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Altissimo triumphant in \$75,000 Cardinal Stakes

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by Kimberly Rinker, For the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

The game and determined **Altissimo** put forth another impressive performance on Saturday afternoon at Mahoning Valley Race Course, capturing the \$75,000 Cardinal Stakes over a sloppy track.

The Richard Zielinski-trained Noble Causeway gelding turned the tables on 3-5 rival and multiple stakes winner **Mo Dont No** (Luis Colon), who won this same stake one year ago with Altissimo nabbing the bridesmaid role.

Time for the six-furlong slugfest for Ohio-registered 3-year-olds and up was 1:09.92.

Altissimo, at 3-5 with Christian Pilares in the irons, finished nearly five lengths ahead of the hard-trying Mo Dont No, with 23-1 longshot **Midnight Mikey** (Luis Quinones) getting up for third and 9-1 **Moves Like Ali** (Luis Rivera) grabbing fourth place honors.

Bred by Nancy Lavrich, who co-owns the 5-year-old in partnership with Zielinski, Altissimo has now amassed \$454,388 in his career. This latest stakes triumph was his 13 lifetime victory in 31 tries and his sixth win in eight starts this year.

Altissimo has also captured the 2018 editions of the \$150,000 Best of Ohio Sprint, the \$75,000 Babst/Palacios Memorial, the \$75,000 Gentleman Memorial, and the \$75,000 Honey Jay Stakes.

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Photo Cutline: Altissimo wins the \$75,000 Cardinal Handicap on Nov. 3 at Mahoning Valley. **Photo by Brad Conrad**