



California Racing History

June 27, 1933

Voters approved Proposition 5, legalizing pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing.

September 1933

Fairplex Park was the first track in Southern California to offer pari-mutuel wagering once law was passed.

November 3, 1934

It took 209 days to build **Bay Meadows**. With 15,000 fans in attendance, the 8 races handled \$117,753 with only Win, Place and Show betting.

December 25, 1934

Santa Anita opens.

1934-1935

Photo finish cameras were put into operation at **Santa Anita** for the first time at any Thoroughbred track.

July 3, 1937

Del Mar opens its gates for the first time and Bing Crosby is there to greet a crowd of more than 15,000. Twenty-two days of racing are presented that first season "where the turf meets the surf."

June 10, 1938

The **Hollywood** Turf Club was formed under Chairmanship of Jack L. Warner.

August 12, 1938

Seabiscuit, with "Iceman" George Woolf aboard, outduels Ligaroti, ridden by Spec Richardson, to win their historic \$25,000 match race before 20,000 at the track and a nationwide radio audience. Sporting types note the race put **Del Mar** "on the map."

1939

Clay Puett invented the electric, all enclosed starting gate, which was used in America for the first time at **Bay Meadows**.

1940

Daily double wagering, which required new betting equipment and a new tote board, was introduced for the first time at **Bay Meadows**.

February 1, 1941

Golden Gate Fields finally opens its off-delayed inaugural meeting in rainy and muddy conditions. Shookumchuck, a horse bred by Bing Crosby, wins the first race under apprentice Eddie Franklin. One week later, the season is canceled after the track is washed away by heavy rains.



1945

El Lobo was transported from Los Angeles to the **Bay Meadows** parking lot via a Flying Tiger plane and became the first horse to be transported by air to run in a race (which he won).

April 20, 1949

A 19-year-old apprentice named Bill Shoemaker earns the first victory of his career when he captures the second race at **Golden Gate Fields** aboard Shafter V. “The Shoe” would go on to become the world’s winningest rider, retiring 41 years later with 8,833 victories.

1951

Citation became racing’s first million-dollar earner by winning the 1951 **Hollywood Gold Cup** under Steve Brooks.

1969

Oak Tree Racing had its first meet at Santa Anita.

1971

Hollywood Park pioneered the exacta.

March 5, 1977

A crowd of 26,108, a modern day record, attends **Golden Gate Fields** to see star jockey Steve Cauthen ride favored Make Amends in the California Derby.

February 7, 1980

Using the American Tote 300, **Golden Gate Fields** introduces one-window wagering to the U.S. – bet and cash at the same window.

July 29-August 12, 1984

Santa Anita presented the equestrian sports of the Games of the XXIII Olympiad.

November 7, 1984

Before a crowd of 64,625 and an estimated 50 million viewers, **Hollywood Park** was host to the inaugural Breeders’ Cup.

May 6, 1984

The great John Henry, ridden by Chris McCarron, defeats Silveyville in the Golden Gate Handicap at **Golden Gate Fields** in a course record 2:13 for 1 3/8-miles. The victory helped propel 9-year-old John Henry to his second Horse of the Year title.

October 17, 1985

Following the passage of SB14, sponsored by Senator Ken Maddy, the Northern California satellite wagering network was launched by **Bay Meadows**. Sites that opened for off-track wagering in 1985 include Golden Gate Fields, Santa Rosa, Stockton, Sacramento and Fresno



February 6, 1985

Live telecasting of all races from California tracks to race books out of state began at **Santa Anita**.

March 2, 1986

The **Santa Anita** Handicap became the world's first handicap with a guaranteed value of \$1 million. Greinton was the winner and Craig Phillips of Hacienda Heights, CA became the first Santa Anita patron to win more than \$1 million on a wager.

February 3, 1990

Bill Shoemaker rode the final race of his illustrious 41-year career as a jockey in the \$100,000 Legend's Last Ride at **Santa Anita**.

August 10, 1991

Golden Eagle Farm's 3-year-old Best Pal, owned and bred by Mr. and Mrs. John C. Mabee, wins the inaugural running of the \$1-million Pacific Classic at **Del Mar**.

April 16, 1992

Russell Baze establishes a Northern California record for most victories on a single card when he rides seven winners in nine mounts at **Golden Gate Fields**.

July 28, 1993

On opening day, **Del Mar** unveils its completed \$80-million grandstand, doubling its capacity in a state-of-the-art facility. The award-winning complex was completed one year ahead of schedule and under budget.

July 1, 1994

The \$20-million **Hollywood Park** Casino opened.

August 10, 1996

Two-time Horse of the Year Cigar comes to **Del Mar** for the sixth Pacific Classic and a chance to go past Citation and his modern-day record of 16 straight wins. But one of the track's largest crowd ever—44,181—witnesses a shocker instead of a crowning when 40-1 Dare And Go upsets the 1-10 favorite.

2000

Santa Anita completed part of its \$45-million renovation program, including Front-Runner Restaurant, a video display board in the Infield and an all-new trackside viewing area.

September 13, 2006

Hollywood Park's new Cushion Track opened for training.

July 18, 2007

Del Mar opened its first season on the engineered racing surface Polytrack, installed at a cost of more than \$9-million.



November 7, 2007

The opening-day card of the 2007-2008 meeting featured the successful debut of **Golden Gate Fields'** revolutionary, all-weather Tapeta racing surface, which performed as advertised, as the track was able to conduct its 62-day season without interruption despite a rainy winter.

February 1, 2008

Russell Baze, the most prolific jockey in victories in the history of thoroughbred racing, records his 10,000th win aboard Two Step Cat in the third race at **Golden Gate Fields**.

2010

California becomes the first state in which all major Thoroughbred racetracks were fully accredited by the NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance.

September 8, 2010

Del Mar finishes its season with the second highest daily average on-track attendance figure of any racetrack in the country – 17,906 attendees.

October 2, 2010

Zenyatta wins her milestone 19th straight win at **Hollywood Park**.

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