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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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