



COURTESY OF CONNIE PAGELER

Lutess winning at Santa Anita (left) and with Fun to Dream (above)

# Lutess

## DAM OF FUN TO DREAM HONORED

BY TRACY GANTZ

When Mike Pageler decided to breed Lutess after she finished racing in early 2012, few people expected great things of the mare. After all, the Live Your Dream Racing, of which Pageler was a part, had only spent \$8,000 to claim her. But Lutess has subsequently produced two-time graded winner Fun to Dream and multiple stakes winner Heck Yeah, and she has been named the 2022 California Broodmare of the Year.

Trainer Bob Baffert had put in the claim on Lutess for Live Your Dream Racing. Years later, after Lutess had produced California-bred Heck Yeah, Baffert recalled her origins. He noted that “Jerry and Ann Moss bred her,” so she came from good

stock. The Mosses had raced the likes of Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Giacomo, a homebred, and superstar Zenyatta.

A daughter of Maria’s Mon—Alchemia, by Menifee, Lutess has a bottom line that traces back to stakes winner Careless Moment. The dam of two graded winners, Careless Moment is also the second dam of millionaire and sire Practical Joke.

In her fifth start for the Mosses, Lutess finished second in a maiden claiming race to Perfect Feat, who would go on to produce two-time California-bred Horse of the Year Spiced Perfection. Perfect Feat was named California’s Broodmare of the Year in 2018 and 2019. Lutess later won back-to-back races at Santa Anita and a third race at Hollywood Park.

Baffert trained Heck Yeah for Pageler, Bob Baedeker, and Michael Sigband, and the gelding won the 2018 California Cup Turf Sprint, California Cup Derby,

and Echo Eddie Stakes. Baffert, who had trained champion Arrogate, then partnered with Pageler to breed Lutess to Arrogate in 2018, resulting in Cal-bred Fun to Dream.

Mike Pageler died in late 2018, and his wife, Connie, campaigns Fun to Dream in partnership with Baffert’s wife, Jill. With Bob Baffert training the filly, Fun to Dream has already won four stakes, including the grade 2 Santa Monica Stakes (see previous page).

Connie Pageler sold Lutess privately to agent Mersad Metanovich for Premier Thoroughbred, which also owns California sire Smiling Tiger. Premier bred Spiced Perfection, a daughter of Smiling Tiger—Perfect Feat. Lutess has had three consecutive Smiling Tiger foals. Phil Leberherz of Premier said that Lutess is being bred to Triple Crown winner Justify this year on a foal-sharing arrangement with Baffert. **CTB**