

Lone Star Park History



1992

- Jan. 10, 1992 Grand Prairie voters approved a half-cent sales tax to assist in financial bonds to build a racetrack. Shortly thereafter, the city created a sports authority, which would own the track and lease it to a track operator.
- April 9, 1992 The Lone Star Jockey Club, Ltd. unveiled plans for a \$97-million state-of-the-art Class I horse racing facility in Grand Prairie at a press conference at the Hotel Crescent Court in Dallas. The original Lone Star Jockey Club partners were Preston M. Carter Jr., James C. Musselman, Joseph A. De Francis, Martin Jacobs, James P. Mango, The Maryland Jockey Club, Mrs. Bo P. Crossen, Mr. & Mrs. Basil Georges, William I. Lee, Lucille G. Murchison, Pam Phillips and Myrna Rheudasil.
- Oct. 2, 1992 Four groups - the Lone Star Jockey Club, Ltd., Midpointe Racing (a group headed by R.D. Hubbard), Pinnacle Park and Trinity Meadows - had applied for a "Class I" license to build a racetrack in the Dallas-Fort Worth market. Two of the groups, Lone Star and Midpointe, had selected Grand Prairie as the racetrack's location. In a tension-packed auditorium filled to capacity in Austin, Texas, the Texas Racing Commission heard final testimony from each applicant and voted to issue the Class I license to the Lone Star Jockey Club.
- Nov. 12, 1992 The Texas Racing Commission entered a final order issuing the Class I license to Lone Star Jockey Club, Ltd.

1993

- April 1, 1993 The City of Grand Prairie began to collect its half-cent sales tax.
- Nov. 12, 1993 Lone Star Jockey Club, Ltd. entered into a Master Agreement with the Grand Prairie Sports Facilities Development Corporation to govern financing and construction of racetrack.

1994

- March 10, 1994 H.B. Zachry began mass grading work on track site.

1995

- Feb. 1, 1995 The Trammell Crow Family Holdings committed to contribute \$10 million of new equity into the Partnership upon completion of the additional financing.
- June 29, 1995 The Grand Prairie Sports Facilities Development Corporation voted to accept the proposed Lone Star Jockey Club, Ltd. financing structure and to support construction and operation of the racetrack after hearing the financial and revised construction plans for the project.
- Aug. 21, 1995 The Grand Prairie Sports Facilities Development Corporation unanimously approved the Master Agreement between the Sports Corporation and the Lone Star Race Park, Ltd., the operating entity of the Grand Prairie racetrack. The master agreement declared the official track name as Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie.
- Sept. 28, 1995 The Texas Racing Commission approved the new ownership and management of the project whereby the partnership operating the facility will be Lone Star Race Park, Ltd.
- Oct. 27, 1995 Financing for the \$100 million Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie project was completed. The City of Grand Prairie would contribute \$65 million to the initial development of the racetrack.
- Oct. 31, 1995 Bob Kaminski was named President of Lone Star Race Park, Ltd. He would be directly responsible for overseeing the construction and management of the \$100 million racetrack project.
- Nov. 21, 1995 Construction began on 36,000-square-foot simulcast pavilion located adjacent to the Grandstand.

1996

- May 3, 1996 Lone Star Park's simulcast facility, The Post Time Pavilion, opened. Designed for a capacity of 1,500 patrons, 4,426 enthusiastic fans attend. The next day, 5,529 customers wagered more than \$932,000 on Kentucky Derby Day. During the calendar year 1996, nearly 400,000 patrons frequented The Post Time Pavilion and wagered more than \$100 million, allowing for nearly \$4 million to accrue in purse accounts before the first live race was ever run.
- Dec. 26, 1996 Simulcast wagering in the Post Time Pavilion topped the \$100 million mark.

1997

- March 10, 1997 Dream On Dreamers, a 2-year-old owned by David Bunn and trained by Ed Kathcart, was the first horse to exercise over Lone Star Park's new \$1.6 million racing surface under exercise rider Roy Nagy. "This is pretty neat," Nagy said. "The track is very nice and in really good shape."
- April 17, 1997 Live racing for Lone Star Park's first meeting began. Gates opened at 1 p.m. and the first race, run precisely at 5:03 p.m., was the \$50,000 Premiere Stakes for Texas-bred 3-year-olds and up. The 1 1/16-mile contest was won by 49-1 longshot I Are Sharp, ridden by Marlon St. Julien and trained by female K.C. Wojciechowski. I Are Sharp carried the silks of owners Henry White and Hugh Fitzsimmons, a native Texan and president of the Texas Thoroughbred Association who, ironically, was chairman of the Texas Racing Commission when Lone Star Park was granted a racing license in 1992. An enthusiastic crowd limited to 21,754 attended. The on-track handle for live racing was an impressive \$1,435,274, with a total of \$2,731,892 bet on Lone Star's opening card across the country. An additional \$547,800 was bet on other simulcast races, bringing the all-sources handle to \$3,279,692. "We could not have dreamed that we would do this well, but it shows how much interest there is and how many horseplayers are here, and they have responded," said Lone Star Park General Manager Corey Johnsen.
- April 20, 1997 Three days after opening its doors, Lone Star Park again attracted national attention as Carolyn and Sonny Hine brought their 1996 Champion 3-Year-Old Male Skip Away for the inaugural \$250,000 Texas Mile. But the Bob Baffert-trained Isitingood, who had set the world record for the one-mile distance in March, stole the show with a wire-to-wire, three-length victory under David Flores. His time of 1:34.44 still stands as the Lone Star track record for one mile. Multiple stakes winner Spiritbound finished second. Skip Away - eventually voted that year's Horse of the Year after wins in the Massachusetts Handicap, Suburban Handicap, Jockey Club Gold Cup and Breeders' Cup Classic - finished a well-beaten third. Two races later, the 24,200 in attendance were treated to Anet's dazzling 2 1/4-length win over Frisk Me Now and Holzmeister in the first Lone Star Derby. Anet, also trained by Baffert, would finish second in the Grade II Illinois Derby and Grade II Ohio Derby before returning to Lone Star for a victory in the USA Stakes, which cemented Horse of the Meeting honors. Later in the year, Anet would run second to Touch Gold in the Grade I Buick Haskell Invitational Handicap then prevail in the Grade II Del Mar Derby at 1 1/8 miles on turf. The on-track crowd of 24,717 wagered \$1,692,090 on live races and \$709,081 on simulcasts and another \$3,300,870 was bet off-track, accounting for an all-sources handle of \$5,702,041 - Lone Star Park's first \$5 million day.
- May 17, 1997 Caillouet Stables' Toll Paid, ridden by V.L. "Billy Smith and trained by Chris Candies, won the first turf race in Lone Star Park history.
- May 24, 1997 In one of the most exciting races of the inaugural meeting, 1996 Arkansas Derby winner Zarb's Magic exchanged the lead with Vindictive Silence in the stretch before catching that rival at the wire to win the \$50,000 Bob Johnson Memorial Stakes by a neck. Humble Seven was another neck back in third.
- May 26, 1997 Three young women with bluegrass roots whose penchant for jamming with fiddle, Dobro and banjo perform between races at Lone Star Park on Memorial Day. They were voted the Best Country Band in Dallas at the Observer Music Awards four years in a row, thanks to their vocal harmony and strong lead singing. The following January, their major label debut record *Wide Open Spaces* was released and The Dixie Chicks were now in the international spotlight.
- June 7, 1997 Burbank, trained by Donnie K. Von Hemel and ridden by Don Pettinger, won the inaugural \$150,000 Dallas Turf Cup Handicap by 1 3/4 lengths over Lost Soldier. It was the second of seven career stakes wins for Burbank who won 14 of 46 starts and \$746,126 between 1996-2000. He prevailed in five of 10 starts over the Lone Star Park turf course.
- June 22, 1997 Rene Gaston's Came Unwound, trained by her husband Jim, won the fillies division of the \$239,475 TTBA Sales Futurity at Lone Star Park by 2 1/4 lengths under jockey Tim Doocy. Came Unwound would two more stakes in Louisiana before finishing fifth in the Grade I Oak Leaf at Santa Anita. The next year, she would finish third in the Grade II Fantasy Stakes and 10th in the Kentucky Oaks, her final career start. That same day, Brick Works dueled in the stretch before prevailing over Lucky Kitch by 1 1/4 lengths in the colts and geldings division.

- June 26, 1997 Eddie Arcaro, the Hall of Fame jockey and only man to ride two Triple Crown winners, was honored at Lone Star Park on the eve of the inaugural National All-Star Jockey Championship.
- June 27, 1997 Gary Stevens, fresh off of a successful Triple Crown campaign with Silver Charm, defeated Chris McCarron, 14 points to 12, in the inaugural National All-Star Jockey Championship, a unique four-race competition that would be held at Lone Star every year through 2004 (known as the NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship from 1998-2003 and the International Jockey Championship in 2004). The inaugural event attracted 15,220 to see 10 of the best riders in the country, including seven of the eight active Hall of Famers, vie for bragging rights and raise money for the Jockeys' Guild Disabled Riders Fund. Lone Star Park's leading riders Ronald Ardoin and Marlon St. Julien also competed.
- July 4, 1997 A crowd of 20,089 attended Lone Star Park for live racing and post-race fireworks. On the racing program, Connecting Terms upset Texas Mile winner Isitingood in the inaugural \$200,000 Lone Star Park Handicap.
- July 5, 1997 Anet, who earlier won the Lone Star Derby for trainer Bob Baffert, cemented Horse of the Meet honors with a front-running 5 1/4-length victory in the \$150,000 USA Stakes.
- July 17, 1997 Jockey Ronald Ardoin won a track record six races on a single program.
- July 26, 1997 Danny Hutt, William Schaffrick and Robert Quakenbush's \$1,600 yearling purchase, Cowboy Dan, ridden by Corey Lanerie, won the \$203,500 Mid-South Futurity by 2 3/4 lengths for his first stakes win. In May, Cowboy Dan nearly handed eventual Horse of the Year Favorite Trick his only loss of the year when he was beaten just a neck at odds of 28-1 in the WHAS-11 Stakes at Churchill Downs on Kentucky Derby Day. Later that summer, the 2-year-old Texas-bred would win the Grade II Arlington-Washington Futurity at Arlington Park.
- July 27, 1997 Lone Star Park concluded one of the most successful inaugural seasons in American racing history when the daily handle averaged \$2,394,840 and ranked No. 1 among all major U.S. racetracks built since 1970. The average daily on-track handle was \$780,000, which remains a Lone Star Park record. Other records for the meet that still stand today are total on-track handle (\$97,763,000) and total on-track live handle (\$56,941,000). On the racetrack, Ronald Ardoin was the leading rider with 92 victories, while Jeremy Collier was the leading apprentice with 25 trips to the winner's circle. Dallas Keen won his first leading trainer title with 41 victories, with his main owner, Robert F. McCaslin, capturing leading owner honors with 12 victories. The top money-earners were jockey Marlon St. Julien (\$1,441,222), trainer Jim Gaston (\$639,476) and owner Donald Dizney (\$237,500).
- Sept. 12, 1997 Lone Star Park played host to the popular television series "Walker, Texas Ranger" as the CBS program taped a majority of a future horse racing-related episode at the racetrack through Sept. 18. Among the 140-member cast and crew was star Chuck Norris. "We've been wanting to do a horse racing episode for a long time," Norris said. "With Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie being here, it was a perfect marriage for us. It's a beautiful facility. I come here quite often and watch the races." Jockeys Franklin Turner, Cassandra Bailey and Doug Brinlee had cameos in the episode.
- Sept. 13, 1997 The one millionth customer in Lone Star Park history, Terri Wilson of Arlington, Texas, passed through the track's turnstiles.
- Sept. 19, 1997 Lone Star Park ran its first two races for Quarter Horses - two non-pari-mutuel trials for the Grade 2, \$75,000-added MBNA Texas Challenge Championship on Oct. 4.
- Oct. 3, 1997 SMS Racing's Winning Ease, ridden by Bonifacio Perez and trained by Tony Sedillo won the first pari-mutuel Quarter Horse race at Lone Star Park, a 300-yard dash worth \$5,700 for Texas-bred 3-year-olds and up with a claiming price of \$3,200. Winning Ease, a 4-year-old gelding, paid \$5.60 to win as the favorite in the field of 10.
- Oct. 4, 1997 Former AQHA Champion Aged Mare Kool Kue Baby showed her class winning the \$75,000 MBNA Texas Challenge Championship for owner Ramiro Lopez and trainer K.C. Carden.
- Oct. 24, 1997 Robert Moore's Dashing Perfection won the Grade 3, \$131,650 Dash For Cash Derby under G.R. Carter Jr., who rode the 3-year-old for trainer Jack Brooks.
- Oct. 25, 1997 My Love Wont Wait won the Grade 2, \$333,006 Dash For Cash Futurity and was later named Champion 2-Year-Old Filly at the meet.
- Nov. 22, 1997 Refrigerator, the two-time World Champion Quarter Horse, led the post parade for the inaugural running of the Refrigerator Handicap.
- Nov. 29, 1997 Dashing Perfection, ridden by G.R. Carter Jr. and trained by Jack Brooks, capped a perfect season at Lone Star Park with a win in the \$287,493 Texas Classic Derby and was subsequently named Horse of the Meeting and later the AQHA Champion 3-Year-Old. In doing so, Dashing Perfection ran 440 yards in a

track record :21.08 – the fourth fastest 440-yard clocking in AQHA history. In addition to the Texas Classic Derby, the Robert Moore-owned colt won the \$131,650 Dash For Cash Derby.

Nov. 30, 1997

Lone Star Park concluded its inaugural Fall Meeting of Champions with positive attendance and handle figures throughout the 34-day season. A total of 187,831 customers passed through the turnstiles for a daily average of 5,524. Patrons wagered more than \$9.8 million on-track on live racing for a daily average of \$288,788. Racing fans also wagered \$20.8 million on simulcast races at the track (\$614,668 daily average), while outlets across the country bet \$12.8 million on Lone Star's live races (\$378,326 daily average). "It was a good start for Quarter Horse racing at Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie," said Lone Star Park Vice-President and General Manager Corey Johnsen. "Highlighted by the extraordinary performance of Dashing Perfection, the quality of racing during the Fall Meeting of Champions was second to none in the Quarter Horse world." On the racetrack, The Informant charged from the outside to post a photo-finish victory in the Grade 1, \$883,084 Texas Classic Futurity. The race for top jockey went down to the last race of the meet between Kevin Cogburn and Gilbert Ortiz. The former beat the latter, 29 wins to 28, with his triumph aboard Da Great in the final race. G.R. Carter Jr., who finished seventh in the jockey standings, was voted AQHA Champion Jockey in 1997 with more than \$2.3 million in earnings. Cassandra Bailey won leading apprentice honors with her seven victories. Geral Dewitt of Garland, Texas won eight races to claim the leading owner title, while Steve Van Bebber dominated the trainer standings with 19 wins.

Nov. 30, 1997

Lone Star Park finished 1997 with \$66.8 million in wagers on live Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse races – the highest total in track history. Also, Fall Meeting of Champions records were set that still stand today: average daily on-track handle (\$903,000), total on-track handle (\$30,718,000), average daily on-track live handle (\$289,000) and total on-track live handle (\$9,189,000).

1998

April 19, 1998

After winning the inaugural Lone Star Derby and Texas Mile the year before, trainer Bob Baffert returned to Texas with Shot of Gold and 1997 Horse of the Meet Anet for another raid of Lone Star Park's lucrative races. It was spoiled, however, when Jeff Rand's Smolderin Heart overcame pacesetter Shot of Gold in the stretch to win the \$250,000 Lone Star Derby and Littlebitlively held off the favored Anet in the deep stretch to win the \$250,000 Texas Mile for top Louisiana owner John Franks.

April 22, 1998

A study conducted by Drs. Bernard L. Weinstein and Terry L. Clower of the Center for Economic Development and Research at the University of North Texas reported that Lone Star Park contributed to more than \$777 million in annual statewide economic activity and supported more than 28,000 jobs across the state of Texas, spanning both the rural and urban sectors.

May 9, 1998

Texas country-rocker Jerry Jeff Walker and his band, the Gonzo Compadres, performed a concert after the races at Lone Star Park. It was the first post-race concert in track history.

May 23, 1998

Crack sprinter Spiritbound, runner-up to Isitingood in the 1997 Texas Mile for owners Free Spirit Stable, came from off the pace under jockey E.J. Perrodin to win the \$100,000 Grand Prairie Gold Cup for trainer Jeff Trosclair.

May 24, 1998

Prime Meridian invaded from his Northern California base to win the \$150,000 Texas Turf Challenge Stakes by one length over Custer. Rafael Meza rode the winner for trainer Brent Sumja. That same day, the Louie Roussel-trained 2-year-old filly Arrested Dreams made her career debut at Lone Star Park with a 3 1/4-length triumph in a five-furlong maiden special weight. She would win three races at the meet, including the \$150,000 Silver Spur Stakes, then run second in the Grade I Matron at Belmont Park before concluding the year with a victory over Dreams Gallore in the \$50,000 Pontalba Stakes at Fair Grounds.

May 25, 1998

Kentucky invader Yaqthan, owned by Merdonmar Stable and trained by Tony Reinstedler, ran 1 1/8 miles on turf in a course record 1:45.54 under jockey Brian Peck to win the \$150,000 Dallas Turf Cup Handicap by one length over defending champ Burbank. During his 8-year-old season in 1998, Yaqthan also won the \$100,000 Independence Breeders' Cup Handicap at Louisiana Downs and \$300,000 Kentucky Cup Turf Handicap at Kentucky Downs. Also that day, each fan received a free Lone Star Park wallet that contained a mystery mutual voucher worth between \$2 and \$5,000.

June 13, 1998

John Franks' Prince of the Mt. spoiled a return to stakes competition for popular gray Silver Goblin when he held off a late charge from "The Goblin" to win the \$50,000 Bob Johnson Memorial Stakes by a head under jockey Ronald Ardoin. Silver Goblin, an 11-time stakes winner, had won back-to-back allowance races earlier in the Lone Star meeting. In 1995, the Kenny Smith-trained horse won the Grade II Razorback Handicap before finishing second to Cigar in that year's Oaklawn Handicap.

June 18, 1998

Team Secretariat – owner Penny Chenery and Hall of Fame jockey Ron Turcotte – are honored at Lone Star Park on the eve of the NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship.

- June 19, 1998 Shane Sellers scored 36 points from three wins in four races to easily win the NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship over Julie Krone (18 points) and Jerry Bailey (12). A record Jockey Championship crowd of 16,156 was in attendance.
- July 3, 1998 A crowd of 27,105 attended Lone Star Park for live racing and post-race fireworks.
- July 4, 1998 Mocha Express, under Marlon St. Julien, won his first Lone Star Park Handicap with a three-quarter-length triumph over Dickey Rickey. The Bob Baffert-trained Anet finished a disappointing fourth as the odds-on favorite. Baffert rebounded in the \$150,000 USA Stakes when Mike Pegram's Commitisize dominated Dernier Croise by 2 3/4 lengths. Also on the card, Final Val ran 1 1/2 miles on turf in a course record 2:28.20.
- July 18, 1998 The Louie Roussel-trained 2-year-old filly Arrested Dreams won her third race of the meet with a 2 1/4-length triumph in the \$150,000 Silver Spur Stakes. In her next start, she was beaten a nose in the Grade I Matron at Belmont Park. She'd conclude her year with a victory over Dreams Gallore in the \$50,000 Pontalba Stakes at Fair Grounds. She won eight of her 12 career starts and \$319,969 between 1998-2000. Early in the day on Fan Appreciation Day, there was a record \$2 Daily Double payoff of \$3,016.80
- July 19, 1998 On closing day of the 1998 Spring Thoroughbred Season, Wings of Jones won the \$153,000 Middleground Stakes, but the fifth-place finisher would later garner national attention. Answer Lively, trained by Bobby Barnett, would go on to win that year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Churchill Downs and be named North America's Champion Two-Year-Old Male. Also, Sir Moon Dancer ran 1 3/4 miles in a track record 3:00.46 in the longest race ever run at Lone Star Park. At season's end, Lone Star Park became the first racetrack in modern horse racing history to increase attendance in its second year of operation, from 9,763 in 1997 to a local record 9,808 in 1998. Marlon St. Julien was the leading rider with 78 wins and \$1,703,089 in earnings. Alex Jimenez was the leading apprentice with 30 wins. Conditioners Dallas Keen and Jim Gaston shared trainers title with 36 wins apiece, while Tom Durant claimed leading owner honors with 14 victories. Steve Asmussen was the top money-winning trainer with \$668,078, while John Franks' \$417,300 topped all owners.
- Sept. 19, 1998 Chuck Berry and Little Richard - both inducted into the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame in 1986 - perform in concert during the fourth annual KLUV Oldies Festival before a record crowd of 34,724. The event moved to Lone Star Park for the first time after spending previous years at South Fork Ranch and the Texas Motorplex. Also on the bill were The Buckingham's and The Turtles, as well as a classic car show, exhibit booths, a petting zoo and pony rides. "The KLUV Oldies Festival is an example of our commitment to host entertainment events during our non-live racing period to attract new visitors to our facility," said Vice-President and Assistant General Manager Steve Sexton.
- Oct. 23, 1998 The "Sleepy" Gilbreath-trained Showcase Six provided an upset of sorts with his victory over highly-regarded Tailor Fit in the Dash For Cash Derby.
- Oct. 24, 1998 Robert Gentry's Deelish stamped himself as one of the nation's best 2-year-old Quarter Horses with a dominant victory in the Dash For Cash Futurity.
- Nov. 14, 1998 Lone Star Park hosted the sixth annual MBNA America Challenge Championships for the first time. Horses from all over the country traveled to Lone Star Park for Quarter Horse racing's equivalent to the Breeders' Cup. Major winners during the races included Vital Time in the Grade 1 American Airlines Juvenile Challenge; Devil His Due in the Grade I MCI World Com Distance Challenge; and Tailor Fit in the Grade I Sooner Trailer Derby. But it was Kool Kue Baby who was the star of the show, winning the Grade I MBNA America Challenge Championship to tie Jolly Jet Deck's AQHA record of 22 career stakes wins.
- Nov. 28, 1998 Kool Kue Baby, under jockey Tami Purcell, set an AQHA racing record when she won her 23rd career stakes race with a dominating one-length victory over Casino Bully in the \$25,000 Refrigerator Handicap. Kool Kue Baby, trained by K.C. Carden, weighed just 950 pounds and was acquired by owner Ramiro Lopez for two pigs, two calves and a dog.
- Dec. 1, 1998 In its first year of eligibility, the Texas Mile was awarded Grade III status from the North American Graded Stakes Committee. It marked the first time that a Lone Star Park Thoroughbred race received graded status.
- Dec. 31, 1998 Lone Star Park concluded the year with 1,300,290 customers passing through the turnstile since Jan. 1, its highest traffic total to date. It was the first time in modern horse racing history that a racetrack showed an increase in its second year of operation. "It is very difficult for any sports facility to show an increase in attendance during its second year of operation," said Vice-President and General Manager Corey Johnsen. "Our marketing department did an outstanding job of promoting our facility in 1998. Also, our market research shows a growing awareness of Lone Star Park in the marketplace, ranking us among the top tier of sports franchises in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex."

1999

- Feb. 19, 1999 The first ATMs were permitted to be installed at Texas racetracks.

- April 18, 1999 An appearance by 1998 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Real Quiet and the retirement of the sport's top female jockey Julie Krone attracted 21,124 to Lone Star Park on Lone Star Derby/Texas Mile Day. More than \$5.6 million was wagered on Lone Star's live races. Real Quiet was upset by defending champ Littlebitlively in Texas' first graded stakes race, the Grade III, \$300,000 Texas Mile. Real Quiet would win the Grade I Pimlico Special in his next start and the Grade I Hollywood Gold Cup in June (his final start). Krone ended her stellar career with a three-win day (she would later come out of retirement in 2002), but fell 1 ¼ lengths short in her final ride aboard Desert Demon in the \$301,650 Lone Star Derby. Locally-based T.B. Track Star, ridden by Eddie Martin Jr. and trained by Chris Candies, would win race at odds of 31-1.
- May 1, 1999 Lone Star Park recorded its first \$7 million day when all-sources handle swelled to \$7.2 million on Kentucky Derby Day, including \$3.1 million on-track and another \$4 million off-track.
- May 27, 1999 Lone Star Park hosted a group of 7,000 Microsoft employees for a company party. The private event, which featured a concert by husband-wife country music stars Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, was staged in conjunction with a live racing program at the racetrack's west end of the facility.
- May 31, 1999 Lone Star Park staged its first Lone Star Million, a series of stakes races on one racing program cumulatively worth more than \$1 million. It instantly became the richest annual day in Texas horse racing and 18 horses from Kentucky, California and New York were flown in to compete. Before a crowd of 17,003, trainer Steve Asmussen won three of the seven stakes including the Prestonwood Distaff with Heritage of Gold, and popular Texas-bred Mocha Express won the \$300,000 Lone Star Park Handicap for the second year in a row. It was Mocha Express' record fourth local stakes win, a mark shared with the mare Cinemine. Heritage of Gold, meanwhile, would go on to finish third in the 1999 and 2000 Breeders' Cup Distaffs. Total handle on the day reached \$5.4 million, including \$2.4 on-track. No favorites won on the entire 11-race card.
- June 7, 1999 There was a record nine-day carryover of \$151,287 in the \$1 Twin Trifecta.
- June 18, 1999 Record second half of the \$1 Twin Trifecta paid \$81,935.90. The pool was a result of a five-day carryover.
- June 19, 1999 Bobby Frankel became the first Hall of Fame trainer to saddle a horse at Lone Star Park when Southern California invader Martiniquais, winner of the Grade II San Gabriel Handicap in 1997, started in the \$150,000 Dallas Turf Cup Handicap. Edmund Gann's 6-year-old horse, ridden by David Flores, ran 1 1/8 miles on turf in 1:49.39 and defeated Special Memories by 1 3/4 lengths.
- June 23, 1999 Members of the Dallas Stars brought the Stanley Cup to Lone Star Park.
- June 24, 1999 The world's most famous jockey, Bill Shoemaker, was honored at Lone Star Park on the eve of the NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship.
- June 25, 1999 Legendary jockey Laffit Pincay Jr., who would later retire from racing as the all-time leading rider with 9,530 victories (a record broken by Russell Baze in 2006), won the NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship at the age of 52. He defeated Lone Star Park's leading rider Corey Lanerie, 19 points to 13, in front of 15,671 fans.
- July 3, 1999 A crowd of 28,619 attended Lone Star Park for live racing and post-race fireworks.
- July 9, 1999 Lone Star Park debuted Drive-Thru Wagering off Gate 2 with 97 cars passing through the four wagering terminals making \$5,198 in wagers.
- July 22, 1999 Record \$2 Trifecta paid \$55,236
- July 25, 1999 The Spring Thoroughbred Season concluded with jockey Corey Lanerie riding a record 102 winners at 72-day meet (note: Cliff Berry broke the record with 103 wins in 2006) and trainer Steve Asmussen winning his first Lone Star Park training title with 48 wins, including eight stakes triumphs.
- July 25, 1999 Lone Star Park concluded the 1999 Spring Thoroughbred Season with a record average daily all-sources handle of \$3,385,000, including a record \$2,750,000 on live races. The average daily on-track handle (live races and simulcasts) of \$1,358,000 was also a record, as were total all-sources wagers (\$243,696,000) and total wagers on live races (\$197,966,000).
- Aug. 30, 1999 Lone Star Park hosted the Fasig-Tipton Texas Summer Yearling Sale in the newly-constructed Texas Thoroughbred Sales Pavilion on Aug. 30-31. The Sales Pavilion is a 12,000-square-foot climate-controlled facility, complete with office and catering space. A 5,500-square-foot covered ring is attached to the Sales Pavilion, which is located in close proximity to the Lone Star Park stable area. The \$1-million Sales Pavilion was a project developed by Lone Star Park, Fasig-Tipton Company, Inc., the Texas Thoroughbred Association and a group of individual partners, each of whom are major Thoroughbred owners and breeders.

- Sept. 11, 1999 Lone Star Park hosted an American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) Grand National Championship race, the Dallas Mile - A Chris Agajanian Presents Inc. production, featuring some of the world's fastest motorcycles on Lone Star's one-mile oval. Joe Kopp of Mica, Wash. won the nine-lap event in front of a crowd of 17,198.
- Oct. 22, 1999 Simplify broke fast from the gate and held off a late charge from Ruidoso Derby winner Okey Dokey Dale to win the Grade I, \$212,350 Dash For Cash Derby by a neck. Deelish, the 1998 Dash For Cash Futurity winner, was another neck back in third. Falling In Love Again, the 1998 All-American Futurity winner and 7-5 favorite, finished sixth.
- Oct. 23, 1999 Ov Jet, claimed for \$3,200 in September 1999, completed a Cinderella story by winning the Grade I, \$455,175 Dash For Cash Futurity by a half-length over fastest qualifier Promised Assets. Trained by Anthony Arey for owner Geral Dewitt, the 2-year-old earned \$182,070 and would be named Horse of the Meeting.
- Oct. 27, 1999 Three Lone Star Park executives were promoted to Vice-President: G.W. Hail (Vice-President of Marketing and Sales), Jeff Hooper (Vice-President of Administration) and Paula Newman (Vice-President of Finance).
- Nov. 6, 1999 Lone Star Park recorded its first \$3 million day at the Fall Meeting of Championships on Breeders' Cup Championships Day. All-sources handle totaled \$3,085,571, including \$2,371,477 from the on-track crowd of 9,208.
- Nov. 21, 1999 Jockey Gilbert Ortiz was involved in a serious spill during the ninth race when his mount Specialella fell shortly after crossing the wire in sixth. The accident resulted in Ortiz suffering two back fractures, a frontal skull fracture, a minor cervical spine fracture in his neck and fractured bones near his eye. After undergoing serious back surgery on Dec. 2 and seven months of rigorous rehabilitation, Ortiz amazingly returned to riding in the summer of 2000. Ortiz's comeback led to him being honored with the 2000 Gary Bridwell Courage Award presented by the Dallas All Sports Association, which recognizes all professional and amateur athletes in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. In his first race back at Lone Star Park, Ortiz won the first race of the 2000 Fall Meeting of Champions aboard Apachee Storm.
- Nov. 26, 1999 Jakes Jockmo, at odds of 20-1, defeated 9-5 favorite Okey Dokey Dale by a half-length in the Grade 1, \$264,577 Texas Classic Derby. Owned by Phil Chess of Tuscon, Ariz., the 3-year-old daughter of Sixarun ran the 440 yards in :21.76. Brian Green rode the winner for trainer Bill Weger.
- Nov. 27, 1999 BK Runner, owned by Billy Kirk of Goliad, Texas, broke fast and finished strong to win the Grade 1, \$784,733 Texas Classic Futurity. The 2-year-old out-finished stablemate Gone Kool Man to win the 400-yard dash by a half-length in :19.89. Both colts were trained by Steve Van Bebber. Joe Badilla Jr., based in Southern California, rode the winner and became the Quarter Horse racing's first \$3-million winner in a single year. Badilla subbed for jockey Gilbert Ortiz, who was seriously injured in a Nov. 21 spill at Lone Star.
- Nov. 28, 1999 On closing day of the Fall Meeting of Champions, trainer Steve Van Bebber saddled a Fall Meeting of Champions record five winners, including two stakes wins. Tailor Fit, who would be crowned AQHA World Champion that year, set a stakes record while winning the \$75,000 Refrigerator Handicap and War Colors easily prevailed in the \$20,000 Cattle Barron Stakes.
- Dec. 2, 1999 The National Graded Stakes Committee awarded the Lone Star Park Handicap with Grade III status, giving the Grand Prairie racetrack two graded stakes events for the 2000 Spring Thoroughbred Season (the other is the Texas Mile).
- Dec. 31, 1999 Lone Star Park concluded its best year for wagering as more than \$244 million was bet on property since Jan. 1.

2000

- Jan. 13, 2000 Corey Johnsen was promoted from Vice-President and General Manager to Lone Star Park President, replacing Robert L. Kaminski who assumed the role as chairman. In addition, Steve Sexton was promoted to Executive Vice-President and General Manager, and Jeff Greco was named Executive Vice President and Assistant General Manager.
- March 2, 2000 Lone Star Park announced plans to offer the country's first \$1 million bonus (\$750,000 to the owner and \$250,000 to the trainer) for a horse to win the \$300,000 Lone Star Derby and any of the three Triple Crown classics: the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes or Belmont Stakes. In the past, other racetracks had offered rewards connected to winning the Kentucky Derby only.
- April 22, 2000 Florida-based trainer Ralph Ziadie and jockey Eibar Coa raided Lone Star Park and won the Grade III, \$300,000 Texas Mile and \$300,000 Lone Star Derby with millionaire Sir Bear and Tahkodha Hills, respectively. The start of the Lone Star Derby was delayed for eight minutes when skydivers that were part of a pre-race ceremony made hard landings on their feet and knees to due high winds. James Knight of

Kaufman re-fractured his right femur (he had a previous break in the leg from another skydiving accident) and Wayne Kesse of Granbury sprained his right ankle. "His chute opened, but he just came down harder than normal," said Lone Star Park Vice-President and General Manager Steve Sexton.

May 13, 2000

Boots On Sunday, owned and bred by Wilton Scott, defeated Texas-breds in a seven-furlong allowance race for the first of six career victories at Lone Star Park. Roman Chapa rode the winner for trainer Danny Pish. Also, trainer Les Nichols and Valerie Irving exchanged wedding vows in the Lone Star Park winner's circle at noon before the start of live racing. "Valerie's parents, Bill and Sheila Irving, own Post Oak Downs training center," Nichols said. "I met Valerie while working there. I'd ask her to marry me a couple of times, but she never really answered me. Then, a week ago, she said, 'Let's get married.' And I said, 'Well, I've got a horse in at Lone Star Park next Saturday, so why don't we get married in the winner's circle?' I thought it was the thing to do . . . And when I'm gone, I want my ashes spread at the finish line." In an unrelated matter, country artist Lee Roy Parnell performed a concert after the races.

May 29, 2000

On Lone Star Million Day, Southern California invader Luftikus, owned by Frank Stronach and trained by Vladimir Cerin, clinched Horse of the Meeting honors by running 1 1/16 miles in a track record 1:40.87 in the Grade III, \$300,000 Lone Star Park Handicap. Bobby Asaro's Caro's Royalty, ridden by Marlon St. Julien, won the \$100,000 Lone Star Park Turf Sprint Handicap for a second time (he won the inaugural 1997 edition). Caro's Royalty would start in the race five times (1997-2001). Overall, he won 20 of 84 starts and \$587,743 between 1996-2004, including six of 19 starts on the Lone Star Park turf course. Also, Nolan Creek Farm's Cinemine equaled Mocha Express' record of four Lone Star Park stakes wins with a gate-to-wire victory over Bourbon Belle in the \$100,000 Wild Flower Stakes (now known as the Valid Expectations Stakes). Eddie Martin Jr. rode the winner for trainer Larry Robideaux. Overall, she'd win 12 of 29 starts and \$506,681 between 1997-2000, including five of 10 starts at Lone Star. Meanwhile, jockey Victor Espinoza rode Mumtaz to victory in the \$200,000 WinStar Distaff and Purely Cozzene for trainer Bob Baffert in the \$200,000 USA Stakes.

June 16, 2000

Cash Asmussen, a five-time champion jockey in France after winning a 1979 Eclipse Award as outstanding apprentice in the U.S. rode in his first race at Lone Star Park. Black Avalanche, trained by his brother Steve, finished third as the even-money favorite. Cash would also ride in three races on June 17, but could only manage a fourth aboard Army of One for trainer Darrell Vienna in the \$250,000 Dallas Turf Cup. He was in the United States to ride Rebel winner and Preakness fifth Snuck In for his brother in the \$200,000 Leonard Richards Stakes at Delaware Park on June 18.

June 17, 2000

Texas-bred Gold Nugget posted a 16-1 upset in the \$250,000 Dallas Turf Cup Handicap.

June 22, 2000

Team Affirmed and jockey Steve Cauthen were honored at Lone Star Park on the eve of the NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship.

June 23, 2000

Edgar Prado won NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship in a tiebreaker with Lone Star Park's leading rider Donnie Meche. Both Prado and Meche finished with 19 points, but Prado and his mount We Are Family won the final leg and tiebreaker. Mike Smith was third with 15 points. Total attendance was 15,315.

June 24, 2000

Donnie Meche, who had a 53-39 lead over Glen Murphy in the jockey standings, announced that he would miss the remainder of the meet due to an injured right rotator cuff from a water sports accident at nearby Joe Pool Lake on June 13. Meche returned to the saddle June 21 to ride one winner, did not accept mounts on June 22 and won two races in June 23, including one Jockey Championship race. Glen Murphy would eventually win his only Lone Star Park riding title with 62 wins and Meche would hang on for second.

June 30, 2000

Boots On Sunday won the first of eight career stakes wins with a 1 1/2-length victory in the \$50,000 Longhorn Sprint, a six-furlong stakes race for Texas-breds.

July 3, 2000

A throng of 33,805 fans attended Lone Star Park for live racing and post-race holiday fireworks - the largest crowd to attend the racetrack outside of the 53,717 that attended the 2004 Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships. For the first time, the fireworks show was choreographed to a video shown on the JumboTron that was produced by Lone Star's Doug Gruden. Also that day, Japanese superstar Yutaka Take rode the Kathy Walsh-trained Whyome to a second-place finish in the Grand Prairie Turf Challenge Stakes.

July 4, 2000

Japanese superstar Yutaka Take rode Islay Mist to a second place finish in the \$150,000 Walmac Lone Star Oaks. One race later (Race 9), he prevailed in a 5 1/2-furlong allowance race on the main track aboard John Elder's Lady Gallapiat for trainer Monte Couch in his only other mount.

July 15, 2000

Rising Texas country music Pat Green performed a concert after the races at Lone Star Park for the 12,435 in attendance. He would return the following year and attendance soared to 21,157. That same day, Daily Racing Form's Editor and Publisher Steven Christ and National Handicapper Mike Watchmaker gave a handicapping seminar at Lone Star in conjunction with their Handicapalooza 2000 promotion, a 12-day, 11-track and one-casino cross country tour. Also, the Section 8 comedy troupe performed before the Pat Green concert.

- July 21, 2000 Jonathan Horowitz, a 15-year-old high school student from Irvine, Calif., called Lone Star Park's second race as a guest track announcer. Horowitz previously called a Quarter Horse race at Los Alamitos and a Thoroughbred race at Turf Paradise. He would return to Lone Star Park on Nov. 3, 2006 to fill in for announcer John Lies, who was chosen to participate in All-Star Announcer's Day at Churchill Downs on the eve of the Breeders' Cup World Championships.
- July 22, 2000 Jockey Ronald Ardoin rode two winners to overtake Marlon St. Julien as the all-time leading rider at Lone Star Park, 215 wins to 214. The pair of victories also left 43-year-old Ardoin 10 victories shy of becoming the 16th jockey in history to win 5,000 races in his career.
- July 25, 2000 Lone Star Park offered simulcast wagering on Tuesdays for the first time, making simulcast wagering available seven days a week.
- Sept. 19, 2000 The Grand Prairie City Council unanimously voted 7-0 to build a \$1.2 million outdoor skate park on the grounds of Lone Star Park with revenue generated from a quarter-cent sales tax approved by voters in November 1999. The City of Grand Prairie, which owns the family/teen facility, contracted Lone Star Park to develop and operate the skate park. It was scheduled to open in March 2001.
- Oct. 10, 2000 Greyhound racing simulcasts were offered for the first time at Lone Star Park.
- Oct. 13, 2000 Eddie Cox Jr. won Lone Star Park's inaugural AQHA Jockey Championship with 30 points, eight more than Jacky Martin. Retired riding legend Jerry Nicodemus, the regular pilot of Dash For Cash, was honored during the Jockey Championship luncheon.
- Oct. 20, 2000 Heavily-favored Significant Speed, ridden by Roy Baldillez and trained by "Sleepy" Gilbreath, overcame a bobble at the start to win the Grade 1, \$208,600 Dash For Cash Derby by a neck over stablemate Exclusive Form. Significant Speed ran 440 yards in :21.41 to break the stakes record of :21.47 set by Dashing Perfection in 1997.
- Oct. 21, 2000 Pivotal Decision won the Grade 1, \$484,965 Dash For Cash Futurity under Jockey Juan Vazquez. Owned by Joshua Harner of Lucas, Texas, and trained by John Buchanan, Pivotal Decision prevailed by a half-length over Feature Mr Jess, who finished second as the 9-10 favorite.
- Oct. 28, 2000 Runaway Wil kicked clear late to hold off World Champion Tailor Fit by a neck in the Grade 1, \$300,000 MBNA America Challenge Championship, the centerpiece of a 13-race stakes extravaganza on Saturday night at Lone Star Park. The victory by the 15-1 outsider spoiled a fourth Challenge Championship win on the night for trainer Steve Van Bebber. Van Bebber earlier won the \$50,000 Professional's Choice Challenge Championship with Mr Franchise, the \$75,000 Centaur Challenge Championship (Gr. 1) with Kool Kue Baby and the \$175,000 Bayer Legend Challenge Championship with War Colors. For Kool Kue Baby, it was her AQHA record 25th stakes win and the end of her stellar 64-race career that resulted in 34 wins and \$783,519 - not bad for a 950-pound horse that was once traded for two pigs, two calves and a dog. Also that night, Sign Of Lanty, the top-ranked distance horse, lived up to his billing with a convincing come-from-behind win in the \$75,000 MCI WorldCom Distance Championship. The 6-year-old gelded son of The Signature outdueled Drip Dry Dash inside the sixteenth pole and completed the 870-yard marathon in :44.27 - a Lone Star Park record and MBNA America Challenge Championships stakes record.
- Nov. 18, 2000 *The Thoroughbred Times*, a weekly Kentucky-based horseracing magazine, reported the results of a on-line survey where readers were asked "Of the tracks that have not hosted the Breeders' Cup, which would be the best site to host a future championship event?" Lone Star Park was the winner, receiving 38.3% of the votes, followed by Arlington Park (28.0%), Saratoga (16.9%), Del Mar (12.7%) and "other" (4.1%).
- Nov. 24, 2000 Streakin Snowman, ridden by Charles McMahon and trained by Kenneth Roberts, streaked to victory in the Grade 1, \$241,521 Texas Classic Derby.
- Nov. 25, 2000 All American Futurity winner Eysa Special edged Dash For Cash Futurity champ Pivotal Decision by a neck in a thrilling renewal of the \$911,311 Texas Classic Futurity. The 2-year-old millionaire, ridden by Jacky Martin and trained by Jack Brooks, blazed 400 yards in :19.48, which shattered the track record by 15-hundredths of a second. In fact, the top five runners in the field of 10 two-year-olds eclipsed the old mark of :19.63. Prior to the race, Brooks battled a foot problem with Eysa Special. "This might have been his best race - better than the All American. You know, I always point 'em to the All American but considering what we went through with him and his foot, this was something. In all my years, I've never seen a field this tough. And the field lived up to all the hype." The field entered the race with 38 victories and more than \$2 million in earnings. Eysa Special solidified his No. 1 ranking as the nation's top 2-year-old. Pivotal Decision was ranked No. 3 and Feature Mr Jess, the Rainbow Futurity winner, was ranked fourth.
- Dec. 2, 2000 Lone Star Park concluded its Fall Meeting of Champions with several business records: average daily all-sources handle (\$1,559,000), total all-sources handle (\$51,447,000), average daily live product handle (\$899,000), total live product handle (\$29,670,000), average daily off-track handle (\$665,000), total off-track handle (\$21,931,000), average daily on-track simulcast wagering (\$660,000) and total on-track simulcast

wagering (\$21,777,000). That same night, Victory Defined wore down Deposit Cash in the late stages to win the Grade 2, \$75,000 Refrigerator Handicap.

Dec. 12, 2000

Steve Van Bebber, Lone Star Park's leading Quarter Horse trainer in wins (101), stakes wins (16) and earnings (\$1,734,616), tragically died at age 50 from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He won four consecutive fall training titles (1997-2000) and boasted a 20.2% win-clip at Lone Star Park from 501 starts, 101 wins, 72 seconds and 75 thirds. At the 2000 Fall Meeting of Champions, he won a phenomenal 36 races at the 33-night meet and had more wins than the leading jockeys (Jacky Martin and Gilbert Ortiz, who each had 32). In 1999, he enjoyed, perhaps, his finest season and was named the AQHA Champion Trainer. On the final day of the 1999 Lone Star Park season, Van Bebber won a record five races, two of which were stakes events, including the \$75,000 Refrigerator Handicap with Tailor Fit. One day earlier, he posted the most lucrative victory of his career with B.K. Runner in the Grade 1, \$784,733 Texas Classic Futurity. A few weeks later, Betty Jane Burlin's Tailor Fit returned to the winner's circle in California, prevailing in the Grade 1 Champion of Champions at Los Alamitos. The victory clinched end of season honors for the son of Strawfly Special and gave Van Bebber his first World Champion. Van Bebber, who began training in 1973, won 10 Grade 1 races. At the time of his death, he ranked third all-time among American Quarter Horse trainers with 1,847 career wins (9,259 starts, 1,847 wins, 1,969 seconds and 1,332 thirds -- a 19.9% win-percentage). His horses earned \$9,750,961, which ranked sixth all-time. In 2000, he led all trainers in wins (143) and earnings (\$2,202,472).

Dec. 31, 2000

Lone Star Park concluded 2000 with a facility record \$186.5 million in wagers on simulcast races across the country.

2001

March 30, 2001

The GPX Skate Park and Entertainment Center was opened to the public.

April 7, 2001

For the first time, the Lone Star Derby was positioned four weeks before the Kentucky Derby, the purse was boosted from \$300,000 to \$500,000 and the distance was increased from 1 1/16 miles to 1 1/8 miles. In past years, it had been run two weeks before the Run for the Roses. The Tony Reinstedler-trained Percy Hope, ridden by Jon Court, defeated Fifty Stars by two lengths. As was the case in 2000, a \$1 million bonus (\$750,000 to the owner and \$250,000 to the trainer) was offered for a horse to win the \$300,000 Lone Star Derby and any of the three Triple Crown classics: the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes or Belmont Stakes. Percy Hope would finish ninth in the Preakness Stakes in his next start. The race also was linked in a nationwide \$1 Pick 3 called "The Derby Triple" with the Santa Anita Derby and Illinois Derby. Each race was broadcast on ESPN's "CITGO Racing to the Kentucky Derby" telecast from 4-5 p.m. CT.

April 15, 2001

Lone Star Park Chairman Bob Kaminski gave Magna Entertainment Chairman Frank Stronach a private tour of Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie.

April 16, 2001

Executive Vice-President and General Manager Steve Sexton announced that he would be leaving Lone Star Park to take over as Executive Vice President of Arlington Park, effective May 7. Sexton was promoted to Arlington Park President in August 2001 then joined the Churchill Downs management team in December 2002 as an Executive Vice-President and Churchill Downs Racetrack President. In January 2007, he took on an expanded role, overseeing Churchill Downs' three other racetracks - Arlington Park, Calder Race Course and Fair Grounds - as well.

April 28, 2001

California-invader Dixie Dot Com, a multiple Grade II winner trained by Bill Morey Jr., rolled to a 6 1/2-length victory over six rivals in the Grade III, \$300,000 Texas Mile. The lightly raced 6-year-old, ridden by David Flores, covered the mile in 1:34.72, just .28 off the track and stakes record set in 1997 by Isitingood. "When this horse is fit and happy as he was today, he is as strong as any horse in the handicap division at the mile distance," Flores said. Dixie Dot Com and Morey would remain in Texas for the next month and become the only horse to sweep both the Texas Mile and Lone Star Park Handicap in the same year. Dixie Dot Com would retire with eight wins and \$1,332,775 from 23 starts between 1997-2001.

May 12, 2001

Tom Durant's Touch Tone, ridden by Curt Bourque and trained by Ronny Werner, ran seven furlongs in 1:21.54 en route to a five-length victory over Son Of Rocket in the \$100,000 Alysheba Breeders' Cup Stakes. Later that summer, the Florida-bred son of Pick Up the Phone won the Iowa Derby by 7 1/4 lengths and nearly upset eventual Horse of the Year Point Given in the Grade I Haskell Invitational.

May 18, 2001

Lone Star Park's new world-class GPX Skate Park and Entertainment Center played host to the 2001 X-Trials, a three-day extreme sports competition that was a prelude to ESPN's popular X Games. More than 35,000 patrons attended the three-day event. The \$1.2 million facility opened on March 31.

May 19, 2001

Hattiesburg, ridden by Gerard Melancon and trained by Tom Amoss, won the \$75,000 Wafare Farm Stakes and gave legendary owner and breeder Nelson Bunker Hunt of Dallas his first Lone Star Park stakes win. "Not only was it our first stakes win here, it was the first stakes race we've run in at Lone Star Park," said 75-year-old Hunt. "We're very fortunate. I always enjoy winning." Hunt, who campaigned greats Exceller and Dahlia in the 1970s, left the racing business in 1988 after heavy financial losses in silver trading and the

- oil market. The two-time Eclipse Award-winning breeder sold almost 600 horses at Keeneland that year for \$46 million. After an 11-year absence from the sport, Hunt returned to the game in March 1999 by purchasing a sale-topping 13 horses at the Fasig-Tipton Texas 2-year-olds in training sale. Hunt owned and bred Dahlia, who earned more than \$1.5 million while racing from 1972-76 under the care of trainers Maurice Zilber and Charlie Whittingham. She was Horse of the Year in England, Champion 3-Year-Old in Ireland and Champion Grass Horse in North America in 1974. Exceller, also trained by Zilber and Whittingham, earned in excess of \$1.6 million and is the only horse to defeat two Triple Crown winners - Seattle Slew and Affirmed - in the 1978 Jockey Club Gold Cup at Belmont Park.
- May 26, 2001 The appropriately-named Purse Stealer, ridden by Don Simington, posted a 115-1 upset in the 11th and final race of the day. A \$2 win ticket was worth a track record \$231.40. The race also triggered a Lone Star Park record \$2 Exacta of \$6,900 and a record \$1 Trifecta of \$58,544.
- May 28, 2001 Southern California invader Dixie Dot Com, ridden by David Flores and trained by Bill Morey, became the first and only horse to sweep both of Lone Star's Grade III stakes for older horses, the \$300,000 Texas Mile and \$300,000 Lone Star Park Handicap. His swift time of 1:40.53 in the Handicap remains a Lone Star Park track record for 1 1/16 miles. Also, Louisiana super filly Hallowed Dreams won for the 22nd time in 23 trips to the post, and for the first time outside the Pelican State, in capturing the \$100,000 Valid Expectations Stakes. A Lone Star Million record 19,027 attended and more than \$6 million was wagered on Lone Star Park's races that day. On the day, one lucky patron cashed \$48,496.50 on a Lone Star Park record \$1 Superfecta. Another was rewarded with a Lone Star Park record \$1 Pick 3 payoff of \$16,825.50.
- June 1, 2001 Lone Star Park hired Eugene Joyce, the former general manager of Wyoming Downs and son of former Arlington Park President Joe Joyce Jr., as Director of Product Development. That same day, Lone Star Park announced plans for a promotion for jockeys to raise money for the Jockeys' Guild Disabled Riders Fund and the Mike Modano Foundation. In conjunction with Bob Sambol's Bob's Steak & Chop House in Dallas, a jockey that won two races would be worth \$100; three, \$200; four, \$1,000; five, \$2,000; six, \$10,000; and a Lone Star record seven wins, \$100,000. Over the course of the season, more than \$22,000 was raised for both charities.
- June 15, 2001 Attendance at Lone Star Park skyrocketed to 21,157, thanks to nine live horse races and a 90-minute post-race concert by country music artist Pat Green. The concert was the second in the Miller Lite "True to Texas" Concert Series at Lone Star Park. "It was a tremendous night that exceeded all expectations," said Vice-President of Marketing & Sales G.W. Hail. "Concerts and other entertainment . . . are part of our overall trial marketing strategy. We're giving those casual entertainment-based fans a reason to come to Lone Star Park and experience the sport of horse racing. Our customer surveys showed that 50-percent of the crowd had never been to Lone Star Park before and had a great time. Hopefully, they'll come back again in the near future." At the time, it was the third largest crowd Green had performed for.
- June 16, 2001 Lone Star Park's \$300,000 Dallas Turf Cup was televised on CBS Sports' "NTRA Summer Racing Tour," marking the racetrack's first appearance on network television (4-5 p.m. CT). The Dallas Turf Cup, won by the Bobby Frankel-trained El Gran Papa, was one of three live races in the one-hour telecast. The other live races were the Stephen Foster Handicap (Churchill Downs) and Hollywood Breeders' Cup Oaks (Hollywood Park). There also was taped coverage of the Brooklyn Handicap (Belmont Park), Hong Kong Queen Elizabeth II (Sha Tin Racecourse) and Singapore International Cup (Kranji Racecourse). Dave Johnson was the host. He was joined by analysts Randy Moss and Caton Bredar and commentators Lesley Visser and Gary Seibel.
- June 19, 2001 Lone Star Park announced the creation of the Lone Star Park Charitable Foundation for Grand Prairie.
- June 21, 2001 Bill Hartack, who won the Kentucky Derby a record five times, and renowned artist LeRoy Neiman were honored at Lone Star Park on the eve of the NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship. Neiman, known for his brilliantly colored, stunningly energetic images of sporting events and leisure activities, was commissioned to specially design a poster for the Jockey Championship.
- June 22, 2001 Dallas native Jerry Bailey won the NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship with 19 points, one more than 1999 champ Laffit Pincay Jr. Pat Day finished third, completing a Hall of Fame sweep for the top three positions. A crowd of 15,121 attended.
- June 23, 2001 Hallowed Dreams, who equaled the record of Citation and Cigar with 16 consecutive wins, recorded her second stakes win of the season at Lone Star Park with a commanding 2 1/2-length triumph in the \$75,000 Miller Lite Stakes as the odds-on 1-5 favorite. It was her seventh win in a row, 23rd in 24 starts and second victory outside her native state of Louisiana. Prior to the race, owner-trainer Lloyd Romero made mention of breaking the five-furlong world record of :54 4/5. She was clocked in :56.03. "I wasn't worried about any records," said winning jockey Sylvester Carmouche. "I just wanted her to win."
- June 30, 2001 Lone Star Park staged its first Stars of Texas Day, a day of racing devoted entirely to horses bred in Texas. Lights On Broadway won the \$150,000 Assault Stakes in 1:42.24, a stakes record for the 1 1/16-mile event, and gave jockey Cliff Berry his first Lone Star Park stakes win. It was the first of three stakes wins that year for Lights On Broadway which led to a 2001 Texas-bred Horse of the Year title. Also, trainer Steve

- Asmussen saddled the top three finishers in the fillies division of the \$147,700 TTA Sales Futurity. Before the races, NFL Hall of Famers Earl Campbell and Charley Taylor, a Grand Prairie native, took part in Texas Fest activities, including an autograph session, a between-race concert from Cooder Graw and "El Diablo," the Texas-style bungee bull.
- July 3, 2001 Jockey Anthony Lovato equaled Ronald Ardoin's 1997 record of six wins on single Lone Star Park racing card before a holiday crowd of 30,462. His victories included a seven-length score in the \$125,000 Grand Prairie Turf Challenge aboard Royal Spy. The rare accomplishment helped earn \$10,000 for charity, thanks to the Bob's Steak & Jockey Charity Jockey Challenge which raised money based on multiple-win days by jockeys. After the races, fans were treated to post-race fireworks.
- July 6, 2001 Lone Star Park signed a contract with Hipica Rioplatense, one of the companies attempting to win a bid to bring back racing to Maroñas Racetrack in Montevideo, Uruguay. "This is yet another exciting opportunity for Lone Star Park," said Lone Star Park President and General Manager Corey Johnsen. "We're proud to be aligned with a great group of partners like Hipica Rioplatense. Maroñas is a charming and beautiful racetrack located near the coast. It's the Del Mar of South America."
- July 7, 2001 Lone Star Park drew a record 776 kids to the Family Fun Park for "Kids' Club" activities. "This was the biggest Kids' Club ever," said Lone Star Park Vice-President of Marketing & Sales G.W. Hail. Every child age 12 and under received a free pass to Six Flags Over Texas. Activities included pony rides, a petting zoo, bounce houses, live entertainment and barn tours.
- July 14, 2001 Texas country music star Charlie Robison performed a concert after the races at Lone Star Park for the 12,672 in attendance. That same day, Mike Watchmaker of Daily Racing Form hosted a handicapping seminar with Tim Price of The Fort Worth Star-Telegram.
- July 15, 2001 Steve Asmussen concluded the 2001 Spring Thoroughbred Season atop the trainer standings with 90 wins and a record \$2,270,108 in earnings. Lone Star Park concluded the meet with a record total of \$147,531,000 in off-track wagers.
- Sept. 7, 2001 Breeders' Cup Ltd. board of directors voted to include Lone Star Park in a conditional rotation schedule to host a future Breeders' Cup, ideally in 2005. That would later change to 2004 when Churchill Downs was unable to host that year's championship event due to construction conflicts.
- Sept. 11, 2001 Lone Star Park canceled simulcast wagering on Sept. 11-12 due to the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington D.C.
- Oct. 12, 2001 Pivotal Decision remained perfect in 2001 with a hard fought neck victory over Rare Fasteroid and Special Hippiity Hop in the Grade 1, \$179,800 Dash For Cash Derby. It was the 3-year-old Texas-bred's seventh win in as many starts that year. Pivotal Decision ran 440 yards in a swift :21.43, just two-hundredths off Significant Speed's 2000 stakes record. In doing so, he became the first horse to sweep two of Lone Star Park's premier races, the Dash For Cash Futurity and Derby.
- Oct. 13, 2001 Baby Doll Form, runner-up in the Remington Park Futurity in May, earned a Grade 1 triumph with a powerful neck victory over Backed By Speed in the \$421,650 Dash For Cash Futurity. Owned, bred and trained by Rocky Langston, an electrician for American Airlines who resides in Locust Grove, Okla., the 2-year-old Rare Form filly broke the 4-year-old stakes record of :19.63 while running 400 yards on a main track labeled "fast" in a nifty :19.56. It was the second fastest time for the distance in Lone Star Park history, only eight-hundredth behind champion Eyesa Special's :19.48 in the 2000 Texas Classic Futurity.
- Nov. 2, 2001 Juan Vazquez, Lone Star Park's all-time leading Quarter Horse jockey, won the second AQHA All-Star Jockey Championship at Lone Star Park with 24 points, three more than runner-up Alvin "Bubba" Brossette and five more than third-place finisher Jacky Martin. "When I crossed the finish line (in front in the final race), I was screaming," said Vazquez, who needed a win in the final leg to get the title. He trailed Martin and Brossette, who had 19 and 18 points, respectively.
- Nov. 24, 2001 Multiple stakes winner Image Of Cleat, a 14-1 longshot, edged 3-2 favorite Gone Kool Man by a neck to win the Grade 2, \$75,000 Refrigerator Handicap. That same day, Lone Star Park's leading Thoroughbred trainer Steve Asmussen collected his first Churchill Downs Fall Meet training title with 13 wins, three more than Paul McGee.
- Nov. 29, 2001 The American Graded Stakes Committee awarded the Lone Star Derby with Grade III status, giving Lone Star Park its third graded stakes race for Thoroughbreds.
- Nov. 29, 2001 Thoroughbred trainer Les Nichols arrived at Lone Star Park in the midst of a cross-country journey on horseback to New York City that would raise money for victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The 41-year-old native of the small Northeast Texas town of Celeste began his patriotic 2,000-mile charity trek Oct. 24 at the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. His goal was to raise \$2 million for the New York Firefighters 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund and Patrolmen's Benevolent Association Widows & Children's Fund. "I had to do something," said Nichols, who lost an eye as a child and was unable to pursue his dream of becoming a

U.S. Marine. "This ride is one way I can help." Nichols covered 15 to 20 miles each day along service roads with 10-year-old J.J.'s Cowboy, a former claiming horse which hadn't raced since August 2000, and an array of other Thoroughbreds. With his dog Posse along side, Nichols collected donations for the charities, such as dollar-a-mile pledges. Additional funds were raised through sponsorships and an auction. His "Freedom Saddle," a specially designed saddle that depicted images of the Alamo and World Trade Center, were to be raffled at the completion of the trip. The horse trainer of some 13 years would arrive in New York City armed with a proclamation from Texas Governor Rick Perry and letters addressed to New York Governor George Pataki and the Rudi Guiliani, the Mayor of New York City.

Nov. 30, 2001

Streakin Sin Tacha closed with a powerful rush to beat Quarterloom by a half-length in the Grade 1, \$255,257 Texas Classic Derby at Lone Star Park.

Dec. 1, 2001

Pretty Boy Perry won the Grade 1, \$925,000 Texas Classic Derby.

Dec. 10, 2001

Seizing an opportunity to fill the void of a major race for 3-year-olds one week after the Kentucky Derby, Lone Star Park announced that the \$500,000 Lone Star Derby, awarded Grade III status two weeks earlier, would be run on May 11, 2002. "Our goal has always been to present the highest quality of racing in Texas," said Lone Star Park President & General Manager Corey Johnsen. "Due to changes on the national racing scene, we feel a move to May 11 is in our best interests. The Illinois Derby, which is now run four weeks before the Kentucky Derby, had been carded on this date for many years and was very successful. We hope to fill that void." In 2001, the Lone Star Derby was held four weeks before the Kentucky, and the first four runnings had been staged two weeks before the Run for the Roses. "The quality of the race has improved each year," Johnsen said. "With a Grade III attached and its repositioning, we're excited about the prospects of attracting even better horses - late-blooming 3-year-olds who are eyeing the mid-summer classics."

2002

Feb. 9, 2002

NextStage at Grand Prairie Performance Theater, a 6,350-seat performing arts center on the property adjacent to Lone Star Park, opened with concert by Latin pop singer Luis Miguel. The \$64 million facility was owned by the City of Grand Prairie and leased to NextStage Entertainment, which filed for bankruptcy six months later.

March 2, 2002

Magna Entertainment Corp. entered into an agreement with Lone Star Race Park, Ltd. and LSJC Development Corporation to acquire Lone Star Park for a purchase price to be satisfied by the payment of \$80 million in cash and the assumption of certain liabilities, including a capital lease obligation of approximately \$19 million.

April 4, 2002

Hall of Fame jockey Jerry Bailey, a native of Dallas, kicked off "Texas Legends Weekend" by riding reigning Texas-bred Horse of the Year Lights On Broadway to victory in the \$50,000 Premiere Stakes. To Bailey, the real Texas Legend was Lights On Broadway's trainer "Bubba" Cascio, who he admired as a young boy growing up in El Paso, Texas while Cascio was training countless Quarter Horse winners at Sunland Park. At the 2001 NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship, Bailey sought out Cascio so he could introduce himself and shake the trainer's hand. Following the Premiere Stakes, Bailey again expressed his admiration. "Bubba won all of the big Quarter Horse races when I grew up," Bailey said. "It took me 28 years, but I finally got together with him!" Bailey also teamed with Steve Asmussen that night to win the fifth race with Kris's Sleigh. That same night, there was a giveaway of a free limited edition Dr Pepper, commemorating Lone Star Park's Fifth Anniversary Year to all patrons. All-sources handle that night was an opening night best \$3.8 million.

April 5, 2002

Country music icon Willie Nelson performed after the races for what would be the first of three straight years. A season-high crowd of 23,091 attended, kick-starting a Lone Star Park tradition of high-profile post-race concerts that has included The Beach Boys, Pat Green, .38 Special, Charlie Robison, Cross Canadian Ragweed, fiddling phenomenon Charlie Daniels and Lee Ann Womack.

April 6, 2002

California invader National Park, a 3-year-old trained by Bob Hess Jr., won the \$100,000 Grand Prairie Turf Challenge Stakes. One day earlier, the gelding's arrival to Lone Star Park was delayed because of Vice President Dick Cheney's visit to the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The horse arrived at Dallas Love Field on a flight that landed at 10 a.m. National Park arrived at Lone Star four hours later because they had to sit chilly on the tarmac due to the VP's plane arrival and subsequent transit by motorcade.

April 7, 2002

Popular local boxing hero Paulie Ayala, the Fort Worth native and reigning IBO Super Bantamweight Champion, spared in the Pavilion Garden Tent between live races in a boxing exhibition. It rained throughout the afternoon. On Feb. 23, Ayala improved his record to 34-1 with a convincing and unanimous 12-round decision over Clarence "Bones" Adams. Ayala was preparing for a possible bout with the winner of a June 22 featherweight title fight between Marco Antonio Barrera-Erik Morales, according to promoter Bob Arum.

- April 26, 2002 Lone Star Park's GPX Skate Park and Entertainment Center played host to the 2002 EXPN Invitational, a three-day extreme sports competition formerly known as the B 3 - Bikes, Boards and Blades. More than 250 athletes from around the world competed for open invitations to X Games VIII, which was scheduled for late August in Philadelphia. The event was televised on ESPN.
- April 27, 2002 Unrullah Bull, acquired in a claiming race for \$25,000, kicked clear in the final furlong to win the Grade III, \$300,000 Texas Mile at Lone Star Park by 1 ½ lengths over Southern California invader Reba's Gold, owned by Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek. Hal's Hope, the two-time Grade I winner from Florida trained by 90-year-old Hal Rose, finished fourth as the 6-5 favorite. It was the most roughly run Texas Mile in history. Texas Racing Commission stewards reviewed videotape of the stretch run which showed six horses in a line on the turn the for home. A trio of horses was forced to check when racing got tight, but the stewards did not hold any particular runner at fault for the incident and upheld the original order of finish. Unrullah Bull collected his first graded stakes win, as did owners Jim and Theresa Donnan, trainer Cole Norman and jockey Anthony Lovato.
- May 4, 2002 Dave Hulkewicz and Coast to Coast Racing's Beau's Town scored his second straight stakes win with a 1 3/4-length score in the \$72,750 Ford Express Stakes under jockey Anthony Lovato. The following year, the Cole Norman-trained horse would win the Grade III Count Fleet Sprint Handicap at Oaklawn Park and Grade II Bing Crosby Breeders' Cup Handicap at Del Mar. He would return to Lone Star Park in 2004 and win the Ford Express for a second time.
- May 5, 2002 Joyful Tune ran five furlongs in a track record :56.25.
- May 11, 2002 Lone Star Park repositioned the Lone Star Derby to one week after the Kentucky Derby and it proved to be a popular spot on the national racing calendar. More than \$1.5 million was bet on the race, won by Kentucky invader Wiseman's Ferry, who won from the 14-hole under jockey Jorge Chavez. That same day, trainer Cole Norman won three races and knocked Steve Asmussen from the top spot in the Lone Star Park trainer standings for the first time since May 31, 1999.
- May 17, 2002 Lone Star Park, teamed with Argentine and Spanish principals Hípica Rioplatense, was awarded the coveted concession to reopen Maroñas Racetrack near the coastal town of Montevideo, Uruguay. The 30-year concession was awarded by a 4-1 vote in the Uruguay Government's Tribunal of Accounts. The monumental decision came more than 10 months after Lone Star Park signed a contract with Hípica Rioplatense, a partnership with experience in gaming, high technology, data transmission and equine activities. The group is headed by Grupo Codere Argentina and SLI Investment Holdings Co., who represents the family interests of prominent South American owner and breeder Samuel Liberman. There would be a \$44 million investment in the entire project which involved the opening of the OTBs and renovations to the racetrack, which includes the addition of a glass-enclosed, air-conditioned Grandstand with box seating, a food court and a new paddock area. The racetrack would be lighted and the infield landscaped with two lakes. "Lone Star Park's involvement with the Maroñas Racetrack is an extension of our long term business strategy to expand our operations into Latin America," said Lone Star Park Chairman Bob Kaminski. "We have proven our ability to work in Latin America with our successful relationship with the Mexico City track and believe there is significant opportunity for future growth in key markets in Latin America. We have aligned ourselves with well positioned and qualified companies to take advantage of technology and favorable market trends for racing and complimentary forms of wagering in Latin America."
- May 27, 2002 Congaree, under the patient handling of Hall of Fame jockey Pat Day, splashed his way to a convincing two-length victory in the Grade III, \$300,000 Lone Star Park Handicap in a front of 18,081 who braved thunderstorms. The stakes win was one of 12 at Lone Star Park for three-time Kentucky Derby-winning trainer Bob Baffert. The fourth annual Lone Star Million was filled with numerous highlights, including a trio of stakes wins by jockey David Flores. The Southern California-based rider prevailed aboard Baffert's 3-year-old Regiment in the \$200,000 Diamond A - USA Stakes and a pair of Darrell Vienna-trained runners, Queen of Wilshire in the \$200,000 WinStar Distaff and Nuclear Debate in the \$100,000 Beck Auto Group Turf Sprint. Meanwhile, track announcer Michael Wrona exclaimed "Goodness Gracious, Me!" as Prized Amberpro, the longest shot on the board at 29-1, won the \$100,000 Valid Expectations Stakes by three-quarters of a length over Hattiesburg and the legendary Hallowed Dreams. A concert by Texas country music star Jack Ingram, who got his start playing around Dallas in his SMU days, would be rained out. It was a last-minute concert to promote his Sony release, *Electric*, which was due in stores June 4.
- June 14, 2002 Country music star Chris LeDoux performed in concert after the races at Lone Star Park before a crowd of 12,038. LeDoux's show included pyrotechnics while riding a mechanical bull on stage. The warm-up act for LeDoux was DalHeart, the band led by Dallas Cowboys special teams coach Joe Avezzano.
- June 15, 2002 In what was one of the most visually impressive wins in Lone Star Park history, French Group 1 winner Suances, trained in the U.S. by Darrell Vienna, coasted to a front-running 1 ½-length victory in the \$250,000 Dallas Turf Cup under jockey David Flores. "This is a Breeders' Cup type horse," Flores said. Suances set a measured pace of :24.91 for the first quarter mile, :48.43 for the half, 1:12.60 for three-quarters of a mile and 1:36.90 at the one-mile pole. His lead widened on the turn for home and Flores hand rode the bay horse through the stretch for a comfortable win. Earlier in the week, Vienna's chief assistant Scott Cheney, who

- would later become a California steward, raved about Suances' future: "We really think he's a superstar. He's the real deal. He's just better than all of our other horses and we have some decent horses." The Dallas Turf Cup was televised live nationally on CBS Sports and was part of a \$2 NTRA Summer Tour Pick 3, a combination of the Dallas Turf Cup, Hollywood Breeders' Cup Oaks from Hollywood Park and Stephen Foster Handicap from Churchill Downs.
- June 20, 2002 Legendary *Daily Racing Form* columnist Joe Hirsch was the Guest of Honor at Lone Star Park on the eve of the NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship.
- June 21, 2002 On the final weekend of his stellar 28-year career, Hall of Fame jockey Chris McCarron rallied to victory aboard Yoto Speakes and clinched the NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship. McCarron retired two days later after a victory aboard Came Home in the Affirmed Handicap at Hollywood Park. "I thought I might even make that my last night of riding," said the 47-year-old McCarron said. "But Judy (McCarron, his wife) said, 'You have to retire at Hollywood Park.'" McCarron defeated 2000 champ Edgar Prado, 24 points to 18, before a crowd of 14,382. After the races, 1998 Jockey Championship winner Shane Sellers, recuperating from reconstructive knee surgery, performed a concert after the races, which included his country hit song "Matthew, Mark, Luke and Earnhardt."
- June 23, 2002 In a horse racing rarity, 4-year-old Thoroughbreds Total Anticipation and Parting Guest crossed the finish line in tandem. After a long look at the photo finish, Texas Racing Commission stewards could not separate the pair and declared the race a dead-heat. Dead-heats aren't uncommon, but this one was. Both Total Anticipation, the 6-5 favorite, and Parting Guest, the 2-1 second choice, were trained by Cole Norman, Lone Star Park's leading trainer. This was the first time in Lone Star Park history that there was a dead-heat for first with two horses conditioned by the same trainer. Norman was credited with two wins in one race. When you're hot, you're hot.
- June 24, 2002 The Grand Prairie Sports Facilities Development Corp. unanimously passed a resolution 7-0 to grant Lone Star Park \$2.9 million for facility improvements in order to host a future Breeders's Cup World Thoroughbred Championships. "This is yet another positive step toward making the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships a reality for Lone Star Park and the city of Grand Prairie," said Lone Star Park President & General Manager Corey Johnsen. "Last year, legislation was passed which earmarks up to \$2 million from the State of Texas to fund improvements for a Breeders' Cup, so all necessary funding is in place. To stage a championship event of this magnitude, it's imperative to have strong local and statewide support. We are grateful that both the City of Grand Prairie and the State of the Texas have showed tremendous support for Lone Star Park and the sport of horse racing."
- June 27, 2002 Hípica Rioplatense signed a contract with the Uruguay government to move forward with plans to reconstruct and reopen Maroñas Racetrack and its five off-track betting parlors near the coastal town of Montevideo with Lone Star Park acting as manager and operator of the facility. In May, Argentine and Spanish principals Hípica Rioplatense was awarded the coveted 30-year concession to reopen Maroñas Racetrack. The decision by the Uruguay Government's Tribunal of Accounts came more than 10 months after Lone Star Park signed a contract with Hípica Rioplatense, a partnership with experience in gaming, high technology, data transmission and equine activities. The group is headed by Grupo Codere Argentina and SLI Investment Holdings Co., who represents the family interests of prominent South American owner and breeder Samuel Liberman. There would be a \$44 million investment in the entire project which involved the opening of the OTBs, known as "agencies" in South America, and renovations to the racetrack, which included the addition of a glass-enclosed, air-conditioned Grandstand with box seating, a food court and a new paddock area. The racetrack would be lighted and the infield landscaped with two lakes. "It's a well-rounded approach to provide a platform for the nation's horse racing industry," Johnsen said. "Maroñas Racetrack is a charming live facility, and the Uruguay government has provided tremendous insight for OTBs to compliment the live product; they are allowing up to 1,500 slot machines in those facilities."
- June 29, 2002 Trainer Steve Asmussen brought back 5-year-old Desert Darby from a 348-day layoff to win the \$125,000 Assault Stakes on Stars of Texas Day. In the very next race, Asmussen won the \$122,500 fillies division of the Texas Stallion Stakes when 29-1 first time starter Tiffany Jennifer, who stalked even money favorite Parting into the stretch, drew off to win by three easy lengths. Also on the card, Lonnie Bates' Agrivating General, ridden by Roman Chapa and trained by Danny Pish, broke his maiden by 11 3/4 lengths in a maiden special weight for Texas-breds. He would go on to win back-to-back renewals of the Premiere Stakes in 2003-04. Also, Hubert Southard's Coastalota, ridden by Bobby Walker Jr., won the \$100,000 Allen Bogan Memorial Stakes
- July 3, 2002 A crowd of 28,123 attended a holiday racing program and post-race Lone Stars & Stripes Symphony in the Sky Celebration. That night, and for the next week, Rick Mocklin, jockey Corey Lanerie's agent, subbed for track announcer Michael Wrona, who missed the remainder of the Spring Thoroughbred Season due to an unexpected death in his family. Mocklin had previously called races at Sam Houston Race Park and Evangeline Downs.
- July 12, 2002 Lone Star Park's emerging status as one of the country's premiere racing destinations was evident when the Breeders' Cup Ltd. Board of Directors unanimously voted to confirm the Grand Prairie racetrack as site for

- the 2004 Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships contingent on the parties reaching a final agreement.
- July 13, 2002 A crowd of 14,928 attended live racing at Lone Star Park and a post-race concert featuring up and coming Texas Country artists Cross Candadian Ragweed, Jason Boland & The Stragglers and Django Walker.
- July 14, 2002 On an extended 14-race program, trainer Steve Asmussen saddled a Lone Star Park record seven winners, including Confiding Winner in the \$84,450 Silver Spur Breeders' Cup and a 1-2-3 finish in the \$75,000 Bob Johnson Memorial Stakes with Mountain General, Compendium and Big Numbers. The 36-year-old resident of Arlington, Texas saddled 17 horses on the day. He had two chances to equal J.C. Williams' North American record of eight wins on a single day, established in 1979 at Waterford Park, but fell short when Terrizing Jones was second in the 13th race and favored Ms Classic Jones was fifth in the nightcap. Also, Corey Lanerie concluded the season with a record \$2,014,589 in earnings.
- July 14, 2002 Lone Star Park concluded its 2002 Spring Thoroughbred Season with a record daily average off-track handle of \$2,046,000.
- Aug. 1, 2002 NextStage Entertainment, which operated the 6,350-seat NextStage at Grand Prairie Performance Theater, filed for bankruptcy.
- Sept. 11, 2002 Anschutz Entertainment Group, which operates the Staples Center and Kodak Theater in Los Angeles, partnered with House of Blues Entertainment Inc. and won the bid to take over operations at the NextStage Performance Theater on the property adjacent to Lone Star Park. Anschutz assumed the lease on the building with the city and made modifications to its bid on issues such as signage and naming rights. Lease payments on the facility were expected to rise to about \$1 million a year with about 19 years remaining on the lease.
- Sept. 16, 2002 The Grand Prairie Sports Facilities Development Corp., the seven-member board appointed by the City of Grand Prairie to serve as the landlord of Lone Star Park, voted unanimously to approve a resolution which allowed the execution of the transfer of documents, including Lone Star Park's master lease agreement, to Magna Entertainment Corp., pending Texas Racing Commission approval.
- Oct. 16, 2002 The Texas Racing Commission approved the pending sale of substantially all of the operations and related assets of Lone Star Park to Magna Entertainment Corp. at its regular meeting in Austin.
- Oct. 21, 2002 Lone Star Park Director of Product Development Eugene Joyce and Director of Security R.D. Logan are named Interim General Manager and Assistant General Manager, respectively, for Magna Entertainment Corp. property Remington Park following the resignation of Frank Deal.
- Oct. 23, 2002 Magna Entertainment Corp. announced that it successfully completed the acquisition of Lone Star Park.
- Oct. 26, 2002 Elaine & Joe McAnally's Dashers Moon Bar, under Darrell Constantin, won the Grade 1, \$10,000 Olympia Joe Lone Star Paint & Appaloosa Handicap for the fourth time in six runnings of the race. The 7-year-old gelding, who won three consecutive renewals of the Olympia Joe from 1998 to 2000, took the lead from runner-up Chunk Of Change midway through the 400 yard event and held on to win by a nose. "He's probably as good a horse as I ever had," trainer Jerry Lazenby said in the winner's circle.
- Nov. 1, 2002 XpressBet, the account wagering platform for Magna Entertainment Corp., began to accept wagers on Lone Star Park, where permitted by law. Effective Nov. 30, TVG Network account holders would no longer be able to place wagers on Lone Star Park.
- Nov. 2, 2002 Streakin Sin Tacha, owned and trained by Janet Van Bebber, made a strong case to be named the AQHA's World Champion with a powerful performance in the Grade 1, \$300,000 MBNA America Challenge Championship, the highlight of 10 stakes races run in front 7,308 fans under rainy conditions at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, Texas. Streakin Sin Tacha ran 440 yards on a track rated "sloppy" in :21.28. It was the fastest MBNA America Challenge Championship in 10 runnings of the race. The old mark was held by the record-breaking mare Kool Kue Baby, who was clocked in :21.35 in the 1996 running of the traveling race at Turf Paradise in Phoenix, Ariz. Meanwhile, Classic Sassy Chic flashed a tremendous burst of speed from the starting gate and powered home to equal the world record for 350 yards in the Grade 1, \$150,000 American Airlines Challenge Championship. The 2-year-old filly, owned by Rod and Jackie MacPherson of Perris, Calif., stopped the clock in :17.14, which equaled the amazing time set by Dolls Prodigy in the 1999 Rocky Mountain Derby at Arapahoe Park in Aurora, Colo.
- Nov. 8, 2002 Magna Entertainment Corp. appointed Corey Johnsen to the position of Group Vice-President for Texas, Oklahoma and Florida and Jeff Greco as Lone Star Park's Vice-President and General Manager. Johnsen, who retained his position as President of Lone Star Park, would also be responsible for overseeing MEC's Remington Park, Gulfstream Park and the Palm Meadows training center. Soon thereafter, his efforts were limited to Texas and Oklahoma.

- Nov. 20, 2002 Lone Star Park began Phase I of its \$8 million expansion plan to host the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships in 2004. The three phases included the construction of two 50-stall barns, a 96-stall multipurpose quarantine barn, six stable area dormitory buildings, two stable area recreation rooms, a 10,000 square foot banquet room named Champions, the addition of 1,600 permanent outdoor apron box seats and expansion of the winner's circle and saddling paddock. The City of Grand Prairie also expanded Belt Line Road, constructed a private Levee Road entrance and exit to the racetrack and built a retaining wall along the backstretch. The third and final phase included the installation of 39,000 temporary seats and service structures that extended from the final turn, down the stretch and into the first turn.
- Nov. 22, 2002 Judes Mighty Dude, at the age of nine, won his ninth race at Lone Star Park with a 2 3/4-length triumph in the sixth race - a Lone Star Park Quarter Horse record. He won nine of 13 starts at Lone Star Park, all at 870 yards, including the Grade 3 Lone Star Park Distance Championship in 2001.
- Nov. 27, 2002 The American Graded Stakes Committee awarded the \$200,000 WinStar Distaff Handicap with Grade III status, giving Lone Star Park its fourth graded stakes event for Thoroughbreds.
- Dec. 6, 2002 The Mistletoe Ball, formerly presented by the DFW Medical Center Foundation until 1999, was reinstated after a three-year hiatus as a major fundraiser for the newly-created Lone Star Park Charitable Foundation for Grand Prairie. It would take place at The Fairmont Hotel in Dallas. Billed as "A Starry Night," the black-tie evening featured a seated dinner, dancing to the Phares Corder Orchestra and live and silent auctions.
- Dec. 31, 2002 Lone Star Park's all-time leading trainer Steve Asmussen earned his first national training title, finishing 2002 with 407 winners, besting runner-up Scott Lake's total of 399. The top two were well clear of another Grand Prairie regular, Cole Norman, who finished third with 266 wins. Asmussen's win total helped earn the Texas-based horseman his first Eclipse Award nomination for Champion Trainer. The other nominees are Bobby Frankel, who just missed setting a single-season record for earnings, and Laura de Seroux, trainer of champion older female Azeri. Of the 407 wins that propelled Asmussen to his year-end title, 95 of them came at Lone Star Park, a single-season record at the Grand Prairie oval that broke the trainer's own previous mark of 90 in 2001.

2003

- Jan. 10, 2003 Magna Entertainment Corp. announced the launch of HorseRacing TV (HRTV), a new 24-hour cable television network providing exclusive live Thoroughbred, harness and Quarter Horse racing action from racetracks in the United States and Canada. The network would deliver gate-to-wire coverage of live horse racing from more than 70 racetracks, along with post parades, odds and race results for up to 15 hours per day. The remainder of the program schedule includes replays and educational programming related to the sport of horse racing. Lone Star Park would be one of the featured racetracks.
- Jan. 21, 2003 Eugene Joyce, who had served as Remington Park's Interim General Manager since Oct. 21, 2002, is named Lone Star Park's Assistant General Manager. In turn, former Lone Star Park Director of Security R.D. Logan, who had been serving as Remington Park's Interim Assistant General Manager, was promoted to General Manager of the Oklahoma facility.
- Feb. 20, 2003 The Lone Star Park Charitable Foundation for Grand Prairie, established in June 2001, distributed \$60,000 to 17 Grand Prairie, Texas charities during a brief ceremony at Lone Star Park.
- Feb. 25, 2003 Thoroughbred trainer Ramon Flores, who conditioned Pleasant State to win a division of the 2002 Irving Distaff, was killed in an ice-related automobile accident near Schulenberg, Texas. He was 34.
- April 2, 2003 Officials with Breeders' Cup Limited, NTRA, Magna Entertainment, Lone Star Park and the City of Grand Prairie signed the final agreement to confirm Lone Star Park as the site for the 2004 Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships.
- April 3, 2003 Hall of Fame jockey Pat Day displayed his trademark patience aboard 4-year-old Texas-bred Agrivating General to win the \$50,000 Premiere Stakes on Opening Night of the Lone Star Park Spring Thoroughbred Season. Day, horse racing's all-time earnings leader and one of only three jockeys in history to have ridden more than 8,000 winners, made a special appearance at Lone Star on April 2 to participate in the official announcement of Lone Star Park's agreement to host the 2004 Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships. Riding the Danny Pish-trained Agrivating General, Day rallied the 9-5 second wagering choice from eighth to a hard-fought head victory over 25-1 longshot Crook. In addition, there was an Opening Night Extravaganza featuring an opportunity to win \$50,000; tickets to the Dallas Mavericks' first home playoff game; VIP passes to the Byron Nelson and Colonial; visit a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders photo shoot; trip to the 2003 Preakness Stakes and Breeders' Cup; a \$1,000 shopping spree at Neiman Marcus; weekend getaway at The Mansion on Turtle Creek; spa package at The Four Seasons Hotel; and a \$500 mutuel voucher.
- April 4, 2003 Country music icon Willie Nelson performed a post-race concert at Lone Star Park for the second year in a row and attracted 21,049 fans.

- April 11, 2003 That Tat ran 5 ½ furlongs in a track record 1:01.88.
- April 26, 2003 Claimed for \$50,000 on New Year's Eve, 6-year-old Georgia-bred gelding Bluesthstandard, who once competed as low as the \$10,000 claiming ranks, followed his triumph in Santa Anita's Grade II Potrero Grande Breeders' Cup Handicap with a four-length score over Grade I winner Bonapaw in the Grade III, \$300,000 Texas Mile at Lone Star Park. Martin Pedroza was in the saddle. Bluesthstandard, owned by Jeffery Sengara and trained by Ted H. West, would go on to finish second to Cajun Beat in that year's Breeders' Cup Sprint and win the Grade II Palos Verdes Handicap the following February. He returned to the claiming ranks in 2005 and was retired in early 2006 with 19 wins and \$1,041,618 in 47 starts.
- April 30, 2003 Magna Entertainment Corp. held its annual stockholders meeting at Lone Star Park. Following the 3 p.m. stockholders meeting, Chairman Frank Stronach, President and Chief Executive Officer Jim McAlpine and Executive Vice-President & Chief Financial Officer Graham Orr participated in a 5 p.m. news conference.
- May 10, 2003 Lightly-raced Dynever demonstrated an awesome turn of foot and collected his third straight win with an impressive 1 ½-length victory in the \$500,000 Lone Star Derby. The colt would go on to finish fourth in that year's Belmont Stakes (behind Empire Maker, Ten Most Wanted and Funny Cide) and third in the Breeders' Cup Classic (behind Pleasantly Perfect and Medaglia d'Oro). He would retire in 2005 with more than \$2.6 million in career earnings.
- May 12, 2003 After compiling 7,141 wins on the racetrack, retired Hall of Fame jockey Chris McCarron added one on the golf course. McCarron, who sported an 8 handicap, joined Lone Star Park Vice-President & General Manager Jeff Greco, first-year professional Aaron Barber and amateurs Tracy Byers and Drew Kirchofer on a team that won the EDS Byron Nelson Championship Champions Pro-Am in Irving, Texas by one stroke with a score of 52 on the Cottonwood Valley Course. "It was incredible and a lot of fun," McCarron said. McCarron received an invitation to play in the pro-am as a retirement gift from Lone Star Park in June 2002. "I had a couple of birdies to help the group, but other than that, I really didn't carry my load very well," McCarron said. "I think I shot an 84. I haven't been able to be on the course as much as I would like." The star of the group was Barber, who shot a 4-under 67. The win was clinched by Greco's birdie on the final hole, a 12-foot downhill putt which broke from left to right. "At the time, I had no idea the putt was that big," said Greco, a 15-handicap who shot an 85. "I'm glad I buried it for a net eagle. Early on, I was all over the place and Chris was hot. Then it was vice-versa. It was truly a team effort. We picked each other up when the other was down." Before the pro-am, McCarron and Greco were able to meet with legendary golfer Byron Nelson, for whom the upcoming PGA tournament is named.
- May 22, 2003 Rick Lee, a handicapper for Lone Star Park and *The Dallas Morning News*, pitched a perfect game at Lone Star Park, picking nine winners on the nine-race program - a first at the racetrack. Lee, who also serves as Lone Star Park's morning line oddsmaker, connected with Treesome (\$6.60), Trickey Jones (\$4), Petionville Indeed (\$6), Iron Expectations (\$2.60), Heather's Gate (\$8), Next Bandit (\$4.80), Light Fling (\$6.80), Crab Creek (\$10) and Book Note (\$2.80). Seven of the nine winners were post time favorites.
- May 26, 2003 Southern California allowance winner Pie N Burger, claimed off of trainer Bob Baffert for \$100,000 in the summer of 2002, gave owners Tom and Jesse Kagele their first stakes winner when he kicked clear to win the Grade III, \$300,000 Lone Star Park Handicap by 2 ¾ lengths under jockey Jaime Theriot. Favorite Bluesthstandard, the Texas Mile winner, and longshot Maysville Slew finished in a dead-heat for second. Pie N Burger's victory capped the best day of 34-year-old trainer Cole Norman's career. It was one of three stakes wins on the day, which matched a feat accomplished by his chief training rival Steve Asmussen in 1999 on the inaugural Lone Star Million program. Norman's Eagle Lake posted a front-running upset in the Grade III, \$200,000 WinStar Distaff and That Tat captured the \$100,000 Beck Auto Group Turf Sprint. Formerly raced in Southern California with trainer Mike Machowsky, the Kageles, along with co-owner James A. Bailey, opted to send Pie N Burger to Lone Star and Norman. Behind in training to make the April 26 Texas Mile, Norman entered the Kentucky-bred son of Twining in a 1 1/16-mile allowance race two weeks later. He signaled his fondness for Texas with a convincing three-length victory in 1:41.77, and it was obvious that the Lone Star Park Handicap would be next. "I gave Cole a phone call a month and a half ago and it was the best call I ever made," Tom Kagele said. Pie N Burger would go onto to win the \$60,000 Bob Johnson Memorial Stakes on July 14 and cement Horse of the Meeting honors. The gelding retired with 14 wins and \$924,133 from 43 starts between 2000-04. Also on Lone Star Million Day, Lone Star Park, in conjunction with the Texas Horseman's Partnership, lowered its Pick 4 takeout from 25% to 15% for two \$1 Pick 4s (Races 3-6 and Races 7-10). "We're hopeful that a lower takeout and second Pick 4 will bring horseplayers nationwide an added interest to Monday's outstanding racing program," said Lone Star Park Vice-President & General Manager Jeff Greco.
- June 13, 2003 Fast-rising Texas country music stars Cross Canadian Ragweed performed a post-race concert at Lone Star Park for the second year in a row and attracted a crowd of 14,038.
- June 19, 2003 Retired riding great Laffit Pincay Jr. was honored at Lone Star Park on the eve of the NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship.

- June 20, 2003 Riding great Edgar Prado became the first two-time winner of the NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship when he narrowly defeated Shane Sellers, 22 points to 21, before a crowd of 13,558.
- June 21, 2003 Following a third place finish in the Grade I Turf Classic at Churchill Downs on Kentucky Derby Day, Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott sent Claiborne Farm's New York-based Patrol to Lone Star Park for the \$250,000 Dallas Turf Cup Handicap and won the 1 1/8-mile turf event. Jockey Mike Luzzi was in the saddle for the one-length triumph over the Neil Drysdale-trained Slew the Red. The Dallas Turf Cup was broadcast live nationally on CBS Sports and was the third leg of a national Pick 3 that also included the Grade I Ogden Phipps Handicap at Belmont Park (won by Sightseek) and the Grade II Ohio Derby from Thistledown (won by Wild and Wicked).
- June 28, 2003 One week after finishing eighth of 10 in the \$250,000 Dallas Turf Cup, multiple stakes winner Rare Cure won the \$100,000 Assault Stakes as the longest shot in the field on Stars of Texas Day. Also, Eagle Lake won the \$75,000 Allen Bogan Memorial, There Goes Rocket and Hay Lauren won divisions of the \$122,500 Texas Stallion Stakes and Herve narrowly edged Call Me Lefty in the \$50,000 Harold V. Goodman Memorial Stakes. Also, Expectacat won the Texas Stallion Consolation Stakes. "Some people questioned us running back that fast, but in the Dallas Turf Cup he just didn't fire at all," explained owner Larry Dyson, a resident of Bonham, Texas. "We're real proud of the horse and proud of the job that [trainer] Joe Petalino did getting him ready this quick. The next two mornings [after the Dallas Turf Cup], he was just bucking and kicking like he never had a race. Joe looked at him all week and said that he thought he was feeling good. He said, 'Let's try it,' and so can see the result."
- July 3, 2003 Lone Star Park expanded its annual Fourth of July holiday post-race fireworks extravaganza from one night to two. A crowd of 20,138 attend the first night, which also featured a post-race concert from rockers .38 Special.
- July 4, 2003 Lone Star Park expanded its annual Fourth of July holiday post-race fireworks extravaganza from one night to two. The second night, which featured a post-race country music concert from Charlie Robison, attracted a crowd of 26,318. The two nights lured 46,456, an increased of 30% from 2002 totals.
- July 5, 2003 Eddie Martin Jr. won his record eighth stakes race of the 2003 Spring Thoroughbred Season when the Jack Bruner-trained Kool Humor won the \$100,000 Alysheba Breeders' Cup Stakes by 1 ¼ lengths. The new standard eclipsed Marlon St. Julien's seven stakes wins during the inaugural 1997 Spring Thoroughbred Season.
- July 13, 2003 The Spring Thoroughbred Season concluded with trainer Cole Norman dethroning local kingpin Steve Asmussen in the trainer standings with a record 98 trips to the winner's circle. Also, jockey Corey Lanerie won his fourth riding title in the last five years when he edged Eddie Martin Jr., 86-85, in the tightest jockey's race in Lone Star history. It would be Lanerie's last season at Lone Star. He moved to the Arlington Park/Churchill circuit in 2004. He would leave as Lone Star's all-time win leader with 477 victories through 2006.
- July 24, 2003 A charitable advance screening of the film *Seabiscuit* at AMC Grand in Dallas lured 365 guests and raised more than \$21,000 for the Lone Star Park Charitable Foundation for Grand Prairie. Prior to the start of the film, jockey Ricky Frazier, who served as Tobey Maguire's stunt double during most of the racing scenes - was interviewed on stage. Funds were also raised through a raffle and live auction at a VIP after-party at The Wyndham Anatole Hotel. A manuscript of "Seabiscuit" signed by actors Jeff Bridges and Chris Cooper brought \$1,200.
- Sept. 30, 2003 Breeders' Cup Limited and the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) released the event logo for the 21st Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships at Lone Star Park. In addition, Lone Star Park officials unveiled plans for a grandstand addition, which is part of a \$7.8 million improvement plan to host horse racing's championship event. The official event logo, created by New York-based Phoenix Design Works, was adorned in red, white and blue, and features the traditional Breeders' Cup mark placed in the center of a five-pointed star symbolic of the State of Texas. The rectangular form is bordered on top with the words "World Thoroughbred Championships" and at the bottom with the words "Lone Star Park 2004." Four additional stars appear near the boundaries of the logo. Mike Rutherford, a prominent Thoroughbred owner and breeder who was on the Breeders' Cup Board of Directors that awarded Lone Star Park the 2004 Breeders' Cup, joined Lone Star Park President Corey Johnsen for the logo unveiling.
- Oct. 4, 2003 Lone Star Park customers received a chance to breed, name, train and race their very own racehorse, thanks to Sega's "Derby Owners Club - World Edition." The video game, enjoyed by millions throughout the world, would remain at the track through the Fall Meeting of Champions.

2004

- Jan. 20, 2004 Officials of Breeders' Cup Limited and Lone Star Park announced that ticket applications would be available for the 2004 Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships. Tickets available to the general public ranged from \$25.00 to \$125.00. All applications were to be received at Lone Star Park no later than

- Friday, June 4 to be included in a random drawing that would determine the order in which applications will be processed.
- Feb. 7, 2004 Lone Star Park's top trainer Steve Asmussen won 10 races, including three stakes, from 16 starters at five racetracks around the country: Delta Downs, Fair Grounds, Oaklawn Park, Sam Houston Race Park and Sunland Park.
- Feb. 17, 2004 The Lone Star Park Charitable Foundation for Grand Prairie distributed \$102,000 to 19 Grand Prairie, Texas charities.
- April 15, 2004 Hall of Fame jockey Julie Krone, horse racing's all-time leading female rider, made a special appearance at Lone Star Park on opening night of the 2004 Spring Thoroughbred Season.
- April 16, 2004 Country music star Willie Nelson performed a concert after the races at Lone Star Park for the third consecutive year and drew a crowd of 20,302.
- April 17, 2004 Roll and Roll Hall of Famers The Beach Boys performed a concert after the races at Lone Star Park and attracted a crowd of 15,199.
- April 24, 2004 Southern California invader Kela was given a smooth ride by jockey David Nuesch and the 6-year-old responded with a convincing 5 ¼-length victory over late running Supah Blitz in the Grade III, \$300,000 Texas Mile. The Kentucky-bred son of Numerous ran one mile on a "sloppy" main track in 1:35.64 en route to his first graded stakes win. Florida-based Supah Blitz, ridden by Eddie Castro, closed well to finish second, 1 ½ lengths ahead of pacesetter Yessirgeneralsir. Snorter, the 2-1 favorite from the Bobby Frankel barn, was fourth. The victory was an early birthday present for trainer Mike Mitchell, who would celebrate his 56th birthday the next day.
- May 1, 2004 Despite rainy and unseasonably cool weather, Lone Star Park has its single greatest wagering day when 17,878 wagered a track record \$3.4 million on 12 live races and simulcasts, including the 130th Kentucky Derby won by Smarty Jones. A record \$1,156,938 was bet on the Derby itself. The on-track wagering records would later fall on the day before the Breeders' Cup, and subsequently, Breeders' Cup Day.
- May 8, 2004 Lone Star Park staged its first Dollar Day promotion, featuring general admission, general parking, programs, beers, sodas, hot dogs and popcorn all for \$1 each. A hefty crowd of 20,863 visited the Grand Prairie racetrack, exceeding all expectations. On the racetrack, multiple graded stakes winner Beau's Town returned to the scene of his 2002 triumph in the Ford Express Stakes and became the first horse to run a sub 1:08 six-furlong race when he stopped the teletimer in 1:07.89. En route to his 1 ¼-length thumping of stablemate That Tat in the Ford Express, Beau's Town zipped a quarter mile in :21.20, an eye-popping :42.99 for the half and :54.96 for five-eighths (Lone Star's five furlong track record is :56.25). The race was his second start since undergoing surgery to remove an ankle chip in the fall of 2003.
- May 20, 2004 Jack Knowlton, managing partner of the famed Sackatoga Stable that owned 2003 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner Funny Cide, signed copies of the team's new book, Funny Cide: How a Horse, a Trainer, a Jockey, and a Bunch of High School Buddies Took On the Sheiks and Bluebloods...and Won.
- May 31, 2004 On Memorial Day, it was only appropriate that a general stole the show and won the biggest race in front of 15,648 fans at Lone Star Park. Yessirgeneralsir broke fast from the starting gate and never looked back, defeating Kentucky-based Sonic West by 2 ¼ lengths in the Grade III, \$300,000 Lone Star Park Handicap. Spanish Empire was another length back in third, a neck in front of 6-5 favorite Kela, who was seeking a rare Texas Mile-Lone Star Park Handicap double. Earlier on the card, Steve Asmussen won four of the seven stakes races which comprised the Dallas-Fort Worth area racetrack's sixth annual Lone Star Million. Asmussen's four stakes wins was another track record for the 38-year-old. Locals won each of the seven stakes events, despite challenges from California and Kentucky. In the \$100,000 Valid Expectations Stakes, Savorthetime ran the fastest six furlongs in Lone Star Park victory with a clocking of 1:07.82 - seven-hundredths of a second fastest than Beau's Town's mark of 1:07.89 set 23 days earlier in the \$75,000 Ford Express Stakes. Also, a record \$1 Pick 4 that day paid \$20,337.70.
- June 5, 2004 A Lone Star Park record Belmont Stakes crowd of 18,278 attended the Grand Prairie racetrack to watch Smarty Jones fall a length short of longshot Birdstone in his attempt to sweep horse racing's Triple Crown at Belmont Park. More than \$3.1 million was wagered on-track on the day.
- June 11, 2004 Texas country music stars Cross Canadian Ragweed performed a concert after the races at Lone Star Park for the third consecutive year and lured a crowd of 19,195. The concert kicked off the first of five consecutive Friday night concerts billed as the Front Porch Concert Series in conjunction with 99.5 The Wolf.
- June 12, 2004 Trainer Steve Asmussen swept both divisions of the TTA Sales Futurity. Expect Will, one of six Asmussen runners in the \$118,570 colts and geldings division, narrowly edged Expect Wings by a nose. One race prior, Berdelia defeated stablemate Glitter Sexy in the \$129,830 fillies division. "I better have won with that many in there," Asmussen quipped.

- June 19, 2004 A year after finishing in a dead-heat for second in the Grade III Lone Star Park Handicap, the versatile 8-year-old gelding Maysville Slew returned to turf for the \$200,000 Dallas Turf Cup Handicap and made up a 15-length deficit under jockey Cliff Berry to beat California invader Star Over the Bay by a neck at odds of 21-1. The \$120,000 winner's share of the purse pushed Maysville Slew's career earnings over the million-dollar mark for an emotional owner and trainer C.R. Trout of Hammon, Okla. "This old horse means so much to me and my family for what he's done for us through the years and he's just a very good buddy . . . I'm about to be 60 years old and this is the best horse I've ever had," Trout said. Maysville Slew would retire at year's end with 17 wins, 11 seconds, seven thirds and earnings of \$1,046,409 in 69 starts. Three of those victories came in 15 starts at Lone Star between 2000-04. Meanwhile, Star Over the Bay, an \$80,000 claim for trainer Mike Mitchell in May, moved forward to win four of his next five starts in stakes: the Grade II Sunset Handicap, Grade II Del Mar Handicap, Grade I Clement L. Hirsch Memorial Turf Championship and Sunshine Millions Turf.
- July 3, 2004 Trainer Steve Asmussen became the first person at Lone Star Park to notch 500 career wins when Star of Caveat won the first race of the day. "I'm honored," Asmussen said. "Lone Star has everything to do with the progress our stable had made over the past few years. Hopefully, we've got 500 more and it's just the beginning of the record." That day, a crowd of 19,526 attended to witness live racing and post-race fireworks.
- July 4, 2004 On the Fourth of July holiday, 3-year-old filly America America won the \$100,000 Lone Star Oaks for owner-trainer Frank Mourier and jockey Roman Chapa. In late 2003, the Kentucky-based America America beat males in the \$100,000 Houston Texan Juvenile for her only other stakes win. The holiday program at Lone Star drew a crowd of 24,779 for live racing and post-race fireworks.
- July 10, 2004 Late Expectations, a \$10,000 claim for trainer Ricardo Morales, made a remarkable 11 starts between April 17 and July 10 during the 2004 Spring Thoroughbred Season. The 3-year-old won the fifth race, a 6 1/2-furlong allowance, by a neck for his third victory at the meet. He also had a second, four thirds and earnings of \$57,785.
- July 11, 2004 One year after falling one victory short of the riding title, veteran Eddie Martin Jr. collected his first Lone Star Park riding title with 87 victories during the 2004 Spring Thoroughbred Season. Trainer Steve Asmussen won the \$125,000 colts and geldings division of the Texas Stallion Stakes with Expect Will for his record ninth stakes victory of the meeting. With a victory by Free B's Flying in the second race, Kagele Brothers Inc. finished the season with a record 27 winners to lead all owners.
- Aug. 23, 2004 Former Lone Star Park parking attendant Jeremy Wariner, a 20-year-old native of Grand Prairie, won a Gold Medal in the 400 meters for the U.S. Track and Field squad at the Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. Wariner was easily recognizable at the games due to his trademark look - sunglasses and diamond earrings at all times.
- Sept. 22, 2004 Lone Star Park and Breeders' Cup Ltd. announced that the Breeders' Cup at Lone Star Park was sold out, marking an advance sales record for the fastest sell-out and number of reserved seats sold (51,034) in event history. "Texans have embraced the Breeders' Cup, and horse racing fans around the world are eager to visit the Lone Star State," Breeders' Cup Limited President D.G. Van Clief Jr. said. "In addition to the earliest sellout, we were able to offer the most reserved seats in the history of the World Thoroughbred Championships."
- Sept. 29, 2004 A massive 1 1/4-scale bronze statue of Texas-owned 1988 Horse of the Year and Breeders' Cup Classic winner Alysheba was unveiled. The 1,000-pound bronze statue, designed by renowned equine artist Lisa Perry, became a focal point upon entering Lone Star Park's main East Gate entrance, as it sits atop a landscaped knoll inside the valet parking circle. There were two ceremonies to introduce the sculpture: one for media in the afternoon and another in the evening in conjunction with a Fall Breeders' Cup Meeting Kickoff Party. On hand for the unveilings were Lone Star Park President Corey Johnsen, Breeders' Cup President D.G. Van Clief Jr., Alysheba's owner Dorothy Scharbauer and her husband Clarence, and Perry.
- Oct. 1, 2004 Opening night of the Fall Breeders' Cup Meeting featured an appearance by Hall of Fame jockey Pat Day, the only jockey to have ridden in each of the first 20 Breeders' Cups, in conjunction with his nationwide "What a Difference a Day Makes" tour to benefit the Racetrack Chaplaincy of America. Day was the speaker and guest of honor at a special luncheon to benefit Lone Star Park's Racetrack Chaplaincy. In the featured \$100,000 Silver Spur Breeders' Cup Stakes for 2-year-old fillies, Enduring Will, ridden by Lonnie Meche, won the one-mile race by a romping 10 lengths for owner/breeder Michael Rainier of Dallas and trainer Al Stall Jr. Total attendance on the night was 8,377 and \$2,136,411 was wagered on the 10-race live program (\$599,162 on-track and \$1,537,249 at simulcast outlets across North America). Also that night, a "Thoroughbreds by Design" exhibit of more than 25 decorated fiberglass horses were on display through the weekend in the Courtyard of Champions Tent in conjunction with the Breeders' Cup FanFest. Another FanFest event that ran through the weekend was the FanFest Radio Control Helicopter Championships at Fulton Field in Low Branch Park at Joe Pool Lake in Grand Prairie.

- Oct. 2, 2004 Texas-bred Charming Socialite, ridden by Larry Taylor and trained by Bill Pettiit who co-owned the gelding with Paul Sutton, upset odds-on 3-5 favorite Bwana Charlie by 1 3/4 lengths in the \$100,000 Alysheba Breeders' Cup Stakes at Lone Star Park. Bwana Charlie would go onto finish fourth in the Breeders' Cup Sprint at Lone Star. Meanwhile, Charming Socialite had won eight stakes, mainly against state-breds, through 2006. "Larry's agent, Travis [Church] had so much confidence in him he said, 'Let's nominate,' and I said, 'Well, you can if you want to,'" Pettit explained. "It looked like we could possibly get a check for third to fifth so I said, 'Well, let's go for it.' But when you have a jockey that's got that much confidence, it helps." Said Bwana Charlie's jockey Donnie Meche: "It's hard to believe that horse outran the horse I was on . . . He had every opportunity in the world to win; he just got outrun today. The other horse came with his running shoes on." In conjunction with the Breeders' Cup FanFest, a Jazz Festival was staged at First United Methodist Church in Grand Prairie throughout the day.
- Oct. 5, 2004 The official Breeders' Cup statue that stands about seven-feet high and weights approximately 4,000 pounds arrived at Lone Star Park from its base in Lexington, Ky. and was put on display in the Lone Star Park Saddling Paddock.
- Oct. 27, 2004 The Breeders' Cup Post Position Draw Breakfast was held in Lone Star Park's Silks Dining Terrace and 92 horses were entered in the eight Breeders' Cup races. Earlier that morning, award-winning horse racing columnist Gary West was surprisingly dismissed by *The Dallas Morning News* in a company-wide layoff of employees at The Belo Corp. Later that evening, West was given a standing ovation by colleagues and admirers at the 45th Annual National Turf Writers Association Awards Dinner, which, in an odd twist, was held at the Belo Mansion in Dallas. The next day, West was hired by the DMN's cross-town rival *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.
- Oct. 28, 2004 Native Texan Jerry Bailey defeated Kieren Fallon and Frankie Dettori in what would be the final Jockey Championship at Lone Star Park - the International Jockey Championship held two days before the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships.
- Oct. 29, 2004 Lone Star Park staged what would be the second greatest business day in Lone Star Park history, as more than \$6.7 million was bet on Lone Star's live racing, including \$2.3 million on-track. The Todd Pletcher-trained Pollard's Vision won the Grade III, \$250,000 Walmac Lone Star Derby before a crowd of 25,015. In the \$150,000 Stonerside Stakes, the Bob Baffert-trained Yearly Report ran seven furlongs in a track record 1:20.67. Throughout the day, 11 acclaimed racecallers from around the U.S. showcased their talents on All Star Announcers Day: Tom Durkin, voice of the Breeders' Cup and the New York Racing Association; Dave Johnson, the television veteran known for his trademark expression, "And down the stretch they come!"; Trevor Denman of Santa Anita Park; Luke Kruytbosch of Churchill Downs; Michael Wrona of Lone Star Park; Mike Battaglia of Turfway Park and NBC Sports; Michael Chamberlain of Sam Houston Race Park; Larry Collmus of Suffolk Downs and Monmouth Park; Dave Rodman of Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park; Vic Stauffer of Gulfstream Park and Hollywood Park; and Terry Wallace of Oaklawn Park.
- Oct. 30, 2004 Lone Star Park successfully staged the 21st running of the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships as a facility-record 53,717 attend. Highlights were frequent on a picture-perfect afternoon as 101 horses from around the world gathered for eight championship contests worth \$14 million in purse money. Ghostzapper defeated arguably the deepest and most accomplished field ever assembled for the \$4 million Breeders' Cup Classic by three lengths in stakes- and track-record time (1:59.02) for 1 1/4 miles, and was subsequently crowned Horse of the Year. Ashado set the Lone Star Park track record of 1:48.26 for 1 1/8 miles while winning the Breeders' Cup Distaff. A record \$120,863,117 was wagered on the 12-race program, including a record \$109,838,668 on the eight Breeders' Cup events. Outside of Lone Star Park, simulcast handle totaled a record \$107,536,392 and international simulcast wagering also established a new mark - \$16,401,782. Record pari-mutuel payoffs also were triggered: \$2 Superfecta, \$107,388; \$2 Pick 4, \$46,791.20; and five of six in Pick 6, \$56,149.60.
- Nov. 20, 2004 Lone Star Park's leading trainer Steve Asmussen surpassed Jack Van Berg's 28-year-old record of 496 wins in a year when Coronado Gold won the \$50,000 Delta Belle Stakes at Delta Downs.

2005

- Jan. 24, 2005 Ghostzapper, the Breeders' Cup Classic winner at Lone Star Park who went undefeated in 2004, was named Thoroughbred racing's Horse of the Year at the 34th Eclipse Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif. The 5-year-old, trained by Bobby Frankel for Stronach Stables, earned nearly twice as many votes as runner-up Smarty Jones, the Champion 3-Year-Old Male. Five of the Eclipse Award winners won Breeders' Cup races at Lone Star. In addition to Ghostzapper, they were Ashado (Champion 3-Year-Old Female and Breeders' Cup Distaff winner); Ouija Board (Champion Female Turf Horse and Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf winner); Speightstown (Champion Sprinter and Breeders' Cup Sprint winner); and Sweet Catomine (Champion 2-Year-Old Filly and Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies winner). Also, Azeri, fifth in the Breeders' Cup Classic against males, was voted Champion Older Female and Kitten's Joy, runner-up to Better Talk Now in the Breeders' Cup Turf, was named Champion Male Turf Horse.

- March 1, 2005 Lone Star Park hired John Lies to replace Michael Wrona as track announcer after Wrona and Lone Star Park were unable to agree upon terms for a contract extension. Lies, a broadcast publicist for Santa Anita and Hollywood Park since 1999, made guest appearances in the announcer's booth at Santa Rosa on the Northern California fair circuit in the summer of 2004, substituted for Luke Kruytbosch at Ellis Park in August 2004 and was the backup announcer to Vic Stauffer at Hollywood Park's 2004 Autumn Meeting. "After listening to numerous tapes from race callers across the country, we immediately recognized John Lies as a future star among track announcers," said Vice-President & General Manager Jeff Greco. "John has a precise, straight-forward delivery that we think will appeal to both the everyday horseplayer and the casual fan."
- March 17, 2005 The Lone Star Park Charitable Foundation for Grand Prairie awarded \$60,000 to 18 Grand Prairie charities.
- April 14, 2005 Lone Star Park became the first racetrack in North America to offer a 50-cent Pick 4. Also, 10-cent Superfectas were added to the wagering menu. In the \$50,000 Premiere Stakes, it took a stakes record by the 7-year-old gelding Rare Cure to run down 3-5 favorite Yessirgeneralsir. Ridden by Cliff Berry and trained by Joe Petalino, Rare Cure ran one mile on a fast main track in 1:37.15 and pushed his career earning past the half-million mark to \$507,610.
- April 16, 2005 Country superstar and fiddling phenomenon Charlie Daniels, best known for his classic "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," performed a concert after the races at Lone Star Park for the 12,601 in attendance. Sonny Burgess was the opening act.
- April 30, 2005 Dan Schaap, a 50-year-old attorney from Canyon, Texas, passed through the Lone Star Park turnstiles as the racetrack's 10-millionth visitor. "I can't believe it," Schaap said. "This is amazing. We're here celebrating my son Aaron's 13th birthday and we flew up here from Amarillo to take in some horseracing and a pair of [Texas] Rangers games. What a weekend!" As a result, Schaap received two lifetime admission and parking passes, a \$100 betting voucher and spent the day in a penthouse suite overlooking the finish line. He also had a chance to win \$10,000 in a horseshoe pitch between live races, but missed.
- April 30, 2005 High Strike Zone wore down pacesetter Yessirgeneralsir inside the final furlong of the Grade III, \$300,000 Texas Mile and defeated California invader Supah Blitz, the even-money favorite, by 1 ¼ lengths in front of 13,329 fans.
- May 14, 2005 California-based Southern Africa rated just off the early pace and made a five-wide move on the final turn to win the Grade III, \$300,000 Walmac Lone Star Derby by 1 ¼ lengths over Shamoan. Real Dandy finished another 1 ¾ lengths back in third. New York invader Awesome Twist, bet down to the 8-5 favorite in his stakes debut, failed to threaten and finished last in the field of 11 three-year-olds. Jon Court rode the winner for owners Al and Sandee Kirkwood of Richfield, Wash. Earlier in the day, the California-based jockey rode Rodeo's Castle to a head victory over Joe Six Pack in the \$75,000 Ford Express Stakes.
- May 19, 2005 According to a study released by Terry L. Clower, Ph.D. and Bernard L. Weinstein, Ph.D. of the University of North Texas, the 21st Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships at Lone Star Park helped generate \$47.4 million in new economic activity for Texas. The study, entitled "Economic and Fiscal Impacts of the 2004 Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships," stated that almost 46% of the 53,717 in attendance for the Breeders' Cup on Oct. 30, 2004 hailed from outside of Texas, including visitors from more than 40 states and countries on four continents. Out-of-state visitors and organizations spent \$20.45 million for lodging, food and beverages, retail merchandise and other entertainment during their Breeders' Cup stay, which averaged 2.9 nights in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.
- May 20, 2005 Record 50-cent Pick 4 paid \$11,073.35
- May 30, 2005 Before a holiday crowd of 13,838, millionaire Supah Blitz prevailed in a thrilling four-way photo by a nose over Cryptograph, Absent Friend and 6-5 favorite Lion Tamer in the Grade III, \$300,000 Lone Star Park Handicap, the richest of six stakes races that comprised Lone Star's seventh annual Lone Star Million. California-based jockey Jon Court, who won the Walmac Lone Star Derby aboard Southern Africa 16 days earlier, was aboard for the win - one of three stakes wins on the day. He also guided Mad Adam to victory in the \$200,000 Pin Oak Stud USA Stakes and R Fast Lady in the \$150,000 Stonerside Stakes. In the Grade III, \$200,000 WinStar Distaff, Kentucky invader Katdogawn, trained by Wally Dollase, rallied nicely on the outside for jockey Jerry Bailey to defeat 8-5 favorite Valentine Dancer by 1 ½ lengths.
- June 17, 2005 A record post-race concert crowd of 23,656 attended Lone Star Park to watch fast-rising country music stars Cross Canadian Ragweed.
- June 18, 2005 Locally-based Sea Dub snapped a six-race losing streak and scored his third career stakes win with a head victory over California invader Fullbridled in the \$200,000 Dallas Turf Cup. Owned and bred by Doyle Williams, the 6-year-old paid \$109.40 to win under jockey Larry Taylor. "He just was doing exceptionally good, so I'm not as surprised to see him win as the betting public was," said trainer Joe Petalino. Former Dallas Cowboys star quarterback and currently NFL analyst for FOX Sports Troy Aikman presented the winning trophy.

- July 3, 2005 A season-high 24,660 attended live racing and a post-race fireworks show at Lone Star Park.
- July 4, 2005 Jockey Casey Lambert was seriously injured in a three-horse spill in the ninth and final race. The accident occurred on the final turn near the quarter-pole when Lambert's mount Eunever broke down. The 5-year-old horse was positioned in fourth and appeared to be making a move for the lead from the outside when the accident occurred. Rox Solid, with Jesus Rodriguez aboard, was unable to avoid the fallen horse and jockey. Subsequently, Cathleen Garner's mount Dazzling Embrace couldn't escape the two horses and jockeys, either. Lambert suffered six broken ribs, a punctured lung, a broken vertebra and three fractures in his jaw.
- July 9, 2005 Trainer Bret Calhoun saddled the top four finishers in the \$125,000 Texas Stallion Stakes (Pan Zareta Division) when Final Trick, Cats Legend, Sauternes and Dyna's Gold Legend ran 1-2-3-4 on Stars of Texas Day. Also, Goosey Moose successfully defended his title in the \$125,000 Assault Stakes and Agrivating General completed the exacta for trainer Danny Pish, who dedicated the triumph to Goosey Moose's late owner and breeder Wilton E. Scott, who passed away the week before at age 93. Roman Chapa rode Goosey Moose to victory, one of his two stakes triumphs on the card. He also piloted Paltu to victory in the Staunch Avenger Division of the \$125,000 Texas Stallion Stakes. It was the second straight year that owners Bill and Corrine Heiligbrodt and trainer Steve Asmussen won the Staunch Avenger. Also, the \$100,000 Allen Bogan Memorial Stakes was won by Slewpy's Storm, Lightsnatcher prevailed in the \$50,000 Harold V. Goodman Memorial and Body by Katrina comfortably won the \$50,000 Valor Farm Stakes.
- July 16, 2005 A crowd of 13,524 attended Lone Star Park to watch live racing and a post-race country music concert featuring Charlie Robison, Jack Ingram and The Randy Rogers Band. That same night, a superfecta paid \$27,389.40 - a Lone Star Park record for the 10-cent superfecta.
- July 17, 2005 Royal Oaks Thoroughbreds' Saf Link, trained by Joe Petalino and ridden by Quincy Hamilton, became the first horse in Lone Star Park history to win five races in a single Lone Star Park season with his one-length triumph in the final race of the 2005 Spring Thoroughbred Season. In turn, he was named Champion Claiming Horse of the Meet.
- Oct. 21, 2005 Mighty Invictus kicked home powerfully and surged past even-money favorite First Comment in the final yards to win the Grade I, \$147,400 Dash For Cash Derby by a neck.
- Oct. 22, 2005 All American Winner, with Rodrigo Vallejo in the irons, held off a late surges by One Special Shade and Shaken Easy Dash to narrowly win the Grade 1, \$310,700 Dash For Cash Futurity.
- Oct. 29, 2005 The flashy 2-year-old gelding Got Country Grip remained unbeaten in seven career starts with a powerful 1 1/2-length victory over Really Special in the Grade 1, \$209,197 Graham Paint Futurity - the richest race ever run for an American Paint Horse. Owned by Jimmy Maddox of Garner, Texas and trained by Oklahoma City's Brandon Parum, Got Country Grip covered 350 yards under in a blistering :17.56 -- a track and stakes record. "Without a doubt, he's one of the Paint Horses ever," said winning rider G.R. Carter Jr., who performed his trademark backflip dismount following the victory. "Just look at his performances and the money he's earned. He's run under :17.60 three times. It takes a good Quarter Horse to do that."
- Nov. 25, 2005 In a Grade 1 stakes doubleheader at Lone Star Park, First Comment rolled to a half-length victory over Surprisingly Special in the \$332,869 Texas Classic Derby and the Heath Taylor-trained duo of Vals Fortune and Fredericksburg finished in a dead heat for the win in the \$100,000 Refrigerator Handicap.
- Nov. 26, 2005 American Quarter Horse racing's legendary duo of trainer Jack Brooks and jockey Jacky Martin struck again at Lone Star Park when Pyc Paint Your Wagon hit his best stride shortly after the start and easily held 2-1 favorite Automatically at bay to win the \$1 million Texas Classic Futurity by a half-length. The victory was especially meaningful for 51-year-old Martin, whose wife April suddenly passed away Oct. 28. "I was needing this win," Martin. "This win will do me wonders...I've been in kind of a bad state of affairs for the last month."
- Dec. 2, 2005 The American Graded Stakes Committee awarded the \$200,000 Dallas Turf Cup Handicap with Grade III status, giving Lone Star Park its fifth graded stakes race for Thoroughbreds.
- Dec. 31, 2005 Trainer Steve Asmussen was Thoroughbred racing's national leader in races-won for the third time in four years when he finished 2005 with 474 trips to the winner's circle at racetracks throughout North America. Asmussen won his first national training title in 2002 with 407 victories. In 2004, he became the first trainer in Thoroughbred racing history to win 500 races in a single year when he crushed Hall of Fame trainer Jack Van Berg's 28-year-old record of 496 wins in 1976 with an astonishing 555 victories.

2006

- Jan. 16, 2006 Lone Star Park unveiled a new and improved customer rewards program that would reward patrons based on visitation and dollars spent at the racetrack. "Star Player Rewards" was free to join and members would earn points for discounts and special offers based on visitation and wagering as well as food and beverage

- and Gift Shop purchases. The new program would also offer a discounted \$1 general admission to Lone Star Park.
- Feb. 3, 2006 Magna Entertainment Corp. appointed Drew Shubeck to replace Jeff Greco as Vice-President and General Manager of Lone Star Park. Shubeck had been the general manager of MEC Pennsylvania Racing at The Meadows since 2002, and had seven-years experience as an associate general manager for the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, which oversaw Monmouth Park and The Meadowlands.
- March 7, 2006 The Lone Star Park Charitable Foundation for Grand Prairie awarded \$60,000 to 14 Grand Prairie, Texas charities.
- April 14, 2006 Country artist Chris Cagle performed a concert after the races at Lone Star Park for the 11,612 in attendance.
- April 15, 2006 Two-time Grammy winner and 2001 Country Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year Lee Ann Womack performed a concert after the races for the 13,273 in attendance. Jason Boland & The Stragglers was the opening act.
- April 16, 2006 Hadenough, at the age of eight, won her record ninth race at Lone Star Park - all at five furlongs on the turf.
- April 22, 2006 Proven Cure, owned by Dr. William Reed's Stonecrest Farm and trained by John Locke, won the \$40,000 Littlebitlively Stakes at Lone Star Park by three lengths under jockey Quincy Hamilton. In doing so, Proven Cure became only the fifth Thoroughbred since 1970 to win a stakes race at the age of 12. The win was his 21st in 85 lifetime starts. Born April 8, 1994, Proven Cure joined Bold Sundance (b. 1989), Island Day Break (b. 1985), Leaping Plum (b. 1991) and Mayruncouldfly (b. 1974) as horse racing's only 12-year-old stakes winners in the last 30 years. The Littlebitlively was his eighth victory in 12 starts since turning age 11.
- April 29, 2006 Kip Deville, trained by Mike Neatherlin, who co-owned the colt with Roy Cobb, won the \$75,000 Grand Prairie Turf Challenge Stakes at Lone Star Park by four lengths in wire-to-wire fashion under jockey Quincy Hamilton. Purchased for \$20,000 at the 2005 Fasig-Tipton Texas Summer Yearling Sale, Neatherlin and Cobb sold the colt after the race for a reported \$500,000 to a partnership including IEAH Stables, Dan Borislow, Andrew Cohen and others. In his first start for the new connections, jockey Quincy Hamilton retained the mount for the \$1 million Colonial Turf Cup, a 1 3/16-mile turf race at Colonial Downs. The two set quick fractions of :45 2/5 for a half-mile, 1:08 3/5 for six furlongs and 1:34 2/5 for a mile, and led by as many as 15 lengths before being caught late. Kip Deville would hold second and finish 3 1/4 lengths back of eventual Grade I winner Showing Up. Kip Deville would later win back-to-back graded stakes at Santa Anita, including the Grade I Frank E. Kilroe Mile Handicap on March 3, 2007.
- May 13, 2006 The Bob Baffert-trained Wanna Runner was much the best in the Grade III, \$300,000 Walmac Lone Star Derby and easily defeated longshot Wait in Line by 5 1/4 lengths under a hand ride - the largest margin of victory in the race's 10-year history.
- May 29, 2006 Magnum, ridden by Pat Valenzuela, cemented himself as one of the top older horses in North America with a convincing 1 1/4-length victory over Texcess in the Grade III, \$400,000 Lone Star Park Handicap. The 1 1/16-mile race for older horses capped the eighth Lone Star Million that also featured a victory by Grade I stakes-winning female Sweet Talker in the Grade III, \$200,000 WinStar Distaff Handicap. Argentine-born and California-based Magnum stopped the teletimer in 1:42.88, a swift time considering the course was labeled "muddy" due to an unexpected early afternoon downpour. In other Lone Star Million races, trainer Patrick Biancone flew in six horses from Kentucky on the morning of the race - one for each stakes race - and prevailed in the \$150,000 Pin Oak Stud USA Stakes with Stream Cat, winner of the Grade III Crown Royal American Turf on Kentucky Oaks Day at Churchill Downs. Regular rider Julien Leparoux, the national win leader, was aboard for the 1 1/2-length victory over Wait in Line. Trainer Steve Asmussen, won his record 10th Lone Star Million stakes race when Red Lifesaver powered home in the stretch to nail front-running True Tails on the wire of the \$100,000 Valid Expectations Stakes. The 5-year-old mare was ridden by Luis Quinonez, who also guided Brownie Points to victory in the \$100,000 Stonerside Stakes. Sweeplingly was a surprise winner of the \$100,000 Beck Auto Group Turf Sprint Handicap at odds of 22-1. The 7-year-old gelding defeated the Biancone-trained Man of Illusion, a Grade III winner who was sent postward as the odds-on 2-5 favorite, by a half-length.
- June 3, 2006 Trainer Steve Asmussen collected his 50th career Lone Star Park stakes win when Stalwartly, a half-brother to 2002 Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Orientate, rallied to beat Corredor de Plata by a nose in the \$40,000 Nevill/Kyocera Stakes.
- June 7, 2006 A crew from the long-running TV game show Wheel of Fortune was at Lone Star Park to shoot a picturesque backdrop for upcoming episodes that would originate from the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In August, Wheel of Fortune, featuring Pat Sajak and Vanna White, would tape episodes of its popular show before a live audience at nearby Nokia Theatre. The show, which airs in 36 foreign territories worldwide, was to be broadcast later in the year.

- June 8, 2006 In his second career start, 2-year-old Great Hunter, owned by Ilona Whetstone and trained by Joe Petalino, broke his maiden at Lone Star Park by 1 ¾ lengths under jockey Quincy Hamilton. Following the race, Southern California-based trainer Doug O'Neill sent his brother Dennis to Texas to watch the colt train for a couple of days and he was subsequently sold for an undisclosed amount in the mid-six figures to J. Paul Reddam. Great Hunter would go on to win the Grade I Breeders' Futurity at Keeneland in October and finish third in the Bessemer Trust Breeders' Cup Juvenile. In Great Hunter's 2007 three-year-old debut, he won the Grade II Robert B. Lewis Stakes at Santa Anita.
- June 10, 2006 Be a Resident finished a nose in front of Grade III stakes champ Dattrick to win the colts and geldings division of the \$99,640 Texas Thoroughbred Association Sales Futurity. Two races later, Miss Mary Pat ran faster than her male counterparts and gave trainer Steve Asmussen his seventh victory in the last eight runnings of the fillies division.
- June 16, 2006 Rising Texas country music stars The Randy Rogers Band performed a concert after the races at Lone Star Park for the 9,159 in attendance.
- June 17, 2006 Trial By Jury, a 12-1 outsider from the Bruce Jackson barn, defeated the Bobby Frankel-trained New Export by a neck to win the \$200,000 Dallas Turf Cup. It was the first year the 1 1/8-mile turf race was awarded Grade III status by the American Graded Stakes Committee. Later on the card, War Bridle held on to beat Nuttyboom by a head in the \$40,000 Carter McGregor Jr. Memorial Stakes, a six-furlong race restricted to Texas-breds. Boots on Sunday, an eight-time stakes winner who was coming out of a 3 ½-year retirement to race again at age nine, was well-positioned early in the race, but faded to eighth. Also, trainer Dallas Keen became the fourth trainer in history to win 200 races at Lone Star Park when Morethanamouthful debuted a winner in the sixth race. The 49-year-old native of Sterling, Colo. - Lone Star's leading trainer in 1997 and '98 - joined the likes of Steve Asmussen, Cole Norman and Bret Calhoun.
- July 2, 2006 A crowd of 17,617 attended Lone Star Park for live racing and post-race fireworks.
- July 3, 2006 A crowd of 20,736 attended Lone Star Park for live racing and post-race fireworks.
- July 8, 2006 On Stars of Texas Day, 2-year-old gelding Be a Resident fought off several challengers and remained unbeaten in three starts with convincing 1 ¼-length victory over Holy Mission in the Staunch Avenger Division of the \$125,000 Texas Stallion Stakes. Meanwhile, the maiden Wrenice validated her runner-up effort in the TTA Sales Futurity with a powerful 6 ¼-length triumph in the Pan Zareta Division for 2-year-old fillies. Also, Dreamsandvisions won the \$75,000 Assault Stakes for older Texas-breds; Shesabigcat wired older females in the \$60,000 Allen Bogan Memorial Stakes; Rain On Monday survived a steward's inquiry and gave leading trainer Steve Asmussen a 1-2-3 finish in the \$40,000 Harold V. Goodman Memorial Stakes for 3-year-olds; and Open Meadows collected her second stakes win of the meet with a front-running score in the \$40,000 Valor Farm Stakes against 3-year-old fillies.
- July 14, 2006 Elmer Carter, a World War II veteran who trained Thoroughbreds and American Quarter Horses in Texas and Oklahoma for several decades, passed away at the age of 80. Carter, who trained horses at his farm in Windthorst, Texas, had won a race every year at Lone Star Park since the racetrack opened in 1997. His 35th career Lone Star win came Thursday night with 2-year-old Texas-bred filly Sister Genevieve.
- July 16, 2006 Song Dancer ran 7 ½ furlongs on turf in a course record 1:27.90.
- July 19, 2006 At the inaugural Don MacBeth Memorial Jockey Fund Dinner, Dance and Beauty Pageant, members of the Lone Star jockey colony dressed as women and raised \$10,000 for the charity. Jaime Theriot, who spent three hours getting ready, edged Quincy Hamilton as "Miss Lone Star Park." Fourteen stick horses were auctioned for \$3,575 and a charitable foot race from the starting gate featuring those props would take place July 21.
- July 22, 2006 Jockey Quincy Hamilton equaled Eddie Martin Jr.'s 2003 record of eight stakes wins during a Lone Star Park meeting when Miss Mary Pat won the \$50,000 Silver Spur Breeders' Cup Stakes by 1 ½ lengths for trainer Steve Asmussen.
- July 23, 2006 Jockey Cliff Berry rode Satellite to victory in the fourth race on closing day of the 2006 Spring Thoroughbred Season to break Corey Lanerie's 1999 record of 102 victories in a single Lone Star Park Season. Berry won his second straight Lone Star riding title with an impressive 103 winners during the 66-date meet. Berry would need 19 victories in 2007 to tie Corey Lanerie's Lone Star Park career win record of 477 victories. Also, Steve Asmussen, Lone Star Park's career win leader with 651 victories through 2006, wrapped up his eighth Lone Star Park training title with 55 wins. Bret Calhoun finished second with 52 wins, one ahead of Cody Autrey's 51. Sandy and Jerry Heflin, one of Autrey's main clients, edged four-time leading owner Tom Durant for the honor as top owner.
- Aug. 14, 2006 Corey Johnsen was named President of Magna Entertainment Corp. Southern Operations where he is responsible for Lone Star Park, Remington Park and MEC governmental activities in Texas and Oklahoma, as well as the operating agreement with Uruguay's national racetrack, Maroñas.

- Oct. 7, 2006 In one of the most visually impressive performances in Lone Star Park history, 5-year-old Country Chicks Man annihilated his competition in the Grade 1, \$100,000 Refrigerator Handicap to win by 1 ½ lengths over 8-5 favorite This Snow Is Royal. The victory came before a crowd of 4,659 on opening weekend of the 2006 Fall Meeting of Champions. Country Chicks Man, ridden by five-time AQHA Champion Jockey G.R. Carter Jr. and carrying 126 pounds, zipped 440 yards in :21.513. "He was here tonight to make a statement and he did just that," said Country Chicks Man's owner, breeder and trainer Sparky Mullins of Wagoner, Okla. "That was a championship-type performance."
- Oct. 26, 2006 Defending AQHA World Champion DM Shicago returned to action and crushed two rivals with a clocking of :17.462 for 350 yards in a \$7,000 allowance/optional claiming race. "He just beat two but he ran really, really well and this is a step in the right direction," said Heath Taylor, who trained the \$1.8 million-earner for Jim and Marilyn Helzer. DM Shicago, the 2004 All American Futurity and '05 All American Derby champ, was sidelined in the spring due to a lingering illness, which Taylor attributed to an uncharacteristic five-race winless streak.
- Oct. 28, 2006 Dont Let Down showed that his third in the All American Futurity was no fluke and powered home to beat First Freeze by a half-length in the \$426,375 Dash For Cash Futurity - one of two Grade 1 stakes events at Lone Star Park. Earlier, Hall of Fame trainer Jack Brooks bagged his fourth Dash For Cash Derby when Ima Ramblin Girl prevailed by a half-length over Adrians Jolla.
- Nov. 11, 2006 This Snow Is Cold, the lone female in the field of 11 older American Quarter Horses, broke alertly and prevailed by a nose in a thrilling three-horse photo with longshot WRS Special Shoe and LDS Dash for Dylan to win the Grade 1, \$301,500 MBNA America Challenge Championship. The lucrative race capped the 14th MBNA America Challenge Championships in front of 8,128 at Lone Star Park - an 11.2% attendance jump from the last time the event was held at Lone Star in 2002. Earlier, Magical Thunder took the Grade 1, \$200,000 Bayer Legend Derby. Eye Caughtcha Peekin won Grade 2, \$100,000 John Deere Distaff. Strider Man prevailed in the Grade 1, \$100,000 Red Cell Distance. Remember Me Rose won the Grade 2, \$150,000 Ford Juvenile. Speedy Injun won the \$75,000 Professional's Choice Claiming.
- Nov. 29, 2006 Ivory James, the fastest qualifier to the Dec. 1 Texas Classic Futurity, was not allowed to start in Texas' richest horse race because he experienced "exercise induced pulmonary hemorrhage" during his Nov. 18 trial race and was placed on the Texas Veterinarian List. The diagnosis by State Veterinarian Dr. Ron Browning will prevent the 2-year-old from racing for 30 days.
- Dec. 2, 2006 Valiant Hero's narrow neck victory over First Prize Perry in the Grade 1, \$1,053,912 Texas Classic Futurity capped a sensational closing night at Lone Star Park for trainer Jack Brooks and jockey G.R. Carter Jr. The duo teamed to win each of the three stakes events. Brooks, who won his third Texas Classic Futurity, also collected his third Texas Classic Derby with PYC Paint Your Wagon and the \$20,000 Burnett Handicap with Dashin Prince Henry, both ridden by Carter. The 2005 Lone Star Park Horse of the Meeting PYC Paint Your Wagon joined Mr Jess Perry (1994-95) as the lone horses to sweep the Texas Classic Futurity and Derby in consecutive years. "Diamond" Jim Brooks, at age 55, won his second consecutive riding title with 32 winners. Judd Kearn won two races on the card to tie John Buchanan for leading trainer with 18 wins apiece. A.D. Maddox repeated as leading owner with nine trips to the winner's circle.

2007

- Feb. 7, 2007 Corey Johnsen resigned as President of Magna Entertainment Corp. Southern Operations to join a group of private investors that were in the process to acquire controlling interest of another North American racetrack.
- Feb. 27, 2007 Magna Entertainment Corp. appointed Michael Neuman to its Board of Directors and as Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Also, Charlie J. Williams was appointed to its Board of Directors. Neuman, who had been an advisor to Chairman Frank Stronach for several months, was President and COO of EchoStar, which operated DISH Network in the United States, before joining MEC. Another highlight of his 25-year business career was as President of Bell Mobility, a wireless telecommunications operator in Canada.
- March 1, 2007 Magna Entertainment Corp. named Drew Shubeck as President and General Manager for Lone Star Park. In addition, G.W. Hail and Paula Newman are promoted to Vice-President and Assistant General Manager.
- March 2, 2007 The City of Grand Prairie and the American Association of Professional Baseball unveiled plans to operate a minor league baseball team and construct a baseball stadium on property between Lone Star Park and Nokia Theatre. The stadium would seat 6,000 (4,000 permanent seats, 12 luxury suites and 2,000 lawn/berm seats) and be completed by May 2008 for a 48-game schedule that year. Partial funding through a one-eighth cent sales tax would need to be approved by Grand Prairie voters on May 12. The city would own the stadium and Grand Prairie Baseball Investors (Mark Schuster and Roger Christoph) would operate the facility.
- March 7, 2007 The Lone Star Park Charitable Foundation for Grand Prairie awarded \$90,000 to 16 Grand Prairie charities.

