

## AK STEEL FUELS SIMON TO ANOTHER STOCK CONTEST VICTORY

For the second time in three years, AlphaMark Advisors founder and president Mike Simon has won the *Business Courier's* annual stock-picking contest.

Simon rode AK Steel Holding Corp.'s whopping 356 percent gain to an overall return of 76 percent in his portfolio of five stocks in the contest. Simon finished with a yawning lead over second-place finisher Buck Newsome of Cambridge Financial Group. Newsome's 52 percent gain would be a winner in most years but it was no match for Simon's performance.

Twenty-two contestants – 21 local investment advisers and the *Courier* – selected five stocks in early January 2016 that they expected to produce the best total return, including dividends, for the year. At least one selection had to be a locally based company.

Simon also won the contest in 2014, with a 31 percent return.

"Absolutely, it's very exciting," Simon told me. "Our clients like to hear about it and it's certainly a point of pride."

West Chester-based AK Steel led Simon's picks. The stock soared in March when the U.S. Department of Commerce said it would raise taxes on imported cold-rolled steel. It gained another two-thirds in value after Election Day.

"That was all the Trump trade," Simon

### ▶ MONEY MATTERS

## STOCK SUCCESS

AlphaMark's Mike Simon won the *Courier's* annual stock-picking contest for the second time in three years. The top 10 out of 22 contestants:

Rank	Money Manager	Firm	Gain
1	Mike Simon	AlphaMark Advisors	76.1%
2	Buck Newsome	Cambridge Financial Group	52.2%
3	Robert Huesman	1919 Investment Counsel	21.5%
4	Dan Kenady	Key Private Bank	21.00%
5	Pat McGee	WCM Investment Management	20.96%
6	Mike Shields	Renaissance	19.1%
7	Rob Siegmann	Financial Management Group	18.3%
8	Mark Motley	Foster & Motley	18.0%
9	NA	Business Courier	13.7%
10	Zach Horn	Foster & Motley	13.2%

NA: Not applicable  
Source: Key Private Bank

Whatever that is – roads, bridges – it will involve steel."

K12 Inc., an online education provider, nearly doubled in value during the year to further lift Simon's results.

The *Courier* kept its streak of strong

gain. The *Courier* picks all local stocks each year and has now finished in the top 10 in 12 of the contest's 14 years under this format while beating the S&P 500 in 10 of those years. It was a good year overall for contestants. Twelve of the 22 participants