



## Ohio State Racing Commission

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## Altissimo favored in \$75,000 Gendelman Stakes

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by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Multiple stakes winner **Altissimo** will be trying for his second straight stakes triumph as he faces off against 11 rivals in Saturday's \$75,000 Sydney Gendelman Memorial Handicap at Belterra Park.

The featured event for Ohio Registered runners, 3-year-olds and up, has been carded as the seventh event on the eight-race card, with a scheduled post time of 4:14 pm, ET. The one and one-sixteenth mile contest will take place over Belterra's turf course.

A winner of \$519,388 lifetime, the son of Noble Causeway-Great Goin Rose, by Albert The Great won the \$75,000 Edward Babst-Albert Palacios Memorial Handicap, a six-furlong test, in an easy 1:10.10 clocking on April 27 at Belterra with jockey Christian Pilares riding for trainer Richard Zielinski and co-owner Nancy Lavrich.

That start was the 2019 debut for the 6-year-old Altissimo, who now has 14 wins in 34 career starts, and was the second time in two years he had captured the Babst-Palacios. Bred by Nancy Lavrich and Niknar Farm, LLC., Altissimo also won last year's \$75,000 Cardinal Handicap at Mahoning Valley, the \$150,000 Best of Ohio Sprint Stakes, the \$75,000 Cardinal Handicap, the \$75,000 Honey Jay Stakes, and the \$75,000 Gendelman. He also has victories in numerous allowance races.

Altissimo will carry high weight of 126 pounds in the Gendelman, with Pilares in the irons once again.

**Mo Don't No**, who finished a game second to Altissimo in the Babst-Palacios, also returns to battle his rival once again. After dismal efforts this past winter, the 6-year-old son of Uncle Mo-Lilah, by Defrere seems to be regaining his previous winning form. On May 17 he captured a Belterra allowance in fine style, traveling a mile and one-sixteenth on the turf to win by nearly five lengths for jockey Scott Spieth, trainer Jeff Radosevich and owner Ron Paolucci Racing, LLC.

Mo Don't No is also a seasoned stakes winner, with victories in the \$150,000 Best of Ohio Endurance Stakes (2016, 2017 & 2018), the \$75,000 Cardinal Handicap (2017), the \$75,000 Governor's Buckeye Cup Stakes (2016 & 2017), and the \$75,000 Daniel Stearns Cleveland Gold Cup Stakes.

A fat check in the Gendelman would see Mo Don't No's career earnings propel above the \$900,000 mark. To date he's scored 18 wins and nine second-place finishes in 35 career starts. Bred by

Beechwood Racing Stable, Mo Don't No was a \$50,000 purchase at the Keeneland Association September 2014 Yearling Sale. Scott Spieth rides with his charge carrying 121 pounds.



**Altissimo**, shown here winning the \$75,000 Babst-Palacios on April 27, will be trying for his second straight stakes victory in Saturday's \$75,000 Sydney Gendelman Memorial Handicap at Belterra Park.

*Photo by Coady Photography*

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