

# 3-YEAR-OLD MALE Animal Kingdom

## Finalists / First-Place Votes

Animal Kingdom / 114 • Caleb's Posse / 111 • Shackleford / 12 • Others / 10

Never before had the top two Eclipse Award vote getters in the 3-year-old male division been so much like the proverbial apples and oranges comparison, which made voting in 2011 so unique and difficult.

That is how different the two protagonists, Animal Kingdom and Caleb's Posse, were from each other. Voters had to decide between a Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (gr. I) winner and Preakness (gr. I) runner-up who didn't race after June 11 and a one-turn specialist who was just another of the nondescript 3-year-olds on the Derby trail until he had a big breakthrough after being shortened up to one turn with a series of big efforts.

In the end the voters went classic and relied on racing's two most magical words: Kentucky Derby. Not only did Animal Kingdom defeat 18 of the best 3-year-olds in training at the time, he did it in impressive fashion, winning by 2½ lengths in his first start ever on dirt, something

that had never been achieved before.

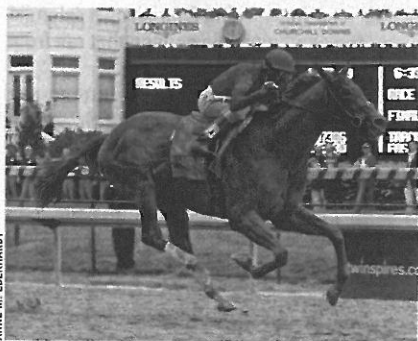
Owned and bred by Team Valor and trained by Graham Motion, Animal Kingdom was not even considered his owner's main Derby hopeful in late March and was scheduled to play second fiddle to stablemate Crimson China by running in the non-graded Rushaway Stakes at Turfway, while Crimson China went in the rich Vinery Racing Spiral Stakes (gr. III) on the same card. But when Crimson China failed to make the starting field due to lack of earnings, their roles were reversed, with Animal Kingdom having earned slightly more money.

When Animal Kingdom won the Spiral on Polytrack, he thrust himself into the Derby picture, and after springing a 20-1 surprise at Churchill Downs, became the overwhelming leader of the 3-year-old division.

A fast-closing second in the Preakness, beaten only a half-length by Shackleford, did nothing to damage his reputation and he was

sent off as the 5-2 favorite for the Belmont Stakes (gr. I). But a disastrous start, in which he stumbled badly, nearly falling and unseating jockey John Velazquez, cost him all chance. After making a spectacular run on the far turn, he faded to sixth in what was to be his final start of the year, due to a hind leg fracture.

By Steve Haskin



ANNE M. EBERHARDT

## Animal Kingdom

Own: Team Valor International

Ch. c. 3 (Mar) KEESEP09 \$100,000  
Sire: Leroideanimaux\*Brz (Candy Stripes) \$7,500  
Dam: Dalia\*Ger (Acatenango\*Ger)  
By: Team Valor (Ky)  
Tr: Motion H.G (8 0 3 1.00) 2011:(535 116 22)

| Life | 7 | 3 | 3 | 0 | \$1,938,700 | 103 | D.Fst     | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | \$1,611,800 | 103 |
|------|---|---|---|---|-------------|-----|-----------|---|---|---|---|-------------|-----|
| 2011 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | \$1,904,900 | 103 | Wet(277)  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$0         | 89  |
| 2010 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | \$33,800    | 84  | Synth     | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | \$318,800   | 94  |
|      | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$0         | -   | Turf(391) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | \$8,100     | 83  |
|      |   |   |   |   |             |     | Dst(0)    | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$0         | -   |

1Jun11-1Bel slyS 1½ :49 1:142 2:05 2:304 BelmonL-G1  
21May11-42Pim fst 1¼ :464 1:12 1:3711,562 Preaknes-G1  
7May11-11CD fst 1¼ :483 1:132 1:3722:02 KyDerby-G1  
26Mar11-10TP fst 1¼ :462 1:122 1:3841:521 Spiral-G3  
3Mar11-8GP fm 1 ① :23 :47 1:1041:343 OC 50k/w1x-N

89 9 12141213 54 56 69½ Velazquez J R  
103 11 13181314 125½ 33½ 2½ Velazquez J R  
103 16 126 126½ 52½ 31½ 12½ Velazquez J R  
94 4 116½ 74½ 42½ 1hd 12½ Garcia Alan  
83 9 55 45 31 2½ 2hd Maragh R

L126 b \*2.60 74-16 RulerOnIce126½ StyThirsty126½ BrillintSpd126½ Bump, stumble, lost iron 12  
L126 b \*2.30 91-10 ShckfOrd126½ AnmlKngdom 126½ Astrology126½ Brk slw, angl 5w, gainely 14  
L126 b 20.90 99-06 AnmlKngdom126½ Nhr0126½ MuchoMchoMn126½ 4-6w, drifted out late 19  
L121 b 3.00 81-16 AnmlKngdom121½ DcsvMmnl121½ Twinspr121½ Angled out, drew clear 11  
L118 b 2.80 84-22 PowhtnCounty118nd AnmlKngdom118½ ExtnsV118½ Awkward st, missed 11