over the course of his career.

Not only was Desmond an amazing endurance horse, but he also found success in competitive trail. Desmond competed in two AHA Regional Competitive Trail Ride Championships earning a Reserve Championship and a Top Five. In 1992, Desmond competed at the AHA National Competitive Trail Ride Championship and was awarded Top Ten Purebred Arabian (10th).

Desmond's OCTRA achievements include: 1991 OCTRA Horse of the Year; High Point Purebred Arabian; High Point Ride 'n Tie Horse; Reserve Champion Endurance Horse; and, Top Ten Competitive Trail Horse. In 1992, Desmond was named OCTRA Reserve Champion Endurance Horse. Desmond has 2300 OCTRA miles.

### Here are some memories from Julie about Desmond:

"Elson Desmond will always be a favourite mount. I must say I love my boys. Although I had the good fortune of competing on a couple of friends horses and doing well, Desmond was the first purebred Arabian we owned. Des and I learned and grew together as a team. Des had a 'joie de vivre' attitude. Happy go lucky and yet very competitive on trail. Incredible recovery rates and always presenting well at trot outs made him not only a great endurance horse but also an outstanding competitive horse. A fond memory of competing at the AHA National Championship CTR in Kentucky was a highlight in his career that I deeply cherish."

