

Derby Day Weather

(The following records are for the entire day...not necessarily race time...unless otherwise noted. Also, the data were taken at the official observation site for the city of Louisville, not at Churchill Downs itself.)

Coldest Minimum Temperature: 36 degrees May 4, 1940 and May 4, 1957

Coldest Maximum Temperature: 47 degrees May 4, 1935 and May 4, 1957* (record for the date)

Coldest Average Daily Temperature: 42 degrees May 4, 1957

Warmest Maximum Temperature: 94 degrees May 2, 1959

Warmest Average Daily Temperature: 79 degrees May 14, 1886

Warmest Minimum Temperature: 72 degrees May 14, 1886

Wettest: 3.15" of rain May 5, 2018

Sleet has been recorded on Derby Day. On May 6, 1989, sleet fell from 1:01pm to 1:05pm EDT (along with rain). Snow then fell the following morning (just flurries).

*The record cold temperatures on Derby Day 1957 were accompanied by north winds of 20 to 25mph!

Out of 144 Derby Days, 68 experienced precipitation at some point during the day (47%).

Longest stretch of consecutive wet Derby Days (24-hr): 7 (2007-2013)

Longest stretch of consecutive wet Derby Days (1pm-7pm): 6 (1989 - 1994)

Longest stretch of consecutive dry Derby Days (24-hr): 12 (1875-1886)

Longest stretch of consecutive dry Derby Days (1pm-7pm): 12 (1875 - 1886)

For individual Derby Day Weather, see next page...

Derby Day Weather

Date	High	Low	24-hour Precipitation	Aftn/Eve Precipitation	Weather	Winner	Track
May 5, 2018	70	61	3.15"	2.85"	Rain	Justify	Sloppy
May 6, 2017	62	42	0.12"	0.02"	Showers	Always Dreaming	Muddy
May 7, 2016	85	59	0.28"	0.04"	Mostly Cloudy	Nyquist	Fast
May 2, 2015	79	52	0	0	Partly Cloudy	American Pharoah	Fast
May 3, 2014	73	45	0	0	Mostly Sunny	California Chrome	Fast
May 4, 2013	64	53	0.87"	0.44"	Rain	Orb	Sloppy
May 5, 2012	83	65	1.46"	0	Partly Sunny	I'll Have Another	Fast
May 7, 2011	72	51	T	T	Mostly Cloudy	Animal Kingdom	Fast
May 1, 2010	75	63	1.32"	0.13"	Thunderstorms	Super Saver	Sloppy
May 2, 2009	62	51	0.07"	0	Cloudy	Mine That Bird	Sloppy
May 3, 2008	75	50	0.69"	0	Partly Cloudy	Big Brown	Fast
May 5, 2007	78	62	T	T	Partly Sunny	Street Sense	Fast
May 6, 2006	68	52	0	0	Partly Sunny	Barbaro	Fast
May 7, 2005	80	48	0	0	Mostly Sunny	Giacomo	Fast
May 1, 2004	78	55	0.65"	0.29"	Thunderstorms	Smarty Jones	Sloppy
May 3, 2003	65	52	0	0	Partly Sunny	Funny Cide	Fast
May 4, 2002	71	49	0	0	Mostly Sunny	War Emblem	Fast
May 5, 2001	86	58	0	0	Mostly Sunny	Monarchos	Fast
May 6, 2000	86	63	T	T	Mostly Sunny	Fusaichi Pegasus	Fast
May 1, 1999	75	46	0	0	Sunny	Charismatic	Fast

Date	High	Low	24-hour Precipitation	1pm – 7pm Precipitation	Weather	Winner	Track
May 2, 1998	75	49	0.03”	0	Thunderstorms	Real Quiet	Fast
May 3, 1997	60	47	0.22”	0.01”	Showers	Silver Charm	Fast
May 4, 1996	81	62	0.55”	0.55”	Thunderstorms	Grindstone	Fast
May 6, 1995	74	46	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Thunder Gulch	Fast
May 7, 1994	70	50	0.63”	0.27”	Thunderstorms	Go for Gin	Sloppy
May 1, 1993	76	57	0.02”	0.02”	Cloudy	Sea Hero	Fast
May 2, 1992	81	65	0.83”	0.35”	Thunderstorms	Lil E. Tee	Fast
May 4, 1991	80	64	0.06”	0.06”	Thunderstorms	Strike the Gold	Fast
May 5, 1990	63	48	T	T	Mostly Cloudy	Unbridled	Good
May 6, 1989	51	39	0.09”	0.01”	Sleet	Sunday Silence	Muddy
May 7, 1988	81	50	0	0	Clear	Winning Colors	Fast
May 2, 1987	87	61	0	0	Mostly Cloudy	Alysheba	Fast
May 3, 1986	63	40	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Ferdinand	Fast
May 4, 1985	74	46	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Spend a Buck	Fast
May 5, 1984	71	46	0.09”	T	Cloudy	Swale	Fast
May 7, 1983	81	58	0.54”	0.10”	Thunderstorms	Sunny’s Halo	Fast
May 1, 1982	75	55	T	0	Partly Cloudy	Gato Del Sol	Fast
May 2, 1981	68	45	0	0	Clear	Pleasant Colony	Fast
May 3, 1980	75	54	0	0	Clear	Genuine Risk	Fast
May 5, 1979	65	39	0	0	Clear	Spectacular Bid	Fast
May 6, 1978	67	43	0	0	Clear	Affirmed	Fast
May 7, 1977	77	61	0.03”	0	Partly Cloudy	Seattle Slew	Fast

Date	High	Low	24-hour Precipitation	1pm – 7pm Precipitation	Weather	Winner	Track
May 1, 1976	73	52	0.15"	0.15"	Cloudy	Bold Forbes	Fast
May 3, 1975	72	56	0.23"	0.23"	Cloudy	Foolish Pleasure	Fast
May 4, 1974	66	44	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Cannonade	Fast
May 5, 1973	67	39	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Secretariat	Fast
May 6, 1972	81	51	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Riva Ridge	Fast
May 1, 1971	73	37	0.01"	0	Partly Cloudy	Canonero II	Fast
May 2, 1970	64	48	0.28"	0	Partly Cloudy	Dust Commander	Good
May 3, 1969	81	53	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Majestic Prince	Fast
May 4, 1968	72	56	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Forward Pass	Fast
May 6, 1967	63	57	0.78"	0.31"	Thunderstorms	Proud Clarion	Fast
May 7, 1966	80	46	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Kauai King	Fast
May 1, 1965	84	60	0	0	Clear	Lucky Debonair	Fast
May 2, 1964	76	49	0	0	Cloudy	Northern Dancer	Fast
May 4, 1963	80	49	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Chateaugay	Fast
May 5, 1962	81	47	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Decidedly	Fast
May 6, 1961	81	52	0.25	T	Thunderstorms	Carry Back	Good
May 7, 1960	64	40	0.20"	0	Partly Cloudy	Venetian Way	Good
May 2, 1959	94	58	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Tomy Lee	Fast
May 3, 1958	86	64	0.11"	0	Partly Cloudy	Tim Tam	Muddy
May 4, 1957	47	36	0	0	Cloudy	Iron Liege	Fast
May 5, 1956	82	48	0	0	Clear	Needles	Fast
May 7, 1955	85	57	0.01"	0.01"	Thunderstorms	Swaps	Fast

Date	High	Low	24-hour Precipitation	1pm – 7pm Precipitation	Weather	Winner	Track
May 1, 1954	84	66	0.15"	0.01"	Thunderstorms	Determine	Fast
May 2, 1953	76	55	0	0	Clear	Dark Star	Fast
May 3, 1952	79	55	0	0	Clear	Hill Gail	Fast
May 5, 1951	67	51	0.02"	0	Partly Cloudy	Count Turf	Fast
May 6, 1950	70	51	0.11"	0	Thunderstorms	Middleground	Fast
May 7, 1949	75	57	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Ponder	Fast
May 1, 1948	72	51	0.80"	T	Thunderstorms	Citation	Sloppy
May 3, 1947	57	47	0.02"	0	Cloudy	Jet Pilot	Slow
May 4, 1946	68	45	0.01"	T	Cloudy	Assault	Slow
June 9, 1945	77	63	0.50"	0.03"	Thunderstorms	Hoop, Jr.	Muddy
May 6, 1944	51	40	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Pensive	Good
May 1, 1943	58	39	0	0	Clear	Count Fleet	Fast
May 2, 1942	87	67	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Shut Out	Fast
May 3, 1941	76	54	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Whirlaway	Fast
May 4, 1940	62	36	0	0	Clear	Gallahadion	Fast
May 6, 1939	83	56	0	0	Clear	Johnstown	Fast
May 7, 1938	80	57	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Lawrin	fast
May 8, 1937	71	48	0	0	Clear	War Admiral	Fast
May 2, 1936	78	64	0.34"	0	Thunderstorms	Bold Venture	Fast
May 4, 1935	47	40	0.14"	0.10"	Cloudy	Omaha	Good
May 5, 1934	76	65	0.04"	0	Partly Cloudy	Cavalcade	Fast
May 6, 1933	59	53	0.09"	0	Partly Cloudy	Brokers Tip	Good

Date	High	Low	24-hour Precipitation	1pm – 7pm Precipitation	Weather	Winner	Track
May 7, 1932	83	68	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Burgoo King	Fast
May 16, 1931	84	61	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Twenty Grand	Fast
May 17, 1930	69	59	0.11”	0.11”	Cloudy	Gallant Fox	Good
May 18, 1929	77	54	1.19”	0.66”	Thunderstorms	Clyde Van Dusen	Muddy
May 19, 1928	75	61	0.62”	0.39”	Thunderstorms	Reigh Count	Heavy
May 14, 1927	64	49	0.35”	0.22”	Thunderstorms	Whiskery	Slow
May 15, 1926	64	46	T	0	Partly Cloudy	Bubbling Over	Fast
May 16, 1925	86	60	0.14”	0.12”	Thunderstorms	Flying Ebony	Sloppy
May 17, 1924	74	55	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Black Gold	Fast
May 19, 1923	85	60	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Zev	Fast
May 13, 1922	77	64	0	0	Clear	Morvich	Fast
May 7, 1921	73	48	0	0	Clear	Behave Yourself	Fast
May 8, 1920	72	53	0	0	Clear	Paul Jones	Slow
May 10, 1919	57	48	0.09”	0	Cloudy	Sir Barton	Heavy
May 11, 1918	68	49	2.31”	1.00”	Thunderstorms	Exterminator	Muddy
May 12, 1917	60	40	0	0	Cloudy	Omar Khayyam	Fast
May 13, 1916	83	54	T	0	Partly Cloudy	George Smith	Fast
May 8, 1915	71	51	T	T	Clear	Regret	Fast
May 9, 1914	72	49	0	0	Clear	Old Rosebud	Fast
May 10, 1913	61	46	0	0	Clear	Donerail	Fast
May 11, 1912	77	60	1.04”	0.45”	Cloudy	Worth	Muddy
May 13, 1911	82	60	0	0	Clear	Meridian	Fast

Date	High	Low	24-hour Precipitation	1pm – 7pm Precipitation	Weather	Winner	Track
May 10, 1910	82	61	0	0	Clear	Donau	Fast
May 3, 1909	57	43	0.21”	T	Cloudy	Wintergreen	Slow
May 5, 1908	72	52	0.72”	0	Thunderstorms	Stone Street	Heavy
May 6, 1907	67	56	0.67”	0	Cloudy	Pink Star	Heavy
May 2, 1906	83	63	0.25”	0.24”	Thunderstorms	Sir Huron	Fast
May 10, 1905	89	63	0.58”	0	Thunderstorms	Agile	Heavy
May 2, 1904	73	55	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Elwood	Fast
May 2, 1903	74	40	0	0	Clear	Judge Himes	Fast
May 3, 1902	89	65	0	0	Clear	Alan-a-Dale	Fast
April 29, 1901	83	52	0	0	Clear	His Eminence	Fast
May 3, 1900	66	46	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Lieutenant Gibson	Fast
May 4, 1899	80	60	T	T	Cloudy	Manuel	Fast
May 4, 1898	62	57	0.35”	0.35”	Cloudy	Plaudit	Good
May 12, 1897	76	61	0.82”	0	Cloudy	Typhoon II	Heavy
May 6, 1896	84	60	0	0	Clear	Ben Brush	Dusty
May 6, 1895	82	66	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Halma	Fast
May 15, 1894	87	66	0.04”	0.04”	Partly Cloudy	Chant	Fast
May 10, 1893	79	54	0	0	Clear	Lookout	Fast
May 11, 1892	55	51	T	T	Cloudy	Azra	Heavy
May 13, 1891	71	53	0	0	Cloudy	Kingman	Slow
May 14, 1890	63	54	0.31”	0	Cloudy	Riley	Muddy
May 9, 1889	90	66	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Spokane	Fast

Date	High	Low	24-hour Precipitation	1pm – 7pm Precipitation	Weather	Winner	Track
May 14, 1888	56	42	0	0	Cloudy	Macbeth II	Fast
May 11, 1887	79	59	T	T	Partly Cloudy	Montrose	Fast
May 14, 1886	85	72	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Ben Ali	Fast
May 14, 1885	73	50	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Joe Cotton	Good
May 16, 1884	68	55	0	0	Clear	Buchanan	Good
May 23, 1883	67	44	0	0	Clear	Leonatus	Heavy
May 16, 1882	63	44	0	0	Clear	Apollo	Good
May 17, 1881	75	55	0	0	Clear	Hindoo	Fast
May 18, 1880	86	62	0	0	Clear	Fonso	Dusty
May 20, 1879	90	63	0	0	Clear	Lord Murphy	Fast
May 21, 1878	76	64	0	0	Clear	Day Star	Dusty
May 22, 1877	81	63	0	0	Clear	Baden-Baden	Fast
May 15, 1876	86	65	0	0	Partly Cloudy	Vagrant	Fast
May 17, 1875	68	46	0	0	Clear	Aristides	Fast