

## Ameriheart

By Sid Fernando and Frances J. Karon

Ameriheart, who is standing at Jackie and Joe King's Indian Hills Thoroughbred Farm in Edwardsville, IL., is an intriguing sire prospect, mainly because of his sire line and overall pedigree. By Lion Heart out of Midway Squall, by Storm Bird, Ameriheart is closely inbred to Storm Bird 4x2 as his own sire is by Tale of the Cat, a son of Storm Cat. The latter, a breed-shaping stallion, was, of course, a son of Storm Bird. Because Ameriheart is free of Mr. Prospector, Seattle Slew, Danzig, and Roberto blood, mares by those lines should suit him well, especially Mr. Prospector, because Storm Cat clicked well with him.

Not much of a racehorse, Ameriheart, bred by Don Dizney in Florida, won only three races from 19 starts and earned \$32,754. But his sire-line branch of Storm Cat through Tale of the Cat and Lion Heart is developing a steady stream of promising young stallions and prospects. His own sire Lion Heart, who began at Ashford promisingly -- he was the second-leading freshman sire of 2008 behind only Tapit and is the sire of 42 stakes winner to date, including Breeders' Cup Turf winner Dancing Midge and G1 turf winner Tom's Tribute -- was prematurely exported to stand in Turkey, but fortunately left behind several colts that seem destined to make an impact at stud, notably Kantharos, Line of David, and Uncaptured.

Kantharos is a multiple Graded stakes winner at 2 and is now at stud in Florida at Ocala Stud. Kantharos' second dam, by the way, is by Conquistador Cielo, a son of Mr. Prospector. Line of David, winner of the G1 Arkansas Derby, is at stud at Spendthrift Farm in Kentucky, and his dam is by Capote (by Seattle Slew) and his second dam is a full sister to Mr. Prospector. Ocala Stud also stands the young Lion Heart horse Uncaptured, Horse of the Year at 2 in Canada in 2012. His dam is by Arch, a grandson of Roberto. He entered stud in 2015 and has no runners, but the farm, no doubt, hopes he will start off as Kantharos and Line of David have.

Line of David's first crop included seven stakes horses, 3-year-olds of 2015. One of them, Firing Line, was G1-placed at 2, and a G3 winner at 3 before running second in the G1 Kentucky Derby to American Pharoah. Altogether, three of his stakes horses were by Roberto-line mares, two were by Mr. Prospector-line mares, and one was by a Seattle Slew-line mare.

Kantharos also was represented by his first 3-year-olds last season, with nine stakes horses from his first crop, including current sprint sensation XY Jet, a G3 winner who is out of a Danzig-line mare. The stallion also has two SWs out of Seattle Slew-line mares.

Female family works with Mr. Prospector

Dizney's Double Diamond Farm purchased the Storm Bird mare Midway Squall, then 6 and pregnant to Carson City, for \$100,000 at the 1997 Keeneland January mixed sale. Midway Squall was the second foal out of Oh So Precious (by Best Turn), a Grade 3-placed Listed stakes winner trained in the mid-to-late 1980s by Wayne Lukas for Gene Klein -- the team that raced Oh So Precious' contemporaries in Horse of the Year Lady's Secret, Kentucky Derby winner Winning Colors, and Filly Triple Crown winner Open Mind.

Oh So Precious was a half-sister to Doonesbear, who counted the Chicago Handicap at Hawthorne among his stakes victories, and to Grade 1-placed Amathos, second in the G2 Illinois Derby. Their dam Amatheia (by Iron Ruler) also has Illinois ties: after being placed in multiple black-type races at Hollywood Park and Golden Gate Fields in California, she won the Auld Lang Syne Handicap and was third in the Marion H. Van Berg Memorial Handicap, both at Sportsman's Park -- her only two starts in the state.

But for all the racing successes of Oh So Precious and Amatheia, it is Ameriheart's unraced dam Midway Squall who has kept the family salient nearly 40 years after third dam Amatheia (by Iron Ruler) won at Sportsman's.

Ameriheart's dam is so deep that she fills an entire catalogue page. From 16 foals, all but the first of which bred by Double Diamond, Midway Squall produced 13 winners from 14 starters, with her youngest, Natalie Grace (by Double Diamond-homebred First Dude), an unraced 3-year-old of 2016 who was a \$130,000 sales yearling.

Other than Ameriheart, Midway Squall produced Bahamian Squall, a Grade 2-winning sprinter who placed second in the G1 Alfred G. Vanderbilt Handicap at Saratoga and earned \$582,000; Apriority, whose six wins include the G3 Mr. Prospector Stakes and who ran second in the G1 Carter Handicap, among other graded stakes-placings for \$525,000 in earnings; Squall City, a Listed stakes winner who produced two stakes winners as well as Grade 1-placed Big Tiz; and two stakes-placed winners, British Attitude and Acadia Breeze.

Two things should be noted from the reciting of this pedigree. First, as mentioned earlier, that Ameriheart is inbred 4x2 to Storm Bird, and second, that Midway Squall's three black-type winners were sired by sons of Mr. Prospector -- Gone West and Carson City -- and by Grand Slam, a son of Gone West. This reinforces the notion that Mr. Prospector-line mares in particular might unlock this young stallion's potential.