



THE MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB *1743 through 2008*

The Maryland Jockey Club was founded more than 30 years before the start of the Revolutionary War. After more than 265 years it remains the corporate name of Pimlico, which opened in 1870.

A Capsule Chronology

1743 — Maryland Jockey Club founded in Annapolis. The Annapolis Subscription Plate, second oldest known racing trophy in America, won on May 4, 1743, at Annapolis by Dr. George Steuart's Dungannon.

1755 — Irregular meetings from this year until 1764, due to French and Indian War.

1762 — George Washington attended Maryland Jockey Club races frequently, as he did in 1771, 1772, and 1773.

1769 — Both Spring and Autumn meetings held for the first time at Annapolis. From there to the start of the Revolutionary War, the Maryland Jockey Club meetings were the focal point of colonial racing enthusiasts.

1775 — When the Autumn meeting was about to be run, the Maryland Jockey Club races were postponed upon the recommendation of Congress "in consequence of a report upon the state of the country. All quietly returned to their homes."

1782 — Annapolis races resumed in the autumn, the country having returned to a state of normalcy following the Revolutionary War.

1783 — Maryland Jockey Club revitalized on March 1, six months before the peace treaty, with Governor William Paca and Charles Carroll of Carrollton (both signers of the Declaration of Independence) among the members.

1830 — The Maryland Jockey Club was issued a new charter by Congress which is now in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Gen. T. M. Forman elected president; B. I. Cohen, treasurer; and J.S. Skinner, corresponding secretary. With the decline of Annapolis and the growth of Baltimore as an economic center, the Maryland Jockey Club shifted its operations to the Central Course, Baltimore, about five miles southwest of the city on the Frederick Pike.

1831 — President Andrew Jackson became a member of the Maryland Jockey Club, racing his White House stable under the name of his secretary, A.J. Donelson.

1867 — Site of present Pimlico incorporated for a track by the State of Maryland.

1868 — After the interruption caused by the Civil War, a revival began at Saratoga when Maryland Governor Oden

Bowie and others devised the Dinner Party Stakes for a track in Baltimore.

1869 — First state fair held at Pimlico.

1870 — Present Maryland Jockey Club site (Pimlico) opened on October 25. New corporation organized May 14 in Barnum's City Hotel in Baltimore. Governor Bowie was elected president of Pimlico. First stakes winner, Preakness, a son of Lexington, won the Dinner Party Stakes on October 27. Also presented were the Supper, Breakfast and Bowie Stakes. Harry Bassett won the Supper Stakes, while Glenelg won both the Breakfast and Bowie Stakes.

1873 — First running of the Preakness, classic event for three-year-olds. There were seven starters from 21 subscribers. Survivor won. The Preakness was named for the first winner of the Dinner Party Stakes.

1875 — John F. Chamberlin's Tom Ochiltree won a maiden race for all ages at six furlongs on May 26 at Pimlico. Two days later he won the third running of the Preakness. Milton H. Sanford's Bay Final, favored on the basis of his victory in a mile race the day previous, finished third.

1876 — The MJC presented nine stakes, which attracted 212 nominations. Shirley won the 4th running of the Preakness.

1877 — House of Representatives adjourned (the Senate had already closed session) on October 24 so that members could witness a race of intersectional scope in which Parole, Ten Broeck and Tom Ochiltree met. They finished in that order. Parole, a Pennsylvania horse, was the upsetter. The MJC's program of ten stakes attracted 274 nominations. Rappahanock ran in match race against Kilburn.

1878 — Duke of Magenta won Preakness, first of five consecutive wins for owner George L. Lorillard.

1881 — Western Maryland branch of Arlington and Pimlico Railroad founded in January to connect Pimlico with the city. The trip from Hillen Station to the track was 25 minutes; round-trip fare, 50 cents. Last state fair held at Pimlico, the event later shifting to Timonium.

1883 — Pimlico Stakes, at 1-5/8 miles on October 26, attracted Iroquois (first American-bred to win the English Derby and first horse to win \$100,000 in purses), and immortal Miss Woodford. The latter, with 109 pounds, won from Dixie winner George Kinney. Iroquois, far below his best form, finished third.

1889 — Maryland Jockey Club racing abandoned at Pimlico until 1904. During this period, several Maryland racing groups held abbreviated meetings at Pimlico, some called "outlaw" affairs, some sanctioned.



HISTORY

- 1890 — The Preakness was run at Morris Park in New York. For that year only, it was for horses three-year-olds and up.
- 1894 — Fire destroyed Pimlico grandstand, September 2. The Preakness was run at Gravesend in Brooklyn, N.Y. where it remained for 15 runnings through 1908.
- 1898 — On April 26 the First Maryland Brigade went into training at Camp Wilmer, set up in Pimlico infield, less than 48 hours after Spain declared war on the United States. Crowds lined march route from Paca Street to track to watch troops begin training for active duty in Cuba.
- 1904 — Pimlico property sold to William R. Hammond for \$70,000. Young James E. (Sunny Jim) Fitzsimmons was the leading trainer at the seven-day fall meeting with three winners. William P. Riggs, a New Englander, was the leader in bringing racing back to Pimlico in the autumn of 1904.
- 1905 — R. Wyndham Walden, one of the greatest American trainers of the 19th century, died April 28, after having saddled record seven Preakness winners, five being in succession (1878-1882).
- 1908 — New world automobile record for a mile on a circular track established at Pimlico when Italian driver Emmanuele Cedrino sped mile in :51, shaving 5-3/5 seconds off the world standard. Upon completing the mile, Cedrino's racing car went out of control, throwing and fatally injuring its driver.
- 1909 — The Preakness returned to Pimlico where it has since been run annually without interruption.
- 1911 — First pari-mutuel windows in Maryland opened at Pimlico's Spring meeting. Havre de Grace followed suit in 1912.
- 1918 — Preakness run in two divisions, for the only time, as value of race was raised to \$15,000 added from \$5,000 in previous years. Races attracted a total of 26, but five were scratched in each division, with War Cloud winning the first division and Jack Hare, Jr. taking the second.
- 1919 — Sir Barton, the first Derby winner to run in the Preakness, won here and at the Belmont, to become America's first Triple Crown winner. The J.K.L. Ross owned colt captured the Preakness four days after his Derby victory. Preakness purse was increased to \$25,000.
- 1920 — Man o'War began his unparalleled three-year-old season with a victory in the Preakness after winter training in Maryland. Burke Law authorized betting in Maryland. Previously, tracks were licensed by Maryland courts.
- 1921 — Benjamin Block's unbeaten Morvich won the inaugural running of the Pimlico Futurity, then the richest race (\$51,250 gross) in the nation.
- 1924 — Dixie Handicap revived. Nellie Morse becomes fourth filly to win Preakness.
- 1926 — William P. Riggs, Maryland Jockey Club secretary who led the revival of the sport at Pimlico in 1904, died after guiding Pimlico to a position of leadership among the nation's racetracks. He returned the Preakness to Pimlico, revived the Dixie Stakes and originated the Pimlico Futurity, which was the richest race in the nation at its inception. Matthias L. Daiger succeeded Riggs as MJC secretary.
- 1930 — Gallant Fox, with Earle Sande up, won 55th Preakness and went on to become second Triple Crown winner after an 11 year lapse. On June 8th, after Gallant Fox won the Belmont Stakes, Bryan Field's New York Times story referred to the colt "completing his Triple Crown." It is believed to be one of the earliest references to the Kentucky Derby-Preakness-Belmont Stakes winner.
- 1933 — American Totalisator installed for Autumn meeting.
- 1935 — Omaha captured 60th Preakness by six lengths and later became the third Triple Crown winner by taking the Belmont.
- 1937 — Inaugural running of the Pimlico Special, first race in America by "invitation only" and one of the nation's great weight-for-age classics. Pimlico's average purse distribution nation's highest. War Admiral wins Preakness and becomes the fourth Triple Crown champion and later returns to capture the first Pimlico Special.
- 1938 — The largest crowd (estimated at 43,000) to see a race at Pimlico turned out on November 1 for the match in which Seabiscuit beat War Admiral in the second running of the Pimlico Special. Hill in infield, which long identified Pimlico as "Old Hilltop," leveled. Alfred G. Vanderbilt, who, over a period of two years secured control of the stock, elected president of Maryland Jockey Club, succeeding Charles E. McLane.
- 1939 — Maryland-bred Challedon wins Preakness.
- 1941 — Whirlaway easily won 66th Preakness and later became fifth Triple Crown winner.
- 1942 — Harry A. Parr elected MJC president when Alfred Vanderbilt entered Navy.
- 1943 — Count Fleet won 68th Preakness by eight lengths in four-horse field, the smallest since 1908. He became sixth Triple Crown winner. Pimlico ran five-day National War Fund meeting and contributed \$267,142 from autumn meeting receipts to various war charities.
- 1944 — All Maryland racing conducted at Pimlico due to World War II travel restrictions. Ashes of musician Percy L. Barry spread over racing strip at Pimlico.



- 1945 — An outstanding one-day stakes program was staged at Pimlico on June 16 with the running of the Preakness, Dixie Handicap, Pimlico Oaks, Jennings Handicap and the Pimlico Nursery. Wartime conditions necessitated the one day meeting.
- 1946 — Assault won 71st Preakness by neck over Lord Boswell, then took Belmont Stakes to become seventh Triple Crown winner.
- 1947 — MJC purchased 85-acre tract embracing Pimlico from the Hammond estate for "about \$1,300,000." First live telecast (WMAR-TV) in Baltimore history originated at Pimlico at 3 P.M., October 30.
- 1948 — CBS Network televised the Preakness to Baltimore, Washington, and Philadelphia areas, the first such telecast. Citation won Preakness and became the eighth Triple Crown winner.
- 1949 — Capot, Preakness winner, beats Coaltown in Pimlico Special. Ashes of Dillon Grey, a trainer who asked to be buried at the races, interred in Pimlico infield.
- 1950 — Ashes of jockey Willie Doyle, 1909 Preakness winner, scattered over finish line. Control of Laurel sold to Morris Schapiro.
- 1951 — First race to be televised nationally was the Pimlico Special by CBS from Pimlico November 16.
- 1953 — Pimlico opened under the management of Ben and Herman Cohen, who had purchased the track the previous year for \$2.2 million. Native Dancer won the Preakness after unlucky loss in the Kentucky Derby.
- 1954 — New multi-million dollar grandstand opened at Pimlico.
- 1955 — National Jockeys Hall of Fame founded at Pimlico. Eddie Arcaro, Earl Sande and George Woolf enshrined by votes of more than 1,000 sportswriters.
- 1957 — Vice President and Mrs. Richard M. Nixon attended Preakness and presented Woodlawn Vase to winning owner, Mrs. Henry Carnegie Phipps, whose Bold Ruler defeated Kentucky Derby winner Iron Liege by two lengths.
- 1958 — A bill for closing Pimlico and transferring the dates to Laurel was defeated by a 15-14 vote in the Maryland legislature.
- 1959 — Improvement of grandstand-clubhouse building begun. Finish line relocated 220 feet farther down homestretch. Preakness purse increased \$50,000 to \$150,000, making the classic the richest added-money stakes in the United States.
- 1960 — Ultramodern clubhouse completed in 176-day interval between Pimlico's spring and autumn meetings. The new building contains dining room, theater-type seats, indoor paddock, jockeys' quarters and administrative offices.
- 1962 — New, all weather racing surface installed, the result of 18-month study by Pimlico's engineers to provide a uniform and safe footing. New aluminum safety rail installed.
- 1964 — President Lyndon B. Johnson presented honorary lifetime membership in Maryland Jockey Club. Sadair established a world record for earnings by a two-year-old (\$498,216) in winning the Pimlico Futurity.
- 1965 — Nathan L. Cohen, son of Herman Cohen, appointed vice president of Pimlico and Barclay C. Odell named general manager following resignation on September 1 of vice president Lou Pondfield.
- 1966 — Fire on night of June 16 destroyed Pimlico's Victorian-styled Members' Clubhouse built in 1870, reducing racing's oldest edifice to ashes. It also housed National Jockeys Hall of Fame. For first time since 1904, Pimlico did not race in fall, necessitating transfer of Pimlico Futurity to Laurel and return of Dixie Handicap to spring schedule. Kauai King was first Maryland-bred to win Preakness since Challedon in 1939.
- 1967 — New dining terrace installed at Pimlico, called the Preakness Room, to provide the setting for National Jockeys Hall of Fame. First two all-masonry barns completed in backstretch. Preakness winner Damascus made his season's debut at Pimlico on March 11 and earned a record \$817,941 for the year, while being named Horse of the Year.
- 1968 — Old barns on track's Pimlico Road-Belvedere Avenue backstretch were demolished to make way for 10 brick-and-masonry barns. Preakness purse reached \$195,200, the highest of Triple Crown races.
- 1971 — The 111-year-old Woodlawn Vase was appraised at \$500,000.
- 1973 — All-weather, glass-enclosed, trackside dining rooms called the Preakness Terrace, the Jockey Club Terrace and the Hall of Fame Dining Room were built on two floors of clubhouse at a cost of \$1.5 million. Ground space in front of clubhouse increased by 1,000 square feet. Secretariat won Preakness, on way to becoming first Triple Crown winner in 25 years.
- 1974 — Triple wagering began at Pimlico. Apprentice Chris McCarron rode 118 winners at Pimlico on way to world record 546 for the year.
- 1975 — Numerous parties sponsored by businessmen, civic and community groups commemorated the 100th Preakness won by Master Derby. Musician Eubie Blake, 92, was honored at Pimlico, the Baltimore-bred celebrity exercised horses at Pimlico at age 12 in 1895.
- 1976 — The Maryland Jockey Club, active during Colonial times, honored the 13 Original Colonies one by one on successive Saturdays in commemoration of nation's Bicentennial Year.



HISTORY

- 1977 — Sixty-day meeting reduced to 38 days by labor strike which began at Bowie a week before Pimlico opened, causing Pimlico's first 22 racing days to be canceled. ABC won Preakness TV contract. Seattle Slew became the 10th Triple Crown winner.
- 1978 — Opening day betting record of \$1,823,464 at Pimlico was set on March 18. Affirmed out dueling Alydar in all three classics to win the Triple Crown.
- 1980 — New TIM-300 American Totalisator Co. computerized betting machines installed. In the Preakness Codex beats the filly Genuine Risk, the Derby winner, surviving a claim of foul. The Codex-Genuine Risk controversy was settled at three-day Maryland Racing Commission hearing 19 days later. The Preakness result was not changed.
- 1981 — Simulcasting of Preakness offered for first time.
- 1982 — Freak weather, bitter cold, frozen track April 7 caused one-day cancellation of racing at Pimlico for first time since assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Pimlico press box dedicated to the memory of the late Red Smith.
- 1983 — Maryland Jockey Club buys Bowie Race Course, sells half-interest of property and racing dates to Laurel Race Course. The historic Woodlawn Vase is reappraised by Kirk Stieff Co. at \$1 million. Maryland-bred Deputed Testimony wins the Preakness in an upset.
- 1984 — New dining room on third floor of Pimlico's grandstand, named the Triple Crown Dining Room is constructed at a cost of \$500,000.
- 1985 — Installation of Reynolds aluminum inner turf course rail at a cost of \$150,000. Removal of the betting island on the first floor of the Pimlico clubhouse to allow more open area for the patrons. Tank's Prospect won the Preakness in 1:53 2/5, a record tied by Louis Quatorze in 1996.
- 1986 — On December 30, Frank De Francis, Robert and John "Tommy" Manfuso and Martin Jacobs purchased Pimlico from the Cohen families for more than \$30 million. Jorge Velasquez is voted into Jockey's Hall of Fame.
- 1987 — Pimlico's new owners immediately pumped over \$1 million into improvements. The 112th Preakness won by Derby victor Alysheba.
- 1988 — Another \$1.5 million was allocated by Pimlico's new owners for additional improvements. Completion of two modern barns topped the list. The Preakness Village, a corporate entertainment center located in the infield, was offered to local and regional firms for the first time. Preakness Celebrations Inc., a non profit corporation, was formed to organize a 10-day festival of social and recreational events leading up to the Preakness. Pimlico Special, with \$600,000 purse, revived by new management after a 29-year lull, was won by Bet Twice. Risen Star captures 113th Preakness.
- 1989 — Frank J. De Francis, Pimlico President and Chairman of the Board, dies August 18. His son, Joseph A. De Francis, an attorney, takes over the presidency of Pimlico and Laurel in September. Sunday Silence beats Easy Goer by a nose in a memorable race in the 114th Preakness. Blushing John, a 4-year-old colt owned by Allen E. Paulson, sets a track record of 1:53-1/5 in capturing the \$700,000 Pimlico Special. Pimlico introduces an ultra-modern Sports Palace. Jockey Kent Desormeaux wins 598 races (mostly in Maryland), surpassing Chris McCarron's 15-year record.
- 1990 — The Pimlico Special purse is increased to \$1 million, the richest race in history of Pimlico. Calumet Farm's 5-year-old Criminal Type wins the Pimlico Special in 1:53, setting a track record for a mile and three-sixteenths.
- 1991 — In the sixth running of the Maryland Million on September 8 at Pimlico, a record Maryland Million crowd of 23,254 attends. The program includes a steeplechase stakes for the first time. It was only the third steeplechase run at Pimlico since the early 1950's.
- 1993 — The Maryland Jockey Club observes its 250th anniversary. Prairie Bayou wins 118th Preakness to provide Loblolly Stable with its second consecutive victory in this American classic. Crowd of 97,641 is the second largest in Preakness history. Cross-breed simulcasting between Thoroughbred and harness tracks begins on April 22. Full-card simulcasting from out-of-state tracks debuts on April 29. Maryland's first off-track betting site, the Cracked Claw Restaurant located near Frederick, MD, starts on April 30.
- 1994 — Maryland Jockey Club President Joseph A. De Francis bought out the ownership interests of Robert and John Manfuso. Under De Francis' leadership, the Maryland Jockey Club enjoys the most successful season of racing in the organization's 251-year history. Total in-state wagering reaches record \$461,602,755, eclipsing the previous mark of \$435,874,22 set in 1990.
- 1996 — Jockey Pat Day establishes a Preakness record by winning the classic for the third straight year with Louis Quatorze, who had finished 16th in the Kentucky Derby. Trainer Nick Zito saddles both the Preakness winner and Star Standard, victor in the Pimlico Special. For the first time since 1985, the Derby winner did not run in the Preakness. Grindstone was injured after his victory at Louisville.
- 1997 — The closest finish in the Preakness since the 1932 running found Kentucky Derby winner Silver Charm rallying to win by a head over Free House who finished a head in front of Captain Bodgit.



1998 — A record crowd of 91,122 jammed Pimlico to see Real Quiet win the 123rd Preakness. Bob Baffert became the first trainer to capture the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes in consecutive years. Total Preakness Day Handle reached \$37,591,459. Skip Away won the \$750,000 Pimlico Special on route to “Horse of the Year” honors.

2000 — Owner Frank Stronach and trainer Joe Orseno won both the Pimlico Special (Golden Missile) and The Preakness Stakes (Red Bullet). Richter Scale sets a track record 1:07.4 in the GR I De Francis Dash. The Maryland Jockey Club’s production “The Preakness: An American Classic” won a prestigious Eclipse Award in the category of Local Television.

2001 — A record 104,454 packed historic Pimlico Race Course on the third Saturday in May to watch Point Given defeat 10 of the finest three-year olds in the 126th running of the Preakness, the middle jewel of Thoroughbred racing’s Visa Triple Crown. Another 14,472 patrons watched from Laurel Park and Rosecroft, making the total attendance 118,926, another record. The previous records occurred in 1999 when 100,311 watched at Pimlico with a total statewide attendance of 116,526.

2002 — The second largest crowd in Preakness history, 101,138, packed historic Pimlico Race Course to watch 13 of the finest three-year olds in the middle jewel of Thoroughbred racing’s Visa Triple Crown. A Preakness Day record of 10,121 watched from Laurel Park, while another 5,796 were on hand at Rosecroft, making the total statewide attendance 117,055. The on-site attendance record was set in 2001 when 104,454 visited Old Hilltop. Handle marks were also shattered as \$71,468,223 was wagered on Pimlico’s 13-race card, an increase of more than 14% from the previous record of \$62.7 million in 2001. On the state’s signature event, a record \$47,695,192 was wagered, a 17.2 percent increase over the \$40,694,884 bet in 2001. On July 15, The Maryland Jockey Club and Magna Entertainment Corp announced the creation of an alliance designed to raise the level of Maryland thoroughbred racing to new heights. Under the terms of the agreement, Magna Entertainment purchased a 51% equity and voting interest in The Maryland Jockey Club of Baltimore City, Inc., the owner of Pimlico Race Course and a 51% voting interest and a 58% equity interest on a fully diluted basis in Laurel Racing Association Limited Partnership, Inc., the owner of Laurel Park. Joseph and Karin De Francis will retain a 49% equity and voting interest in The Maryland Jockey Club of Baltimore City, Inc. and a 49% voting interest and a 42% equity interest on a fully diluted basis in Laurel Racing Assoc., Inc. with an option to acquire an additional 7% equity

interest for a total of a 49% equity interest. The day-to-day management of the MJC will remain in the hands of Joseph De Francis and his management team while Maryland racing will benefit from becoming an important part of Magna Entertainment’s expanding network of major North American racetracks.

2003 — The Preakness Stakes®, which was run under Magna Entertainment Corp. management for the first time, was a major success as attendance topped 100,000 for the fourth time in five years and betting figures exceeded \$60 million for the third consecutive year. The fourth largest crowd in history (100,268) packed historic Pimlico on a cold and rainy May 17 to watch 10 of the finest three-year olds in the middle jewel of thoroughbred racing’s Visa Triple Crown. Despite 15 fewer betting interests than last year’s record-breaking year, wagering finished at \$64.6 million, including \$38.5 on the state’s signature race. The two headline events at Laurel Park also produced record-setting handle figures this year. The overall handle on De Francis Dash Day (November 16) was \$6.5 million, the best number in the 14-year history of the event. Maryland Million Day (October 18) also featured a record handle as \$6.6 million was wagered, eclipsing the previous record of \$6.1 million set in 1999. The handle was the largest in the 92-year history of Laurel.

2004 — The 129th Preakness Stakes® was a major success as records were set in attendance and handle. A crowd of 112,668 packed historic Pimlico Race Course, the largest crowd to witness a sporting event in the state, while wagering finished at \$87.9 million including \$59.4 million on the state’s signature event. NBC Sports’ broadcast of Smarty Jones’ record breaking 11 1/2 -length victory in the middle jewel of the Visa Triple Crown delivered a 7.7 national rating/19 share for the race segment (5:45-6:50 p.m. ET), best since 1990 and a 35 percent improvement from 2003. The Maryland Jockey Club had productive cards on Maryland Million and De Francis Dash days. The \$4.6 million bet on the October 9 Pimlico card was a record for Maryland Million races, while a total of \$3.8 million passed through the pari-mutuel windows on the 10-race Fall Festival Of Racing card at Old Hilltop on November 20, a day featuring six added money races, headlined by the Grade I De Francis Dash. The field attracted four Breeders’ Cup Sprint participants and the top three finishers from 2003. Seven of the top nine riders in the country based on earning had mounts in the main event.



2005 — A crowd of 115,318 packed historic Pimlico Race Course on May 21, the largest crowd to witness a sporting event in the state. Attendance figures have now topped six-figures in six of the last seven years on Preakness Day, including five straight. Preakness day wagering finished at more than \$91 million, breaking the record of nearly \$88 million set in 2004. A pool of \$63.2 million was bet on the middle jewel of the Triple Crown. The two headline events of the fall calendar at Laurel Park also set records. The \$5.1 million bet on the October 15 card was a record for Maryland Million races, while a total of \$4.8 million passed through the pari-mutuel windows on the November 19 Fall Festival Of Racing program, a day featuring eight added money races, headlined by the Grade I De Francis Dash. Numbers for the 2005 Laurel Park fall meeting were up nearly 30%. A major reason for the increase was the success of the new Laurel Park turf course, which debuted on September 7. The new, sweeping turf course, which was widened from 75 feet to 142 feet, helped make the track a top simulcast signal with an average of 11.2 starters per grass race as the export numbers were up more than 60% from last fall. The statistics were impressive as 105-of-134 races featured double digit fields, a 78% rate. Laurel Park's new turf course saw 29 full fields of 14 facing the starter. Only 11 races featured fewer than eight starters and nine of those were seven horse fields.

2006 — The marquee event of the year, the Preakness, was a material triumph as a record crowd of 118,402 swarmed

Pimlico on May 20, the largest crowd to witness a sporting event in the state. Attendance figures have now topped six-figures in seven of the last eight years, including six straight. Preakness day wagering finished at more than \$87.5 million, the third largest in the 131-year history of the event. A pool of \$56.4 million was bet on the middle jewel of the Triple Crown. The two headline events of the fall calendar were extremely successful. More than \$5.5 passed through the pari-mutuel windows on the November 25 Fall Festival Of Racing program, a day featuring eight added money races, headlined by the Grade I De Francis Dash. The \$4.9 million bet on the October 14 Maryland Million card was the second highest figure in the 21-year history of the event.

2007 — A record crowd of 121,263 packed Pimlico on Preakness day, the largest crowd to witness a sporting event in the state. Attendance figures have now topped six-figures in eight of the last nine years, including seven straight. Preakness day wagering finished at more than \$87.2 million, the fourth largest in the 132-year history of the event, with over \$57 million bet on the middle jewel of the Triple Crown. The 22nd annual Maryland Million event drew a record crowd of 26,788 to Laurel Park on a picture perfect October afternoon. Handle figures on the live card neared \$6 million with a record \$5,985,793 on the 12-race Laurel card shattering the record of \$5 million set in 2005. In September, Magna Entertainment Corp. exercised its option to acquire the remaining interest in The Maryland Jockey Club from Joseph De Francis and Karin De Francis.



STUART HAMAN PHOTO

It is the rite of spring in Baltimore, the Preakness and 60,000 people packing the infield.