

December 9th, 2024

## PRIX DU BOURBONNAIS – AMÉRIQUE RACES Q#2: JOSH POWER DOMINATES AND SECURES HIS QUALIFICATION



Eighteen trotters, aged between 5 and 10, competed in the **Prix du Bourbonnais - Amérique Races Q#2**, the longest qualifying race over a demanding 2850-metre course. After an unlucky performance in the **Prix de Bretagne - Amérique Races Q#1**, **Josh Power** made no mistakes this time, delivering a stellar performance. Alongside him, **Emeraude de Bais**, **Hokkaido Jiel**, and the surprising **Fakir de Mahey** also secured their places for the prestigious **Prix d'Amérique Legend Race**. The **Prix de France Speed Race** on February 9th and the **Prix de Paris Marathon Race** on February 23rd could also feature prominently in their upcoming schedules.

The race began with **Don Fanucci Zet** taking an impressive early lead before being overtaken on the descent by **Fakir de Mahey**. **Josh Power**, positioned strategically in third, advanced to challenge the leaders. As the climb began, **Emeraude de Bais**, driven by Pierre-Yves Verva, closely shadowed **Josh Power**.

Entering the final bend, **Fakir de Mahey** clung tenaciously to his lead, refusing to give in. However, just before the start of the final straight, **Josh Power** broke free from **Emeraude de Bais**, launching a decisive attack on the leading pair. With approximately 50 metres to the finish line, Eric Raffin guided **Josh Power** to victory, pulling ahead by a clear length with an impressive rate at 1'11"5/km.

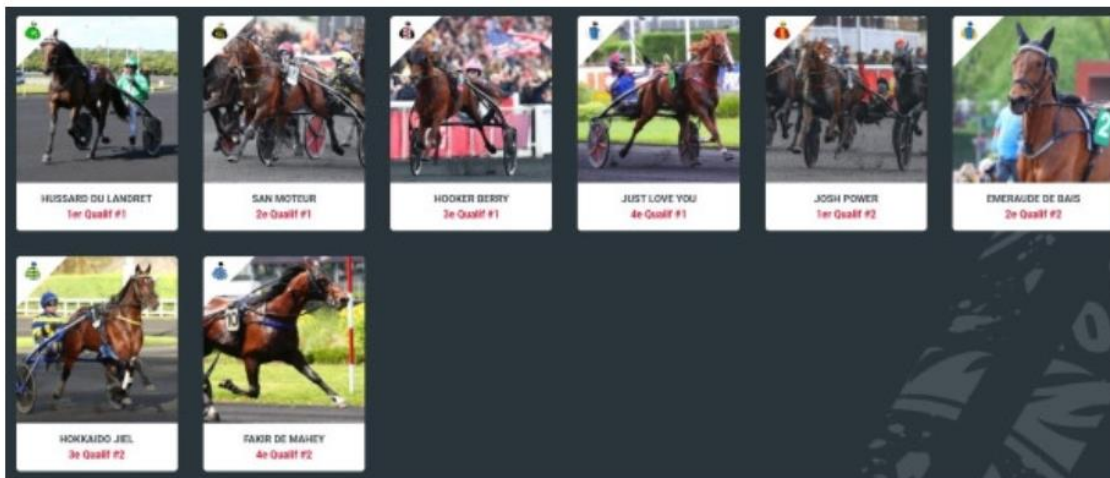
**Hokkaido Jiel**, accelerating powerfully on the outside, stormed into second place, while **Fakir de Mahey**, displaying admirable determination, held on for fourth. This result was enough to secure his qualification for the **Prix d'Amérique Legend Race**, marking a well-deserved achievement.



## Post-Race Reactions

Eric Raffin, visibly relieved, shared his thoughts with Equidia: *"It's never easy stepping in for Sébastien Ernault. Last time, I didn't drive well, so qualifying the horse today was very important for me. The pressure was immense. When I saw Hohneck close on us in the last turn, I didn't hesitate to push him with blinkers, and he responded perfectly. Full credit to Sébastien's wife, who has brought him to the top, and a big thank you to his entire team."*

Sébastien Ernault, the emotional coach, also commented on the team effort behind the victory: *"As I'm off work at the moment, my wife and the team have been working tirelessly. Today, they were rewarded for all their hard work. I was a little anxious about the race, but everything unfolded in his favour. Josh Power has an exceptional mentality and never holds a grudge. We're still unsure if he'll race in the Ténor de Baune, but we'll see."*



The **Amérique Races** will be back on the Vincennes track on Sunday 22nd December with not one but two races. The **Critérium Continental - Amérique Races Q#3** reserved for the best 4-year-old trotters. The **Prix Ténor de Baune - Amérique Races Q#4** will see top 5-year-old horses compete. Only the winners of these two Group I events will be entitled to take part in the **Prix d'Amérique Légend Race**.



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Partenaires | Organisateur de l'évènement

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**CONTACTS MÉDIAS**

<b>Penny JOHNSTON</b> penny.johnston@letrot.com 01 49 77 14 53	<b>Christel MATCZAK</b> christel.matczak@letrot.com 01 49 77 14 77
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