

A's News Clips, Monday, October 11, 2010

Vermont starts work with new parent club

MIKE DONAHUE, VERMONT FREE PRESS, 10/7/2010

The Oakland Athletics are looking forward to their Single-A short-season team having a positive relationship in its new home in Burlington, the franchise's longtime director of minor league baseball operations said Thursday.

"We tend not to move. We are more about relationships, getting to know people, knowing people in town," said Ted Polakowski, who was in Burlington for a series of meetings with the Vermont Lake Monsters.

The A's reached a two-year agreement last month to provide minor league players to the Lake Monsters. The agreement followed the end of a 17-year relationship between the Vermont team and the Montreal Expos/Washington Nationals franchise.

"It was more fact-finding, start to break the ice, start to get to know each other," Polakowski said about his visit.

"I think it was a start of a great relationship. The A's are a very family oriented organization and we are happy with the our new relationship," Lake Monsters general manager Nate Cloutier said.

Polakowski had meetings with Lake Monsters owner Ray Pecor, vice president Kyle Bostwick and Cloutier. They also toured aging Centennial Field, which is controlled by the University of Vermont.

Reports for the Commissioner of Major League Baseball say the ballpark has substandard conditions for the playing surface, the lights and the dressing rooms.

"Obviously, the facility report says it is not stellar," Polakowski said of the field. "I'm not sure whether it played into the Nationals hand on leaving, but it may have. Looking at it, and what I heard today about improvements and the facility studies and dollars being spent to protect the playing field and upgrade the playing field, was good," he said.

A new engineering study of Centennial Field's concrete grandstand is due out this month.

Polakowski, who has spent 28 years with Athletics, will be a valuable resource as UVM and the Lake Monsters try to address issues with the field, Cloutier said.

"Ted has worked on a lot of ball parks. I think with his experience, his opinion is very valuable. He's been to so many baseball stadiums whether its major league, minor league or spring training facilities," Cloutier said.

Dave Newhouse: Political spin on Warriors, A's

By Dave Newhouse, Oakland Tribune Columnist

Sometimes there are sports issues that belong in the front section of a newspaper rather than on the sports pages -- if they are burning issues that involve community, and have little to do with statistics or standings.

Oakland has two such pressing issues: the insultingly vague first name of the Warriors' basketball franchise and the baseball future of the Oakland A's.

The Warriors have new owners, Joe Lacob and Peter Guber, who could, and should, rename the team the "Oakland" Warriors.

And Major League Baseball is expected to announce shortly where the A's will be playing, perhaps in Oakland, the last place owner Lew Wolff wants to be.

On Nov. 2, Oakland will elect a new mayor. The favored foursome -- Don Perata, Jean Quan, Rebecca Kaplan and Joe Tuman -- visited the Tribune on Monday for an editorial board question-and-answer session.

All four candidates were asked about these two issues, as was Oakland Councilmember Ignacio De La Fuente beforehand. And Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce President Joe Haraburda addressed the Warriors matter.

The more voices the better, but what's needed is push.

"We're still trying to get (the Warriors) to acknowledge the name 'Oakland,' but it's like pulling teeth," said De La Fuente, the Oakland politician who has been involved with this city's sports scene the longest. "It should be done, absolutely, but maybe there's an opportunity with these new owners.

"Unfortunately, you run into people who purchase teams with the purpose of mind to move them. Lew Wolff is a South Bay guy, and he's working hard at that. If he had committed just 75 percent of the effort to Oakland as he has to Fremont and San Jose, a stadium in Oakland will be built. We have the sites, and my prediction, at the end of the day, is that the A's will be in Oakland."

Haraburda invited Lacob and Guber to a welcoming reception, and to push for the team to be called "Oakland," finally, after 38 seasons playing here.

"I'm not shy at all about asking that they become the 'Oakland' Warriors," said Haraburda, who hasn't heard back from either owner. "It's just the identity. It's important to brand yourself with the city you're located in. We're proud of the Warriors, and we want them to be proud of us."

The mayoral candidates all weighed in on the Warriors issue.

Perata: "Unless they carry your name, their value is limited to the community. That franchise has been a wreck, but it's the 11th most profitable franchise in the NBA. This is a good market for them."

Tuman: "I go to their games by the way. The impact of not calling the team 'Oakland' is to reinforce this negative image about the town, that there's something bad about branding with 'Oakland.' I would push for it, but I'm not going to pay for it."

Kaplan: "Oakland has a psychological problem, where we expect too little. I would absolutely push for (the 'Oakland' Warriors), but I wouldn't do just that. If you look at why Oakland doesn't make money off sports, it doesn't have the ancillary businesses on site -- no places to make money for the city."

Quan: "I would push for it. The Warriors are my favorite team -- I like fast action. But we need stronger ties between the team and the community."

Then the candidates addressed the A's and Oakland.

Quan: "I think this (city) is the soul of Major League Baseball -- great diversity, ethnically and income-wise. I met Lew Wolff after I got elected. He didn't say 'girlie,' but almost. There's not a transit-rich (baseball) site that's more ready to go in the entire Bay Area than 'Victory Court' (in Jack London Square). We own most of it, and could develop it as an entertainment (center)."

Kaplan: "I love the A's. Lew Wolff felt (Mayor) Jerry Brown didn't care. The A's could succeed here very well. I believe we could have a football and baseball stadium on the Coliseum site. We own the land. San Jose is not a done deal. They have a local law that requires a ballot measure, and they did not put it on the November ballot. So there's a window of opportunity here."

Tuman: "I'll be blunt. In professional sports, it's 'show me the money.' ... I won't spend a dime of public money on keeping the Oakland Athletics here when I can't pay for police officers or keep the streets safe. I'm not saying it can't work, but let's be objective."

Perata: "I probably know a little more about this stuff than most people. I was part of two Raider deals that both failed. We got held up; we really did -- by both (the A's and Raiders). We got rid of the Coliseum board and then politicized it. ... In retrospect, it was a disaster. I don't think the A's are going to stay here. We can't play in this game, putting up the money. We haven't been smart with our franchises."

But we've been smart enough to keep them.

Perserverence pays off for Oakland A's reliever who blossomed in 2010

Written by Shlomo Kapustin , Jewish Tribune, 10/6/2010

TORONTO – Craig Breslow stands as the nightmare of yesteryear's stereotypical Jewish mother.

The lefty reliever for baseball's Oakland A's faced a crossroads in 2004. He had been drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in 2002 but was released by the team two years later. So the then 23-year-old Yale graduate, who has been called "the smartest man in baseball," applied to medical school at NYU. The catch? Acceptance was conditional on his abandoning the sport he loved. That wasn't in the cards, so he resumed his climb to the big leagues.

Six years have passed and it's safe to say that he can't be used as a cautionary tale by academic-enamoured mothers, Jewish or not. With this year's regular season now complete, he has spent more time with the A's than with any of the five other teams whose jersey he has worn, having been claimed off waivers last May. If anything, he was a nightmare for opposing hitters, who, with a week to go, were batting .189 against him. His 70-plus pitching appearances led the team, whose combined staff earned run average was the lowest in the American league.

"I came over here in the middle of the season last year and got a pretty good opportunity to throw," Breslow said of his finding a home in Oakland. "To me that was the most important thing, to establish a comfort level where I knew I was going to get an opportunity. It wasn't a two- or three-week window."

With major-league success finally at hand, does the life of a doctor still beckon after he retires?

"It's definitely still something I consider," said the Connecticut native. "I think a lot's going to depend on how long I play for and where I am in life."

Medicine is more than just a possible post-baseball career for Breslow. His older sister survived cancer as a teenager and Breslow founded the Strike 3 Foundation in 2008, which "heightens awareness, mobilizes support, and raises funding for childhood cancer research." During a New York road trip in early September, Breslow hosted a fundraiser at Yankee Stadium and raised \$12,000.

Jewish major leaguers are rarities, but while Breslow is a fan of Sandy Koufax, another Jewish, left-handed pitcher, he focusses on his ethnicity outside baseball's white chalk lines.

"I feel like here it's not a bunch of Jews and non-Jews. We're baseball players and we're trying to win games. What's it like to be a baseball player in the big leagues? That's primarily who I am.... Would it be nice if there were a few around? Probably, you know, but it's probably no different than taking a guy from Asia or the Dominican. It's just, whether [Judaism] is a culture or a religion or ethnicity, it's kind of a way to expand your views."

And regarding his own Jewish mother, there's no need to worry about his choice of baseball over medicine.

"They're okay with whatever I'm doing," he said of his parents. "If I want to go to medical school it's not such a bad contingency plan. The window to play baseball is obviously a lot narrower."

On the brink of greatness?

The long-gone Athletics are still the gold standard in Philadelphia sports. Today's Phillies could be their match.

By William C. Kashatus, Philadelphia Inquirer, 10/6/2010

The Philadelphia Athletics are the most successful professional sports franchise in the city's history, and they haven't played a game here since 1954, the last season before they relocated to Kansas City.

The old Athletics were the winners of five World Series and nine American League pennants, most of which came during two championship dynasties: 1910 to 1914, and 1929 to 1931.

None of the city's other major professional sports franchises - the Phillies, Eagles, Flyers, or Sixers - can claim as many championship titles. But the current Phillies, who begin their fourth straight postseason Wednesday, may yet challenge the old A's.

Greatness in baseball is determined by a team's ability to repeat a championship performance. A team that captures two or more world championships and three or more pennants in five years or less is typically regarded as a dynasty. Teams that can accomplish that feat in three years are considered elite.

Connie Mack's 1929-31 A's were such a team. In fact, they toppled the 1926-28 New York Yankees from their dynastic pedestal, and those Yanks are widely considered the greatest team in the history of the sport.

Premier sluggers

What distinguished the A's dynasty was an explosive offense, scrappy defense, and strong pitching - qualities also demonstrated by the Phillies over the last three seasons.

Like the 1929-31 A's, the 2008-10 Phillies are an offensive powerhouse. The A's dynasty generated 2,710 runs and 365 home runs, while this Phillies team has produced a comparable 2,371 runs and an astounding 604 home runs over the last three seasons.

The A's offense, much like the Phillies', featured a first baseman who was one of the premier sluggers in the majors. Jimmie Foxx, the marquee A's player, blasted 100 homers and 393 RBIs over a three-year span. But over the last three years, Ryan Howard has hit even more homers (124) and RBIs (395) than "Double X."

Offense is only part of the story, though. Like the old Athletics, today's Phillies boast a tight defense. The A's dynasty compiled a .975 fielding average, with 389 double plays and 432 errors, while the 2008-10 Phillies have a better fielding average, .986, with more double plays - 431 - and just 249 errors.

However, as the legendary Mack said, pitching is "75 percent of the game," which is why he stacked his starting rotation with two perennial 20-game winners, Lefty Grove and George Earnshaw. A third starter, Rube Walberg, could assure another 13 to 20 wins. That trio won 197 of the 313 games the A's won between 1929 and 1931. The team held the opposition in check with a combined ERA of 3.42 over that period.

The Phillies have also enjoyed strong starting pitching over the last three years, though most of the faces have changed. Cole Hamels has been the lone constant, teaming up in various seasons with Brett Myers, Cliff Lee, Jamie Moyer, J.A. Happ, and now Roy Halladay and Roy Oswalt. Over the last three years, the top three starters from among that group have combined for a total of 121 of the team's 282 wins and a 3.43 ERA.

Greater adversity

To be sure, the Phillies have to win another World Series - and do so this year - to be mentioned in the same breath as the 1929 A's. But if they achieve that milestone, they will have done it in the face of greater adversity than the A's did.

The A's regulars enjoyed remarkably good health throughout their dynasty, while the Phillies struggled with injuries to key players for extended periods throughout this season.

In addition, the Phillies must prevail in divisional and league playoff series before the fall classic. That means they play seven to twelve more postseason games each year than the Athletics, who automatically won the pennant and went directly to the World Series by finishing in first place.

Of course, the harsh reality is that when it comes to baseball championships, none of these footnotes count; only the end result does.

In the final analysis, these Phillies will be remembered as merely one of the best teams in our city's checkered sports history or as one of the greatest baseball teams of all time. We'll know the answer by the end of the month.

Green, Krol Take Home A's Organization Honors

Melissa Lockard, OaklandClubhouse.com

Oct 5, 2010

The early returns for the Oakland A's 2009 draft class have been positive. Reflective of that trend, two members of the '09 class were honored by the organization as the A's minor league player and pitcher of the year.

Expectations were high for both Grant Green and Ian Krol after they were taken in the first and seventh rounds, respectively, by the Oakland A's last season. Both signed in mid-August on the eve of the signing deadline, so neither had much professional baseball experience heading into the 2010 season. Despite that inexperience, both players excelled and were honored for their outstanding seasons by earning the Oakland A's minor league player and pitcher of the year awards.

Green took home the A's minor league player of the year award after hitting .318/.363/.520 with 20 homers and 87 RBIs in 131 games for the High-A Stockton Ports. The USC alum was named to the California League's post-season All-Star team and he helped guide the Ports into the playoffs with a late-season surge that saw the team win 14 straight games at one point. Green was promoted to Double-A Midland after the Ports' post-season run ended and he hit two homers in only five games for the Rockhounds.

Green will be participating in the Arizona Fall League, which begins on October 12. Despite his standout season, Green hasn't stopped working on improving his game. According to Oakland A's Director of Player Development Keith Lieppman, Green has been at the A's minor league complex for the past few weeks working with roving A's infield instructor Juan Naverrette on his defense. Green breaks Chris Carter's two-year hold on the A's minor league player of the year award.

As a polished collegiate player, Green was expected to handle the transition to pro baseball well. Krol, on the other hand, was more of an unknown coming into the 2010 season, as he not only was drafted out of high school, but he had also been suspended for his senior season and, consequently, didn't have the normal number of starts in front of scouts leading into the draft. The A's were confident that Krol was a top talent and they signed him to an over-slot deal worth supplemental first-round money despite taking him in the seventh round of the draft.

Krol spent most of his season with the Low-A Kane County Cougars of the Midwest League, where he was one of the youngest starting pitchers in the league. The left-hander hails from near-by Naperville, Illinois, and he pitched extremely well in front of his hometown fans. In 24 outings for the Cougars, Krol had a 2.65 ERA and he struck-out 91 while walking only 19 in 118.2 innings. He was named to the Midwest League's mid-season and post-season All-Star teams.

At the tail-end of the regular season when the Ports needed another starter for their push for the playoffs, the A's tabbed Krol to step in and he held his own in an advanced league, posting a 3.66 ERA in 19.2 innings with a 20:9 K:BB ratio. Krol inherits the title of minor league pitcher of the year from Pedro Figueroa, who took home the award last season. In 2007 and 2008, the winner was Trevor Cahill.

A's Full-Season Report Card: Progress matters, but more will be expected soon

By Sam McPherson, examiner.com 10/6/2010

All the report cards have been filed, and the season averages are in. Over 162 games, the A's were graded, and this is the final report card for 2010. Enjoy!

Offense: The A's finished 11th in the AL in runs scored, and the four playoff squads all finished in the Top 5. Oakland needed to score 118 more runs this year to crack that group. With their pitching, of course, maybe fewer. But the reality is the offense wasn't very good this year, and perhaps this grade is generous for a team that finishes so low in runs scored. The biggest sign of a bad offense: no one needs to pitched around. Oakland drew a league-low 16 intentional walks this year, because there isn't a single bat in the lineup any pitcher should fear. The positives were 156 SBs (third in AL) and the best steal percentage in the league. Think of how many fewer runs the A's might have scored without the base-stealing prowess. **GRADE: C+ (79.2%)**

Defense: The grade may be misleading, as the A's gave up more unearned runs (60) than most teams in the AL (only Seattle, Boston and Cleveland gave up more). Unearned runs are the results of errors, so the defense wasn't that great. Oakland only made 99 errors this year, which was fifth-best in the league. The three best defensive teams in terms of fewest errors were New York, Minnesota and Tampa Bay. They're all in the playoffs. The individual culprits on the A's defense will be noted later in the offseason, but the team definitely needs to cut down on those unearned runs – which might be the result of pitching lapses, too, but then again, the unearned runs could not happen if the team had sounder defense on the key side of the diamond. **GRADE: B+ (88.6%)**

Pitching: The team led the league in ERA (3.56), so how could it end up with just a "B" grade?! The next best staff had an ERA of 3.78, so the A's were well ahead here. Well, pitching isn't always about ERA. It's about wins, too, and the A's didn't win enough games. Sure, run support (see above) is a key element in getting the win, but so is bearing down in certain key situations. The road ERA was 4.15, which was more than a full run higher than the home ERA (3.04). There are other stat splits we'll explore during the offseason, but as good as the A's pitching staff was in 2010, they could have been better. **GRADE: B (83.4%)**

Coaching: Bob Geren hasn't really distinguished himself as a true leader on this team. Could a better manager come in a coax a few more wins out of this team? Definitely. By Pythagorean Projection, this was actually Geren's worst season as manager: the team underperformed by five wins, topping the three-win gaps Geren produced in 2007 and 2009. His best season as manager was 2008, when the team met its Projection exactly. Geren doesn't manage the bullpen well, but his aggressive base running calls helped compensate for a lack of power and talent at the plate. But as the team collects more talent, Geren probably isn't the manager who can take them to the World Series. That truth is in his four-year track record. **GRADE: B (87.2%)**

2010 Year In Review: AZL A's Pitchers

Melissa Lockard, OaklandClubhouse.com

Oct 5, 2010

In our next "Year in Review" article, we take a closer look at the 2010 pitching staff of the Arizona Rookie League Athletics.

Arizona A's Pitching At A Glance

Team ERA: 3.49 (2nd best in the league)

Strike-outs/Walks: 533/167 (third and fifth best, respectively)

Team WHIP: 1.23 (best in the league)

Note: this article covers all pitchers who threw at least 10 innings for the Arizona A's this season.

It was a good year for pitching for the A's Rookie League affiliate and that pitching was a big factor in the team's 30-26 record. In a league generally better suited for hitting, the A's staff allowed less than a hit per inning and struck-out more than one batter per inning (533 in 497.1 innings). A's pitchers gave up the second-fewest hits in the league and the third-fewest homers. There were several promising arms on the A's staff, which was mostly a mix of players from the 2010 draft and the team's Dominican Academy.

The leader of the staff, [Argenis Paez](#), is a product of the A's Dominican Academy. Signed out of Venezuela in 2008, Paez spent one-and-a-half seasons in the Dominican Summer League before debuting in the US last year. Paez pitched well in 2009 for the AZL A's, posting a 3.68 ERA in 51.1 innings with a 46:21 K:BB ratio. He improved upon those numbers in 2010, however. He lowered his ERA to 3.15 and his walk total to 17 in 65.2 innings. He struck-out 53 and maintained an excellent

groundout-to-flyout ratio of 2.68. The A's coaching staff raves about Paez's ability to work in the lower half of the strike-zone and many felt he could have handled a promotion to short-season A or even Low-A if the A's had had an opening. Paez, who just turned 20 in October, is currently participating in the A's US Instructional League and a strong showing there and in spring training could land him in Burlington of the Midwest League next season.

Right-hander Tyler Vail is another youngster who could jump over short-season A directly to full-season ball in 2011. Vail was the A's fifth round pick in 2010 out of a Pennsylvania high school and the first pitcher selected by Oakland. Vail signed quickly and was able to make 13 appearances (10 starts) with the AZL A's. He was on a strict pitch count, so he averaged less than three innings per appearance. Vail was impressive in those 31.2 innings, however. He gave up only one homerun, held opposing batters to a .218 average and posted a solid 29:8 K:BB ratio. A's minor league pitching coordinator Gil Patterson raved about Vail's strike-throwing abilities and compared him to a young Trevor Cahill.

Like Vail, Omar Duran was on a strict pitch count this season. Duran was returning from a shoulder injury that limited him to 24 innings in 2009. The left-hander, who is a member of the same A's international signing class as Paez, was dominant in the 40.1 innings he threw, mostly in relief, in 2010. Duran posted a 2.01 ERA, struck-out 54 batters and didn't allow a homer while inducing more than two groundouts for every flyout. He was a little wild at times, walking 17, but that number was a slight improvement over his 2009 effort. Duran, who can reach 95 MPH with his fastball and is regularly clocked at 90-93, is expected to return to the starting rotation if he is healthy next season. He will be 21 throughout the season.

Joselito Adames is another pitcher who saw some improvement with his command in 2010, although he didn't have as strong of an overall campaign as Duran. Adames walked 34 and struck-out only 43 in 76.1 innings, mostly for short-season A Vancouver, in 2009. In 2010, he struck-out 59 and walked 18 in 53 innings for the AZL A's. He also didn't allow a homer. Adames' ERA was 5.26, however, although that seems to be an unlucky number, as he held opposing batters to a decent .257 average and he induced nearly four groundouts for every flyout.

With four starts, Aaron Larsen finished tied for fourth on the AZL A's staff. Oakland's 34th round pick out of Bethany College this season, Larsen pitched like one would expect of a college pitcher in a league of mostly high school and international players. In 37.1 innings, Larsen posted a 2.89 ERA and he struck-out 31 while walking only 10. He also held opposing batters to a .177 average. Larsen got a taste of full season baseball at the end of the season, making two starts for Kane County. He should start next season in Low-A, as well.

Seth Frankoff, the A's 27th round pick from UNC-Wilmington, was the other AZL A's pitcher to have four starts, although he would collect seven more with short-season Vancouver before the end of the year. For the AZL A's, Frankoff had a 2.28 ERA in eight appearances that stretched over 27.2 innings. He was incredibly difficult to hit in Arizona, posting a .146 ERA and striking-out 35. He did walk 14, but he didn't allow a homer and averaged 1.72 groundouts for every flyout. Frankoff would continue to pitch well in Vancouver and should graduate to full-season baseball next year.

Drew Tyson, the A's 17th round pick, made the opposite trek from Frankoff, starting off his pro career in Vancouver, but spending most of his 2010 campaign with Arizona before finishing the season back in Vancouver. The right-handed reliever tossed 27 dominant innings for the A's. He allowed only 21 hits, four runs (1.33 ERA) and he walked only three while striking out 41. Like Frankoff and Larson, Tyson should begin next season in a full-season league.

Jeff Urlaub didn't have to travel far for his professional debut. He was drafted in the 30th round out of Grand Canyon State and hails from nearby Scottsdale. The lefty was exclusively a reliever for Arizona. He handled that role well, being aggressive and throwing strikes when he came into the game. Patterson compared Urlaub to A's left-hander Jerry Blevins. Urlaub posted an outstanding 26:3 K:BB ratio and allowed no homeruns and only 23 hits in 26.1 innings, and he also saved two games.

Sean Murphy is another AZL A's hurler who put up remarkable K:BB numbers. The A's 2010 33rd round pick struck-out 32 and walked eight in 21 innings. He also induced nearly two-and-a-half groundouts for every flyout and held opposing batters to a .190 average while posting a 2.57 ERA. Murphy turned 22 in August, but he came from a small college, so the A's didn't rush him into higher-level competition. He will likely get a chance to compete for a full-season job this spring.

Jose Macias was kept on a very strict pitch count after being selected in the 18th round out of Franklin Pierce College because the 2010 season was his first as a pitcher after converting from shortstop. Macias dominated at the collegiate ranks, posting an ERA under 1.00 and that carried over to his time with the AZL A's. In 14 innings, he struck-out 11, walked only three and gave up nine hits. He struggled in two short appearances with the Low-A Kane County Cougars before being shut down with shoulder soreness. Assuming he is healthy this spring, Macias should compete for a spot in Burlington.

Charles Mye signed with the A's as an undrafted free agent, and he was solid in his first pro action. In 23 innings, the lefty struck-out 23 batters and he posted a 3.52 ERA. Mye was a little wild at times, walking 11, and he will need to improve against left-handed hitters, who batted .393 against him.

Ryan Hughes is another left-hander who had a surprisingly difficult time against left-handed hitters. Lefties batted .300 against Hughes, although it was a much smaller sample size, as Hughes was limited to 13.1 innings with the A's. His ERA

was a non-descript 4.73, but he had a solid 13:4 K:BB ratio. Hughes, who is from the East Bay, has a good enough arm that he was taken by the A's in the 16th round out of Nebraska despite not pitching much the past two seasons. The A's didn't push Hughes this summer, but Patterson was encouraged by what he saw from the 6'6" southpaw and Hughes should get an opportunity to be stretched out next year.

Another pitcher that the A's have high hopes for is Andres Avila, who the team acquired from Mexico this season. The 20-year-old right-hander was inconsistent in his first taste of US baseball, but he showed some flashes of potential. He held opposing batters to a .232 average and struck-out 16 in 14.1 innings, but he walked six and posted a 5.65 ERA.

Control problems also plagued Andrew Bailey (no, not that one) and J.C. Menna. Bailey, who is a right-handed reliever just like the A's big league closer by the same name, walked 11 in 12.1 innings. He did strike-out 11 and held opposing batters to a .196 average while inducing a lot of groundballs, so there are some positives for Bailey, the A's 35th round pick this season, to build off of from his time in Arizona. Menna, who was the A's 14th round pick out of a New Jersey community college, walked 13 and allowed 25 hits in 23.1 innings. He struck-out 15. Menna has a big fastball that has reached 95 MPH and he has only been a full-time pitcher for two seasons, so the A's will be patient with his development.