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ALPENHORN (\$12.40) FIRES OFF BENCH, SCORES IN OPENING DAY FEATURE

CYPRESS, Calif. – Making her first start in slightly more than a year, Alpenhorn responded with an off-the-pace score in Thursday's \$47,035 feature on opening day of the Summer Thoroughbred Festival at Los Alamitos.

Owned by breeder Heinz Steinmann and trained by Mike Harrington, the 3-year-old daughter of Empire Way out of the Swiss Yodeler mare Alpine Echo was reserved off the rapid pace, then collared 11-1 outsider Merrily Merrily inside the final sixteenth to win by a half-length.

Ridden by Edwin Maldonado, Alpenhorn, the 5-1 third choice in the field of eight fillies bred or sired in California returned \$12.40, \$6 and \$3.60 while completing the six furlongs in 1:03.50.

The win was the second in three starts for Alpenhorn and pushed her earnings to \$70,200. She decisively defeated state bred maidens as the 11-10 favorite in her prior appearance June 30, 2016 at Santa Anita.

Merrily Merrily, who finished 3 ½ lengths clear of Adios Cali, the 7-2 second choice, paid \$10.60 and \$5.20 while the show price on Adios Cali was \$3.

Completing the order of finish were Dangerously Close, Ready to Hula Lula, Song of Ekati, the 9-5 favorite, Empress Rules and Lemonaideen.

Fresh off sharing the riding title with Flavien Prat at the recently-concluded Spring meet in Arcadia, apprentice Evin Roman won twice Thursday. In his first day at Los Alamitos, Roman scored with The Party Factor (\$9.80) in the fifth and even-money favorite Private Terrace in the sixth.

Racing resumes Friday at Los Alamitos. Post time is 2 p.m.