

BARBARO (Dynaformer x La Ville Rouge) April 29, 2003 – January 29, 2007

Barbaro, winner of the 132nd Kentucky Derby last May, was laid to rest at approximately 10:30 am on Monday, January 29th. Over 18,000 candles from 41 countries are alight on a virtual candle website

(<http://www.gratefulness.org/candles/candles.cfm?l=eng&gi=barba>). People from all over the world are mourning the loss of one of the greatest horses of recent memory. There aren't any regrets, only tears shed for a noble and dignified struggle. Barbaro was a courageous soul, and never gave up, regardless the task. He was undefeated in all the races that he finished, and all of his connections owners Roy and Gretchen Jackson, trainer Michael Matz, jockey Edgar Prado, exercise rider Peter Brette, and many others, all felt he was the best horse that they had ever come into contact with.

Barbaro was a hero. He was brilliant, a world class athlete, a dynamic winner, and a gorgeous animal. He was innocent in all the decisions that people made for him. He was quiet. He was determined, and he showed grit under the most dire of circumstances. He didn't complain and he simply tried his best, every moment of every day. He wasn't all that gentle, but he was exceedingly generous with his efforts. Maybe that's why the World loves him so much...

Even in death, Barbaro is an inspiration for life. Although all measures were taken to manage his pain and comfort, in the end, the laminitis that struck in July recently began to affect his healthy front feet. They all felt so much love and respect for him. It was time to let him go.

Barbaro finished his contention for life with all the class he was born with. Tradition has been a herald for all the elite horses of the past, who have won the Kentucky Derby. Barbaro may be different. Instead or in addition to burying part of his remains at Churchill Downs, the home of the world famous Kentucky Derby, and scattering the rest of his remains over his home farm, the Jacksons are considering other options. He led a full life...if it can be measured by the amount of people he touched, in addition to the races that he won.

While Barbaro did not prevail in his quest, he did leave a legacy. "The Barbaro Fund", having been established by a very generous anonymous donation, raised an additional 1.2 million, and is continuing to grow. It is being used to update equipment at the New Bolton Center, and to help horses like Barbaro, whose owners do not have the financial means for necessary treatment. Contributions are also continuing to roll in to "The Fund to Fight Laminitis", an important area of research for American Association of Equine Professionals, and the US Dept. of Agriculture. Barbaro will always be an Ambassador for the Horse Racing Industry, and will continue to inspire us all to rise to the challenges we might be faced with.

God Bless you Barbaro. You are a Legacy of Hope, and a noble creature. You put up a great fight. Thank you. We express our most sincere condolences to those who were so close to Barbaro, and our deepest gratitude to Dr. Dean Richardson DVM, and the Veterinary Professionals and staff at the New Bolton Center.

Here's something to think about: La Ville Rouge, Barbaro's mother, is quietly munching hay, and nonchalantly carrying the full sibling of Barbaro. Yep. That's right. She is expecting early this Spring...

Places for more information and mementos:

University of Pennsylvania, Widener Hospital for Large Animals, New Bolton Center
<http://www.vet.upenn.edu/newsandevents/news/Barbaro.htm>

Breyer has a Barbaro horse model, available through tack shops and online.
As of December 2006, Breyer had made and sold 11,471 models of Barbaro and was donating more than \$114,000 of the proceeds to the New Bolton Center

There is a Barbaro Beenie Baby
<http://www.horsehats.com/Barbaro.html>

There is a special Barbaro hat:
<http://www.horsehats.com/Barbaro.html>
portion of proceeds go to the Barbaro Fund

Barbaro prints by the famous Equine Artist Fred Stone
http://www.vet.upenn.edu/newsandevents/news/Barbaro/Fred_Stone_Print.htm
portion of proceeds go to the Barbaro Fund

Limited Edition book about Barbaro, first of a series, at www.secretariat.com
portion of proceeds go to the Barbaro Fund

Do a search for "Barbaro" on YouTube. There won't be a dry eye in the room.

<http://www.kentuckyderby.com/2006/>

www.thoroughbredtimes.com

Adrienne Neary owns and trains horses in Wilton Maine. Her website is host to vital and current research for the Horse Industry at <http://www.wingspanartsintl.com>