

BOOKIES LUCK

BY EMILY SHIELDS

With three wins in seven starts as a 2-year-old, Bookies Luck fought his way to the top of the juvenile ranks and has been rewarded as California's champion 2-year-old male.

Idaho-based breeders Larry and Marianne Williams bred and own the son of Lucky Pulpit—Book'em Babe, by Johannesburg, a half brother to two other stakes winners. Unfortunately, an injury in Bookies Luck's sophomore debut will force the Williamses to wait for a 2019 campaign.

Although foaled in California, Bookies Luck received his early training at Tree Top Ranches, the Williamses' ranch outside Boise, Idaho.

"I have always been a fan of this colt," said manager Dan Kiser, who started Bookies Luck. "He had such a good mind. In fact, one day we noticed that he was drooling and not eating. It turned out he had a fractured jaw. I ended up breaking him in just a halter. Two months, no bit. He is such a gentle colt."

Bookies Luck returned to California and into the barn of trainer Jeff Bonde. He made his debut May 6, finishing third as the favorite in a 4½-furlong Santa Anita sprint. He didn't break his maiden until



Bookies Luck takes the Golden State Juvenile Stakes at Del Mar

BOOKIES LUCK

- 1 BOOKIES LUCK
- 2 SMOKEM
- 3 INTIMIDATE

his third start, a five-furlong contest June 18, which he won by 1¾ lengths.

After finishing eighth in the Graduation Stakes, Bookies Luck found stakes success in the \$100,345 I'm Smokin Stakes at Del Mar. As a 14-1 shot, he rallied from second, took command, and drew away to win the six-furlong event by 3¼ lengths. That effort was followed with a victory in the \$196,000 Golden State Juvenile Stakes on Nov. 4, the second day of the Breeders' Cup at Del Mar. He survived a stretch duel to win by a nose, showing his

gameness.

Bookies Luck concluded the season with a sixth in the \$100,345 King Glorious Stakes after a wide trip. He has made one start this year, in the \$102,415 California Cup Turf Sprint down the hillside turf course at Santa Anita. Bookies Luck led early, but stopped badly and emerged from the race with a condylar fracture.

"We had to put in two screws," said Kiser. "He will be laid up for a while. He was always very sound and ran so hard as a 2-year-old."

The Williamses still own the dam, Book'em Babe. She has been a standout broodmare, producing five winners from five starters, including stakes winners Only You Babe, by Thorn Song, and the McCann's Mojave filly Can Can Babe. With Bookies Luck's \$216,994 in purse money, Book'em Babe has progeny earnings of \$627,239.

"She did not get in foal last year, but will be bred back to Tamarando this season," Kiser said. The Williamses' grade 1 winner is standing the 2018 season at Harris Farms in Coalinga for \$2,500. "She's been a nice little mare. With his mind, I think Bookies Luck will be able to return next year." **CTB**

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Dark bay/brown colt (March 25, 2015)

Lucky Pulpit – Book'em Babe, by Johannesburg

Breeders: Mr. & Mrs. Larry D. Williams

Owners: Mr. & Mrs. Larry D. Williams

	AGE	STARTS	1ST (SW)	2ND	3RD	EARNINGS
2017	2	7	3 (2)	0	2	\$216,994