

ARIMA RACE CLUB
RACE DAY PREVIEW
DAY 44 SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2010

American-bred youngsters battle for \$150,000

ONE week after the West Indian-bred juveniles took centre stage at Santa Rosa Park, Arima, it will be the turn of their imported contemporaries on Saturday. The youngsters will be in action as early as the fifth of the eight-race of the 44th round of the Arima Race Club's 2010 Season. Thirteen American-bred two-year-olds have been declared for the Junior Sammy Group of Companies Trophy Juvenile Sprint at 3 p.m. The field is spearheaded by the three youngsters who were victorious the only time they faced the starter and also includes a "big noise" seeking redemption and three unraced horses. The probable favourite in the \$150,000 affair is Readbetweendlines, who scored by a widening nine lengths over 1,200 metres on October 23. This performance was so impressive that the son of Consolidator's snappy time of 1:11.49 seconds was faster than the time produced later in the day by champion creole Mister Kingston in winning the Caribbean Sprint Championship.

Saturday's trip will be the same as six weeks ago and although he has gone up three kilos at the weights for his victory, Readbetweendlines will be very tough to stop. The Glenn Mendez-trained chestnut is coincidentally owned by the sponsor of the race – Junior Sammy The contractor will be looking to get back on track as he has not led in the winner in four years since Twice Infallible and Getdjobdone won the first two editions in 2003 and '04, respectively. Only two of the horses which faced Readbetweendlines last time will be in action in this race and both First To Fly and King Whistler are expected to be very far behind again. Unlike Readbetweendlines, who was an odds-on favourite on debut, Sacred Trust scored at odds of over 10/1 when she came out two weeks later. But the daughter of Petionville was almost as impressive as she cruised home by five lengths in the 1,100-metre contest and stopped the clock in a really good time of 1:05.57 seconds.

Sacred Trust also came up against and beat First To Fly and King Whistler out of sight on November 6. The only other member of that field who will be involved this time is Smart American, who finished one from last and will be competing for the first time since his debut. But while the Jose William-Samaroo-trained Sacred Trust and Readbetweendlines will be going up 4.5 kilos and 5.5 kilos, respectively, from their one and only outing, the other winner in the field will be taking 8.5 kilos more. Signal Alert also looked really good when he scored by over three lengths over 1,100 metres in a few hundredths of a second faster than the time produced by Sacred Trust. However he may find himself behind both Readbetweendlines and Sacred Trust in the betting as the Errol Stables-owned son of Omega Code appeared way back on Republic Day (September 24) and he carried the penny-stamp of 46.5 kilos. None of the horses Signal Alert faced on Derby Day will be coming back for revenge.

Although he flopped badly in his only start, the biggest danger to the three winners could be Rock Movistar. This roan son of Rockport Harbor could only finish seventh as the odds-on favourite three weeks ago, but he has more than been holding his own against 2008 Horse of the Year Storm Street at gallops and it will not be a surprise if he bounces back quickly. First To Fly and debutant Strikes And Spares, who finished second and third, respectively, and ahead of Rock Movistar over 1,300 metres on November 20, will be involved, along with the ninth-placed Undulation and Schylers Gold, who trailed the field of 12. Saturday's field will also include debutants Big Silver, Hold That Silver and Lang Amour, the half-brother of 2008 winner Cactus Amour who is now the second highest rated horse in the country.

The Juvenile Sprint will be the middle of three HI-5 events on the programme. The first will be two races earlier and 13 West Indian-bred three-year-old maidens, including the Maniram Maharaj-owned and trained newcomers Loving Natalie and Ricky's Baby, have been declared for the 1,600-metre turf contest at 1.37 p.m. There will also be HI-5 betting in the curtain event, the \$20,000 Optional Claimer at 5 p.m. Fourteen horses have been declared to do battle over 1,200 metres, including Indian King, the fifth-placed finisher in the Republic Bank Trinidad Derby, Eto, Damage Control, The Bangor Baron, Gardenangel and CooLo Breezo. The Pick 6 wager begins at 12.52 p.m. in the day's second race, the Penguin Ice Company Limited Trophy Allowance. The field of seven for the 1,100-metre turf contest is headed by Filcher, the third-placed finisher in the Stewards Cup three weeks ago, and also includes '08 Stewards Cup runner-up Divine Bull, Trinity Fire, who has not raced since he won over this trip in June, and D'Iceman Cometh who also scored last time out but that was three weeks ago.

Action will get going at 12.15 p.m. with a 1,350-metre Conditional Handicap A, which includes Santa Rosa Classic winner Dionysus, Oaks Stakes runner-up I'm Coming Baby and five American-bred horses.