

Fitz Enjoys Best Year As Trainer

62 Winners

Tribute to Skill

By **FRANK ORTELL.**

Age is the great leveller, of course, but to 81-year-old Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons it has only served to accent the brilliance of this veteran trainer of thoroughbreds. He is today more successful in his highly competitive field than at any time during his long association with the turf, stretching a span of some 70 years.

Statistics are cold and dull, but in Fitz's case they glowingly bespeak the remarkable job he has done with the horses under his care this year. He is leading money-winning trainer of 1955. Since Jan. 1 his horses have earned approximately \$1,211,285. He has saddled 62 winners for his various clients.

Nashua Won the Most.

It is true Nashua was his biggest money winner. But it required Fitzsimmons' unmatched skill to keep the colt at his best form during his arduous campaign this year. Younger men would have sweated it out, for training a standout colt is no cinch. Yet, Mr. Fitz went about the task calmly and with a sense of patience.

Nashua was not the only big winner in his large public stable. The dean of American trainers worked wonders, as well, with High Voltage and Misty Morn, perhaps the two best 3-year-old fillies of '55. Both are owned by Wheatley Stable. Mr. Fitz also trains for William Woodward's Belair Stud and Ogden Phipps. He also handles the one-horse stables of Mrs. William Woodward and Mrs. Whitney Stone.

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Nashua earned \$752,550, a record for a single season. He won nine stakes — The Flamingo, Florida Derby, Wood Memorial, Preakness, Belmont, Dwyer, Classic, the match against Swaps and the Jockey Club Gold Cup. It is a tribute to Mr. Fitz's skill that the Belair champion hadn't taken one lame step.

Mr. Fitz took considerable time out to pile up additional important triumphs with the two fillies. High Voltage, for instance, won the Delaware Oaks, Blackeyed Susan, Acorn and the Coaching Club American Oaks. Misty Morn won The Providence, Molly Pitcher, Diana and Monmouth Oaks.

Superintendent Neil Boyle and his maintenance crew did a wonderful job manicuring and draining Belmont's paddock area throughout the recent rainy spell.

The New York Turf Writers Assn. trophy will be contested at Belmont Thursday, first of a two-day session conducted by the United Hunts. The following day, the world's richest 'chase, the \$50,000 Temple Gwathmey will be run.
