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\$75,000 Honey Jay Stakes Saturday at JACK Thistledown

Altissimo tries for fourth consecutive stakes win

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by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Altissimo, Ohio's 2018 Horse of the Year, will try for his fourth consecutive stakes triumph when he breaks from the JACK Thistledown starting gate on Saturday afternoon, August 10.



Altissimo & Christian Pilares romping to victory & later strolling to the winner's circle

The 6-year-old son by Noble Causeway—Great Goin Rose, by Albert the Great heads up the \$75,000 Honey Jay Stakes, scheduled as the seventh event on the eight-race program, with an approximate post time of 3:20 pm, ET. This will be the 31st running of the six-furlong contest at the Cleveland one-miler.

Only four rivals will try to best Altissimo, a winner of \$624,388 lifetime, who is trained by Richard Zielinski for owners Nancy Lavrich and Ronald Zielinski.

Bred by Nancy Lavrich and Niknar Farm LLC, Altissimo began his as-of-yet undefeated 2018 campaign by winning the \$75,000 Babst/Palacios Memorial Handicap on April 27 at Belterra Park. Next, he captured the \$75,000 Gendelman Memorial Handicap on June 8 at that same Cincinnati-based oval before winning the \$75,000 Hockessin Stakes at Delaware Park on July 13 by a whopping 5½ lengths.

Altissimo has 16 career wins, four seconds and four thirds from 32 lifetime starts, with nine of those victories coming in stakes competition. He won the 2018 edition of the Honey Jay Stakes by nearly four lengths in his commanding, front-striding fashion, for Christian Pilares, who is slated to ride him Saturday.

Joining him in a quest for victory are a trio of stakes-place rivals, including: **Over Icce**, a \$153,692-earning son of Overanalyze who hails from the Gary Johnson Stable; \$140,964-winner **Brown Buckeye**, a Big Brown gelding trained by Jeff Radosevich; and **Midnight Mikey**, a Louis Roberto, Jr.,-trainee and son of Dark Kestrel with earnings of \$162,781. Trainer Zielinski also sends out **Tancahua**, a 4-year-old son by Tale of Ekati who is making his debut into stakes competition.

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