



NEAR MISSES

Thirty-six horses have been eligible to win the Triple Crown entering the Belmont Stakes, but just 13 have succeeded.

Year	Horse	Belmont Results
1932	Burgoo King	Did Not Start
1936	Bold Venture	Did Not Start
1944	Pensive	2nd to Bounding Home
1958	Tim Tam	2nd to Cavan
1961	Carry Back	7th to Sherluck
1964	Northern Dancer	3rd to Quadrangle
1966	Kauai King	4th to Amberoid
1968	Forward Pass	2nd to Stage Door Johnny

Year	Horse	Belmont Results
1969	Majestic Prince	2nd to Arts And Letters
1971	Canonero II	4th to Pass Catcher
1979	Spectacular Bid	3rd to Coastal
1981	Pleasant Colony	3rd to Summing
1987	Alysheba	4th to Bet Twice
1989	Sunday Silence	2nd to Easy Goer
1997	Silver Charm	2nd to Touch Gold
1998	Real Quiet	2nd to Victory Gallop

Year	Horse	Belmont Results
1999	Charismatic	3rd to Lemon Drop Kid
2002	War Emblem	8th to Sarava
2003	Funny Cide	3rd to Empire Maker
2004	Smarty Jones	2nd to Birdstone
2008	Big Brown	9th to Da' Tara
2012	I'll Have Another	Did Not Start
2014	California Chrome	4th to Tonalist

HORSES WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE PREAKNESS-BELMONT DOUBLE

Year	Horse	Derby Results
1877	Cloverbrook	Did Not Start
1878	Duke Of Magenta	Did Not Start
1880	Grenada	Did Not Start
1881	Saunterer	Did Not Start
1895	Belmar	Did Not Start
1920	Man o' War	Did Not Start

Year	Horse	Derby Results
1922	Pillory	Did Not Start
1940	Bimelech	2nd
1949	Capot	2nd
1953	Native Dancer	2nd
1955	Nashua	2nd
1967	Damascus	3rd

Year	Horse	Derby Results
1974	Little Current	5th
1988	Risen Star	3rd
1991	Hansel	10th
1994	Tabasco Cat	6th
2001	Point Given	5th
2005	Afleet Alex	3rd

HORSES WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE DERBY-BELMONT DOUBLE

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	Year	Horse	Preakness Results
	1923	Zev	12th
	1931	Twenty Grand	2nd
B	1939	Johnstown	5th
	1942	Shut Out	5th

Year	Horse	Preakness Results
1950	Middleground	2nd
1956	Needles	2nd
1963	Chateaugay	2nd
1972	Riva Ridge	4th

Year	Horse	Preakness Results
1976	Bold Forbes	3rd
1984	Swale	6th
1995	Thunder Gulch	3rd



There were 37 years of frustration and disappointment erased in 2015 when American Pharoah became the first horse since Affirmed in 1978 to win the Triple Crown, a feat repeated by Justify in 2018.

The bay colt's victory under a charcoal sky and driving rain in the 140th Preakness, the middle jewel of the Triple Crown, was spectacular, paving the way for his coronation in the Belmont Stakes to become racing's 12th Triple Crown winner.

While American Pharoah and Justify proved the Triple Crown could still be won, it did not didn't diminish the enormity of winning sport's most elusive prize. Consider it had been 37 years between Affirmed and American Pharoah's Triple Crowns, the longest drought since Citation (1948) and vv (1973). Before American Pharoah, 18 horses had gone to New York with a chance of winning the Triple Crown, only to falter in the "Test of a Champion." The intriguing series of spring races is over 125 years old with the prize becoming available in 1875, with the first running of the Kentucky Derby, the last of the Triple Crown events to be introduced. The Preakness dates back to 1873, while the Belmont Stakes began in 1867.





Johnny Loftus, rider

Sir Barton

First Triple Crown Winner, 1919 Chestnut colt, 1916 by *Star Shoot—Lady Sterling, by Hanover J. K. L. Ross, Owner Madden and Gooch, Breeder

M. G. Bedwell. Trainer

A Genuine Iron Horse

Sir Barton, a foal of 1916 bred by Preston Madden, was born too soon. He was never hailed as a Triple Crown winner because the feat had not been named when he swept the Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes in 1919. "Triple Crown" began appearing in print about 1936, far too late for Sir Barton.

Commander J. K. L. Ross, who owned a farm in Maryland where the former Freestate harness track was located, purchased Sir Barton for \$10,000 as a 2-year-old at Saratoga. Ross had an outstanding 3-year-old prospect in 1919 — Billy Kelly — but Sir Barton, his stablemate, who had never won a race, was started in the Derby as part of the Ross entry. Sir Barton broke on top in the Derby and never looked back. Perhaps more amazing, Sir Barton was immediately shipped to Pimlico because that year the Maryland classic was run on Wednesday, just four days after the Derby. Once again the unheralded Sir Barton galloped home by four lengths in a display of stamina. In the Belmont, he set an American record of 2:17 2/5 for the mile and three-eighths, the distance then.

Gallant Fox

Second Triple Crown Winner, 1930
Bay colt, 1927 by *Sir Gallahad III—Marguerite, by Celt
Belair Stud, Owner-Breeder
James Fitzsimmons, Trainer

Fox of Belair

Belmont series.

Gallant Fox was bred and raced by William Woodward.

The son of Sir Gallahad III had a medicore 2-year-old season winning but two stakes. It was hardly an indication of his 3-year-old superiority. After capturing the Wood Memorial, Gallant Fox swept the Preakness, Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes in that order. He is the only Triple Crown winner to win the Preakness a week before the Derby. Later as a 3-year-old he captured the Dwyer Stakes, Arlington Classic, Saratoga Cup, Lawrence Realization and the Jockey Club Gold Cup. The "Fox of Belair" was retired for breeding after his 3-year-old campaign, which netted \$308,275, a single season record then. Gallant Fox sired the winners of more than ninety races before his death in 1954 at the age of 27. His most famous son was Omaha, the 1935 Triple Crown winner. Omaha enabled him to become the only Triple Crown winner to sire a victor in the renowned Derby, Preakness,



Earle Sande, rider, Daily Racing Form Photo



Willie Saunders, rider, Bert Morgan Photo

Omaha

Third Triple Crown Winner, 1935 Chestnut colt, 1932, by Gallant Fox—Flambino, by *Wrack Belair Stud, Owner-Breeder James Fitzsimmons, Trainer

Like Father, Like Son

Omaha was born in Kentucky in 1932, just two years after his sire, Gallant Fox, had won the Triple Crown. As a weanling, he was sent to Belair in Maryland where he was broken as a yearling and turned over to trainer Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons.

The William Woodward owned and bred colt, like his sire, was not overly impressive at two but improved with age. After a third in the Wood Memorial, he set sail for the Triple Crown. Nellie Flag, a filly, was favored in the Derby but Omaha rallied and won by a length and a half. The Preakness was more of a romp as he won by six lengths. He became the third Triple Crown winner with a length and a half victory in the Belmont.

Omaha is the only Triple Crown winner to race abroad. Woodward sent him to England at four. After taking two secondary stakes, Omaha just missed winning the Ascot Gold Cup.



War Admiral

Fourth Triple Crown Winner, 1937 Brown colt, 1934, by Man o' War—Brushup, by Sweep Glen Riddle Farm, Owner S. D. Riddle, Breeder George Conway, Trainer

Little Admiral

War Admiral was a smaller copy of his illustrious sire, Man O' War. Although he stood only 15.2 hands, War Admiral was Man O' War's best offspring. Owned and bred by Sam Riddle, who raced Man O' War, War Admiral reached his peak as a 3-year-old after a so-so 2-year-old season.

At three, War Admiral, who prepped in Maryland for the Triple Crown, recorded a perfect eight-for-eight year.

In the Derby, War Admiral led from flag to finish, but the Preakness produced one of the most memorable battles in Triple Crown history. Pompoon and War Admiral ran head-to-head from the top of the stretch. At the wire, it was War Admiral by a head.

The Belmont Stakes proved to be War Admiral's easiest victory in the Triple Crown despite his stumbling at the start. In the fall of 1937, War Admiral won the first Pimlico Special and was named Horse of the Year

In all, War Admiral won 21 of 26 starts and finished out of the money only one time.

Whirlaway

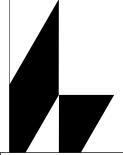
Fifth Triple Crown Winner, 1941 Chestnut colt, 1938, by *Blenheim II—Dustwhirl, by Sweep Calumet Farm, Owner-Breeder B. A. Jones, Trainer

Calumet Star In '41

Once Trainer Ben Jones solved Whirlaway's bewildering habit of running extremely wide on the turns, there was no stopping the Calumet colt sired by Blenheim II. Jones devised a special blinker for the chestnut colt just in time for the 1941 Kentucky Derby. With Eddie Arcaro riding, Whirlaway made a dramatic stretch run at Churchill Downs to set a new time record as he ran the mile and a quarter in 2.012/5 and won by eight lengths.

A week later, Whirlaway again came from far back to roll home in the Preakness by five and a half lengths. Arcaro described his Preakness experience like "riding a tornado." Only two challenged him in the Belmont and Whirlaway won racing's fifth Triple Crown and was the first of four in the 1940's.

Whirlaway, who won five other stakes in addition to the Triple Crown in 1941, was named Horse of the Year. He repeated for the title the following season when he accounted for eleven stakes. Whirlaway was retired at five after he pulled up lame after his second race in 1943. In all, he made 60 starts, won 32 races and was out of the money only four times.





Eddie Arcaro, rider, Daily Racing Form Photo

Count Fleet

Sixth Triple Crown Winner, 1943 Brown colt, 1940, by Reigh Count-Quickly, by Haste Mrs. John D. Hertz, Breeder-Owner D. J. Cameron, Trainer

Speed to Spare

Count Fleet shot like a meteor across the racing stage when World War II was raging in 1942 and 1943. After winning ten of fifteen starts as a 2-year-old, he was all but conceded the Triple Crown after being complimented with 132 pounds in the Experimental Handicap ratings. A son of Reigh Count, the 1928 Derby winner, and foaled by Quickly by Haste, Count Fleet carried the colors of Mrs. John D. Hertz, wife of the Chicago taxicab executive. A striking brown colt, Count Fleet was hailed as a successor to Man O' War by some after his perfect six for six 3-vear-old season.

The war-time ban on racing in Florida forced Count Fleet to train at Oaklawn Park in preparation for his 3-year-old campaign. In the Triple Crown, Count Fleet, with Johnny Longden riding, found little opposition. He galloped in the Derby, captured the Preakness with only three challengers by eight lengths, and then, after taking the Withers, annexed the Triple Crown with a 25-length triumph in the Belmont Stakes.



Johnny Longden, rider, Bert Clark Thayer Photo



Assault

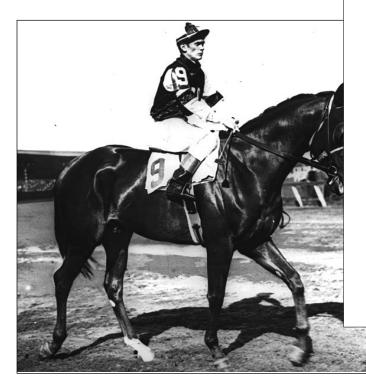
Seventh Triple Crown Winner, 1946 Chestnut colt, 1943, by Bold Venture-Igual, by Equipoise King Ranch, Owner-Breeder M. Hirsch, Trainer

Surprise in 1946

Assault, the seventh Triple Crown winner, overcame long odds against his feet in 1946.

To start with, his dam, Iqual, sired by Equipoise, never raced. She was sickly as a foal and never recovered sufficiently to stand the rigors of training. Her first two foals were not notable. Her third, Assault, sired by Bold Venture, the 1936 Derby winner, had the misfortune to step on a surveyor's stake at the King Ranch in Texas where he was born.

The hoof healed but Assault had a tendency to favor the foot, making it appear that he was crippled. His trainer, Max Hirsch, at first thought the colt would not train because of his crooked foot. Assault was not impressive at two, winning only two races. Even after taking the Experimental Handicap and Wood Memorial at three, he went off at 8-1 odds in the Derby. Favored in the Preakness, Assault won by a neck, after holding a four length advantage with an eighth mile to go. Then jockey Warren Mehrtens changed his tactics in the Belmont, reserving the colt and charging from behind to win by three lengths.



Warren Mehrtens, rider



Eddie Arcaro, rider, NYRA Photo



Citation

Eighth Triple Crown Winner, 1948
Bay colt, 1945, by Bull Lea—*Hydroplane II, by Hyperion
Calumet Farm, Breeder-Owner
H. A. Jones, Trainer

Racing's First Millionaire

Citation, from Calumet Farm, capped the glorious '40's decade — the most glamorous in Triple Crown lore as four horses attained sport's most elusive prize.

There is little argument that the bay colt by Bull Lea — Hydroplane II by Hyperion, was the greatest horse of the '40's. Some observers believe he was the most accomplished horse ever to race, even superior to Man O' War. This debate probably will never be settled. Certainly he is on everyone's list of top Thoroughbreds in history.

Big Cy, although bred in Kentucky by Warren Wright, made his debut in Maryland, winning his first start at Havre de Grace in 1947. Later that year he captured the Pimlico Futurity on his way to an 8 for 9 year at two.

As a 3-year-old, Citation went 19 for 20. His only loss occurred at Havre de Grace in a sprint race he should not have lost. He was carried wide by a tiring horse and finished second to Saggy in the Chesapeake Trial.

The Triple Crown was hardly a challenge for Citation. His only real opposition in the Derby came from his stablemate Coaltown.

Only three horses challenged him in the

Preakness and the Belmont was also easily accomplished.

Secretariat

Ninth Triple Crown Winner, 1973

Chestnut colt, 1970, by Bold Ruler—Somethingroyal, by *Princequillo Meadow Stable, Breeder-Owner

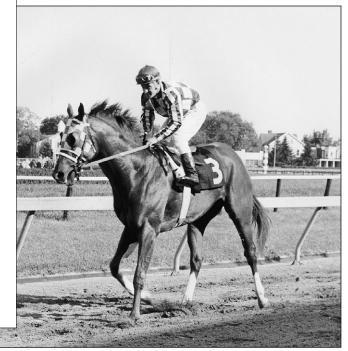
Lucien Laurin, Trainer

After 25 Years—Secretariat

Secretariat, often described as the perfect horse in appearance with his resplendent chestnut coat, might have been horse racing's greatest ambassador of the 20th century. The massive Virginia-bred colt from the Meadow Stable of Helen "Penny" Chenery, made a shambles of the Triple Crown in 1973.

Before he was nominated for the Triple Crown, Secretariat recorded a first — the first 2-year-old ever to be voted Horse of the Year. The son of Bold Ruler-Somethingroyal was a full-fledged celebrity well in advance of his Triple Crown heroics, having been syndicated for a then record \$6,080,000 early in his 3-year-old season.

In the Kentucky Derby, he set a record for the mile and a quarter, running the distance in 1.59-2/5. In a powerful move from last on the clubhouse turn, Secretariat captured the Preakness with ease. In the Belmont Stakes, Secretariat put on an awesome show, winning by 31 lengths to gain the Triple Crown, a prize which had gone unclaimed for a quarter of a century.



Seattle Slew

Tenth Triple Crown Winner, 1977
Dark brown colt, 1974, by Bold Reasoning—My Charmer, by Poker
Mrs. Karen Taylor, Owner
Ben S. Castleman, Breeder
William H. Turner, Trainer

Bargain Buy

Seattle Slew now has to share his Triple Crown record.

The grandson of Bold Ruler was the first Thoroughbred in history to capture the Triple Crown with an unbeaten record, a feat matched by Justify in 2018. After the Triple Crown, Seattle Slew lost only three of seventeen career starts on his way to total earnings of \$1,208,727.

Bred in Kentucky by Ben S. Castleman, Seattle Slew was purchased at the bargain price of \$17,500 at a Kentucky yearling auction by Mickey Taylor for his wife Karen, in whose silks the son of Bold Reasoning raced.

Veterinarian Dr. James Hill and his wife Sally shared ownership of Seattle Slew. It was Hill who had recommended the purchase of the colt. Seattle Slew was named the 2-year-old champion in 1976 and Horse of the Year as well as the top 3-year-old in 1977. William H. "Billy" Turner, Jr., a former steeplechase rider from Monkton, Md. was only 37 when he trained Seattle Slew to his 2- and 3-year-old championships. Seattle Slew was retired for breeding in 1979 after being syndicated for \$12 million.



Jean Cruguet, rider, Maryland Jockey Club Photo

Affirmed

Eleventh Triple Crown Winner, 1978 Chestnut colt, 1975, by Exclusive Native—Won't Tell You, by Crafty Admiral Harbor View Farm, Owner-Breeder Lazaro S. Barrera, Trainer

Toughest Triple Crown

Affirmed became the Triple Crown winner in 1978 and it was not easy. Affirmed's combined margin of victory in the Triple Crown was less than two lengths — 11/2 lengths in the Derby, a neck in the Preakness and a head in the Belmont. Amazingly, each time it was Alydar, battling him to the wire. The Florida-bred colt — the first from that state to win the Triple Crown — raced for the Harbor View Farm of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Wolfson. Affirmed won 22 of his 29 career starts, earning \$2,393,818. The chestnut son of Exclusive Native, was named Horse of the Year twice as well as 3-year-old champion in 1978. As a 4-year-old he captured seven stakes and beat out Spectacular Bid for Horse of the Year honors. After his 4-year-old campaign he was retired to Spendthrift Farm and syndicated for \$14.4 million.



Steve Cauthen, rider, Maryland Jockey Club Photo



Victor Espinoza, rider, Maryland Jockey Club Photo

American Pharoah

Twelfth Triple Crown Winner, 2015
Bay colt, 2012, by Pioneerof the Nile - Littleprincessemma, by Yankee Gentleman
Zayat Stables, Owner-Breeder
Bob Baffert, Trainer

Triple Crown Drought Ends

American Pharoah became the first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed in 1978, ending the longest drought between Triple Crowns in the series history.

Carrying the colors of the Zayat Stable, trained by six-time Preakness winner Bob Baffert and ridden by Victor Espinoza, American Pharoah's combined margin of victory in the Triple Crown was 13 1/2 lengths. After winning the Kentucky Derby by a length, American Pharoah left his opponents in his wake at Pimlico by drawing away to a seven-length victory in a driving rain and across a sloppy track before 131,680. Three weeks later, American Pharoah erased 37 years of frustration by winning the Belmont Stakes by 5 1/2 lengths in front of a 90,000.

American Pharoah, whose only defeat in five races going into the Triple Crown was in his racing debut, ended his career with a 6 1/2-length victory in the Breeders' Cup Classic. Three months later, he was named Horse of the Year and 3-year-old champion at the 45th Eclipse Awards.

Retiring with nine victories in 11 starts and \$8,650,300, American Pharoah stands at Coolmore America in Kentucky.

Justify

Thirteenth Triple Crown Winner, 2018

Chestnut colt, 2015, by Scat Daddy – Stage Magic by Ghostzapper John D. Gunther, Breeder

China Horse Club, Head of Plains Partners, Starlight Racing, WinStar Farm – Owners

Bob Baffert, Trainer

Rare Feat

Justify joined Seattle Slew (1977) as the second horse to capture the Triple Crown without a loss, but made history as the only one to sweep the series without having raced as a 2-year-old.

It was the second successful Triple Crown bid in four years following American Pharoah who, like Justify, is trained by Hall of Famer Bob Baffert. In doing so, Baffert put his name alongside 'Sunny Jim' Fitz-simmons (Gallant Fox 1930, Omaha 1935) as the only trainers to win the Triple Crown twice.

Purchased by China Horse Club and Maverick Racing for \$500,000 as a yearling, Justify made 52-year-old Hall of Famer Mike Smith the oldest jockey to win a Triple Crown.

A pulled muscle kept Justify from making a start until February of his 3-year-old season, a 9 ½-length front-running maiden special weight romp under jockey Drayden Van Dyke. Smith took over for a 6 ½-length optional claiming allowance victory in March, following up with a three-length score in his stakes debut, the Santa Anita Derby.



Mike Smith, rider, Maryland Jockey Club Photo







EDDIE ARCARO





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