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Altissimo romps to victory in \$75,000 Gendelman

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by Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund

Altissimo simply galloped to his second straight stakes triumph in the \$75,000 Sydney Gendelman Memorial Handicap on a pleasant Saturday afternoon at Belterra Park.

The son of Noble Causeway-Great Go in Rose, by Albert The Great rushed up to take the lead shortly after the start and never looked back, besting his ten rivals easily in 1:40.99 in the one and one-sixteenth mile contest for 3-year-olds and up.

Ridden by Christian Pilares, Altissimo upped his career earnings to \$564,388 for trainer Richard Zielinski and co-owner Nancy Lavrich. This was his second straight triumph, as he had captured the \$75,000 Edward Babst-Albert Palacios Memorial Handicap on April 27 at Belterra.

Bred by Nancy Lavrich and Niknar Farm, LLC., the 6-year-old Altissimo now has 15 wins in 35 career starts. His other list of stakes wins include last year's \$75,000 Cardinal Handicap, the \$150,000 Best of Ohio Sprint Stakes, the \$75,000 Cardinal Handicap, the \$75,000 Honey Jay Stakes, and the \$75,000 Gendelman.

Altissimo, who left the gate at 4/5 odds, finished well ahead of 10-1 **Cape Rojo** (Malcom Franklin), who put forth a valiant effort to be second, with 8-1 **Gliding Alone** (Abel Lezcano) third and 30-1 **Magna Man** (Sonny Leon) fourth. Ohio State Racing Commissioner Greg Simpson was in the winner's circle to present the trophy to the triumphant connections of Altissimo.



Altissimo captured Saturday's \$75,000 Sydney Gendelman Memorial Handicap at Belterra Park. *Photo by Coady Photography*

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