



Ohio State Racing Commission

77 South High Street • 18th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6108
(614) 466-2757 FAX (614) 466-1900
www.racingohio.net

Mike DeWine
Governor

Scott Borgemenke
Chairman



Altissimo triumphant in \$75,000 Babst-Palacios Memorial

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Fund

by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race

Altissimo did not disappoint his fans on a cloudy Saturday afternoon at Belterra Park, romping to an easy 1:10.10 triumph in the \$75,000 Edward Babst-Albert Palacios Memorial Handicap.

The Babst-Palacios was the 2019 debut for Altissimo, who upped his career earnings to \$519,388 with the win, the 14th of his career in 34 lifetime starts.

Guided by jockey Christian Pilares, the bay 6-year-old son of Noble Causeway galloped to a clear, 1½ length victory for trainer Richard Zielinski, and co-owner Nancy Lavrich. It was the second year in a row that Altissimo had captured the Babst-Palacios.

Mo Dont No, with Scott Speith aboard at 7-2, finished a game second after battling with the winner for most of the six furlong contest, followed by 9-1 **Mannford** and jockey Eddie Zuniga, with 16-1 longshot **Over Ice** fourth for rider Deshawn Parker.

This latest victory was Altissimo's seventh over the Belterra dirt and his seventh career stakes score. His other achievements include wins in the \$75,000 Gentleman Memorial; the \$75,000 Honey Jay Stakes; the \$75,000 Governor's Buckeye Cup; the \$150,000 Best of Ohio Sprint Stakes; and the \$75,000 Cardinal Handicap; and a runner-up finish in the \$100,000 Dave's Friend Stakes.



Photo Cutline: Altissimo & jockey Christian Pilares captured the \$75,000 Edward Babst-Albert Palacios Memorial Handicap at Belterra Park on April 26, 2019. *