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Gold Trust captures first stakes victory in Joey P. Handicap

Ballybrit Stable's homebred turf specialist Gold Trust continued his love affair with the Monmouth Park turf course Sept. 14, securing the seventh running of the Joey P. Handicap for New Jersey-breds. The victory marked a milestone for the 4-year-old gelding, winning the first stakes race of his career.

Bred by his trainer, veteran horseman Mike Dini, Gold Trust once again demonstrated the tactical versatility that has become his hallmark. Breaking sharply from the gate, he vied for the early lead along the inside rail before jockey Francisco Martinez smartly took him back off the pace to secure a stalking position behind the frontrunners.

As the field turned for home, Gold Trust swung three-wide into the clear and surged past the dueling leaders Perrotto and Smithwick's Spice, drawing off powerfully to win by a decisive length and a half at the wire after 5 furlongs in :56.66. The performance underscored his growing maturity and finishing kick, attributes that have carried him to back-to-back victories and three wins from his last four starts.

By Handsome Mike out of the Touch Gold mare Taty's Gold, Gold Trust has steadily climbed the ranks this season to emerge as one of Monmouth Park's most promising turf sprinters.



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Bingo's Birkin cruises in Pinot Grigio Handicap

Gerardo Franco's Bingo's Birkin achieved her first career stakes victory with a 2-length win in the Pinot Grigio Handicap Sept. 13 at Monmouth Park. Jockey Paco Lopez took the lead immediately with the daughter of Sea Wizard. After fending off some early challenges from longshot Allison Park, she was never in danger throughout the race.

The time for the 5 furlongs over a firm turf course was 56.97 seconds.

"I remember the last time I rode her, she was close to the lead, but the early fractions were a bit slow. She managed to overcome that and win anyway," said Lopez. "This time, [trainer] Jose Sanchez told me, 'If you break well, let her go.' Once she made the lead like she did in this race, I knew she would be tough to catch."

Bingo's Birkin easily outperformed the other 10 Jersey-breds in the field, securing her fourth win in nine lifetime starts and improving her record to four wins out of six races on grass.

"As she has matured, she has been getting better. After winning that open allowance race in her most recent start, her confidence grew," said Sanchez. "In the first few races this year, we were in the wrong races because there weren't suitable conditions for her. We tried her on dirt, but she didn't like it. Then, I had to run her in an open stakes race because there wasn't anything else available. That field was tough.



"Then, in her last start, she won the open allowance race convincingly. This race matched her perfectly, and it feels good to get her that first stakes win. She has come a long way in her past two starts."

Bingo's Birkin was bred by Colonial Farms out of the winning Tale of the Cat mare Futures Market.

Prancing Horse Farm wins 2025 Monmouth Park owner's title

In a standout season at Monmouth Park, Prancing Horse Farm – owned by Joseph and Gayle Ioia – clinched the coveted leading owner's title, capping a campaign defined by persistence, growth, and deep ties to New Jersey breeding.

As the 2025 Monmouth Park meet wrapped up Sept. 14, Prancing Horse Farm emerged at the top of the standings with 14 wins. That achievement was underscored by the fact that the Ioias' stable consists entirely of New Jersey-breds.

Joseph Ioia, who hails from Brooklyn, purchased a 65-acre farm in Colts Neck in 2019 – and that property has become the heart of Prancing Horse Farm. Today, the operation houses about 55 horses (with roughly 20 in training) under one roof.

Ioia's interest in racing began organically – after acquiring the farm property, he slowly became immersed in horse

ownership. Over time, he forged a partnership with trainer Chuck Spina, which has lasted nearly two decades. A few horses are managed by Sergio Rabadan, who also serves as the farm manager.

One early breakthrough was a mare named Bustin Out, who won nine of 19 starts including two stakes wins, and brought recognition to Ioia's stable. According to Ioia, before 2022 the stable was more opportunistic in its purchases and breeding approach; it was in and after 2022 when more deliberate breeding and acquisitions began to pay dividends.

In 2022, Ioia and Spina (then part-owner) won the owner's title. He has since been in the top two in terms of earnings at Monmouth for multiple years, including second-place finishes in 2023 and 2024.



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Top-10 New Jersey-breds at Monmouth Park meet

The following is a list of the top 10 highest-earning New Jersey-breds during the 50-day Monmouth Park meet from May 10 to September 14.

<i>Horse</i>	<i>Breeder</i>	<i>Earnings</i>
Riding Pretty	Holly Crest Farm	\$147,250
Gold Trust	Mike Dini	142,050
Boardwalk Jack	Colonial Farms	113,625
Jewel of the Ocean	Colonial Farms	111,200
Wildncrazynight	New Farm	102,000
Smuggler's Gold	Hope Haskell Jones & Isabelle de Tomaso	96,969
Bingo's Birkin	Colonial Farms	96,700
Molly's a Bullet	ARM Consulting	95,875
Allison Park	ABL Stable	95,575
One Fine Wine	Barrister Breeding LLC	87,500



Holly Crest Farm's 5-year-old mare Riding Pretty won back-to-back handicaps at Monmouth in 2025, the Jersey Girl on the turf in July and the Charles Hesse III (above) against males in August.

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Record-Setting NYRA Bets Haskell Day, uptick in attendance as Monmouth Park closes out 2025 season

Record days for the NYRA Bets Haskell Stakes and Mother's Day highlighted the 49-day Monmouth Park meet, the track's 80th season, that concluded on Sunday.

The crowd of 41,876 for the \$1-million, Grade 1 NYRA Bets Haskell July 19 was the largest since 2015 and produced a record total handle for a non-Breeders' Cup event of \$21,999,962. It marked the third straight year that a total handle record was set on Haskell Day.

The May 11 crowd of 14,687 also set a record for Mother's Day.

Those two days contributed to a slight increase in attendance, with a daily average of 6,650 compared to 6,510 in 2024.

"We're grateful to our fans who continue to make Monmouth Park a summer destination," said Dennis Drazin, Chairman and CEO of Darby Development, the operator of the

racetrack. "Our goal is and always will be to make Monmouth Park a premier racing and entertainment venue. With that in mind, tomorrow the work begins anew as we look to 2026 and beyond."

The meet saw Paco Lopez, who currently leads the nation in wins, capture his 12th riding title overall and record seventh straight. Prancing Horse Farm (Joe and Gayle Ioia) emerged as the leading owner, Jorge Delgado was the leading trainer, and Christian Maragh was the leading apprentice.

Average total handle was \$3,641,403. Average on-track handle was \$341,340.

Prior to this year, Monmouth Park had four straight years of increases in total and on-track handle.

With one day cancelled due to weather, Monmouth Park conducted 454 races this year compared to 488 in 2024.



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