

ARIMA RACE CLUB
RACE DAY PREVIEW
DAY 16 SATURDAY 1ST MAY 2010

Grand Riviere goes for fifth straight

GRAND RIVIERE will attempt to stretch her winning streak to five when horse racing continues Saturday at Santa Rosa Park, Arima. The \$150,000 contest will be the first two-turn West Indian-bred three-year-old classic of the year and will be the penultimate and feature event of a nine-race card. Eight fillies will have the daunting task of trying to lower Grand Riviere's cherry and black colours over 1,750 metres at 4.55 p.m. But although the daughter of A Great Team has lost only once from six career starts, it must be remembered that none of these horses have been further than 1350 metres and there is no sure thing in sports.

And it should also be noted that Inconclusive, the only horse in the field to have beaten Grand Riviere, provided a stern test last time out and was beaten less than a length in the Ibis Stakes on April 5. Classy Lady was five lengths back in third in that Easter Monday contest, but it was only the second start of her career and the Jamaican, who had been second on debut only a week earlier, must have improved significantly. Fellow Glenn Mendez-trained Jamaican Vijayanti flopped in the "Ibis", but should not be written off so quickly as she had looked very professional when winning on debut three weeks earlier. And then there is Kickupastorm, who has finished fourth in both the Royal Colours Classic and Ibis Stakes and would finally get the extra 400 metres that she has been crying out for. But it is going to be very tough to dislodge Grand Riviere, who won the St Ann's Stakes in December and already taken the "Royal Colours" and "Ibis" this season. Also battling for the \$90,000 first prize is Royal Baby, but the Nursery Stakes winner has not been the same since taking the first two juvenile races of last season and is also not expected to appreciate the step up in distance. And Bob's Fortune is a mystery here as she impressively won her only start on April 5, but that was over a distance of 1,100 metres on the turf.

Just before the "Gleneagle" several of the classic contenders of the last few years will line up over 1,350 metres in a Restricted Handicap. The field of 11 includes 2008 Carib Brewery Guineas winner and Royal Oak Derby runner-up Donut Prince, Mission King and Marathon Man, the runner-up and fourth-placed finisher, respectively, in last year's Republic Bank Derby, as well as Hurricane Watch and Regal Honour, the winner and runner-up, respectively, in last year's Santa Rosa Classic. The high-quality field for the 4.15 p.m. contest also contains Eto, Fresh Prospect and Savvy. On the subject of classic contenders, three from this year's crop will come up against of the leading West Indian-bred horses of 2008 in the Conditional Handicap B.

Silent Reproach, who finished third in both the Guineas and Midsummer Classic, returns from a lengthy absence to face six challengers over 1,750 metres in the day's second event. The field includes three-year-olds Another Challenge, who finished third in the Flamingo Stakes on April 5, St James Stakes runner-up Gold Bead and Zen Master, a winner over course and distance two weeks ago. But the horse to beat at 12.52 p.m. should be American-bred four-year-old Regent Street, who has been the runner-up in three of his last four starts. There will be three HI-5 betting races, beginning with the fifth event, a \$15,000 Optional Claimer which has attracted 12 horses to compete over 1,600 metres on the turf at 2.50 p.m.

The Restricted Handicap will be the next HI-5 event two races later and the final one will be the curtain event. It is an 1,100-metre turf contested which has attracted 17 Trinidad and Tobago-bred three-year-old maidens, including debutants -Added Time, Explorer, Golden Millennium Honey B and Eye See Dee. Honorable Mention, Visible Wind and Tempofuhso are the other newcomers declared for the 5.40 p.m. affair, but they are reserves. The Pick 6 puzzle has not been solved for the last two weeks and as a result there is a carry over of more than \$3,000 this week. The wager begins at 2.08 p.m. in the fourth event, a 1,600-metre turf contest three-year-old and over maidens.

Saturday is one of the most important days on the international calendar with the 2,000 Guineas from Newmarket, England, in the morning and the Kentucky Derby at about 6 p.m. And fans at Santa Rosa Park will be able to view and wager on the opening leg of the American Triple Crown along with the rest of the Churchill Downs card from Louisville, Kentucky. Post time for the 16th round of the Arima Race Club's 2010 Season is 12.15 p.m.