



OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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A's Select Three Players on Day 1 of 2017 First-Year Player Draft

OAKLAND, Calif. – The Oakland A's selected three players on Day 1 of the 2017 First-Year Player Draft, including sixth overall pick Austin Beck, the A's highest high school draft pick since Ben Grieve went second overall in 1994. The A's also selected infielder Kevin Merrell from South Florida with their Lottery Round A pick (33rd selection overall) and outfielder Gregory Deichmann from LSU with their second round pick (43rd selection overall).

Beck hit .590 with 12 home runs and 38 RBI in 28 games as a senior, with 11 doubles and 41 runs scored. He finished his four-year high school career with a .457 batting average and 23 home runs in 103 games.

As a junior in 2017, Merrell led the American Athletic Conference with a .384 batting average on his way to a Second Team All-American nod from *Baseball America*. The 6-1, 189-pound Odessa, Fla. native was a two-time First Team American Athletic Conference performer (2016-17) and currently ranks eighth in program history with 56 stolen bases. He led the team in hitting in each of his three seasons with the Bulls, becoming the first player in program hitting to lead the club in hitting in three consecutive seasons.

Deichmann has started all 65 games for LSU this year, helping lead the Tigers to a College World Series berth. The 6-2, 209-pound junior is hitting .320 with 19 home runs, which is tied for 15th among NCAA Division I hitters. He leads the Tigers and is tied for seventh in the nation with 72 RBI. The Metairie, La. product led the state of Louisiana in home runs for three straight years at Brother Martin High School.

The draft resumes Tuesday at 10 a.m. PT with rounds three through 10 and concludes Wednesday at 9 a.m. PT with rounds 11 through 40.

Oakland Athletics Selections in 2017 First-Year Player Draft

RND	PLAYER, POS.	YR.	SCHOOL / HOMETOWN
1	Austin Beck, OF	HS Sr.	North Davidson HS / Arcadia, NC
L-A	Kevin Merrell, INF	Jr.	U. of South Florida / Odessa, FL
2	Greg Deichmann, OF	Jr.	LSU / Metairie, LA

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