

A's news Clips, Friday, November 20, 2009

Thursday's Arizona Fall League roundup

Scheppers, Teagarden lead Rafter's to win over Saguaros

By MLB.com

Rafter's 7, Desert Dogs 4

Tanner Scheppers wrapped up his first taste of professional baseball in the Arizona Fall League with a perfect inning of relief while Taylor Teagarden capped his stint with a walk-off three-run homer as Surprise overcame Phoenix. Scheppers threw six of his eight pitches -- mostly four-seam fastballs -- in the seventh inning for strikes. He reached 98 mph with his heater several times, mixing in a curve that bottomed out at 82 mph.

Saguaros 8, Solar Sox 1

Cincinnati '09 first-round pick Mike Leake allowed two hits and struck out four over four shutout innings as Peoria defeated Mesa in the final game of the Arizona Fall League regular season. Lance Zawadzki (Padres) hit his second homer of the season and drove in three runs to lead the way for the Saguaros (14-18). The shortstop ended the season on a 14-game hitting streak. Reds prospect Yonder Alonso doubled and drove in a pair of runs.

Scorpions 17, Javelinas 9

Giants catcher Buster Posey ended the Arizona Fall League season on a high note, driving in four runs as Scottsdale defeated Peoria. Posey collected an RBI single in the first inning and tied the game in the fifth with a two-RBI single. He drew a bases-loaded walk in the eighth. Pirates prospect Jose Tabata ended his incredible AFL season with a six-hit performance to raise his average to .392, third-best in the league, and Wilin Rosario (Rockies) doubled and knocked in five runs.

Wednesday's AFL roundup

Brown, Desert Dogs win Championship Game preview

By MLB.com

Desert Dogs 7, Javelinas 6

Athletics prospect Corey Brown hit a two-run double to cap a six-run eighth inning as Phoenix rallied past Peoria in a preview of Saturday's Championship Game. Chris Marrero (Nationals) and Matt Angle (Orioles) also had two RBIs apiece for the Desert Dogs. White Sox farmhand Brent Morel homered for the second straight game and raised his Arizona Fall League average to .414 for the Javelinas, who got two innings of scoreless relief from both Jacob Rasner (White Sox) and Kyle Bellamy (White Sox).

Scorpions 7, Solar Sox 5

Tuffy Gosewisch broke out of a slump with three hits and two RBIs as Scottsdale grabbed sole possession of second place in the East Division. The Phillies catching prospect doubled twice for his first extra-base hits of the AFL season, and his two-RBI double capped a four-run third inning. Jose Tabata (Pirates) went 2-for-3 with a pair of walks and two runs scored for the Scorpions. Angels Minor Leaguer P.J. Phillips had a pair of doubles, an RBI and a run scored for Mesa.

Rafter's 11, Saguaros 9

Former first-round pick Reese Havens fell a homer shy of the cycle, scored three times and extended his hitting streak to six games as Surprise outslugged Peoria. The Mets prospect has raised his batting average from .18 on Oct. 30 to .324. Taylor Teagarden (Rangers) also had three hits, including his second Fall League homer, for the Rafter's. Braves farmhand Brandon Hicks was a catalyst for the Saguaros, scoring four times, driving in three runs and stealing two bases.

Oakland A's 2010 Top-50 Prospects List

OaklandClubhouse.com

Nov 19, 2009

After much deliberation, we are releasing our 2010 Oakland A's top-50 prospects list. Inside, subscribers get a sneak preview of the list, which we will unveil to the general public at the end of December. Over the next five weeks, subscribers will also receive in-depth scouting reports on each of the 50 prospects listed. Click inside for the full list...

Below is our 2010 Oakland A's top-50 prospects list. As we did for the first time last year, we are unveiling the entire list to our subscribers first before we release the scouting reports on each of these players. The scouting reports will be released five players at a time on a twice-a-week basis. At the end of the scouting reports series, we will make the full list available to all readers. Until that time, we ask that you please not post this list to any messageboards or other Websites. If the A's wind-up making a number of trades this off-season that impact this prospect list, we will release a revised version after January 1.

This is the fifth year that we have released a top-50 prospects list and we have found that determining this list has become more and more difficult each year, in large part because the A's system has added more and more depth over the past few years. We strongly considered more than 80 players for this list and, undoubtedly, there will be players who just missed this list who will make us look foolish next season for leaving them off. At the end of our scouting report series, we will release a list of players who just missed making this ranking.

We are often asked about our methodology in choosing these prospects and their ranking order. It is, without question, the most difficult task we undertake each year. Guessing the future value of a player is a subjective and unscientific proposition, at best. That being said, it is something that we take very seriously and put a lot of time and effort into.

We base our evaluations on the following criteria: 1) talent/ceiling (does this player have an unusual set of talents that, should he reach his maximum potential, would allow him to be a star?); 2) chances of having a big league career (is this player a future major league regular?) 3) projection (is this player likely to reach his maximum potential, whatever that potential may be?); 4) results on the field (did this player produce numbers that indicate he will have future success?); 5) age relative to level (did this player compete against age-appropriate competition last season and is he still young enough to have a long career in the big leagues?); 6) make-up (does this player project the temperament, intelligence and work ethic to succeed on a big stage?); 7) position (a middle infielder, centerfielder or catcher might be considered more valuable in the long run than a corner outfielder or infielder; same goes for a potential starting pitcher as opposed to a reliever).

Our assessments for all of these players are borne out of discussions throughout the season with baseball executives, scouts, players and other media members, as well as our staff's own personal observations of the players being analyzed, where we have had opportunities to watch them play on numerous occasions.

We recognize that these rankings will be controversial and we welcome your feedback. During the first week of December, we will have a subscriber-only live chat on this site where we invite you to discuss these rankings with us, as well as any questions about the upcoming scouting reports. An exact date and time will be announced next week.

And without further ado, we present to you our 2010 top-50 Oakland A's prospects list...

Oakland A's 2010 Top-50 Prospect

1. [Brett Wallace](#)
2. [Chris Carter](#)
3. [Grant Green](#)
4. [Adrian Cardenas](#)
5. [Jemile Weeks](#)
6. [Max Stassi](#)
7. [Michael Ynoa](#)
8. [Grant Desme](#)
9. [Sean Doolittle](#)
10. [Josh Donaldson](#)
11. [Corey Brown](#)
12. [Aaron Cunningham](#)
13. [Tyson Ross](#)
14. [Henry Rodriguez](#)
15. Fautino De Los Santos
16. [Clayton Mortensen](#)

17. [Pedro Figueroa](#)
18. [Ian Krol](#)
19. [Arnold Leon](#)
20. [Anthony Capra](#)
21. [James Simmons](#)
22. [Brad Kilby](#)
23. [Shane Peterson](#)
24. [Matt Spencer](#)
25. [Dusty Coleman](#)
26. [Sam Demel](#)
27. [Justin Marks](#)
28. [Rashun Dixon](#)
29. [Mickey Storey](#)
30. [Matt Sulentic](#)
31. [Nino Leyja](#)
32. [Andrew Carignan](#)
33. [Julio Ramos](#)
34. [Jeff Gray](#)
35. [Brett Hunter](#)
36. [Jeremy Barfield](#)
37. [Ben Hornbeck](#)
38. [John Meloan](#)
39. [Tom Everidge](#)
40. [Connor Hoehn](#)
41. [Carlos Hernandez](#)
42. [Jason Christian](#)
43. [Jared Lansford](#)
44. [Argenis Paez](#)
45. [Tyler Ladendorf](#)
46. [Justin Friend](#)
47. [Kenneth Smalley](#)
48. [Tyreace House](#)
49. [Graham Godfrey](#)
50. [Michael Spina](#)

A's push for fans to vote

Kevin Beese, Examiner.com, 11/19/09

Major League teams are continuing to lobby their fans to vote for their hometown heroes for the league's annual awards.

Having just two players in the running for awards didn't stop the Oakland A's on Thursday from sending an e-mail to fans urging for their votes in the [This Year in Baseball Awards](#).

Two A's relief pitchers are in the hunt for honors. Mike Wuertz is a nominee for Setup Man and the Year; and Andrew Bailey, already named American League Rookie of the Year by the Baseball Writers of America, is a finalist for TYBA's Rooke of the Year.

Wuertz led all A.L. relievers with 102 strikeouts. He also held opponents to a .188 batting average on the way to notching 23 holds and a 2.63 earned run average.

Bailey took over the team's closer duties in May and registered 26 saves in 30 attempts, along with a 1.84 ERA.

In contrast to the pair of Oakland nominees, the New York Yankees have 15 nominees for MLB's This Year in Baseball Awards. The Bronx Bombers have more than double the nominees of every Major League team except for the Philadelphia Phillies and Los Angeles Angels (each with nine nominees) and the St. Louis Cardinals with eight nominees.

Teams have been sending e-mails to their fans urging them to vote for their hometown stars. Unlimited voting in 14 categories goes through Dec. 11 at [mlb.com](#).

If one of your favorite players or performances is listed, have at it and drop 50 votes or more on that choice. However, leave yourself time to hit the other categories as well, as the comprehensive ballot choice cover the good, the bad and

the ugly of 2009.

From Mark Buehrle's perfect game to Albert Pujols' hitting dominance to the Phillies fan who made a great catch on a foul ball only to have his young daughter fire it back on the field after he handed it to her, the highlights of the 2009 season are all there for your ballot selections, with video reminders of the play or performance.

You can vote for the year's top: hitter, starting pitcher, rookie, manager, closer, setup man, defensive player, performance, play, moment, oddity, executive, unsung star, and postseason moment.

One team likely to refrain from the e-mail urging of fans is the Chicago Cubs. How bad was this season for the high-priced North Side roster? Of the Cubs' three TYIB nominations, two of them fall in the "oddity" category - Milton Bradley's brain cramp of throwing the ball into the stands after catching a fly ball for the first out of an inning but thinking it was the end of the frame, and Mr. T's rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." Only Carlos Marmol's nomination as Setup Man of the Year is a bona fide honor.

The nominations received by teams not already mentioned are:

7: Minnesota Twins.

6: Boston Red Sox, Milwaukee Brewers, Seattle Mariners, Texas Rangers and Colorado Rockies.

5: Chicago White Sox.

4: Detroit Tigers, Toronto Blue Jays, San Francisco Giants, Atlanta Braves, Los Angeles Dodgers, Houston Astros and Tampa Bay Rays.

3: Florida Marlins, San Diego Padres and New York Mets,

2: Kansas City Royals, Pittsburgh Pirates, Baltimore Orioles, Washington Nationals, Cleveland Indians and Arizona Diamondbacks.

1: Cincinnati Reds (just Francisco Cordero for Closer of the Year)