PEDIGREE PROFILE

by Rommy Faversham

Animal Kingdom carries a menagerie of foreign influences

Unhurried early on, Animal Kingdom enjoyed a victorious stakes debut as he moved into contention rounding the far turn and drew clear of all challengers midstretch for an impressive 2¾-length victory in the 1⅛-mile Vinery Racing Spiral Stakes (G3) on March 26 on the Polytrack surface at Turfway Park.

The Spiral is the Leroidesanimaux (Brz) colt's third start on a synthetic surface. In his seasonal debut on March 3, he was second by a head in an allowance race at a mile on the grass at Gulfstream Park.

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ANIMAL KINGDOM

The lion's share of the Spiral purse, $285,000 in graded stakes earnings, figures to assure Animal Kingdom a spot in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) starting gate should his connections decide to point him in that direction.

He hails from the second crop of Brazilian-bred 2005 champion turf male Leroidesanimaux, a brilliant miler from one of the world's most celebrated families.

Conversely, Animal Kingdom is the first foal out of the Acatenango mare Dalicia (Ger), winner at age four of the 2005 Preis der Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe (Ger-G3) at 2,000 meters (9.94 furlongs).

Dalicia is a full sister to the dam of German stakes winner Daveron (Ger), who traveled stateside to record a second-place finish in the 2010 Long Island Handicap (G3) at 1½ miles. Further back, this Teutonic tribe gets no less long winded.

It is safe to say that nowhere in Animal Kingdom's pedigree do distance limitations look like an issue for the upcoming classics.

Instead, it figures to be the colt's ability to handle dirt that will determine his prospects for a run at the Triple Crown.

Even if the bottom half overwhelmingly is turf breeding, there are some favorable indicators of dirt acumen when considering our subject's sire line.

As one would expect, Leroidesanimaux has been siring winners on turf and synthetic surfaces. It also is worth noting that several of his best offspring have performed particularly well on dirt as well.

His most successful daughter, Always a Princess, twice beat champion Blind Luck earlier this year in the El Encino (G2) and La Canada (G2) Stakes.

Also on dirt, Leroidesanimaux's son Crimson Knight recently finished a close second in the Tampa Bay Derby (G3).

Whether these two were aided by dirt influences on their dam's side is another consideration.

Another source of dirt breeding, Animal Kingdom's paternal grandsire, Candy Stripes, a two-time leading sire in Argentina, sired an exemplary list of native runners who went on to excel on dirt tracks in the U.S. This includes 2005 Horse of the Year Invasor (Arg), Argentine champion Different (Arg), and graded stakes winner Victory Stripes (Arg).

Animal Kingdom's upcoming workouts on dirt figure to be pivotal. This chestnut could become a very interesting "X factor."

Rommy Faversham is a pedigree specialist and author living in Los Angeles. More of his work is available at http://www.equicross.com.

Animal Kingdom, ch. c., 2008

Leroidesanimaux (Brz) 00 151 fls, 3 SWs SI 2.24 DI=1.67	Candy Stripes 82 2 wins, $47,357, Spl 1001 fls, 61 SWs SI 2.31 DI=2.11	Blushing Groom (Fr) 74 512 fls, 92 SWs SI 4.76 DI=1.52	Red God 54	*Nasrullah 40 Spring Run 48
			Runaway Bride (GB) 62	=Wild Risk (Fr) 40 =Aimee (GB) 57
		Bubble Company (Fr) 77 10 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.88	**Lyphard 69**	Northern Dancer 61 Goofed 60
			Prodice (Fr) 69	=Prominer (GB) 62 =Euridice (Fr) 62
	Dissemble (GB) 89 Unraced 9 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.29	=Ahonoora (GB) 75 467 fls, 45 SWs SI 2.00 DI=3.00	*Lorenzaccio 65	*Klairon 52 =Phoenissa (GB) 51
			=Helen Nichols (GB) 66	=Martial (Ire) 57 =Quaker Girl (GB) 61
		=Kerali (GB) 84 10 fls, 3 SWs DI=1.21	=High Line (GB) 66	=High Hat (GB) 57 =Time Call (GB) 55
			Sookera 75	Roberto 69 Irule 68
Dalicia (Ger) 01 2 fls, 1 SW DI=0.78	=Acatenango (Ger) 82 16 wins, $164,296 Champion 588 fls, 80 SWs SI 2.52 DI=0.71	=Surumu (Ger) 74 517 fls, 60 SWs SI 1.64 DI=0.29	=Literat (Ger) 65	=Birkhahn (Ger) 45 =Lis (Ger) 60
			=Surama (Ger) 70	=Reliance II (Fr) 62 =Suncourt (GB) 52
		=Aggravate (GB) 66 9 fls, 3 SWs DI=3.00	*Aggressor II 55	=Combat (GB) 44 =Phaetonia (GB) 45
			=Raven Locks (GB) 45	=Mr. Jinks (GB) 26 =Gentlemen's Relish (GB) 26
	=Dynamis (Ire) 91 Placed, $5,382 5 fls, 1 SW DI=1.91	Dancing Brave 83 412 fls, 38 SWs SI 2.47 DI=2.36	**Lyphard 69**	Northern Dancer 61 Goofed 60
			Navajo Princess 74	Drone 66 Olmec 66
		=Diasprina (Ger) 86 12 fls, 3 SWs DI=0.00	=Aspros (Ger) 77	=Sparkler (GB) 68 =Antwerpen (Ger) 72
			=Dorle (GB) 74	=Rheffic (Fr) 68 =Diu (Ger) 69