

ARIMA RACE CLUB
RACE DAY PREVIEW
DAY 23 SATURDAY 26TH MAY 2010

Another challenge for Jamaican youngster

ANOTHER CHALLENGE will attempt to defeat older horses for a second time when horse racing continues on Saturday with a seven-race card at Santa Rosa Park, Arima. The Jamaican-bred three-year-old made all the running to impressively beat older creoles as well as imported horses by more than two lengths over 1,750 metres in a Conditional Handicap B on May 1. Another Challenge will step up in class to face Restricted Handicap opposition and will have a new partner as Ricky Jadoo will not be riding on the 23rd round of the Arima Race Club's 2010 Season. Charle Oliveros will take over after the two-time defending champion jockey was aboard Junior Sammy's horse in the first four starts of his career.

After Another Challenge defeated favourite Regent Street over Saturday's trip at the beginning of May he was the fourth leading betting choice in the Carib Brewery Guineas at the end, but had a nightmare beginning to the opening leg of triple crown and could only finish eighth. Glenn Mendez's charge will face six opponents at 1.30 p.m. and is expected to be among the leading contenders. DRoyal Prospect and Eto are also in the field, but at the weights Marathon Man must be the one to beat. The Jamaican-bred colt, who finished "on the board" in the second and third legs of last year's triple crown (NLCB Midsummer Classic and Republic Bank Derby), has not been in his best form in his last two starts but could be hard to stop with just 48.5 kilos.

Another Challenge will, in fact, be racing heavier than Marathon Man as although he was allotted 47.5 kilos, Oliveros will take up about three kilos overweight. Eto really is the class of this field, but Rolf Bartolo's six-year-old has not been the same in the three starts since he returned from a four-month absence in April. However the son of Storm Report showed signs that he was coming back to form when he finished well to be sixth over 1,200 metres last time out on June 5 and with further progress will be very dangerous. DRoyal Prospect, stable-companion of Marathon Man from the barn of the in-form John O'Brien, was one of the stars of the first half of last season with three victories and two seconds from six starts.

But Charles James' American-bred chestnut missed most of the second half because of injury and has not been "on the board" in his two starts since a seven-month absence. He has had a two-month break since his last start and connections are hoping that it would have helped in his progress. Another Challenge is not the only three-year-old in the race as American-breds Danzig's Day and Cherokee Wells are also involved. The former has finished down the field in his three starts, while Cherokee Wells' close-up second came on the turf. Music Maestro is the other contestant, but the American-bred six-year-old has never been further than 1,350 metres and is not expected to stay this trip.

Another highlight of the day will also take place early as there will be a HI-5 carry over of \$35,730 and a single-winner bonus of almost \$65,000 in the day's third race at 2.52 p.m. It is an 1,100-metre handicap on the turf for Trinidad and Tobago-bred four-year-old and over maidens with newcomers Explicit Denial, Love In Tokyo and Miss Solo among the 13 declared runners. The second HI-5 race will also be over 1,100 metres on the turf and 11 of the three-year-old maidens, including debutant Dance Girl Dance, are American-breds.

The event is billed for 4.15 p.m. and the programme will conclude at 5.40 p.m. with the third HI-5 betting race. This \$7,500 Optional Claimer will be over 1,200 metres on the main course with 12 horses declared to run. With only seven races there will be no Place 8 betting, but the gates will open on the Pick 6 at in the second race at 2.08 p.m. with 11 horses set to compete over 1,600 metres in a \$35,000 Optional Claimer.

Post time is 1.30 p.m.