STARTS – DID NOT RACE AT 2

Some horse racing pundits considered "having a race at 2" to be the last so-called Derby "rule" left standing. Retired *Daily Racing Form* columnist Steve Crist referred to this as "the granddaddy of Derby rules."

Apollo, who won the 1882 Kentucky Derby, was the only Derby winner to win the "Run for the Roses" without racing as a 2-year-old for 136 years until Justify broke through in 2018. Five years later, Mage matched the feat.

The record of horses in the Derby without a race at 2 since 1937 is 75-2-3-5.

Apollo's victory over a "muddy" track was one of the biggest upsets of that era. Runnymeade, the odds-on favorite who finished a half-length back in second in his first start of the year, had a reputation for disliking a "muddy" track. Meanwhile, Apollo had raced three times in New Orleans prior to his victorious Kentucky Derby run at odds of 10-1.

Before Justify's victory in 2018, the only other horses to finish in the Derby Top 3 without racing at 2 since 1937 were runner-ups Coaltown (1948), Strodes Creek (1994) and Bodemeister (2012) and third-place finishers Hampden (1946), Agitate (1974), Reinvested (1982), Curlin (2007) and Battle of Midway (2017).

Five were sent to post as the favorite (although two raced as a coupled entry): Justify (2.90-1 in 2018); Bodemeister (4.20-1 in 2012); Air Forbes Won (2.70-1 in 1982); Coaltown (0.40-1 as an entry with winner Citation in 1948); and Perfect Bahram (1.10-1 as an entry with Lord Boswell and Knockdown in 1946).

The following is a list of 75 horses from 1937 to present that started in the Kentucky Derby but did not race at the age of 2:

Horse	Year	Finish
T O Password (JPN)	2024	5th
Just a Touch	2024	20th
Mage	**2023**	**1st**
Kingsbarns	2023	14th
Zozos	2022	10th
Taiba	2022	12th
Happy Jack	2022	14th
Charge It	2022	17th
Sainthood	2021	10th
Rock Your World	2021	16th
Soup and Sandwich	2021	18th
Money Moves	2020	13th
Justify*	**2018**	**1st**
Magnum Moom	2018	19th
Battle of Midway	2017	3rd
Patch	2017	14th
Materiality	2015	6th
Verrazano	2013	14th
Bodemeister*	2012	2nd
Midnight Interlude	2011	16th
Summer Bird	2009	6th
Dunkirk	2009	11th
Curlin	2007	3rd
Showing Up	2006	6th
Greeley's Galaxy	2005	11th
Song of the Sword	2004	11th
Atswhatimtalknbout	2003	4th
Wheelaway	2000	5th
Curule	2000	7th
Trippi	2000	11th
Desert Hero	1999	13th
Valhol	1999	15th
Pulpit	1997	4th
Strodes Creek	1994	2nd
Devil His Due	1992	12th
Disposal	1992	18th
Corporate Report	1991	9th
Alydavid	1991	14th
Pendleton Ridge	1990	13th
Wheatly Hall	1986	6th
Zabaleta	1986	12th
Irish Fighter	1985	11th
Majestic Shore	1984	DNF
Reinvested	1982	3rd
Air Forbes Won*	1982	7th
Wavering Monarch	1982	12th

Horse	Year	Finish
Flying Nashua	1981	8th
Great Redeemer	1979	10th
Chief of Dixieland	1978	9th
Affiliate	1977	9th
Best Person	1977	15th
Amano	1976	4th
On the Sly	1976	5th
Media	1975	5th
Bold Chapeau	1975	8th
Agitate	1974	3rd
Confederate Yankee	1974	12th
Forego	1973	4th
Twice a Prince	1973	12th
Big Spruce	1972	7th
Kentuckian	1972	10th
Dr. Neale	1972	15th
Fourulla	1971	19th
Gleaming Sword	1968	13th
Our Dad	1959	15th
Gone Fishin'	1958	8th
No Regrets	1956	7th
Fanfare	1951	5th
Golden Birch	1951	19th
Coaltown (e)*	1948	2nd
Hampden	1946	3rd
Perfect Bahram (e)*	1946	9th
Rippey	1946	10th
Bert G.	1945	14th
Comenow	1944	12th