

## **PRIX D'AMÉRIQUE LEGEND RACE: THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FULL OF SUSPENSE**



It's the moment the whole trotting world has been waiting for. The **Prix d'Amérique Legend Race**, the first of the **Amérique Races PMU** finals, will launch its 18 champions into the arena. Never has the battle for Sulky's world title been so exciting and intense. The verdict will be out on Sunday 28th January at around 4.25pm.

This is a very special race. A victory in the **Prix d'Amérique Legend Race** is equivalent to a gold medal at the Olympic Games or a world championship title. Every trainer, driver, owner and breeder dreams of winning this monumental Group I race. It will be all eyes on Paris-Vincennes for the world's trotting community on Sunday 28th January. 18 of the world's leading contenders will take part in an extraordinary battle of tactics, twists and turns as well as sporting performance. At the end of the 2,700-metre course, the 2024 world harness racing champion will be crowned.

This year, the experts are placing their trust in **Idao de Tillard**, who should be favoured by the odds, but not by a great margin given the uncertainties of this open race. Thierry Duvaldestin's protégé has won five times in a row and has a superb record despite his young age. Having qualified for the Finals of the **Amérique Races PMU** thanks to his success in the **Prix Ténor de Baune -Amérique Races PMU Qualif #4**, he has clearly improved since his unfortunate disqualification last year. Given his enormous potential, this gifted youngster has what it takes to win.

What if 2024 offered a repeat performance of 2023? The previous edition of the **Prix d'Amérique Legend Race** saw Hooker Berry triumph ahead of **Ampia Mede SM**. These two champions will be in top physical condition for the race. The Italian-born mare had continued her prestigious successes in the other two Finales **Amérique Races PMU**, the **Prix de France Speed Race** and the **Prix de Paris Marathon Race**. All her entourage and supporters are even hoping for an inversion of the rankings at the finish.

In addition to the three previously mentioned competitors, the qualifying process has also confirmed **Hussard du Landret**, **Hokkaido Jiel**, **Izoard Vedaquais**, **Gu d'Héripéré**, **Emeraude de Bais**, **Inmarosa** and **Go On Boy** among the 18 starters. They are all potential podium contenders, and even moreso for **Hussard du Landret**, **Gu d'Héripéré** and **Izoard Vedaquais** who all won their qualifiers. **Aetos Kronos**, **Hail Mary**, associated with the five-time Sulky d'Or Eric Raffin, Joviality and Vivid Wise As will make up the foreign contingent who will be hoping to steal the victory from the French. All the ingredients are in place for a 103rd Prix d'Amérique Legend Race full of suspense and emotion.



IDAO DE TILLARD



HOOKER BERRY



AMPIA MEDE SM

## THE RUNNERS

<b>DIMANCHE 28 JANVIER 2024</b> HIPPODROME VINCENNES			
ATTELÉ		C7 - 16:20	
VOLTÉ		2 700 m (GP)	
1	INMAROSA	LEO ABRIVARD	
2	HOKKAIDO JIEL	D. THOMAIN	
3	EMERAUDE DE BAIS	J.PH. MONCLIN	
4	HUSSARD DU LANDRET	Y. LEBOURGEOIS	
5	IZOARD VEDAQUAIS	B. ROCHARD	
6	GU D'HERIPRE	F. LAGADEUC	
7	GO ON BOY	R. DERIEUX	
8	ITALIANO VERO	M. MOTTIER	
9	DIABLE DE VAUVERT	B. LE BELLER	
10	AETOS KRONOS	O. KIHLMSTROM	
11	AMPIA MEDE SM	F. NIVARD	
12	IDAO DE TILLARD	CL. DUVALDESTIN	
13	HAIL MARY (SWE)	E. RAFFIN	
14	HOOKER BERRY	N. BAZIRE	
15	DELIA DU POMMEREUX	P.Y. VERVA	
16	HOHNECK	G. GELORMINI	
17	JOVIALITY (SWE)	B. GOOP	
18	VIVID WISE AS	M. ABRIVARD	

## Quotes from the press conference

Clément Duvaldestin, driver of **Idao de Tillard**: "The horse isn't as bad at all given a slight setback. Nevertheless, he's going to defend his chances to the max, especially as he likes to run when he's fresh. He's really improved compared to last year. As far as the race is concerned, **Idao de Tillard** can apply all his tactics but I prefer when he comes from the back of the pack."

Nicolas Bazire, Hooker Berry's driver: "**Hooker Berry's** preparation went without a hitch. We were pleased with his performances in the qualifying races. The ideal race would be to stay close to the front but without trying too hard. I'll be under a bit more pressure because my partner is the title holder.

François Lagadeuc, driver of **Gu d'Héripéré**: "Everything's going well for my partner. He won't mind keeping his shoes on.

Benjamin Rochard, driver of **Izoard Védaquais**: "His main asset will be his endurance, he can keep up the same speed all the way to the finishing post.

Léo Abrivard, driver of **Inmarosa**: "She is very easy to handle and knows how to finish very quickly. Before the race, she was at her best, everything's going well. She'll start as an outsider but if she could finish fourth or fifth, that would be great.

Romain Derieux, trainer-driver of **Go On Boy**: "My horse worked out on Tuesday and Thursday morning and it was perfect. I'm trying something new by driving him barefoot for the first time. You have to take risks in these races.

Benoît Robin, trainer of **Hussard du Landret**: "The horse has been brilliant this winter, he's in great form proven by excellent results in the qualifiers. He's better than in previous years and has gained in strength and speed.

**A press conference will be held on Sunday 28th January at 6.30pm in presence of the top 3 drivers. To join the conference by Zoom, click on the [LINK](#).**

