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ANIMAL INSTINCT

"It was meant to be." Jockey John Velazquez, the regular rider of Uncle Mo (Indian Charlie), uttered those words shortly after crossing the wire first in the GI Kentucky Derby on the ultimate pick-up mount, Team Valor's **Animal Kingdom** (Leroïdesanimaux {Brz}). Uncle Mo was scratched Friday morning, and Robby Albarado, who had been named aboard Animal Kingdom, sustained minor injuries in a spill Wednesday. "I feel bad for Robby, but this one's for both



Horsephotos

of us. I've been pretty unlucky [here], so, to pick up this one, words can't describe it." **Cont. p2-5**

Saturday, Kentucky Derby

KENTUCKY DERBY PRESENTED BY YUM! BRANDS-GI, \$2,171,800, CDX, 5-7, 3yo, 1 1/4m, 2:02, ft.

1--▲**ANIMAL KINGDOM**, 126, c, 3, by [Leroïdesanimaux \(Brz\)](#)
 1st Dam: **Dalicia (Ger)** (GSW-Ger & SP-Fr, \$195,352), by **Acatenango (Ger)**

2nd Dam: **Dynamis (Ire)**, by **Dancing Brave**

3rd Dam: **Diasprina (Ger)**, by **Aspros (Ger)**

(\$100,000 yrl '09 KEESEP). O-Team Valor Int'l; B-Team Valor (KY); T-H Graham Motion; J-John R Velazquez; \$1,411,800. Lifetime Record: 5-3-2-0, \$1,738,700.

Werk Nick Rating: **A**. [Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.](#)

Foaled, Raised and Sold by Denali

Bred by Barry Irwin and Team Valor

Broke and Trained by Randy Bradshaw

Secured by Muirfield Insurance

2--**Nehro**, 126, c, 3, [Mineshaft](#)--The Administrator, by Afleet. (\$170,000 yrl '09 KEESEP). O-Zayat Stables LLC; B-Mt Brilliant Farm LLC (KY); T-Steven M Asmussen; \$400,000.

EQB shortlist purchase with owner Zayat Stables

3--**Mucho Macho Man**, 126, c, 3, [Macho Uno](#)--Ponche de Leona, by Ponche. O-Reeves Thoroughbred Racing & Dream Team One Racing Stable; B-John D & Carole A Rio (FL); T-Katherine Ritvo; \$200,000.

Dam boarded at Castle Park Farm • Noel Murphy 859-321-7435

Margins: 2 3/4, NK, 3/4. Odds: 20.90, 8.50, 9.30.
 Also Ran: Shackleford, Master of Hounds, Santiva, Brilliant Speed, Dialed In, Pants On Fire, Twice the Appeal, Soldat, Stay Thirsty, Derby Kitten, Decisive Moment, Archarcharch, Midnight Interlude, Twinspired, Watch Me Go, Comma to the Top. Scratched: Uncle Mo.

Glory in Motion...

Trainer Graham Motion, whose main GI Kentucky Derby hope Toby's Corner (Bellamy Road) was withdrawn Tuesday with an injury, provided a more-able-deputy in the form of the Gill Vinery Spiral S. winner. "It's just extraordinary," said Motion, who is based at Fair Hill in Maryland. "He's a special horse.

Johnny gave him a great ride." In winning the Derby in just his fifth career start, Animal Kingdom is the most lightly raced winner of the Classic since Exterminator in 1918. "I've only



The 2011 Kentucky Derby winner's circle
 Horsephotos

won a couple of the big ones and, when it happens, it's surreal," said Team Valor founder and CEO Barry Irwin. "I couldn't see a whole lot from where I was sitting. I picked him up at the eighth pole and he was on the move--my wife was going crazy." Churchill Downs announced that a record crowd of 164,858 was on hand for the 137th renewal of the "Run for the Roses." The previous mark was 163,628, achieved during the centennial running in 1974. [Click for the brisnet.com chart, the brisnet.com PPs or the free brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree.](#) [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.](#)

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Regal Trip...

When they sprung the latch on the 137th Kentucky Derby, Animal Kingdom came away cleanly from his auxiliary gate post, and settled kindly for Velazquez well behind the honest pace set by **Shackleford** (Forestry). That blaze-faced chestnut, who had been training up a storm under the Twin Spires, lived up to that reputation by getting his first quarter in :23.24 and :48.63, and was tracked by **Comma to the Top** (Bwana Charlie) and **Decisive Moment** (With Distinction). Meanwhile, favored **Dialed In** (Mineshaft) was a long way last. For a 19-horse field, there appeared to be a minimum of rough trips, and Animal Kingdom raced in the three path down the backstretch.

"We were between horses and he was going well," said his rider.

As Velazquez began to gather his mount approaching the three-eighths pole, Animal Kingdom's engine roared to life, and the chestnut avoided a potential problem by accelerating through a seam with **Santiva** (Giant's Causeway) to his outside.

"When we got clear, he gave me the feeling that he had it in him [to win]," said Velazquez.

Guided a bit further out, the lightly raced chestnut accelerated smartly, reeling in **Nehro** (Mineshaft) and surging clear in the final strides. Shackleford stayed on bravely, but succumbed late to **Mucho Macho Man** (Macho Uno) to lose third.

It was lucky Derby ride 13 for Velazquez, who had been the regular rider for prime Classic contenders Quality Road (Elusive Quality) and Eskendereya in 2009 and 2010 when both colts missed out on running in the Derby.



Horsephotos

"I guess it was meant to be; things happen for a reason," said the Eclipse Award-winning reinsman. "When it's meant to be for you, it's meant to be for you, no matter what. He just handled everything so good. He was going good the whole way and, when I asked him to run, he was there for me. I can't describe it--it was amazing."

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Kentucky Derby cont.

It was the second big Churchill score in six months for Team Valor. The syndicate secured the GII Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf in November with Pluck (More Than Ready), who was trained by Todd Pletcher at the time. Soon afterwards, Irwin revealed that all of Team Valor's horses would be transferred to Graham Motion, and that Pluck would target a European Classic.

Asked why he decided to give the entire Team Valor International string to Motion, Irwin told NBC, "I was tired of all the trainers lying to me, and I wanted an honest guy."

Pluck's trans-Atlantic hopes were dashed by a pair of sub-par performances this spring, but Animal Kingdom's success probably makes up for it.

"He's been an extraordinary horse to train," said Motion. "When Barry sent Pluck to me, Animal Kingdom was breezing, and I told him, 'I like Pluck, but this horse is special.'"

He's an Animal...

Animal Kingdom began his career for trainer Wayne Catalano, finishing second to Willcox Inn (Harlan's Holiday) in an Arlington maiden washed onto the Polytrack Sept. 18 ([video](#)). The word was out on the colt thereafter, and he donned cap and gown as the 3-5 chalk in an all-weather route at Keeneland Oct. 23 ([video](#)). When Team Valor named Graham Motion as their lone trainer at the end of the season, Animal Kingdom joined the Englishman's string in Florida. The rangy colt's rally fell a head short to Powhatan County (Fusaichi Pegasus) in a one-mile optional claimer on the Gulfstream grass Mar. 3 ([video](#)), but his connections were undeterred, and sent him to Turfway for the GIII Vinery Racing Spiral S. Mar. 26. Well back early, Animal Kingdom unleashed a strong run to claim that \$500,000 event ([video](#)). He looked like a monster during his Apr. 30 drill on the dirt at Churchill, and that impression was confirmed yesterday. In winning the Derby off a six-week layoff, Animal Kingdom was coming off the longest break since Needles accomplished the feat in 1956.

Kingdom Come...

Animal Kingdom's dam Dalicia, a Group 3 winner in her native Germany, was secured by Team Valor as a horse in training for €400,000 at Baden-Baden in 2005. The bay mare failed to win in the U.S. while under the care of trainer Neil Drysdale, and was bred to turf champion Leroidesanimaux. Animal Kingdom was foaled in March 2008, and was offered as a yearling at Keeneland to be part of a new Team Valor partnership. He sold for \$100,000, and the mare's 2009 colt, a son of Mr. Greeley, also sold to Team Valor for \$80,000 at the same venue in September. Dalicia, meanwhile, sold at Tattersalls December in 2009 to Shadai Farm for 230,000gns (US\$401,783) while in foal to Mr. Greeley. It was quite a "D" day for Team Valor. Dameron (Ger) (Black Sam Bellamy {Ire}), produced by a full-sister to Derby winner, captured the GIII Beaugay H. at Belmont earlier in the afternoon (*see p11*).



Barry Irwin
Horsephotos

Archarcharch Injured...

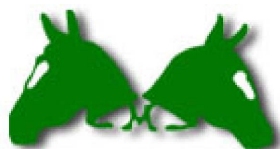
Robert and Loval Yagos' GI Arkansas Derby winner Archarcharch (Arch) stumbled coming out of the gate. The saddle slipped soon after, and jockey Jon Court had trouble controlling his mount. Archarcharch pulled up short after crossing the wire and was vanned back to this stall; X-rays taken later revealed a lateral condylar fracture in his right foreleg. He will undergo surgery.

**WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY?
Kentucky Derby Top 3 Finishers and their preps**

Year	KY Derby 1-2-3	Previous Start (weeks)
2011	Animal Kingdom	1st Vinery Spiral (6)
	Nehro	2nd Arkansas Derby (3)
	Mucho Macho Man	3rd Louisiana Derby (6)
2010	Super Saver	2nd Arkansas Derby (3)
	Ice Box	1st Florida Derby (6)
	Paddy O'Prado	2nd Blue Grass (3)

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Team Valor, Barry Irwin and trainer H. Graham Motion on a
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Saturday, Belmont Park

BEAUGAY S.-GIII, \$98,000, BEL, 5-7, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16mT, 1:42 4/5, fm.

1--**@DAVERON (GER)**, 115, m, 6, by **Black Sam Bellamy (Ire)**

1st Dam: **Darwinia (Ger)**, by **Acatenango (Ger)**

2nd Dam: **Dynamis (Ire)**, by **Dancing Brave**

3rd Dam: **Diasprina (Ger)**, by **Aspros (Ger)**

O-Team Valor International; B-Carlton Consultants Ltd (GER); T-H Graham Motion; J-Eddie Castro; \$60,000. Lifetime Record: SW-Ger, 14-5-3-1, \$217,642. **Werk Nick Rating: A. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.**

2--**Gitchee Goomie**, 117, f, 4, **City Zip**--Riotous Miss,

by Brief Ruckus. O-Patsy C Symons; B-Barry R Ostrager (NY); T-Richard A Violette, Jr; \$20,000.

3--**Bet On the Blue**, 115, f, 4, E Dubai--Javana, by Sandpit (Brz). (\$8,000 2yo '09 FTKFEB). O-Hal E Snowden Jr; B-John & Carol Hawkins (KY); T-H Allen Jerkens; \$10,000.

Margins: NK, 3, 2 1/4. Odds: 1.75, 1.90, 4.70.

Also Ran: Ainamaa, Comic Marvel. Scratched: Happy Week, Maram, Streaker, R Betty Graybull.

Daveron, heroine of the Listed Preis der Hotellerie Baden-Baden for trainer Andreas Trybuhl in her native country in 2009, closed out a brief tenure for conditioner Christophe Clement with a seventh-place finish in Saratoga's De La Rose S. last August. Transferred to the Graham Motion barn, the chestnut was a close second in a \$32,000 optional claimer at Laurel Sept. 24, then annexed Belmont's Scoot S. Oct. 20. She was freshened following a runner-up effort in Aqueduct's Gill Long Island H. Nov. 13. Racing under a very tight hold while a close fourth through fractions of :25.12 and :49.87 here, Daveron revved up three wide on the turn for home, hit the front in the stretch and dug in gamely to hold off Gitchee Goomie. "Eddie [Castro] gave her a very good ride--all credit to him," Motion's assistant Adrian Rolls offered. "It was a small field and there was no speed, so I was afraid she might get a bit rank, but he managed to get her relaxed very quickly. He gets on well with her. I'm not sure where she'll go next." Castro added, "I went to the outside to try to make her relax, to stay comfortable. The pace was not really fast. At the three-eighths I started to ride her and she responded. She was moving well, and when the other filly came to her, she didn't quit." **Click for the [brisnet.com chart](#) or the [brisnet.com PPs](#). [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.](#)**

Did You Know?...

The last Kentucky Derby winner to finish worse than fourth in his previous start was Iron Liege in 1957. He finished fifth in the Derby Trial.

Saturday, Belmont Park

FORT MARCY S.-GIII, \$98,000, BEL, 5-7, 3yo/up, 1 1/16mT, 1:41 4/5, fm.

1--**@STRAIGHT STORY**, 118, h, 5, by **Giant's Causeway**

1st Dam: **Eventail (MSW & GSP, \$300,895)**,

by **Lear Fan**

2nd Dam: **Felicita**, by **Rubiano**

3rd Dam: **Grand Bonheur**, by **Blushing Groom (Fr)** (\$400,000 yrl '07 KEESEP). O-Richard Santulli; B-Gallagher's Stud (NY); T-Alan E Goldberg; J-Carlos H Marquez Jr; \$60,000. Lifetime Record: GISP, 18-6-6-0, \$641,778. **Werk Nick Rating: A. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.**

Bred by Gallagher's Stud — Denali Sold

2--**Hudson Steele**, 118, g, 4, Johannesburg--Strike the Sky, by Smart Strike. O-J Roger Weiss; B-Jay W Bligh (KY); T-Todd A Pletcher; \$20,000.

3--**Sal the Barber**, 117, h, 5, **Alphabet Soup**--Alya, by Deputy Minister. O/B-Lewis Schaffel (KY); T-Christophe Clement; \$10,000.

Margins: NK, 1HF, NO. Odds: 3.15, 1.45, 4.30.

Also Ran: Mikoshi, Riviera Cocktail.

Scratched: Beau Choix, Hymn Book, Arson Squad.

Straight Story, second by a head in the GI Jamaica H. at Belmont in 2009, had a confidence-boosting score in a New York-bred allowance last May. He added an open-company heat to the win column at Monmouth June 20 before finishing fourth in the GI United Nations at the Jersey Shore oval July 3. After taking the West Point H. at Saratoga Aug. 19, the blaze-faced dark bay flashed speed in the GI Woodbine Mile the following month, but faded to finish last of 13. He was caught late in his 2010 finale, the Mohawk H. over this course Oct. 23, but made amends here. Straight Story jumped out quickly and had things his own way up front. Favored Hudson Steele made a valiant run at him in the lane, but the Santulli colorbearer dug in to secure his first graded trophy. "My instructions were to go to the front, and then let him relax and try to save some horse for the end, since he's fresh," said winning rider Carlos Marquez Jr. "He likes to run fresh. If you look at his form, when he gets a layoff, he runs big. They let me go the half in :48, and I think that made all the difference. When the outside horse came to him, that's when he dragged me, he took me and said, 'Whoa, from here, we gotta go.' And when he saw the other horse inside, he kept digging, digging, digging, fighting. Class showed up." Winning trainer Al Goldberg added, "I don't know what's next. We'll see how he comes out of it, but the New York-bred races are always a good option."

Click for the [brisnet.com chart](#) or the [brisnet.com PPs](#). [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.](#)