PRESS RELEASE

December 22nd 2024

AMÉRIQUE RACES Q#3 ET Q#4:

KEEP GOING AND JUST LOVE YOU EARN THEIR TICKETS TO THE FINAL



Two intense qualifying races for the **Prix d'Amérique Legend Race** took place on Sunday 22nd December at Paris-Vincennes. The top 4-year-olds competed in the **Critérium Continental - Amérique Races Q#3**, followed by the **Prix Ténor de Baune - Amérique Races Q#4** which saw the 5-year olds take to the track. Only the winners of these two Group I races could secure their participation in the next **Prix d'Amérique Legend Race. Keep Going** and **Just Love You** emerged victorious in their respective qualifiers.

Critérium Continental - Amérique Races Q#3

Amongst the 18 4-year-olds behind the autostart, it was *Kilmister* who took an early lead. However, *Keep Going*, under the guidance of his trainer Mathieu Mottier, seized his opportunity to take the lead on the homestretch and never looked back. He was at full throttle at the start of the straight and only *East Asia* managed to challenge him. This son of *Follow You* therefore qualifies for the *Prix d'Amérique Legend Race*. To cap off this remarkable performance, he also set the record for this *Critérium Continental* with a kilometre reduction of 1'09"7.

Having past the post, driver-trainer Mathieu Mottier was ecstatic: "We took a risk by pushing for the lead, and it could have easily backfired. I didn't feel like we were going that fast, but she's a truly exceptional horse. We embraced the challenge and it paid off handsomely. He arrived in the yard a year ago and he's been an absolute joy to work with, a wonderful horse to train. I believe he has the potential to be a true champion. This winter meeting has been incredible, and I hope it continues as I'm living a dream.







Prix Ténor de Baune - Amérique Races Q#4: Just Love You in control

A dozen five-year-old trotters lined up for the 2700-meter main track. The race was not dissimilar to the **Critérium Continental**, with *Just Love You* and Alexandre Abrivard taking the lead early on in front of the grandstand, managing to maintain control throughout. They effectively prevented *Justin Bold's* attempts to overtake and confidently withstood *Working Class Hero's* challenge in the homestretch, all while maintaining a respectable pace (1'12"1). Having already secured fourth place in Q#1, the Abrivard family's top mare has now earned her second ticket to the **Prix d'Amérique**.

Overcome with emotion in his interview with Equidia, Alexandre Abrivard commented, 'This is the victory of a lifetime, something I never thought possible. Qualifying in the **Prix de Bretagne** allowed us to tailor her preparation perfectly for this race. I haven't slept well all week because today felt like her **Prix d'Amérique**. Last year, she was sidelined, but today was her day to shine. It's been a challenging year, but it's ending on a high note. The strategy was to take the lead without using up too much energy and then allow her to dictate the race. I had previously won this race twice for the team, but those were Group II victories."







Father Christmas takes the reins for a festive Sunday at the races



Father Christmas took the reins for a festive Dimanche Plaisirs at the racecourse Christmas of course served as the theme for Dimanche Plaisirs. With just a few days to go, fairy-tale parades roamed the racecourse and Father Christmas arrived in a Sulky to the delight of the children. A wide range of culinary delights, free entertainment, games, guided tours of the stables and a bus to follow the peloton attracted over 5,000 fans of warm, festive outings in the heart of winter.

*Crédit photos : APRH, ScoopDyga

