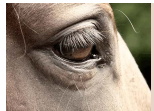


Andrew Caulfield, July 6, 2010-Kantharos



PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

BY ANDREW CAULFIELD

Saturday, Churchill Downs

BASHFORD MANOR S.-GIII, \$108,200, CDX, 7-3, 2yo, 6f, 1:09 4/5, ft.

1--#@KANTHAROS, 118, c, 2, by Lion Heart

1st Dam: Contessa Halo, by Southern Halo

2nd Dam: Queen of Savoy, by Conquistador Cielo

3rd Dam: Jill of All Trades, by Codex

(\$80,000 yrl '09 KEESEP; \$250,000 2yo '10

OBSMAR). O-Stonestreet Stables LLC; B-Hedberg Hall

Inc (KY); T-Steven M Asmussen; J-Robby Albarado;

\$66,413. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$95,213. *1/2 to

Ikigai (Whywhywhy), GSW, \$195,978. **Click for the**

eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree. Werk Nick Rating: A.

Click for the [brisnet.com chart](#) or the [brisnet.com PPs](#).

[Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.](#)

I have to admit to being a little surprised back in January when it was announced that Lion Heart was among the batch of stallions that had been acquired by the Turkish Jockey Club.

Still only nine years old, the son of Tale of The Cat had been a consistently busy member of the Ashford Stud stallion team.

He is credited with having covered books of 233, 158, 165, 215 and 180 mares in his first five years near Versailles. The Ashford team had achieved this consistency partly by reducing his fee, but not savagely, firstly to \$25,000 after two years at \$30,000 and then to \$20,000.

Lion Heart's popularity had therefore held up far better than that of numerous young stallions whose appeal dwindles rapidly until they prove themselves. Lion Heart could be said to have proved himself to some extent by the time he covered his 180-strong book in 2009. He had finished second to Tapit among the freshman sires of 2008, with a tally of 33 individual winners, of which four had become stakes winners. Indeed two of his sons, Azul Leon and Silent Valor, had become graded stakes winners.

Lion Heart added a third graded winner, Heart Ashley, before the 2009 breeding season was very far advanced, which must have helped stimulate support, and a fourth graded winner, Soul Warrior, came along before the end of 2009. Lion Heart finished the year ranked fifth by cumulative earnings among a very hot batch of second-crop sires.

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Caulfield cont.



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1st Clarendon Stakes-L.R.

06/27 **GRAND ADVENTURE** (4, c.)
1st King Edward Stakes-Gr.2

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Caulfield cont.

This year has seen him climb back to fourth among the third-crop sires, behind Medaglia d'Oro, Tapit and Speightstown, with total earnings now in excess of \$10 million. In the process, he has boosted his total of first-crop graded winners to five, thanks to Pretty Prolific. He has also been represented by his first Gade I winner, in the shape of Line of David, who led throughout to defeat Super Saver in the Arkansas Derby. Pretty Prolific has also performed well at Grade I level, most recently when second in the Humana Distaff S.

Now Lion Heart has been represented by his first graded winner from his third crop, via the exciting Kantharos.

So why was Ashford prepared to sell Lion Heart before his ability had become fully established? I guess it was a case of the offer being too good to refuse at a time of great economic uncertainty, especially as he had already repaid his original cost many times over. Lion Heart's fee for 2010 had been published as \$12,500, down \$7,500 from last year, and he was due to face competition from Tale of Ekati, another of Tale of the Cat's Grade I-winning sons, in 2010. Then there was the prospect of Tale of the Cat's most accomplished son, Gio Ponti, retiring in 2011.

Remember too that he had had runners for two seasons and was still awaiting his first Grade I winner, so he would have been of little interest to the Coolmore partners for their own illustrious broodmares. Another possible factor could have been that his first Australian crop hadn't achieved a great deal.

To get back to Kantharos, this \$250,000 purchase at Ocala in March has raced only twice, yet his winning margins total more than 21 lengths. The style of his victory in the GIII Bashford Manor S. suggests he is likely to become another Grade I winner for his sire. Could he even prove as effective as Boston Harbor and Favorite Trick, both of whom ran slower times when they landed the Bashford Manor on their way to the juvenile championship?

That suggestion may not be too fanciful, as Lion Heart was a breeze-up sale graduate who developed into a leader of his generation at two and three.

Lion Heart came on the market at the Fasig-Tipton Florida sale in February 2003, where he was so impressive in working an eighth of a mile in :10. dead that Demi O'Byrne was happy to pay a sale-topping \$1.4 million for him.

Lion Heart went on to be unbeaten in three juvenile starts and ended the year ranked fifth among the colts on the Experimental Free Handicap, three pounds below the co-highweights Action This Day, Cuvee and Ruler's Court, and one pound below Birdstone. He showed plenty of speed on his debut over six furlongs at Santa Anita, covering the first half in :44. He then set a new stakes mark of 1:20.60 in the GIII Hollywood Prevue S., and at this stage, I was prepared to write him off as a sprinter-miler, rather than a possible Derby horse.

I had overlooked the fact that his broodmare sire Mr. Leader was a fairly reliable source of stamina, with all five of his Grade I winners-- Ruhlmann, Martial Law, Quiet Little Table, Hurry Up Blue and Wise Times--winning over a mile and a quarter.

Lion Heart also inherited a degree of this staying power, as he showed by rounding off his first season with a victory in the GI Hollywood Futurity over 1 1/16 miles. His sophomore year saw him finish second to Smarty Jones in the Kentucky Derby before he took the Haskell Invitational over a mile and an eighth.

Lion Heart has shown that he can sire a fairly wide range of good-class performers. Azul Leon matured quickly enough to take the GIII Hollywood Juvenile Championship in July and the GII Best Pal S. the following month, while Silent Valor took the GIII Sapling S. in August. The successes of Soul Warrior in the GII West Virginia Derby and of Line of David in the GI Arkansas Derby also show he can get good winners over a mile and an eighth.

So how far is Kantharos likely to stay? His dam Contessa Halo did all her winning over sprint distances, but it is encouraging that each of his first three dams was sired by a horse with form at around a mile and a quarter.

Kantharos' broodmare sire Southern Halo was runner-up in both the GI Super Derby and the GI Swaps S. over a mile and a quarter, beaten only a head in the latter. His second dam, Queen of Savoy, was by the versatile Conquistador Cielo, winner of the Belmont S. And his third dam, Jill of All Trades, is by Codex, winner of the Santa Anita Derby, Preakness S. and Hollywood Derby.

With a background like this, Kantharos should have little difficulty getting seven furlongs and a mile, which makes his efforts over five and six furlongs all the more exciting.



KANTHAROS, c, 2008

Lion Heart	Tale of the Cat	Storm Cat	Storm Bird
		Yarn	Terlingua
	Satin Sunrise	Mr. Leader	Mr. Prospector
		Logic	Narrate
Contessa Halo 4Fls, 2GSW	Southern Halo	Halo	Hail to Reason
		Northern Sea	Jolie Deja
	Queen of Savoy 9Fls, 1SW	Conquistador Cielo	Naskra
		Jill of All Trades 13Fls, 5 Winners	Bactu Reason
			Mr. Prospector
			K D Princess
		Codex	
		Mavera	