



OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Keith Lieppman Wins 2009 Chief Bender Award

A's Director of Player Development Receives Prestigious Minor League Honor

OAKLAND, Calif. – Keith Lieppman, the Oakland A's long-time director of player development who celebrates his 40th year with the organization next season, has been named the recipient of the second annual Sheldon "Chief" Bender Award, presented by Minor League Baseball to "someone with distinguished service who has been instrumental in player development."

The award was established after Bender, who oversaw the Cincinnati Reds farm system from 1967-88 and had 64 years of baseball service, passed away at the age of 88 last year.

Lieppman, who has served in his current capacity for 18 years, is responsible for the assignment, development and evaluation of players throughout the A's farm system, which consistently ranks among the best in the game. In 2009, Oakland's top two minor league affiliates combined for a .580 winning percentage, with Triple-A Sacramento posting an 86-57 record in finishing first in the Pacific Coast League Southern Division, and Double-A Midland registering a 78-62 mark en route to the Texas League title. Lieppman also coordinates field instruction for the entire minor league system.

"I am humbled and appreciative for being selected for this award," said Lieppman. "I had the privilege of knowing and working with Chief Bender and respect all that he represented and brought to the game. It is an honor to be associated through this award with such a man of integrity and the numerous accomplishments he has achieved."

"We are extremely proud that Minor League Baseball is recognizing Keith Lieppman as this year's recipient of the Chief Bender Award," said Billy Beane, the A's vice president and general manager. "His consummate professionalism and dedication to the development of young baseball players has been a cornerstone of this organization for nearly four decades. Receiving this much-deserved award, named for a highly respected figure in our business, is a testament to Keith's unparalleled record of service with the A's."

Lieppman's association with the A's began in 1971 as a minor league player. After nine seasons on the playing field, he spent eight years managing at every level in Oakland's system. His first stop was Modesto in 1980, while his final managing job was with Triple-A Tacoma from 1985-87. He also managed the Licey Tigres of the Dominican Winter League in 1986.

Lieppman, a graduate of the University of Kansas with a degree in journalism, resides in Prescott, Ariz. with his wife, Corinne, and twins, Burke and Lauren.

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