

STARTS – 3-YEAR-OLD DEBUT

The following is a list of 13 horses that made their 3-year-old debut while winning the Kentucky Derby:

Horse	Year	Finish
Morvich	1922	1st
Sir Barton	1919	1st
Exterminator	1918	1st
Regret	1915	1st
Sir Huon	1906	1st
Alan-a-Dale	1902	1st
His Eminence	1901	1st
Lieut. Gibson	1900	1st
Plaudit	1898	1st
Ben Brush	1896	1st
Azra	1892	1st
Riley	1890	1st
Baden Baden	1877	1st

STARTS – 1 AS 3-YEAR-OLD

The following is a list of 26 horses that made one start as a 3-year-old prior to the Kentucky Derby from 1937 to present. Record: 26-0-1-1

Horse	Year	Finish
Helium	2021	7 th
Brooklyn Strong	2021	14 th
Lines of Battle	2013	7 th
Daddy Long Legs	2012	DNF
Master of Hounds	2011	5 th
Outta Here	2003	7 th
Express Tour	2001	8 th
China Visit	2000	6 th
Eltish	1995	6 th
Citadeed	1995	9 th
Ski Captain	1995	14 th
Dr. Devious	1992	7 th
Arazi	1992	8 th
Ky. Colonel	1949	10 th
Senecas Coin	1949	14 th
Lord Boswell	1946	4 th
Dark Jungle	1946	12 th
With Pleasure	1946	14 th
Bert G.	1945	14 th
Kenilworth Lad	1945	16 th
Gold Shower	1943	8 th
Burnt Cork	1943	10 th
Devil Diver	1942	6 th
Challedon	1939	2 nd
Reaping Reward	1937	3 rd
Burning Star	1937	8 th

STARTS – 2 AS 3-YEAR-OLD

The following is a list of horses that made two starts as a 3-year-old prior to the Kentucky Derby from 1937 to present. Record: 184-14-16-13.

Fourteen (including eight of the last 17 years) won the Derby: Nyquist (2016), American Pharoah (2015), I'll Have Another (2012), Animal Kingdom (2011), Super Saver (2010), Mine That Bird (2009), Big Brown (2008) and Street Sense (2007).

Eighteen were favorites: Fierceness (15th in 2024); Essential Quality (3rd in 2021); Improbable (4th in 2019); Nyquist (1st in 2016); American Pharoah (1st in 2015); Lookin At Lucky (5th in 2010); Big Brown (1st in 2008); Street Sense (1st in 2007); Bellamy Road (7th in 2005); Point Given (5th in 2001); Native Dancer (2nd in 1953); Phalanx (2nd in 1947); Perfect Bahram (9th in 1946 and part of an entry with Lord Boswell and Knockdown); Count Fleet (1st in 1943); Shut Out (1st in 1942); Bimelech (2nd in 1940); Fighting Fox (6th in 1938) and War Admiral (1st in 1937).

Horse	Year	Finish
Sovereignty	2025	1st
Journalism	2025	2 nd
East Avenue	2025	8 th

Horse	Year	Finish
Citizen Bull	2025	15 th
Flying Mohawk	2025	18 th
Sierra Leone	2024	2 nd
Forever Young (JPN)	2024	3 rd
T O Password (JPN)	2024	5 th
Stronghold	2024	7 th
Honor Marie	2024	8 th
Endlessly	2024	9 th
Dornoch	2024	10 th
Domestic Product	2024	13 th
Fierceness*	2024	15 th
Catalytic	2024	19 th
Hit Show	2023	5 th
Derma Sotogake (JPN)	2023	6 th
Confidence Game	2023	10 th
Mandarin Hero (JPN)	2023	12 th
Jace's Road	2023	17 th
Zandon	2022	3 rd
Mo Donegal	2022	5 th
Smile Happy	2022	8 th
Taiba	2022	12 th
Crown Pride (JPN)	2022	13 th
Messier	2022	15 th
White Abarrio	2022	16 th
Hot Rod Charlie	2021	2 nd
Essential Quality	2021	3 rd
Keepmeinmind	2021	6 th
Highly Motivated	2021	9 th
Like the King	2021	11 th
Super Stock	2021	15 th
Tacitus	2019	3 rd
Improbable	2019	4 th
Game Winner	2019	5 th
Vekoma	2019	12 th
Tax	2019	14 th
Roadster	2019	15 th
Spinoff	2019	18 th
Good Magic	2018	2 nd
Audible	2018	3 rd
Hofburg	2018	7 th
Solomini	2018	10 th
Bolt d'Oro	2018	12 th
Promises Fulfilled	2018	15 th
Mendelssohn	2018	20 th
Classic Empire	2017	4 th
Practical Joke	2017	5 th
McCraken	2017	8 th
Fast and Accurate	2017	17 th
Thunder Snow (IRE)	2017	DNF

Nyquist	2016	1st
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Gun Runner	2016	3 rd
Brody's Cause	2016	7 th
Lani	2016	9 th

American Pharoah	2015	1st
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Firing Line	2015	2 nd
Carpe Diem	2015	10 th
Bolo	2015	12 th
Ocho Ocho Ocho	2015	14 th
Commanding Curve	2014	2 nd
Danza	2014	3 rd
Chitu	2014	9 th
Candy Boy	2014	13 th
Revolutionary	2013	3 rd
Normandy Invasion	2013	4 th
Mylute	2013	5 th
Overanalyze	2013	11 th
Java's War	2013	13 th

I'll Have Another	2012	1st
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Dullahan	2012	3 rd
Union Rags	2012	7 th
Daddy Nose Best	2012	10 th
Done Talking	2012	14 th
Sabercat	2012	15 th
Gemologist	2012	16 th
Trinniberg	2012	17 th
Take Charge Indy	2012	19 th

Animal Kingdom	2011	1st
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Santiva	2011	6 th
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Super Saver	2010	1st
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Make Music for Me	2010	4 th
Noble's Promise	2010	5 th
Lookin At Lucky	2010	6 th
Devil May Care-f	2010	10 th

Horse	Year	Finish
Homeboykris	2010	16 th
Awesome Act	2010	19 th
Backtalk	2010	20 th

Mine That Bird	2009	1st
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Hold Me Back	2009	12 th
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Big Brown	2008	1st
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Tale of Ekati	2008	4 th
Recapturetheglory	2008	5 th
Colonel John	2008	6 th
Court Vision	2008	13 th
Monba	2008	20 th

Street Sense	2007	1st
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Circular Quay	2007	6 th
Dominican	2007	11 th
Great Hunter	2007	13 th
Stormello	2007	19 th
Private Vow	2006	15 th
Sharp Humor	2006	19 th
Closing Argument	2005	2 nd
Wilko	2005	6 th
Bellamy Road	2005	7 th
High Limit	2005	20 th
Lion Heart	2004	2 nd
Read the Footnotes	2004	7 th
Birdstone	2004	8 th
Tapit	2004	9 th
Castledale-IRE	2004	14 th
Friends Lake	2004	15 th
Peace Rules	2003	3 rd
Indian Express	2003	14 th
Point Given	2001	5 th
Anees	2000	13 th
Lemon Drop Kid	1999	9 th
Victory Gallop	1998	2 nd
Favorite Trick	1998	8 th
Old Trieste	1998	10 th
Deeds Not Words	1997	13 th
Talkin Man	1995	12 th
Brocco	1994	4 th
Powis Castle	1994	8 th
Valiant Nature	1994	13 th
Ulisies	1994	14 th
El Bakan	1993	18 th
Thyer	1992	13 th
Disposal	1992	18 th
Best Pal	1991	2 nd
Regal Classic	1988	5 th
Capote	1987	DNF
Bold Arrangement	1986	2 nd
Vernon Castle	1986	15 th

Sunny's Halo	1983	1st
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Muttering	1982	5 th
Rockwall	1982	6 th
Television Studio	1981	5 th
Tap Shoes	1981	14 th
Sir Tristram	1974	11 th
Lexico	1974	22 nd
Red Hot Pistol	1958	11 th
Summer Tan	1955	3 rd
Hasseyampa	1954	3 rd
Native Dancer	1953	2 nd
Sub Fleet	1952	2 nd
Swoop	1952	16 th
King Clover	1951	13 th
Mameluke	1951	20 th
Johns Joy	1949	9 th
Lextown	1949	11 th
Billings	1948	4 th

Jet Pilot	1947	1st
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Phalanx	1947	2 nd
Cosmic Bomb	1947	5 th
Liberty Road	1947	10 th
Spy Song	1946	2 nd
Perfect Bahram	1946	9 th

Hoop Jr.	1945	1st
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Air Sailor	1945	4 th
Jeep	1945	5 th
Fighting Step	1945	8 th
Misweet	1945	12 th
Tiger Rebel	1945	13 th

Count Fleet	1943	1st
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Bankrupt	1943	5 th
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Horse	Year	Finish
Shut Out	1942	1st
Dogpatch	1942	8 th
Our Boots	1941	8 th
Robert Morris	1941	9 th
Bimelech	1940	2 nd
Dit	1940	3 rd
Roman	1940	6 th
Pictor	1940	8 th
Heather Broom	1939	3 rd
El Chico	1939	6 th
T.M. Dorsett	1939	7 th
The Chief	1938	5 th
Fighting Fox	1938	6 th
Bull Lea	1938	8 th
War Admiral	1937	1st
Pompoon	1937	2 nd
Clodion	1937	10 th
Grey Gold	1937	14 th
Sir Damion	1937	19 th
Billionaire	1937	20 th

STARTS – 1 OR 2 3-YEAR-OLD

Derby Starters with 1 or 2 Preps as a 3-Year-Old:

Year	Horses
2025	5
2024	10
2023	5
2022	7
2021	8
2020	0
2019	7
2018	7
2017	5
2016	4
2015	5
2014	4
2013	6
2012	10
2011	3
2010	8
2009	2
2008	6
2007	5
2006	2
2005	4
2004	6
2003	3
2002	0
2001	2
2000	2
1999	1
1998	3
1997	1
1996	0
1995	4
1994	4
1993	1
1992	4
1991	1
1990	0
1989	0
1988	1
1987	1
1986	2
1985	0
1984	0
1983	1
1982	2
1981	2
1980	0
1979	0
1978	0
1977	0
1976	0
1975	0
1974	2

3-YEAR-OLD DEBUT

The following is a list of Kentucky Derby winners and the number of days between their 3-year-old debut and Kentucky Derby win since 1929.

Derby Winner	Year	3YO Debut	Days
Sovereignty	2025	March 1	63 days
Mystik Dan	2024	Jan. 1	124 days
Mage	2023	Jan. 28	98 days
Rich Strike	2022	Jan. 22	105 days
Mandaloun	2021	Jan. 16	105 days
Authentic	2020	Jan. 4	245 days
Country House	2019	Jan. 17	107 days
Justify	2018	Feb. 18	76 days
Always Dreaming	2017	Jan. 25	101 days
Nyquist	2016	Feb. 15	82 days
American Pharoah	2015	March 14	49 days
California Chrome	2014	Jan. 25	98 days
Orb	2013	Jan. 26	98 days
I'll Have Another	2012	Feb. 4	91 days
Animal Kingdom	2011	March 3	65 days
Super Saver	2010	March 13	49 days
Mine That Bird	2009	Feb. 28	63 days
Big Brown	2008	March 5	59 days
Street Sense	2007	March 17	49 days
Barbaro	2006	Jan. 1	125 days
Giacomo	2005	Feb. 5	91 days
Smarty Jones	2004	Jan. 3	119 days
Funny Cide	2003	Jan. 18	105 days
War Emblem	2002	Jan. 26	98 days
Monarchos	2001	Jan. 13	112 days
Fusaichi Pegasus	2000	Jan. 2	125 days
Charismatic	1999	Jan. 16	105 days
Real Quiet	1998	Jan. 18	104 days
Silver Charm	1997	Feb. 8	84 days
Grindstone	1996	Feb. 16	78 days
Thunder Gulch	1995	Feb. 18	77 days
Go For Gin	1994	Jan. 22	105 days
Sea Hero	1993	Feb. 7	83 days
Lil E. Tee	1992	Feb. 9	83 days
Strike the Gold	1991	Jan. 26	98 days
Unbridled	1990	Jan. 14	111 days
Sunday Silence	1989	March 2	65 days
f-Winning Colors	1988	Jan. 20	108 days
Alysheba	1987	March 8	55 days
Ferdinand	1986	Jan. 4	119 days
Spend a Buck	1985	March 23	42 days
Swale	1984	March 7	59 days
Sunny's Halo	1983	March 26	42 days
Gato Del Sol	1982	Feb. 25	65 days
Pleasant Colony	1981	Feb. 16	75 days
f-Genuine Risk	1980	March 19	45 days
Spectacular Bird	1979	Feb. 1	93 days
Affirmed	1978	March 8	59 days
Seattle Slew	1977	March 9	59 days
Bold Forbes	1976	Jan. 24	98 days
Foolish Pleasure	1975	Feb. 12	80 days
Cannonade	1974	Feb. 20	73 days
Secretariat	1973	March 17	49 days
Riva Ridge	1972	March 22	45 days
Cannonero II	1971	Jan. 9	112 days
Dust Commander	1970	Jan. 10	112 days
Majestic Prince	1969	Jan. 7	116 days
Forward Pass	1968	Jan. 20	105 days
Proud Clarion	1967	Feb. 8	87 days
Kauai King	1966	Feb. 9	87 days
Lucky Debonair	1965	Jan. 5	116 days
Northern Dancer	1964	Feb. 10	82 days
Chateaugay	1963	Feb. 23	70 days
Decidedly	1962	Feb. 10	84 days
Carry Back	1961	Feb. 1	94 days
Venetian Way	1960	Feb. 3	94 days
Tomy Lee-GB	1959	Jan. 21	101 days
Tim Tam	1958	Jan. 17	106 days
Iron Liege	1957	Jan. 19	105 days
Needles	1956	Feb. 6	89 days
Swaps	1955	Jan. 19	108 days
Determine	1954	Jan. 9	112 days
Dark Star	1953	Feb. 27	64 days
Hill Gail	1952	Jan. 5	119 days
Count Turf	1951	Jan. 17	108 days
Middleground	1950	April 11	25 days
Ponder	1949	Jan. 3	124 days
Citation	1948	Feb. 2	89 days
Jet Pilot	1947	Jan. 18	105 days

Derby Winner	Year	Days
Assault	1946	April 9 25 days
Hoop Jr.	1945	May 22 18 days
Pensive	1944	March 1 66 days
Count Fleet	1943	April 13 18 days
Shut Out	1942	April 14 18 days
Whirlaway	1941	Feb. 8 84 days
Gallahadion	1940	Jan. 1 124 days
Johnstown	1939	April 15 21 days
Lawrin	1938	Jan. 15 112 days
War Admiral	1937	April 14 24 days
Bold Venture	1936	April 16 16 days
Omaha	1935	April 22 12 days
Cavalcade	1934	April 25 10 days
Brokers Tip	1933	April 22 14 days
Burgoo King	1932	April 22 15 days
Twenty Grand	1931	May 2 14 days
Gallant Fox	1930	April 26 21 days
Clyde Van Dusen	1929	April 27 21 days

The following is a list of Kentucky Derby winners and the number of days between their 3-year-old debut and Kentucky Derby win since 1929 (ranked in shortest to longest period).

Derby Winner	Year	3YO Debut	Days
1 to 1+ Week Out			
Cavalcade	1934	April 25	10 days
Omaha	1935	April 22	12 days
2 to 2+ Weeks Out			
Brokers Tip	1933	April 22	14 days
Twenty Grand	1931	May 2	14 days
Burgoo King	1932	April 22	15 days
Bold Venture	1936	April 16	16 days
Hoop Jr.	1945	May 22	18 days
Count Fleet	1943	April 13	18 days
Shut Out	1942	April 14	18 days
3 to 3+ Weeks Out			
Johnstown	1939	April 15	21 days
Gallant Fox	1930	April 26	21 days
Clyde Van Dusen	1929	April 27	21 days
War Admiral	1937	April 14	24 days
Middleground	1950	April 11	25 days
Assault	1946	April 9	25 days
6 to 6+ Weeks Out			
Spend a Buck	1985	March 23	42 days
Sunny's Halo	1983	March 26	42 days
Riva Ridge	1972	March 22	45 days
f-Genuine Risk	1980	March 19	45 days
7 to 7+ Weeks Out			
American Pharoah	2015	March 14	49 days
Super Saver	2010	March 13	49 days
Street Sense	2007	March 17	49 days
Secretariat	1973	March 17	49 days
Alysheba	1987	March 8	55 days
8 to 8+ Weeks Out			
Big Brown	2008	March 5	59 days
Swale	1984	March 7	59 days
Affirmed	1978	March 8	59 days
Seattle Slew	1977	March 9	59 days
9 to 9+ Weeks Out			
Sovereignty	2025	March 1	63 days
Mine That Bird	2009	Feb. 28	63 days
Dark Star	1953	Feb. 27	64 days
Animal Kingdom	2011	March 3	65 days
Sunday Silence	1989	March 2	65 days
Gato Del Sol	1982	Feb. 25	65 days
Pensive	1944	March 1	66 days
10 to 10+ Weeks Out			
Chateaugay	1963	Feb. 23	70 days
Cannonade	1974	Feb. 20	73 days
Pleasant Colony	1981	Feb. 16	75 days
Justify	2018	Feb. 18	76 days
11 to 11+ Weeks Out			
Thunder Gulch	1995	Feb. 18	77 days
Grindstone	1996	Feb. 16	78 days
Foolish Pleasure	1975	Feb. 12	80 days
Nyquist	2016	Feb. 15	82 days
Northern Dancer	1964	Feb. 10	82 days
Sea Hero	1993	Feb. 7	83 days
Lil E. Tee	1992	Feb. 9	83 days

Derby Winner	Year	Days	
12 to 12+ Weeks Out			
Silver Charm	1997	Feb. 8	84 days
Decidedly	1962	Feb. 10	84 days
Whirlaway	1941	Feb. 8	84 days
Proud Clarion	1967	Feb. 8	87 days
Kauai King	1966	Feb. 9	87 days
Needles	1956	Feb. 6	89 days
Citation	1948	Feb. 2	89 days
13 to 13+ Weeks Out			
I'll Have Another	2012	Feb. 4	91 days
Giacomo	2005	Feb. 5	91 days
Spectacular Bird	1979	Feb. 1	93 days
Carry Back	1961	Feb. 1	94 days
Venetian Way	1960	Feb. 3	94 days
14 to 14+ Weeks Out			
Mage	2023	Jan. 28	98 days
California Chrome	2014	Jan. 25	98 days
Orb	2013	Jan. 26	98 days
War Emblem	2002	Jan. 26	98 days
Strike the Gold	1991	Jan. 26	98 days
Bold Forbes	1976	Jan. 24	98 days
Always Dreaming	2017	Jan. 25	101 days
Tomy Lee-GB	1959	Jan. 21	101 days
Real Quiet	1998	Jan. 18	104 days
15 to 15+ Weeks Out			
Rich Strike	2022	Jan. 22	105 days
Mandaloun	2021	Jan. 16	105 days
Funny Cide	2003	Jan. 18	105 days
Charismatic	1999	Jan. 16	105 days
Go For Gin	1994	Jan. 22	105 days
Forward Pass	1968	Jan. 20	105 days
Iron Liege	1957	Jan. 19	105 days
Jet Pilot	1947	Jan. 18	105 days
Tim Tam	1958	Jan. 17	106 days
Country House	2019	Jan. 17	107 days
f-Winning Colors	1988	Jan. 20	108 days
Swaps	1955	Jan. 19	108 days
Count Turf	1951	Jan. 17	108 days
Unbridled	1990	Jan. 14	111 days
16 to 16+ Weeks Out			
Monarchos	2001	Jan. 13	112 days
Cannonero II	1971	Jan. 9	112 days
Dust Commander	1970	Jan. 10	112 days
Determine	1954	Jan. 9	112 days
Lawrin	1938	Jan. 15	112 days
Majestic Prince	1969	Jan. 7	116 days
Lucky Debonair	1965	Jan. 5	116 days
17 to 17+ Weeks Out			
Smarty Jones	2004	Jan. 3	119 days
Ferdinand	1986	Jan. 4	119 days
Hill Gail	1952	Jan. 5	119 days
Mystik Dan	2024	Jan. 1	124 days
Ponder	1949	Jan. 3	124 days
Gallahadion	1940	Jan. 1	124 days
Barbaro	2006	Jan. 1	125 days
Fusaichi Pegasus	2000	Jan. 2	125 days
35 Weeks Out			
Authentic	2020	Jan. 4	245 days