

# California Racing's "Big Days"

A look at 2006's top race days in California reveals that six of the Top 10 – Santa Anita Handicap, Santa Anita Derby, Sunshine Millions, Strub Stakes, Pacific Classic, and Santa Anita's Opening Day – were *home-grown* race days, while the remaining four were dependant on out-of-state "product" – the Kentucky Derby, Breeders' Cup Day, the Preakness, and the Belmont.

To determine what constituted our "big days" in 2006, we looked at several factors, including purses paid and generated, handle, and attendance figures, with *purses generated* being of primary significance. This term means the amount of purse money created by "handle" transacted on the given day.

The top six event days generated a total of \$5,735,776 in purses for California – approximately 59% of the total amount generated by the ten "big" days. The four out-of-state centered "big" days generated a total of \$4,017,278 in purse money for California – approximately 41%, which includes the sport's biggest day – Kentucky Derby Day.

When the review is extended to include the Top 25 race days based on purses generated, we see that *home-grown* race days comprise 11 of the next 15 days. Of the four remaining Top 25 days, three are national holidays (Presidents', Memorial, and Labor

Days), and the last being the final Kentucky Derby Prep weekend. Accordingly, of a total of 17 *home-grown* race days in the Top 25, 8 occur at Santa Anita, 8 at Del Mar, and 1 at Hollywood Park with the remaining 8 days either being national holidays or Triple Crown/Breeders' Cup events.

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If we look at on-track attendance as the measure of "big days" in 2006, then it's evident that *home-grown* live events bring out California racing fans. Of the Top 25 race days based on on-track attendance in Southern California, 16 took place at Del Mar, 7 occurred at Santa Anita, and the final 2 were at the Oak Tree at Santa Anita meet. Only one of those days corresponded with a national holiday: Labor Day.

In 2006, average attendance for the top three days

at each Southern California track were as follows:

- Santa Anita: 45,596
- Del Mar: 37,711
- Oak Tree: 23,274
- Hollywood Park: 12,501

Interestingly, only one of these days corresponded to a national holiday – Memorial Day – and another with the Kentucky Derby Day, both at Hollywood Park.

## Top 25 California Race Days 2006

### Purses Generated

	Date	Day	Track	Purses Generated
1	May 6, 2006	Kentucky Derby	Hollywood Park	\$1,189,977
2	March 4, 2006	Santa Anita Handicap	Santa Anita	1,161,120
3	April 8, 2006	Santa Anita Derby	Santa Anita	1,069,682
4	August 20, 2006	Pacific Classic	Del Mar	976,553
5	November 4, 2006	Breeders' Cup	Oak Tree at Santa Anita	973,674
6	May 20, 2006	Preakness	Hollywood Park	958,935
7	June 10, 2006	Belmont	Hollywood Park	894,691
8	January 28, 2006	Sunshine Millions	Santa Anita	857,675
9	February 4, 2006	Strub Stakes	Santa Anita	838,888
10	August 12, 2006	Del Mar 4th Saturday	Del Mar	831,858
11	December 26, 2006	Santa Anita Opening Day	Santa Anita	805,643
12	April 22, 2006	Santa Anita Closing Day	Santa Anita	799,708
13	July 29, 2006	Del Mar 2nd Saturday	Del Mar	795,295
14	September 3, 2006	Labor Day Sunday	Del Mar	783,314
15	May 29, 2006	Memorial Day	Hollywood Park	772,063
16	August 26, 2006	Del Mar 6th Saturday	Del Mar	770,199
17	July 2, 2006	American Oaks	Hollywood Park	755,689
18	September 2, 2006	Labor Day Saturday	Del Mar	754,764
19	August 5, 2006	Del Mar 3rd Saturday	Del Mar	749,455
20	April 15, 2006	Final KY Derby Prep Saturday	Santa Anita	743,471
21	March 18, 2006	San Felipe, Magna 5 Saturday	Santa Anita	737,806
22	February 20, 2006	Presidents Day	Santa Anita	736,063
23	February 11, 2006	Las Virgenes, Santa Maria, M5	Santa Anita	728,877
24	September 4, 2006	Labor Day Monday	Del Mar	726,732
25	August 19, 2006	Del Mar 5th Saturday	Del Mar	725,861

## Top 25 Southern California Race Days 2006

### On-Track Attendance

	Race Date	Day	Track	On-Track Attendance
1	April 8, 2006	Santa Anita Derby	Santa Anita	\$ 54,189
2	March 4, 2006	Santa Anita Handicap	Santa Anita	49,089
3	July 19, 2006	Del Mar Opening Day	Del Mar	42,005
4	August 12, 2006	Del Mar 4th Saturday	Del Mar	39,090
5	December 26, 2005	Santa Anita Opening Day	Santa Anita	34,590
6	January 28, 2006	Sunshine Millions	Santa Anita	32,116
7	August 20, 2006	Pacific Classic	Del Mar	32,039
8	August 26, 2006	Del Mar 6th Saturday	Del Mar	28,312
9	September 30, 2006	Oak Tree BC Prep Sat.	Oak Tree at Santa Anita	26,863
10	April 22, 2006	Santa Anita Closing Day	Santa Anita	25,644
11	October 28, 2006	California Cup Day	Oak Tree at Santa Anita	25,436
12	August 18, 2006	Del Mar 4th Friday	Del Mar	24,446
13	August 5, 2006	Del Mar 3rd Saturday	Del Mar	23,524
14	July 28, 2006	Del Mar 2nd Friday	Del Mar	22,636
15	July 21, 2006	Del Mar 1st Friday	Del Mar	22,433
16	September 3, 2006	Labor Day Sunday	Del Mar	21,644
17	August 11, 2006	Del Mar 4th Friday	Del Mar	21,550
18	September 4, 2006	Labor Day Monday	Del Mar	20,424
19	February 4, 2006	Strub Stakes Day	Santa Anita	20,263
20	July 29, 2006	Del Mar 2nd Saturday	Del Mar	19,702
21	August 19, 2006	Del Mar 5th Saturday	Del Mar	19,652
22	July 22, 2006	Del Mar 1st Saturday	Del Mar	19,374
23	September 2, 2006	Labor Day Saturday	Del Mar	18,721
24	August 27, 2006	Del Mar Sunday	Del Mar	18,207
25	April 23, 2006	Santa Anita Closing Day	Santa Anita	17,903