December 26th, 2024

# PRIX DE BOURGOGNE – AMÉRIQUE RACES Q#5 : THE FINAL STRETCH BEFORE THE BIG DAY



There'll be no respite over the festive period for the **Amérique Races**. Following the thrilling performances of younger talents such as **Keep Going** and **Just Love You** in the **Critérium Continental - Amérique Races Q#3** and the **Prix Ténor de Baune - Amérique Races Q#4**, the spotlight now shifts back to seasoned trotters this Sunday 29 December in the **Prix de Bourgogne - Amérique Races Q#5**, where **Go On Boy** is set to make his much anticipated debut at the Vincennes winter meeting.

Of the four qualifying races reserved for older horses, this **Prix de Bourgogne - Amérique Races Q#5** is the only one to be run behind an autostart requiring competitors to complete a 2,100-meter course where four new tickets for the big race will be up for grabs.

## Go On Boy: Reflecting on a Stellar Performance

On October 11, in the final of the U.E.T. Elite Circuit (Gr. I), Romain Derieux's star trotter, *Go On Boy*, delivered an impressive performance. Breaking away from the pack in the last kilometre, he showcased his incredible power and speed, securing third place. His astonishing time of 1'09"2 was just a fraction behind **Face Time Bourbon**'s track record, highlighting his potential to challenge the best.

#### Setback for Idao de Tillard

Having come fourth in the said Group I UET elite circuit, *Idao de Tillard* entered the **Prix du Bourbonnais - Amérique Races Q#2** as favourite. But the son of *Severino* was only placed eighth. According to his trainer Thierry Duvaldestin, this disappointing result was due to an illness: leptospirosis. The green emoji was given by his trainer in preparation for Sunday's race, so we can assume that everything is back to normal for the winner of the **Prix d'Amérique** *Legend Race* **2024**.

#### Gu d'Héripré, a key player in the Prix du Bourbonnais - Amérique Races Q#2

Thierry Duvaldestin's talented trotter, *Gu d'Héripré*, demonstrated resilience and skill in the **Prix du Bourbonnais** despite facing challenges. Positioned unfavourably on the final bend, he battled

through to finish sixth, narrowly missing a spot in the top four but still remaining in contention for qualification. As the reigning titleholder, *Gu d'Héripré* is a competitor to watch closely in the upcoming rounds.

### Josh Power - no pressure

A strong favourite in the **Prix de Bretagne** - **Amérique Races Q#1**, **Josh Power** faced difficulties in showcasing his exceptional speed in the closing stages. However, he made a remarkable comeback two weeks later, claiming victory in the **Prix du Bourbonnais** - **Amérique Races Q#2** and securing his ticket to the **Prix d'Amérique Legend Race**. With qualification in hand, Sébastien Ernault's champion will now focus on refining his condition for the ultimate challenge.

Similarly, other qualified trotters like *Hussard du Landret, Emeraude de Bais*, and *Hokkaïdo Jiel* will also seize this opportunity to fine-tune their preparation. While each of these competitors has the potential to shine on race day, the stakes remain high, and nothing is guaranteed. As for the other French trotters, *Justin Bold* returns a week after his third place in the **Prix Ténor de Baune - Amérique Races Q#4.** *Inmarosa* and *Idéal Ligneries* will be outsiders, but they could spring a surprise.

#### **Italian and Swedish Contenders Ready for Action**

**Banderas Bi**, the first of the Italian trainer's three contenders, narrowly missed qualification by finishing fifth in the **Prix de Bretagne - Amérique Races Q#1**. This time, he will lead a strong contingent alongside **Always Ek**, who impressed over the 2,100m race in February by winning the **Group III Prix de Munich**. Completing the trio is **Bengurion Jet**, a promising addition to the line-up.

Another formidable Italian contender is *Dimitri Ferm*, who showcased his talent with a runner-up finish in the prestigious **Prix Marcel Laurent (Gr. II)** earlier in November. While he was unable to replicate that form in the **Prix du Bourbonnais - Amérique Races Q#2**, he has the ability to bounce back and assert himself as a key player.

On the Swedish front, trainer Daniel Réden brings two strong representatives. *Don Fanucci Zet*, who finished fifth in the **Prix du Bourbonnais - Amérique Races Q#2**, is in good form and ready to contend. Joining him is *Mister Hercules*, a 7-year-old making his highly anticipated debut at Paris-Vincennes. Adding further intrigue is **Oracle Tile**, well-regarded on home soil and capable of making an impact in this highly competitive field.



# The runners



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