



## **LAUREL PARK CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF RACING ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15**

### **100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash and Fall Fest Features Centennial Cake Competition & On-Track Events**

**LAUREL, MD. 09-22-11**---Laurel Park will celebrate 100 years of live racing with a 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash and Fall Fest on Saturday, October 15. The live card will begin at 1:10 p.m. The centennial celebration will include a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday key chain giveaway to the first 3,000 in attendance and events on-track between races.

Laurel opened for the first time on October 2, 1911 under the auspices of the Laurel Four Corners County Fair. The Anne Arundel County track quickly became an autumn fixture on the Maryland racing calendar.

Classic winners Omar Khayyam (1917 Kentucky Derby), Hourless (1917 Belmont Stakes), Exterminator (1918 Derby), Sir Barton (1919 Triple Crown winner), Morvich (1922 Derby), War Admiral (1937 Triple Crown), Johnstown (1939 Derby & Belmont), Challedon (1939 Preakness Stakes), Whirlaway (1941 Triple Crown), Shut Out (1942 Derby & Belmont), Count Fleet (1943 Triple Crown), Jet Pilot (1947 Derby), Citation (1948 Triple Crown), Riva Ridge (1972 Derby & Belmont), Secretariat (1973 Triple Crown), Seattle Slew (1977 Triple Crown), Affirmed (1978 Triple Crown), Spectacular Bid (1979 Derby & Preakness) and Barbaro (2006 Derby) all campaigned at Laurel. Ten of those captured the Laurel Futurity as two-year-olds.

Seabiscuit prepped at Laurel for his famous match race with War Admiral. On October 15, 1938, two weeks before the Pimlico Special, Seabiscuit finished second in the Laurel Stakes, a race he had won in 1937.

Sandy Hawley became the first rider in history with 500 victories in a single season when he guided Charlie Jr. to victory at Laurel on December 15, 1973. Hawley finished the year with 515 victories. One year and two days later, Chris McCarron passed Hawley with his 516th winner of 1974 aboard Oh My Love at Laurel. He completed the year with 546 victories. That record stood for 15 years until Kent Desormeaux surpassed the mark when he rode his 547th winner for the year, aboard Gilten, at Laurel on November 30, 1989. Desormeaux finished the year with 598 victories, a record that still stands. To this day, only Hawley, McCarron, Desmoreaux and Edgar Prado (536 in 1997) have won more than 500 races in an American racing year, all while riding in Maryland.

Twelve Laurel Legends video packages have been playing on the simulcast signal during the fall meeting, which began September 9, and posted on Laurel Park's YouTube page <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC6952CCCC2DDD0D2>. The topics are the Early Years, Laurel Futurity, D.C. International, De Francis Dash, Maryland Million, King Leatherbury, Dave Rodman, Kent Desormeaux's record breaking 1989 year, Horacio Karamanos' seven-win day on 2002 Breeders' Cup day, Little Bold John, Xtra Heat and the Sports Palace.

"One hundred years in existence is a milestone in any industry," said Maryland Jockey Club president Tom Chuckas. "It has been enjoyable going back to see what kind of impact Laurel Park has made to racing and the local community throughout the years. We are using the fall meet to say thank you, with the October 15 celebration as the lynchpin event."

Here is a list of activities. WBAL Radio's Keith Mills, an Anne Arundel County native, will serve as master of ceremonies. Updates to the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash and Fall Fest will be available on Laurel Park's Facebook page.

### **Birthday Components:**

1. Centennial Cake Competition– Maryland bakeries compete with the winning creator getting the 2012 Preakness Stakes dessert contract, a \$10,000 value
2. Cup Cake Relay- Teams compete by each member adding icing, jimmies and candle to a cupcake, running while wearing a chef's hat and carrying the cupcake on a spatula and placing it on a stand and running back to return spatula and chef's hat to next team member. Each team member repeats the drill and continues until time limit is up. The Team with most cupcakes on the stand wins, with \$100 prizes to each winning team member
3. Actors in Period Costume who will discuss 1911 trivia with fans
4. Birthday gifts to be awarded to fans throughout afternoon, including flat screens, airline gift cards and Ipads
5. Complimentary piece of birthday cake for all in attendance

### **Community Components:**

- Family Entertainment
  1. Jockey Autograph Session
  2. Facebook Photo Contest
  3. DJ for Apron BBQ
  4. Area with Face Painters, Moon Bounce, Video Games and more
- Equine Village
  1. Pony Club on-track performance
  2. Jack Russell Terriers on-track performance
  3. Medieval Times on-track performance
  4. Bassett Hounds on-track performance
  5. Pony Rides
  6. Petting Zoo
- Community Village
  1. Community Luncheon for Laurel leaders
  2. Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office to provide canine demos
  3. Maryland City Fire Department will have engine/pumper and ambulance on-site

On opening Saturday of the fall meet, Laurel Park provided fans with a complimentary mug featuring historic Laurel Park headlines. The mug can be used for \$2 draft beers on each Saturday through December 17.

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