

# UPDATE

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**Sports Field**  
Managers Association of New Jersey



## SFMANJ Returns to Shore Regional and Monmouth Park on May 7, 2008

By Brad Park



Despite heavy rains prior to and during the Breeders' Cup, the design and management of the turf course allowed the world's greatest thoroughbred race horses to compete on the turf. English Channel (seen in photo) won the \$3.0 million Breeders' Cup Turf at the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championship held at Monmouth Park in October 2007.

Following the success of Spring Field Day in April 2006, Sports Field Managers Association (SFMANJ) has decided to re-visit both Shore Regional High School, West Long Branch, NJ and the turf course at Monmouth Park Racetrack, Oceanport, NJ as part of Spring Field Day 2008.

The Field Day will begin at Shore Regional High School and consist of outdoor education focusing on baseball and softball skin surface preparation and vendor-sponsored equipment demonstrations.

As part of Spring Field Day 2008, the field hockey field will be part of the outdoor education. Low mowing heights and a smooth, firm playing surface are attributes that are often demanded by field hockey coaches and players. Attaining these playing surface characteristics on field hockey fields will be part of the education in 2008.

The field day will then move down the street to Monmouth Park Racetrack for lunch followed by a unique tour of the turf course. Coined as *The Shore's Greatest Stretch* the racing facility is the home of the annual Haskell Invitational in August and recently hosted the 2007 Breeders' Cup Thoroughbred World Championships. This event provides the highest paying purses in the sport and attracts the best thoroughbred race horses from across the world.

(continued on page 8)



The backstretch of the Monmouth Park turf course in March 2005 was poorly drained and riddled with annual bluegrass. Note the presence of a hedge on the inside edge of the turf track.



Following the 2005 Monmouth Park racing season, the inside hedge was removed, topsoil was stripped, and underdrains were installed in the subbase of the backstretch of the Monmouth Park turf course in November 2005 in preparation for the 2006 racing season and the 2007 Breeders' Cup.