Historical milestones in **jai alai** in the US

Jai Alai became one of the biggest betting sports in the United States during the seventies. However, during the eighties, the sport became less popular due to the greed of some entrepreneurs and a long strike of "pelotaris".

1897 — First article referring to Jai Alai in the United States

1901 — First professional Jai Alai game in the United States (California, San Francisco)

1904 — First Jai Alai court built in St. Louis (Missouri)

1924 — Jai Alai court opened in Miami

1934 — Betting becomes legal in Jai Alai courts

1960-1988 — Up to 16 Jai Alai court are opened in four North American States

1975 — Record attendance: 15,500 people attended the Jai Alai court of Miami (27 December)

1977 — he Milford Jai Alai court in Connecticut is opened, collecting 470,979 dollars in bets

1988 — 600 "pelotaris" start a strike, which will last three years

2017 — Only two Jai Alai courts offer games throughout the year: Miami Jai Alai and Dania Beach Jai Alai. Another five courts have very little activity but make sure that this Basque tradition keeps on going in the United States

2020 — Various initiatives emerge to revitalise jai alai, including the World Jai-Alai League and the Battle Court format, introducing new formats and digital broadcasts that help drive a resurgence in the sport

