

VICTORY KINGDOM BEATEN NECK IN GRADE 3 ONTARIO FASHION STAKES HOMEBRED JUST PIPPED BY FAVORITE ON SYNTHETIC, EARNING 94 BEYER



Victory Kingdom also by a neck in the G2 Kewney in Australia and has now placed three times in a Group or Graded stakes.

Victory Kingdom came within a neck of pulling off a coup that would have increased the value of the mare, her dam **Victory Party** and her siblings in the Grade 3 Ontario Fashion Stakes at Woodbine on Saturday. Unable to handle sloppy dirt in her off-the-turf North American debut in a stakes at Saratoga when beaten off by a dozen lengths, the Animal Kingdom mare was tried on a synthetic track by connections desperately seeking a black-type victory before the mare is offered at Keeneland early in November.

Victory Kingdom was placing in a Graded-level dash for a third time in her career, having done it twice in Australia, where she had come agonizingly close to winning the Group 2 Kewney Stakes over 7 furlongs when also beaten a neck.

Victory Kingdom's dam **Victory Party** is a half-sister to three of the most impressive horses in the world today; **Beholder** (multiple Grade 1 winner and 4-time Champion), **Into Mischief** (Grade 1 winner and Leading Sire) and **Mendelssohn** (Champion and Grade 1 winner).

In the Ontario Fashion Stakes, the flashy bay **Victory Kingdom** broke well, raced second early behind suspected pacemaker **Sister Peacock**, quickly put her away and opened up a daylight advantage through a quarter in :22-flat. She kept close to the rail around the bend and reached the quarter pole in a rapid :44 3/5.

When she entered the stretch, she already looked to be on fumes and the fear was that the fast splits had tapped her stamina reserves. Her jockey allowed **Victory Kingdom** to situate herself in the lane and change leads before he got a bit busy on her.

Steve Bahen managed to coax a surge from **Victory Kingdom** and she was able to maintain an advantage of 1½ lengths after reaching the furlong grounds in :56 4/5. The mare had been dispatched at odds of 16 to 1—very nearly the longest chance in the 6-horse field. But she obviously did not realize she was not supposed to be where she was.

Meanwhile, **Painting**, which had trailed by as many as 5 lengths down the backstretch, began to make up ground fast around the final bend, which she took 4 wide. The well-bred **Distorted Humor** filly took hold late in the game, reached **Victory Kingdom** in the final yards and went on to “put a neck” on the pacesetter to win while stopping the clock in 1:09 2/5.



WOODBINE

RACE 3 RESULTS: UNOFFICIAL

1ST	3	PAINTING	1	P. HUSBANDS	POOL TOTALS: HANDLE 464,766 WIN 119,193 PLC 42,297					
2ND	2	VICTORY KINGDOM (AUS)	16	S. BAHEN						
3RD	1	SAV	3	J. STEIN						
4TH	6	MAGIC SPELL	17	D. MORAN						
			1/4	:22.17	1/2	:44.77	5/8	:56.87	FINAL	1:09.46

[LINK](#) to video.

Third in three successive Graded events, Painting stood out on form and speed ratings. She ran a 95 Beyer—fully 5 points her new top rating. Victory Kingdom earned a highly respectable 94. Key to the performance was that the ultra-consistent Sav finished 4 lengths farther adrift in third.