

# HISTORY

## 1870

Amid hullabaloo and national fanfare, Monmouth Park opened on July 30, 1870, just three miles from Long Branch, sprung from ideas formed by John Chamberlain and John Hoey in an effort to generate increased summer trade for the once bustling shore area. Businessmen and hotel owners fully supported the new industry in their resort town. The inaugural meet was just five days long, with opening day carding a hurdle race and two flat races. The Continental Stakes was run in mile heats with a purse of \$800, while the feature was the \$1,000 Monmouth Stakes.

## 1872

Twenty-five thousand fans jammed Monmouth Park for a match race between Longfellow and Henry Basset, representing the North and South, respectively. Longfellow won.

## 1873

Difficult financial times forced the sale of the track, which did not open again until nine years later.

## 1878

A syndicate made up of George L. Lorillard, D. D. Withers, G. P. Wetmore and James Gordon Bennett purchased the facility and spent four years restoring the grounds and rebuilding the grandstand. Even by today's standards, the 1,100 foot racetrack, built completely of iron, was monumental in size. As large as it was, Monmouth Park was so popular that it soon outgrew its boundaries, and 160 additional acres were purchased for a new track.

## 1883

Miss Woodford won the Monmouth Oaks on her way to becoming the first racehorse to earn \$100,000.

## 1890

The Monmouth Park Association set a national mark in added monies when its 26-day meet averaged \$9,480 a day with a total of \$246,500. Noted visitors included Lillian Russell, Diamond Jim Brady and Lilly Langtry. Forty thousand fans were on hand to see Salvo run a mile in 1:35<sup>1/2</sup>, a mark that stood for over two decades.

## 1891

The Monmouth Park meet was moved to Jerome Park and Morris Park while legislation tried to suppress parimutuel wagering.

## 1893

The state forced the sport of racing out, banning wagering on horses. The track was closed and the land sold. Racing laid dormant for more than 50 years.

## 1894

Gambling was prohibited in New Jersey by legislation enacted on March 21.

## 1946

During the 1940s, Amory L. Haskell played a major part in lobbying to legalize parimutuel wagering for both the standardbred and Thoroughbred industries. On June 19, 1946, for the third time and after a 53 year hiatus, Monmouth Park reopened its doors under the new leadership of Haskell, Philip H. Iselin, Reeve Schley, Joseph M. Roebeling, Townsend B. Martin, John MacDonald and James Cox Brady. Iselin, whose home in Oceanport was next door to the track, became chairman of the construction committee, and was named treasurer of the Monmouth Park Jockey Club. In later years, he would take over as president after the death of Haskell, and become responsible for the many innovative additions to the track, including an Olympic size pool for the jockeys, a recreation hall for the horsemen, an air-conditioned press box and a chute for the turf course. Opening day showed 18,724 in attendance. The first horse on the grounds was Ship Ahoy, who arrived from Mexico for owner Mrs. L. V. Bellew of Chicago. Jockey Nick Jemas won two that day including the first race back with Blind Path. Modern day stakes races, including the Molly Pitcher Handicap and the Lamplighter, held their inaugural running in 1946, with the Oaks and Colleen Stakes continuing their popularity from the 1800s.

## 1947

First Flight, the previous season's top 2-year-old filly, won the Monmouth Oaks. The new clubhouse, including the unique parterre box section, was completed. The Monmouth Park Charity Fund was established by Philip Iselin and his wife, the former Betty Bing.

## 1948

Blue Peter, Champion 2-Year-Old, won the Sapling. Dormitories for horsemen were built in the stable area along with five new barns, increasing the backstretch capacity from 828 horses to 1,030. Boat transportation to Monmouth was renewed.

## 1949

Payoffs were expedited when the messenger system was eliminated. With the installation of Tel-Autograph System, the cashiers were notified immediately when the race was declared official.

## 1950

Battlefield, Champion 2-Year-Old, won the Sapling. Jimmy Stout took his second riding title and then won top honors for the next two seasons. Three additional barns increased the stall numbers to 1,200. Turf racing began for the first time at Monmouth.

## 1951

The dirt track was resurfaced. Use of a film patrol was adopted. The Molly Pitcher Handicap was the first race ever to be televised in color. New dining rooms and additional clubhouse seating were added, as was a third tier to the popular parterre boxes.

## 1952

The teletimer service was introduced. Escalators were installed in the clubhouse and grandstand, and additional acreage was purchased to increase the clubhouse parking area. The inaugural running of the Tyro and the Miss Woodford were added to the stakes schedule.

**1953**  
Grecian Queen, Champion 3-Year-Old Filly, won the Monmouth Oaks. My Celeste captured a pair of stakes at the meeting, the Molly Pitcher and Monmouth Handicap.

**1954**  
Additional parterre boxes were built and high speed elevators installed in the clubhouse.

**1955**  
Dave Emery won the third of his fourth training titles. Sam Boulmetis won the third of his fourth riding titles. Champion Needles made his career debut. The grounds were expanded to include a training track and stabling annex. Champion 2-Year-Old Filly Doubledogdare won the Colleen Stakes.

**1956**  
Nashua won the Monmouth Handicap on a nationally televised race before 38,983 fans on track. Decathlon, national sprint champion, won two at the meet and Blue Sparkler, the nation's best handicap filly or mare, also won two, including the Molly Pitcher.

**1957**  
Tram shuttle service was introduced to transport patrons from distant parking areas. Champion Dedicate won the \$100,000 Monmouth Handicap. Daverne "Dave" Emery won his fourth training title despite dying of a heart attack on August 6.

**1958**  
Bold Ruler, sprint champion of 1958 and Horse of the Year in 1957, stretched his speed to win the 1/4 mile Monmouth Handicap. Brilliant 2-year-old and future top stallion, intentionally, won the Tyro.

**1959**  
Horse of the Year Sword Dancer captured the \$100,000 Monmouth Handicap as trainer Bernie Dowd won his second training title. Royal Native won the Monmouth Oaks en route to filly of the year honors. The running of the Sapling grossed \$139,670 making it the richest race in Monmouth history up to that time. For the first time, tote machines took "advanced wagers" on later races. Air conditioning was installed in the main clubhouse dining room and lounges.

**1960**  
Kelso, in his 3-year-old season, won the Choice Handicap in his first of six straight wins this year on his way to the first of his five Horse of the Year seasons. Bill Hartack rode champion Royal Native to victory in the Molly Pitcher.

**1961**  
Jockey Walter Blum won with six of eight mounts on June 19. Major renovations to Monmouth included the addition of a 400-seat cafeteria in the grandstand, a new wagering pavilion adjacent to the railroad entrance, additional escalators and two new fireproof receiving barns.

**1962**  
Apprentice Howard Grant won a then record 62 races, breaking marks previously established by Sam Boulmetis and Jimmy Stout. Grant's wins included four in a single afternoon on June 26. Monmouth Park celebrated Sunny Jim Fitzsimmon's 83rd birthday with a luncheon in his honor on July 23. Primonetta, champion handicap mare, won the Molly Pitcher and the single day attendance record of 43,591 was set on August 4.

**1963**  
For the eighth time in nine years, season attendance topped one million as Howard Grant took his second straight riding title and Budd Lepman won the training title. The clubhouse patio area was enlarged to include the Terrace Club Patio and bank-type mutuel windows were installed on the first floor of the clubhouse. Champion 3-Year-Old Filly Lamb Chop won the Monmouth Oaks.

**1964**  
Bold Lad, 2-year-old champion, won the Sapling and future grass champion Parka won his second straight Lamplighter Handicap for trainer W.A. "Jimmy" Croll. Sleeping quarters and complete shower and toilet facilities for stablehands were part of six fireproof stables constructed. Mongo defeated Kelso in the \$100,000 Monmouth Handicap. Mrs. Henry Carnegie Phipps's Champion 2-Year-Old Filly Queen Empress won the Colleen Stakes.

**1965**  
On the front side, closed circuit televisions were installed along with a new clubhouse addition with 800 more seats, television lounges, additional mutuel areas and an outdoor dining terrace. Buckpasser, 2-year-old champion, won the Sapling. Howard Grant won his fifth straight stakes with Miss Cavandish when she took the \$25,000 Molly Pitcher.

**1966**  
A new paddock roof overlooking the walking ring was added for grandstand patrons. Turf champion Assagai won the Long Branch Stakes.

**1967**  
A one-eighth mile turf chute diagonally across the infield was installed allowing patrons a head on view of horses approaching the stands. The Turf Club, an expansive room located above the tunnel from the paddock to the track, was added for grandstand patrons. Track drainage was redone, and the infield lake was landscaped and the area beautified.

**1968**  
The popular Sapling Room in the clubhouse was enlarged and the Turf Club lounge in the grandstand was air-conditioned. The grandstand picnic area got rest rooms and a new enlarged refreshment stand.

**1969**  
Tuesdee Testa became the first woman to ride at Monmouth Park, finishing second with Verbosity on June 9.

**1970**  
Office Queen, Champion 2-Year-Old Filly, won the second division of the Post-Deb Stakes.

**1971**  
A new 104,000 square foot aluminum roof, the largest of its kind undertaken to date, covered the entire grandstand and clubhouse.

**1972**  
Three hundred and ten plate glass doors with bronze metal frames were installed.

**1973**  
Partial winterization, including heating and new electrical equipment, was added to the facility to prepare for an inaugural fall meet in 1974.

**1974** Foolish Pleasure, the top 2-year-old colt, won the Sapling and Ruffian, the Champion 2-Year-Old Filly, won the Sorority. The Clubhouse Dining Terrace was glass-enclosed, heated and air conditioned.

**1975** Dearly Precious, Champion 2-Year-Old Filly, won the Sorority and Wajima, Champion 3-Year-Old Colt, won the Monmouth Invitational. Gallant Bob, Champion Sprinter, won the Select Stakes.

**1976** Revidere won the Monmouth Oaks en route to an Eclipse Award as the nation's top 3-year-old filly.

**1977** Alydar, who would finish second to Affirmed in all three Triple Crown events, won the Sapling Stakes.

**1978** Jockey Don MacBeth won the first of his three straight Monmouth riding titles. A new racing strip and drainage system were added at a cost of over \$1 million. Mac Diarmida won the Long Branch Stakes en route to an Eclipse Award as the nation's best turf runner.

**1979** Rockhill Native, Champion 2-Year-Old Colt, won the Sapling. The then revolutionary "All Bet Cash" tote system was introduced.

**1980** Spectacular Bid won the Iselin en route to Horse of the Year honors.

**1981** De La Rose, trained by Woody Stephens, won the Long Branch before going on to champion grass mare honors. Colonel Moran won two stakes at the meeting, the Red Bank and Salvator Mile.

**1982** The turf course was refurbished and a new sprinkler system was added at a cost of \$250,000.

**1983** Ambassador of Luck, Champion Older Filly or Mare, won the Molly Pitcher Handicap. Bates Motel captured the Monmouth Handicap en route to year-

end honors as the top older horse. Life's Magic, Champion 2-Year-Old Filly, won the Monmouth Oaks.

**1984** Jockey Chris Antley won a record 171 races, including six of nine mounts on July 30. He held the riding title the next two seasons.

**1985** Horse of the Year Spend a Buck was runner-up in the Haskell and won the \$250,000 Monmouth Handicap on the way to his national titles. Cozzone, winner of the Eclipse Award as outstanding turf horse, captured the Oceanport Handicap.

**1986** The New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority purchased historic Monmouth Park Jockey Club the same year that Horse of the Year Lady's Secret won the Molly Pitcher Handicap. Many of the historic, century old stakes races were reinstated, with the Monmouth Cup, inaugurated in 1884, renamed the Philip H. Iselin Handicap. Thoroughbred champions who have competed in the race in modern times include Lord Avie, Alysheba, Spend a Buck, Black Tie Affair, Skip Away, and Ghostzapper.

**1987** In what many believe to have been the most memorable race at Monmouth Park, Bet Twice, Alysheba and Lost Code were separated at the wire by two necks in the Haskell. Julie Krone won the first of her three straight Monmouth Park riding titles and scored with six of nine mounts on August 19.

**1988** Open Mind, Eclipse Award winning 2-year-old filly, won the New Jersey Breeders Stakes. Personal Ensign, Champion Older Filly, won the Molly Pitcher, her ninth stakes victory in 13 undefeated career starts. Alysheba returned to take the Iselin Handicap over his rival Bet Twice.

**1989** Safely Kept won the Regret Stakes and was later crowned champion sprinter. Hall of Famer Bill Shoemaker visited Monmouth Park as part of his farewell tour.

**1990** Trainer John Forbes won his fourth training title and jockey Rick Wilson took his first riding championship. The main track was completely resurfaced and a 250-seat grandstand teletheater was built. The Winner's Circle Trophy Room for preferred players was introduced.

**1991** John Forbes won his fifth trainer's title and jockey Joe Bravo took the first of his 13 riding championships, including six in a row. Eclipse Champion Black Tie Affair won the Iselin and Klassy Briefcase set a world record for five furlongs on the turf when she stopped the timer in :54<sup>4</sup> on June 8.

**1992** Two-year-old champion Gilded Time won the Sapling in 1:07<sup>4</sup>, breaking a track record for six furlongs that had been held by Icecapade since 1973. Diamond Duo won the Post-Deb Stakes in an upset over Saratoga Dew, who went on to be named the nation's top 3-year-old filly.

**1993** Full card simulcasting took a firm hold, with purses offered at the highest level in the history of the racetrack. Trainer J. J. Crupi won his fourth training title. Bertrando, Champion Older Horse, set the pace before tiring in the Iselin, which was captured by Valley Crossing.

**1994** Horse of the Year Holy Bull made Monmouth Park his summer base and won the Haskell Invitational. The air-conditioned Paddock Sports Bar, adjacent to the Lady's Secret Cafe, was opened. For the first time a daily average of more than \$3 million was wagered on Monmouth races.

**1995** Monmouth celebrated its 50th anniversary season as one of the few major tracks in the country to see a rise in attendance, handle and purses. Three purse increases brought the daily overnight averages to more than \$200,000 for the first time in Monmouth's history. Serena's Song became the first filly to win the Haskell as the total handle that day topped \$7 million, an all-time New Jersey record. Juan Serey nipped Danny Lopez by one win for the trainer's title.

## 1996

The meet began with nearly 50,000 guests on track for Memorial Day weekend as the entire season was a "wire-to-wire" winner with increases in handle and attendance. The meet was highlighted by a crowd of 31,455, the second largest crowd in 25 years at Monmouth, that saw 3-year-old champion Skip Away take the Haskell, as a record \$7.4 million in handle was wagered that day. Joe Bravo won an unprecedented sixth straight riding title.

## 1997

With a record-setting Haskell Day the high point, Monmouth Park continued its positive trend, as on-track attendance grew for the third straight season. The Haskell drew a record crowd of 39,219 and saw wagering hit an all-time Monmouth Park high of \$9.7 million. Formal Gold set a track record of 1:40<sup>1</sup> for a mile and a sixteenth in winning the Iselin Handicap.

## 1998

The meet opened with record attendance and betting for the Memorial Day weekend, as 50,267 guests wagered a total of \$13.8 million over the 3-day holiday. The Haskell, won by Coronado's Quest, confirmed its status as the track's marquee event, drawing a record crowd of 40,405. Skip Away captured the Iselin Handicap en route to his Horse of the Year title. Juan Serey took his fourth straight training title, while Chuck C. Lopez took his first riding championship.

## 1999

Once again the Monmouth Park meet was a sporting success, with a crowd of 33,056 coming out to watch Menifee win the Haskell from Cat Thief and Forestry. Silverbulletday, the top 2-year-old filly of 1998 won the Monmouth Breeders' Cup Oaks by five lengths at odds of 1-20, en route to 3-year-old filly championship honors. Frisk Me Now, who started his career at Monmouth in 1996, finished a distinguished stakes-winning career with a victory in the Iselin Handicap. The Grade 1 United Nations Handicap, inaugurated at Atlantic City Race Course in 1953 and run for the first time ever at Monmouth Park, was won by Yagli. The Jersey Derby, also run at Monmouth for the first time after a long stint at Garden State Park, was captured by Swamp. Joe Bravo returned to Monmouth to take his seventh riding title as Juan Serey took his fifth consecutive training championship.

since 1990 when 80 programs were run. Joe Bravo won six on the card on May 18, before breaking his wrist on May 30, just eight days into the meeting. Eibar Coa took his second consecutive riding title as Tim Hills won his first ever training championship.

## 2003

New Jersey records were shattered on August 3, as Haskell Day saw 53,638 on hand, a record attendance for a horse race in the Garden State, eclipsing the mark of 51,077 set in 1967 at Garden State Park. Wagering on Haskell Day topped \$12.5 million, another record for New Jersey, as was the amount wagered on the Haskell itself, \$3,726,562, by far the highest wagered on a single race in N.J. Peace Rules made the pace to wire the Haskell field, defeating Sky Mesa and Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Funny Cide. The 2003 United Nations also saw a wire-to-wire performance as Balto Star, under local rider Jose Velez Jr., upset the field to pay \$76 and set a new course record of 2:12<sup>3</sup> for a mile and 3/8ths on the turf. The 92-day meet was the longest since 1984 and saw Joe Bravo capture his 1,000th Monmouth Park race as well as his ninth riding title. Leading trainer went to Mark Shuman and top owner to Michael Gill.

## 2004

Lion Heart roared to a front running victory in the Haskell giving jockey Joe Bravo his first win in the Shore's signature race. Haskell Day handle of \$12,686,430 marked the largest one-day handle in Monmouth history, as 45,365 – the third largest crowd in track history – saw the Michael Tabor and Derrick Smith owned Lion Heart go wire-to-wire for trainer Patrick Biancone. Ghostzapper, 2004 Horse of the Year and Breeders' Cup Classic winner, romped home an easy winner in the Iselin Handicap, his first start around two turns. Steeplechasing returned to Monmouth with Sur La Tete taking the Metcalf Memorial Stakes on closing day. In addition to his Haskell win, Joe Bravo won a record 10<sup>th</sup> riding title. Tim Hills scored his second training championship and Michael Gill captured his second consecutive owner's contest.

## 2005

Roman Ruler gave trainer Bob Baffert his third victory in the Haskell, tying him with Hall of Famers Jimmy Croll and Sonny Hine for the most wins in that Grade 1 race. Over 45,000 fans wagered nearly \$3.7 million on the Haskell card as total handle

## 2000

A record Haskell Day crowd of 41,360 was on hand and \$9.3 million was wagered that day as Dixie Union triumphed over Captain Steve and Milwaukee Brew. Joe Bravo continued his dominance of the Shore racing scene, capturing his eighth riding title, while Ben Perkins Jr. took top training honors. Down the Aisle captured the Grade 1 U.N. Handicap, one of five turf stakes victories for trainer Bill Mott. Spain, who went on to capture the Breeders' Cup Distaff and become the all-time richest filly in history, took the Monmouth Breeders' Cup Oaks for trainer D. Wayne Lukas.

## 2001

Spurred by the largest single-day crowd in track history, Monmouth Park roared to across-the-board gains in attendance and handle. Horse of the Year Point Given won the Haskell before a throng of 47,127, which helped raise total attendance to 774,500, the highest total since 1989. Average daily attendance of 10,757 was 10 percent higher than in 2000 and was the highest since 1985. Record purse distribution of more than \$352,000 per day led to larger fields and wagering reflected the competitive racing. Total handle, on-track and simulcasting, topped \$334,677,000, an increase of 25 percent over the previous year, with daily average handle hitting \$3,948,623. The attendance on Haskell Day easily topped Monmouth's previous all-time record of 43,591 set in 1962, and the handle that day was a record \$11,256,345. J. Willard Thompson took a tight race for the Monmouth training title as Eibar Coa, who took over the top spot in the jockey race when Joe Bravo was injured on July 27, finished ahead of all riders.

## 2002

Once again history was made at Monmouth Park as War Emblem became the first Kentucky Derby – Haskell winner in track history with 45,212, the second largest crowd of all time, showing up to see the would be 3-year-old champion take the event in front running fashion. War Emblem's victory also marked the first time for back-to-back wins by an owner and trainer in the Haskell, as the Thoroughbred Corp. and Bob Baffert took the 2001 running with Point Given. With Anticipation, disqualified from first in the 2001 U.N. Handicap, came back to take the event in track record time, incident free. The 78-day meet was the longest

of \$12,571,857 was the second highest handle in Monmouth Park history. Capeside Lady, winner of the 2004 Monmouth Oaks returned to Monmouth to win the Molly Pitcher, the first horse to complete that feat since the mid-1970s. Joe Bravo, who was sidelined for six weeks with a broken collarbone, returned in September and captured a record 11<sup>th</sup> riding title. Kelly John Breen enjoyed a banner year, winning the trainer's title, the first championship for the 36-year-old conditioner. The owner's standings ended in a three way tie with Michael Gill, Eddie Broome and Peter Kazamias each winning 13 races at the 90-day meet.

## 2006

A brand new turf course debuted on June 18 and was a great success right from the start, attracting top turf runners to the Jersey Shore, most notably in the United Nations, which was won by English Channel. The Haskell attracted 42,318, the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that number topped 40,000, as Bluegrass Cat captured the Shore's signature race. Two Breeders' Cup winners, Round Pond and Miesque's Approval, showcased their talents in Monmouth stakes before taking their biggest career wins. Joe Bravo won his 12<sup>th</sup> riding title, as Kelly John Breen took his second consecutive training title.

## 2007

Racing's biggest event came to the Jersey Shore as Monmouth played host to the Breeders' Cup in the fall. Nearly \$150 million was wagered on the four days of racing that culminated with Curlin's victory in the \$5 million Breeders' Cup Classic. The traditional Monmouth meet ran 75 days, the shortest since 2001, to allow Monmouth to prepare for the Breeders' Cup. With 43,106 on hand, the Haskell went to Any Given Saturday for connections WinStar Farm and Todd Pletcher – the same connections that took the 2006 running with Bluegrass Cat. Wagering on the 2007 Haskell Day card hit a record \$14,122,636. English Channel returned to win his second consecutive United Nations en route to his Breeders' Cup Turf win and Eclipse Award as top male turf horse. Joe Bravo won his 13<sup>th</sup> riding title, as Todd Pletcher captured his first training championship.

## 2008

Big Brown made two trips to the Jersey Shore, first taking the Haskell Invitational with a strong stretch rally before returning seven weeks later and switching to the turf course to win the inaugural running of the Monmouth Stakes. Wagering on Haskell Day saw records fall as over \$4.2 million was bet on the race alone and total handle for the day hit \$17.6 million. Local fan favorite Prestious Passion took his rivals wire-to-wire in the United Nations giving trainer Mary Hartmann her first Grade 1 win. Average daily handle for the 100-day meet, the longest since 1984, posted a gain as did simulcast wagering on Monmouth's races. The top rider at the meet was Jose Lezcano, who booted home 141 winners. Bruce Levine took home the trainer's title as Repole Stable was best in the owner's race.

## 2009

Eventual Horse of the Year, Rachel Alexandra, defeated Belmont Stakes winner, Summer Bird, by six lengths to become the second filly ever to win the Haskell Invitational. An energetic crowd of 37,090 braved rain and lightening to cheer home the 3-year-old filly and jockey Calvin Borel. Local legend, Prestious Passion, electrified fans by winning the Monmouth Stakes and capturing his second-consecutive United Nations – the latter in course record time. Average daily attendance during the 93-day meet rose six percent. Elvis Trujillo rode 129 winners to take the jockey standings. Trainer Bruce Levine and owner Repole Stable each finished the meet atop their respective standings for the second-straight year.

