



OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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A's Select OF Michael Choice in First Round of 2010 First-Year Player Draft

OAKLAND, Calif. – The Oakland A's selected University of Texas-Arlington outfielder Michael Choice in the first round of the 2010 First-Year Player Draft, the club announced today.

Choice was named Southland Conference Player and Hitter of the Year after batting a league leading .383 with 16 home runs. He led the nation with a school and conference record 76 walks and finished second in the country with a .568 on-base percentage. The 6-0, 215 pound right-handed hitter reached base safely in all 60 games in 2010 and had a 72-game reaching base streak dating back to 2009. Choice hit .392 with a school record 34 home runs along with 162 RBI, 126 walks and a .505 on-base percentage in 166 games in three years with the Mavericks. The junior center fielder is a semifinalist for the 2010 USA Baseball Golden Spikes Award, which is presented to the nation's top amateur baseball player.

Choice was selected with the 10th overall pick in the draft, which is the A's highest pick since they selected left-handed pitcher Barry Zito with the ninth overall pick in the 1999 draft. Oakland's recent first round picks include shortstop Grant Green (USC, 2009), second baseman Jemile Weeks (Miami, 2008), right-handed pitcher James Simmons (UC Riverside, 2007) and shortstop Cliff Pennington (Texas A&M University, 2005).

Choice is the A's only selection on the first day of the draft, which continues with the second round tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. In addition to today's 10th pick, the A's also have pick number 60, 92, 125 and every 30th pick after that. The draft will conclude on Thursday beginning at 9:00 a.m.

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