

**ARIMA RACE CLUB
RACE DAY PREVIEW
DAY 20 SATURDAY 5TH JUNE 2010**

Several classic stars on show

SEVERAL past classic contenders will be involved in the final two events when horse racing continues with an eight-race card at Santa Rosa Park, Arima, on Saturday. Silent Reproach and Dance Machine are the biggest names in the penultimate event of the 20th round of the Arima Race Club's 2010 Season. Ten have been declared for the \$25,000 Optional Claimer at 4.44 p.m. over 1,750 metres, but the Jamaicans and American-bred Regent Street are in a different class to the others. Both Silent Reproach and Dance Machine have recently returned from lengthy absences. The former, who finished third in the first two legs (Carib Brewery Guineas and Midsummer Classic) of the 2008 triple crown, came back from a seven-month layoff on May 1 and finished fourth behind one of this year's classic aspirants Another Challenge.

Silent Reproach was beaten exactly ten lengths in the Conditional Handicap B, but should have improved significantly from that effort over Saturday's course and distance. The big question is has Anthony Wight's five-year-old progressed enough in the last month to turn the tables on Regent Street, who finished 7 ½ lengths ahead of him on his return. That was the third time in succession that Regent Street had occupied the runner-up position and Andrew Fredericks' four-year-old came back on the Indian Arrival Day holiday card a few days ago and only finished fourth when he was handicapped to win the Conditional Handicap A with just 46 kilos. It was the seventh time in succession that Regent Street has finished "on the tins" without scoring and fans may be wondering if will ever be able to get the job done. That is certainly not a problem for Dance Machine, who made his first appearance three weeks ago since finishing fifth in the Republic Bank Derby on September 24.

But despite being off the track for eight months, Jonathan Hazell's chestnut showed no rust as he made virtually all the running in a 1,750-metre Conditional Handicap C. Dance Machine, who had also finished fifth in the Midsummer Classic, possesses tremendous ability, but has been plagued by injury throughout his career. The Glenn Mendez-trained four-year-old will be difficult to beat if he is close to 100 per cent. Also in this event is Super Grey, the grand old man of local racing at age ten. But the Jamaican-bred grey, who was a classic contender way back in 2003, has recently found a new lease of life by winning his last three starts and he should not be overlooked here with just 50.5 kilos. Hesuntouchabull has the ability to win this race, but he finished last in his first race on the dirt since his return from a nine-month absence a few days ago and may be more effective on the turf at this stage of his career.

It Have A Chance definitely wants the grass, while Achilles Of Troy is outclassed and Jamaican-bred three-year-olds Engine Rhythm and I'm Coming Baby may not be ready for this level of competition as yet. The feature event, involving three more classic contenders, will follow and close off the day's activities at 5.30 p.m.

Among the 13 declared for the Restricted Handicap is '06 Trinidad Derby winner Sara's Music, Donut Prince, who won the Guineas and finished second in the Derby two years later, and '08 Santa Rosa Classic winner Hurricane Watch. Sara's Music, now seven years old and out of action for a long time, is a shadow of his former self, while Donut Prince prefers further that the 1,200-metre distance. The trip is right up Hurricane Watch's alley and Merlin Samlalsingh's five-year-old looks like the one to beat. Eto has not recaptured his best since he recently returned from injury, but he is a classy sort and could be dangerous if close to his best. American-bred horses Strategic Silence, Mamaguy, Handsome Warrior and joint 1,000-metre track record holder Rewardsinheaven are the other contenders.

Sabria Light, who has been very consistent on the turf, and American-bred four-year-old newcomer Port Of New York are also in the field for the third HI-5 betting event. HI-5 betting begins in the third event with the first of two divisions of a 1,100-metre turf contest for West Indian-bred three-year-old maidens. Newcomers Charlie's Angel, Taffarel, Minister's Mark and Cover You Donkey are among the 11 declared for the 2.05 p.m. affair and there is a HI-5 single-winner bonus of \$42,472.50 as an added incentive. The second division is right after at 2.43 p.m. and all 11 declared starters have faced the starter before. The following race is the other HI-5 contest at 3.28 p.m. and the field of 16 for the \$20,000 Optional Claimer over 1,200 metres includes, American-bred four-year-old Samaan Field as well as last year's Oak Stakes winner Be Nice and the '08 St Ann's Stakes winner Enchanted Alex.

The Pick 6 serves off in the day's second event, a \$7,500 Optional Claimer for Trinidad and Tobago-bred horses over a distance of 1,100 metres on the turf at 1.23 p.m. Saturday is one of the biggest racing days on the international calendar with the Epsom Derby from England and the Belmont Stakes. The latter, the final leg of the American triple crown, will be available, along with the rest of the card from Belmont Park, New York, via simulcast at Santa Rosa Park.

Post-time for the local card is 12.45 p.m. and the Belmont Stakes will be contested at around 6.30 p.m