**17. Secretariat.** Sired by the American champion Bold Ruler, Secretariat was born in 1970. He grew into a huge chestnut colt with blazing speed. In 1973, after winning the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness, the stage was set for Secretariat to win the Belmont Stakes, and with it, the Triple Crown. In one of the most spectacular races ever, Secretariat completely outclassed the field, winning the Belmont by an unheard-of 31 lengths. His time of 2 minutes, 24 seconds slashed 2.6 seconds off the old record. By the time he retired, the champion thoroughbred had compiled a record of 16 wins from 21 starts.