

**ARIMA RACE CLUB**  
**RACE DAY PREVIEW**  
**DAY 25 SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010**

**Cactus', 'Blackstone' in mouth-watering Stakes**

CACTUS AMOUR will square off against Blackstone Street when horse racing continues at Santa Rosa Park, Arima, with a nine-race card. The Stakes & Lower Handicap is the feature attraction of the 25th round of the Arima Race Club's 2010 Season, but the \$70,000 contest is by no means a two-horse race. There are five others in the 1,750-metre affair and although Chief Commander is past his best, the 2008 Gold Cup winner has been allotted 46.5 kilos and will be racing lighter than he has in many, many years. The 2008 Gold Cup winner has only raced four times this season and was beaten more than three lengths into second by Windjammer in his only effort on the main course.

Chief Commander was toting 56.5 kilos and giving the defending champion 3.5 kilos over 1,800 metres in the Stud Farm Association National Stakes last time out on June 19. Windjammer is also in Saturday's race, but this time the seven-year-old will have to give the eight-year-old in the region of three kilos. This is in itself an interesting scenario, but not as intriguing as the "Chief" coming up against the two top class horse with just 46.5 kilos. The Poon Tip Stud Farm-bred and owned gelding has not been in winners enclosure since repeating in the Independence Cup on August 31, he may never have a better opportunity to beat the top class horses again. Cactus Amour, who finished over six lengths ahead of Chief Commander at level weights in First Citizens Gold Cup on Boxing Day (December 26), will carry ten kilos more this time. The Gold Cup runner-up, who went on to become the only horse to defeat Horse of the Year Bruceontheloose, – in the Arima Race Club Cup on February 27 – will also be giving Blackstone Street weight for the first time.

When they first met at level weights in November, Blackstone Street won the Stewards Cup and finished more than six lengths ahead. They recently clashed in the Eric 'Colt' Durant Memorial a month ago and Cactus Amour finished second to 'Bruce', almost five lengths ahead of the third-placed Blackstone Street. Cactus Amour was getting 5.5 kilos in that contest over course and distance, but he now has to give Blackstone Street three kilos. It is a weight swing of 8.5 kilos and definitely a big advantage for Blackstone Street who has been showing signs of getting back to his best after struggling since the Stewards Cup. Still, Cactus Amour is not easy to beat as the Glenn Mendez-trained American-bred four-year-old has already proven by winning three of his four starts this season and playing second to the fabulous Bruceontheloose in the other. And two of his victories have been carrying 56.5 and 57.5 kilos. The S.I.R. Stables-owned bay colt will be giving weight all around and Perfect Circle will be another grateful beneficiary. This Jamaican-bred five-year-old finished eight lengths behind Cactus Amour when fourth the 'Durant Memorial'. Perfect Circle received one kilo on June 12 but was allotted six less this time.

Champion owner Allan Madoo will also be represented by Proud Kentuckian, who also gets a significant break in the weights. This Mendez-trained American-bred five-year-old competed with 57 kilos in his only two previous starts in Trinidad, (Santa Rosa Dash and "Durant Memorial") but will drop more than five kilos this time. And two-time defending champion jockey Ricky Jadoo, who usually partners Cactus Amour, will be aboard Proud Kentuckian. Rounding out the field for the 4.55 p.m. penultimate event is one of the stars of the first half of last year who just returned to form two weeks ago. Racing for the third time since being out with injury for seven months, DRoyal Prospect scored convincingly over course and distance in Restricted Handicap company on June 26.

Trained by John O'Brien like Chief Commander and Windjammer, the American-bred four-year-old, who won his first three starts last year and finished two close-up seconds to Blackstone Street before his injury, may not be back to his best yet, but he did score with the top weight of 56.5 kilos and will be about seven kilos lighter this time. Two hours earlier Santa Rosa Boy, who flopped as the favourite last Saturday over 1,750 metres in a \$25,000 Optional Claimer, will return over 1,350 metres in a Restricted Handicap. Last year's shock Carib Brewery Guineas winner will be up against six horses in the fourth race, including joint 1,000-metre track record holder Rewardsinheaven, Eto, Music Maestro and 2008 Santa Rosa Classic winner and likely favourite Hurricane Watch. In addition to the feature, seven horses have been declared in each of the first four races on the card. Marathon Man, the fourth-placed finisher in last year's Republic Bank Derby, will line up in the second against unplaced Derby second favourite Sound Of Thunder over 1,750 metres. Also involved in the \$35,000 Optional Claimer at 1.41 p.m. is the very consistent filly Savvy and ten-year-old Super Grey, who has won 18 times in his career.

The Pick 6 starts in the very next race with seven imported three-year-old maidens racing over 1,200 Metres. And for the first time in quite a while, there will only be two HI-5 betting events on the card. The first is at 3.40 p.m. and a full house of 16 locally-bred maidens has been declared to race over 1,350 metres in the fifth event. Silent Reproach, the third-placed finisher of the '08 Guineas and Midsummer Classic, will spearhead a field of 14 horses in the second HI-5 race, which will bring down the curtain on the day's activities at 5.40 p.m. Also among the \$20,000 Optional Claimers in the 1,750-metre contest are '08 St Ann's Stakes heroine Enchanted Alex, Forwardtracking, Macho Uno as well as this year's classic aspirants Chief Crazyhorse, Zen Master, Dionysus, Special Ransom, Back Of Top and last year's St James Stakes runner-up Gold Bead.

Post time is 1.05 p.m.