

Real Quiet

3-Year-Old Colt Finalist



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It was all there in front of him, laid out like some magnificent tapestry. Straight ahead, there was nothing but a gentle June breeze blowing in his face. Off to the right was a long row of trigger-happy photographers waiting anxiously to freeze his final stride for posterity. Further to the right, in the mass of humanity that filled the grandstand, arms were flailing and fists were being thrust in the air, forming a kaleidoscope of spectacular shapes and colors. And most importantly, behind him, there was silence.

In less than 20 seconds, he would be one of the ones, a member of racing's chosen few. He would be a Triple Crown winner. People would be straining to touch him. Photographers would be trampling each other trying to catch him in that one glorious pose. Breeders would be dashing to the phone in an attempt to get a beat on racing's most prized possession.

Then it happened. Jockey Kent Desormeaux sensed it first. Just as the long, fluid strides under him were beginning to shorten, the silence behind him was broken by the sound of pounding hooves, getting louder and louder. The images of grandeur were now fading, and he knew he would have to fight to get them back. Both jockey and horse braced for battle. Desormeaux began throwing the reins around as if they were tied to him. Real Quiet reached back and pulled out every weapon he had. He fought gallantly to the finish, but it was not to be. In the end, only the nose of his old nemesis Victory Gallop stood between him and immortality.

When Real Quiet's name is mentioned in years to come, of course it will be his brilliant victories in the Kentucky Derby (gr. I) and Preakness Stakes (gr. I) that stand out. But he always will be set apart from other Derby and Preakness winners. Real Quiet's Belmont (gr. I) defeat ran the gamut of emotions like no other race in memory and will be every bit as much a part of the horse's legacy as his shining moments at Churchill



BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON PHOTO

Downs and Pimlico. Regardless of what he accomplishes in the future, the history books always will portray him as the horse who came so agonizingly close to achieving the pinnacle of fame and glory.

But what shouldn't be forgotten is the fame and glory he did achieve in the Derby and Preakness. No one will forget that explosive move on the far turn at Churchill Downs, in which he blew by the Derby field as if he were moving in another time frame. And certainly no one will forget his defiance of Pimlico's notoriously sharp turns, as he took the overland route and still was able to totally dominate his opponents in the Preakness. With the sweltering crowd still in a state of chaos and turmoil after being left in the dark as a result of a power failure, it was Real Quiet's performance that brought a much-needed ray of light back to Pimlico. Although he did not race again in 1998, Real Quiet stirred enough emotions during the Triple Crown to last for many years to come. ♦

By Steve Haskin

Real Quiet came within a nose of winning the Triple Crown

Real Quiet

Own: Pegram Mike

B. c. 3 (Mar)
 Sire: Quiet American (Fappiano) \$35,000
 Dam: Really Blue (Believe It)
 Br: Little Hill Farm (Ky)
 Tr: Baffert Bob (→) (→)

Life	15	4	3	5	\$2,169,923	D.Fst	13	4	3	4	\$2,166,583	111
1998	6	2	3	0	\$1,788,800	Wet	2	0	0	1	\$3,340	74
1997	9	2	0	5	\$381,123	Turf	0	0	0	0	\$0	-
CSC	0	0	0	0	\$0	Dist	0	0	0	0	\$0	-

6 Jun 98-9Bel fst 1½	:483	1:132	2:024	2:29	Belmont-G1	110	7	6	31	1½	14	2 nd	Desormeaux K J L 126 b	*.80	99-09	Victory Gallop126 ^{no} Real Quiet126 ⁶ Thomas Jot126 ^{1½}	11
Wide move turn, drifted out, bumped rival late, gamely																	
16 May 98-10Pim fst 1½	:462	1:11	1:354	1:543	Preakness-G1	111	10	8	69	5½	1½	12½	Desormeaux K J L 126 b	2.50	92-13	Real Quiet126 ^{2½} Victory Gallop126 ³ Classic Cat126 ^{3½}	10
Very wide entering stretch, lugged in 1/16, driving																	
2 May 98-8CD fst 1¼	:453	1:103	1:353	2:021	Ky Derby-G1	107	3	8	68	11	11½	1½	Desormeaux K J L 126 b	8.40	94-02	Real Quiet126 ³ Victory Gallop126 ^{3½} Indian Charlie126 ^{hd}	15
Broke to inside, bid far turn, clear, lusted																	
4 Apr 98-5SA fst 1¼	:46	1:094	1:342	1:47	SA Derby-G1	107	7	6	56½	54½	22½	22½	Desormeaux K J LB 120 b	3.00	99-03	Indian Charlie120 ² Real Quiet120 ⁷ Artax120 ⁶	7
Lost left rein briefly 2nd turn; split foes 1/8; 2nd best																	
14 Mar 98-8SA fst 1¼	:224	:464	1:104	1:413	San Felipe-G2	108	5	3	32½	3½	21½	2 ^{hd}	Desormeaux K J LB 119 b	4.10	95-10	Artax122 ^{hd} Real Quiet119 ⁷ Prosperous Bid116 ⁶	Came back on 5
18 Jan 98-7GG sly 1¼	:222	:461	1:104	1:431	GldnGate Dby200k	59	7	7	65½	66½	814	822½	Desormeaux K J LB 120 b	*1.10	63-19	Clover Hunter120 ^{6½} Mantles Star120 ^{1½} Allen's Oop120 ⁴	Wide, dull effort 8
14 Dec 97-7Hol fst 1¼	:223	:454	1:101	1:411	Hol Fty-G1	102	2	4	41½	21	1 ^{hd}	11	Desormeaux K J LB 121 b	*1.50e	95-11	Real Quiet121 ¹ Artax121 ^{1½} Nationalore121 ¹	Gamely 11
29 Nov 97-11CD fst 1¼	:232	:47	1:12	1:434	KyJockeyClub-G3	93	6	10	75½	42½	53½	3¼	Flores DR	12.40	90-09	Cape Town113½ Time Limit119½ Real Quiet116½	11
Bumped from both sides start, bobbled, up rail, good try																	
18 Oct 97-3SA fst 1¼	:232	:472	1:122	1:441	Md Sp Wt 35k	87	7	6	52	42	2 ^{hd}	13	Desormeaux K J LB 120 b	1.60	82-19	Real Quiet120 ³ Opine120 ⁷ Sydney Harbour120 ⁵	4-wide, clearly best 7
5 Sep 97-6Dmr fst 1	:221	:454	1:104	1:363	Md Sp Wt 39k	78	7	6	78	54½	34½	48	Stevens S A LB 118 f	2.20e	79-13	Old Trieste1182½ Johnbil1185½ Just Ruler118 ^{no}	Just missed third 9

WORKS: Jan11 SA 5f fst :593 H 6/58 Jan6 SA 5f fst 1:013 B 32/55 Dec24 SA 3f fst :362 B 20/42 Dec19 SA 3f fst :372 B 12/16

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