

HORSE OF THE YEAR (1970-2025)

Year	Winner Owner(s)	Trainer Jockey	Sire Bred (Color)	Year Record Grade I Wins
2025	Sovereignty (3c) Godolphin LLC	Bill Mott Junior Alvarado/Manny Franco	Into Mischief Kentucky (B.)	6-5-1-0—\$5,692,020 Kentucky Derby, Belmont, Travers
2024	Thorpedo Anna (3f) Brookdale Racing Inc., Mark Edwards, Judy B. Hicks & Magdalena Racing (Sherri McPeck)	Kenny McPeck Brian Hernandez Jr.	Fast Anna Kentucky (Dk B or Br.)	7-6-1-0—\$3,653,050 Kentucky Oaks, Acorn, Coaching Club American Oaks, Cotillion, Breeders' Cup Distaff
2023	Cody's Wish (5h) Godolphin LLC	Bill Mott Junior Alvarado	Curlin Kentucky (B.)	5-4-0-1—\$1,773,900 Churchill Downs, Metropolitan Handicap, Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile
2022	Flightline (4c) Hronis Racing LLC, Siena Farm LLC, Summer Wind Equine LLC, West Point Thoroughbreds & Woodford Racing LLC	John Sadler Flavien Prat	Tapit Kentucky (B.)	3-3-0-0—\$4,255,000 Metropolitan Handicap, Pacific Classic, Breeders' Cup Classic
2021	Knicks Go (5h) Korea Racing Authority	Brad Cox Joel Rosario	Paynter Maryland (Gr or Ro.)	7-5-0-0—\$7,324,140 Pegasus World Cup, Whitney, Breeders' Cup Classic
2020	Authentic (3c) Spendthrift Farm, MyRacehorse Stable, Madaket Stables and Starlight Racing	Bob Baffert John Velazquez/ Mike Smith/Drayden Van Dyke	Into Mischief Kentucky (B.)	7-5-2-0—\$7,170,000 Haskell, Kentucky Derby, Breeders' Cup Classic
2019	Bricks and Mortar (5h) Klaravich Stables Inc. (Seth Klarman) & William H. Lawrence	Chad Brown Irad Ortiz Jr.	Giant's Causeway Kentucky (Dk. B. or Br.)	6-6-0-0—\$6,723,650 Pegasus World Cup Turf, Old Forester Turf Classic, Manhattan, Arlington Million, Breeders' Cup Turf
2018	Justify (3c) China Horse Club, Head of Plains Partners LLC, Starlight Racing & WinStar Farm	Bob Baffert Mike Smith/Drayden Van Dyke	Scat Daddy Kentucky (Ch.)	6-6-0-0—\$3,798,000 Santa Anita Derby, Kentucky Derby, Preakness, Belmont
2017	Gun Runner (4c) Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC & Three Chimneys Farm	Steve Asmussen Florent Geroux	Candy Ride (ARG) Kentucky (Ch.)	6-5-1-0—\$6,950,700 Stephen Foster Handicap, Whitney, Woodward, Breeders' Cup Classic
2016	California Chrome (5h) California Chrome LLC	Art Sherman Victor Espinoza	Lucky Pulpit California (Ch.)	8-7-1-0—\$8,180,000 Dubai World Cup, Pacific Classic, Awesome Again
2015	American Pharoah (3c) Zayat Stables LLC (Ahmed Zayat)	Bob Baffert Victor Espinoza	Pioneerof the Nile Kentucky (B.)	8-7-1-0— \$8,288,800 Arkansas Derby, Kentucky Derby, Preakness, Belmont, Haskell, Breeders' Cup Classic
2014	California Chrome (3c) Perry Martin & Steve Coburn	Art Sherman Victor Espinoza	Lucky Pulpit California (Ch.)	9-6-0-1—\$4,007,800 Santa Anita Derby, Kentucky Derby, Preakness, Hollywood Derby
2013	Wise Dan (6g) Mort Fink	Charlie LoPresti John Velazquez/Jose Lezcano	Wiseman's Ferry Kentucky (Ch.)	7-6-1-0—\$2,751,972 Maker's 46 Mile, Woodford Reserve Turf Classic, Woodbine Mile, Shadwell Turf Mile, Breeders' Cup Mile
2012	Wise Dan (5g) Mort Fink	Charlie LoPresti John Velazquez/Jose Lezcano	Wiseman's Ferry Kentucky (Ch.)	6-5-1-0—\$2,622,037 Woodbine Mile, Shadwell Turf Mile, Breeders' Cup Mile
2011	Havre de Grace (4f) Fox Hill Farms Inc. (Rick Porter)	Larry Jones Ramon Dominguez/Gabriel Saez	Saint Liam Kentucky (B.)	7-5-1-0—\$1,623,000 Apple Blossom, Woodward, Beldame
2010	Zenyatta (6m) Jerry & Ann Moss	John Shirreffs Mike Smith	Street Cry-IRE Kentucky (Dk. B or Br.)	6-5-1-0—\$1,830,000 Santa Margarita, Apple Blossom, Vanity, Clement L. Hirsch, Lady's Secret
2009	Rachel Alexandra (3f) Stonestreet Stables & Harold McCormick / L and M Partners LLC	Steve Asmussen/Hal Wiggins Calvin Borel	Medaglia d'Oro Kentucky (B.)	8-8-0-0—\$2,746,914 Kentucky Oaks, Preakness, Mother Goose, Haskell, Woodward
2008	Curlin (4c) Stonestreet Stables	Steve Asmussen Robby Albarado	Smart Strike Kentucky (Ch.)	7-5-1-0—\$5,399,000 Dubai World Cup, Stephen Foster H., Woodward, Jockey Club Gold Cup
2007	Curlin (3c) Stonestreet Stables	Steve Asmussen Robby Albarado	Smart Strike Kentucky (Ch.)	9-6-1-2—\$5,102,800 Preakness, Jockey Club Gold Cup, Breeders' Cup Classic
2006	Invasor-ARG (4c) Shadwell Stable	Kiaran McLaughlin Fernando Jara	Candy Stripes Argentina (B.)	5-4-0-0—\$3,790,000 Pimlico Special, Suburban H., Whitney H., Breeders' Cup Classic
2005	Saint Liam (5h) Mr. & Mrs. William K. Warren	Rick Dutrow Jr. Jerry Bailey/Edgar Prado	Saint Ballado Kentucky (B.)	6-4-1-0—\$3,696,960 Donn H., Stephen Foster H., Woodward, Breeders' Cup Classic
2004	Ghostzapper (4c) Stronach Stables	Bobby Frankel Javier Castellano	Awsome Again Kentucky (B.)	4-4-0-0—\$2,590,000 Woodward, Breeders' Cup Classic
2003	Mineshaft (4c) Will Farish, James Elkins Jr. & W.T. Webber Jr.	Neil Howard Robby Albarado	A.P. Indy Kentucky (Dk. B. or B.)	9-7-2-0—\$2,209,686 Pimlico Special, Suburban H., Woodward, Breeders' Cup Classic
2002	Azeri (4m) Allen E. Paulson Living Trust	Laura De Seroux Mike Smith	Jade Hunter Kentucky (Ch.)	9-8-1-0—\$2,181,540 Santa Margarita H., Apple Blossom H., Milady H., Vanity H., Breeders' Cup Distaff
2001	Point Given (3c) The Thoroughbred Corp.	Bob Baffert Gary Stevens	Thunder Gulch Kentucky (Ch.)	7-6-0-0—\$3,350,000 Santa Anita Derby, Preakness, Belmont, Haskell H., Travers
2000	Tiznow (3c) Cees Stable LLC	Jay Robbins Chris McCarron	Cee's Tizzy California (B.)	9-5-3-0—\$3,445,950 Super Derby, Breeders' Cup Classic
1999	Charismatic (3c) Bob & Beverly Lewis	D. Wayne Lukas Chris Antley	Summer Squall Kentucky (Br.)	10-4-2-1—\$2,007,404 Kentucky Derby, Preakness
1998	Skip Away (5h) Carolyn Hine	Sonny Hine Jerry Bailey	Skip Trial Florida (Gr./Ro.)	9-7-0-1—\$2,740,000 Donn H., Gulfstream Park H., Pimlico Special H., Hollywood Gold Cup, Woodward

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1997	Favorite Trick (2c) LaCombe Stables	Pat Byrne Pat Day	Phone Trick Kentucky (Dk. B. or B.)	8-8-0-0—\$1,231,998 Hopeful, Breeders' Cup Juvenile
1996	Cigar (6h) Allen E. Paulson	Bill Mott Jerry Bailey	Palace Music Maryland (B.)	8-5-2-1—\$4,910,000 Donn H., Dubai World Cup (not graded), Woodward
1995	Cigar (5h) Allen E. Paulson	Bill Mott Jerry Bailey	Palace Music Maryland (B.)	10-10-0-0—\$4,819,800 Donn H., Gulfstream Park H., Oaklawn H., Pimlico Special H., Hollywood Gold Cup H., Woodward, Jockey Club Gold Cup, Breeders' Cup Classic
1994	Holy Bull (3c) Warren A. "Jimmy" Croll Jr.	Warren A. "Jimmy" Croll Jr. Mike Smith	Great Above Florida (Gr.)	10-8-0-0—\$2,095,000 Florida Derby, Metropolitan H., Haskell H., Travers, Woodward
1993	Kotashaan-FR (5h) La Presle Farm	Richard Mandella Kent Desormeaux	Darshaan France (Dk. B. or Br.)	10-6-3-0—\$2,622,468 San Luis Rey, San Juan Capistrano H., Eddie Read H., Oak Tree Inv., Breeders' Cup Turf
1992	A.P. Indy (3c) Farish, Goodman, Kilroy & Tsurumaki	Neil Drysdale Eddie Delahoussaye	Seattle Slew Kentucky (Dk. B. or Br.)	7-5-0-1—\$2,622,560 Santa Anita Derby, Belmont, Breeders' Cup Classic
1991	Black Tie Affair-IRE (5h) Jeffrey Sullivan	Ernie Poulos Juvenal Diaz/Pat Day/Shane Sellers/ Jerry Bailey	Miswaki Ireland (Gr.)	10-7-1-1—\$2,483,540 Iselin H., Breeders' Cup Classic
1990	Criminal Type (5h) Calumet Farm	D. Wayne Lukas Chris McCarron/Alex Solis/ Laffit Pincay Jr./Gary Stevens	Alydar Kentucky (Ch.)	11-7-2-0—\$2,270,290 Pimlico Special H., Metropolitan H., Hollywood Gold Cup, Whitney
1989	Sunday Silence (3c) Gaillard & Hancock III & Whittingham et al	Charlie Whittingham Pat Valenzuela/Chris McCarron	Halo Kentucky (Dk. B. or Br.)	9-7-2-0—\$4,578,454 Santa Anita Derby, Kentucky Derby, Preakness, Super Derby, Breeders' Cup Classic
1988	Alysheba (4c) Dorothy & Pam Scharbauer	Jack Van Berg Chris McCarron	Alydar Kentucky (B.)	9-7-1-0—\$3,808,600 Strub, Santa Anita H., Iselin H., Woodward H., Meadowlands Cup H., Breeders' Cup Classic
1987	Ferdinand (4c) Mrs. Howard B. Keck	Charlie Whittingham Bill Shoemaker	Nijinsky II Kentucky (Ch.)	10-4-2-1—\$2,185,150 Hollywood Gold Cup H., Breeders' Cup Classic
1986	Lady's Secret (4f) Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Klein	D. Wayne Lukas Pat Day/Chris McCarron/ Jorge Velasquez/Angel Cordero Jr.	Secretariat Oklahoma (Gr.)	15-10-3-2—\$1,871,053 La Cañada, Santa Margarita H., Shuvee H., Whitney H., Maskette, Ruffian H., Beldame H., Breeders' Cup Distaff
1985	Spend a Buck (3c) Hunter Farm	Cam Gambolati Angel Cordero Jr./Laffit Pincay Jr.	Buckaroo Kentucky (B.)	7-5-1-1—\$3,552,704 Kentucky Derby, Monmouth H.
1984	John Henry (9g) Dotsam Stable	Ron McAnally Chris McCarron	Ole Bob Bowers Kentucky (B.)	9-6-1-1—\$2,336,650 Hollywood Inv. H., Sunset H., Arlington Million, Turf Classic
1983	All Along-FR (4f) Daniel Wildenstein	Patrick Biancone Walter Swinburn	Targowice France (B.)	7-4-1-1—\$1,200,695 Prix de l' Arc de Triomphe, Rothmans Int'l, Turf Classic, D.C. Int'l
1982	Conquistador Cielo (3c) H. DeKwiatkowski	Woody Stephens Eddie Marple/Laffit Pincay Jr.	Mr. Prospector Florida (B.)	9-7-0-1—\$424,660 Metropolitan H., Belmont
1981	John Henry (6g) Dotsam Stable	Ron McAnally/Lefty Nickerson Laffit Pincay Jr./Bill Shoemaker	Ole Bob Bowers Kentucky (B.)	10-8-0-0—\$1,798,030 Santa Anita H., San Luis Rey, Hollywood Inv. H., Arlington Million (not Gr.), Jockey Club Gold Cup, Oak Tree Inv.
1980	Spectacular Bid (4c) Hawksworth Farm	Grover "Bud" Delp Bill Shoemaker	Bold Bidder Kentucky (Gr.)	9-9-0-0—\$1,117,790 Strub, Santa Anita H., Californian, Haskell H., Woodward (walkover)
1979	Affirmed (4c) Harbor View Farm	Laz Barrera Steve Cauthen/Laffit Pincay Jr.	Exclusive Native Florida (Ch.)	9-7-1-1—\$1,148,800 Strub, Santa Anita H., Californian, Hollywood Gold Cup, Woodward, Jockey Club Gold Cup
1978	Affirmed (3c) Harbor View Farm	Laz Barrera Steve Cauthen/Laffit Pincay Jr.	Exclusive Native Florida (Ch.)	11-8-2-0—\$901,541 Santa Anita Derby, Hollywood Derby, Kentucky Derby, Preakness, Belmont, Travers
1977	Seattle Slew (3c) Karen Taylor	Billy Turner Jr. Jean Cruguet	Bold Reasoning Kentucky (Dk. B. or Br.)	7-6-0-0—\$641,370 Flamingo, Wood Memorial, Kentucky Derby, Preakness, Belmont
1976	Forego (6g) Lazy F Ranch	Frank Whiteley Jr. Heliodoro Guistines/Jorge Velasquez/ Bill Shoemaker	Forli Kentucky (B.)	8-6-1-1—\$491,701 Metropolitan H., Brooklyn H., Woodward H., Marlboro Cup H.
1975	Forego (5g) Lazy F Ranch	Sherrill W. Ward Heliodoro Guistines	Forli Kentucky (B.)	9-6-1-1—\$429,521 Widener H., Brooklyn H., Suburban H., Woodward
1974	Forego (4g) Lazy F Ranch	Sherrill W. Ward Heliodoro Guistines	Forli Kentucky (B.)	13-8-2-2—\$545,086 Widener H., Brooklyn H., Woodward, Jockey Club Gold Cup
1973	Secretariat (3c) Meadow Stable	Lucien Laurin Ron Turcotte/Eddie Maple	Bold Ruler Virginia (Ch.)	12-9-2-1—\$860,404 Kentucky Derby, Preakness, Belmont, Man o' War
1972	Secretariat (2c) Meadow Stable	Lucien Laurin Paul Feliciano/Ron Turcotte	Bold Ruler Virginia (Ch.)	9-7-1-0—\$456,404 Sanford, Hopeful, Futurity, Champagne, Laurel Futurity, Garden State Futurity
1971	Ack Ack (5h) Forked Lightning Ranch	Charlie Whittingham Bill Shoemaker	Battle Joined Kentucky (B.)	8-7-1-0—\$393,300 San Carlos H., San Pasqual H., San Antonio, Santa Anita H., Hollywood Express H., American H., Hollywood Gold Cup Inv. H.
1970	Fort Marcy (6g) Rokeby Stable	Elliott Burch Jorge Velasquez	Rokeby Stable Virginia (B.)	13-5-4-2—\$388,537 Dixie H., Bowling Green H., United Nations Inv. H., Man o' War, Washington International Inv.