

ARIMA RACE CLUB
RACE DAY REVIEW
DAY 26 SATURDAY 17TH JULY 2010

'Maestro' starting to make sweet music again

MUSIC MAESTRO is starting to look ominous for the first time in over three years. The Errol Stables-owned American-bred six-year-old came with a sweeping run to comfortable win the feature event of the 26th round of the Arima Race Club's 2010 Season at Santa Rosa Park, Arima. Music Maestro had also scored the week before and this was the first time that he had won two straight since he made a tremendous splash by scoring runaway victories in the first two starts of his career the first two starts of his career. The Glenn Mendez-trained dark bay colt did not shoot to the top as expected because of injury. He did manage three wins, four seconds and three thirds from his next 29 starts, though, but has hinted that he could be getting back to the good ole days with impressive wins in the last two weeks. Music Maestro had gone eight months and nine starts without a victory before the drought ended in grand style when he triumphed by over eight lengths over 1,350 metres in Restricted Handicap company on July 10.

He stepped up and beat a Starter Allowance bunch by more than two lengths this time and although he carried the penny-stamp of 47 kilos, he gave the impression that more was to come. The recent transformation in Music Maestro could be attributed to the fact that he has been ridden from off the pace in his last two starts, as opposed to battling for the lead from the start in most of his other races. Brian Boodramsingh was aboard this time and the youngster graduated to the status of a one-kilo claimer as Music Maestro became the 40th winner in his short but very promising career. Music Maestro zoomed by Mission King turning for home, but last year's Republic Bank Derby runner-up ran on again in the closing stages to hold off Divine Bull and Luca's Gold for the runner-up spot in the 1,200-metre contest. Mission King has been in grand form as the Jamaican-bred four-year-old had won four of his previous five completed races. Honest Hero was sent off as the favourite, but the fourth-placed finisher in the \$150,000 Santa Rosa Dash two months earlier, never fired and ended up trailing the six-horse field.

It was still a grand day for his owner Allan Madoo, who celebrated twice on the seven-race card. The champion owner of the last two years had a perfect start when Sound Of Thunder outclassed just three rivals in a Restricted Handicap to win the day's opener by eight lengths. Like his stable companion Music Maestro, the unplaced second favourite in last year's Derby was scoring in back-to-back weeks after a lean period. Sound Of Thunder had not found winners' enclosure in five starts since New Year's Day and has now prevailed in two straight 1,750-metre events. And on the subject of drought, Sing Adesh Sing, also owned by Madoo, ended a 19-race dry spell two races later when he beat a bunch of \$15,000 Optional Claimers by almost three lengths over a distance of 1,100 metres. It was the first triumph by the Jamaican-bred four-year-old since he won on debut in 2008.

Macho Uno, previously owned by Madoo, was the favourite in the next event, but Dave Chadee's five-year-old finished a tame fourth as Majestic Gold got up on the line to deny Gold Majesty in the 1,350-metre Conditional Handicap C. Majestic Gold is owned by Juan Navarro, trained by Derick Mosca and was ridden by Richard Perez and this combination struck again right after when The General won the 1,300-metre contest for West Indian-bred three-year-old maidens by 2 ½ lengths. They attempted a hat-trick, but Majestic Gold's half-brother Luca's Gold could only finish fourth in the feature. Will Power, who had finished fifth in the Carib Brewery Guineas on May 31, prevailed for the first time in the six starts since his impressive seven-length debut score on March 20 when he won the 1,200-metre curtain event – a \$20,000 Optional Claimer – by just over a length from Coolo Breezo.

The day began with a runaway success by an overwhelming 2/5 favourite (Sound Of Thunder), but Gregory Hannays Jamaican gelding was the only other leading fancy to score. Still, punters were only really caught out in the second race when Explicit Denial won the 1,200-metre Handicap for locally-bred maidens in his second career start at odds of 18/1. Kavita Persad's four-year-old was Dave Gaff's first winner in the saddle this season and only the 16th of his career. The Venezuelan Perez was the day's leading rider, booting home two winners (Majestic Gold, The General) for his gov'nor Mosca, who shared honours with training Mendez. The defending champ had saddled three winners the previous week when Sound Of Thunder and Music Maestro had also scored.

Racing continues at Santa Rosa Park on Saturday.