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A's acquire IF Kendrys Morales from Toronto

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Oakland Athletics have acquired infielder Kendrys Morales and cash from the Toronto Blue Jays in exchange for minor league infielder Jesus Lopez and international slot money. To make room on the Major League 40-man roster, right-handed pitcher Jharel Cotton has been transferred to the 60-day injured list.

Morales, 35, hit .249 with 21 home runs, 57 RBI and a .331 on-base percentage in 130 games played with Toronto in 2018. He put together an MLB-leading seven-game home run streak from Aug. 19-26 (8 HR) last year, earning American League Player of the Week honors for Aug. 20-26 (.478/.500/1.191, 7 HR, 12 RBI). The seven-game homer streak is one shy of the MLB record (three times).

In his 12-year Major League career, Morales has played 416 games at first base, 23 games in right field and one game at third base, and possesses a career .994 fielding percentage. At the plate, Morales is a .268 hitter, including 211 home runs, 728 RBI and a .788 OPS in 1,310 career games spanning stints with Los Angeles-AL, Seattle, Minnesota and Kansas City.

Cotton, 27, missed the entire season after undergoing ulnar collateral ligament reconstruction surgery March 31, 2018 at Trinity Park Surgery Center in Arlington, Texas; the surgery was performed by Dr. Keith Meister. He was 0-1 with a 3.75 ERA and .195 opponents batting average in four games, including three starts, during Spring Training 2018 before he was shut down due to an elbow injury.

Jesus Lopez, 22, was signed by the A's as a non-drafted free agent on July 2, 2013. In five minor league seasons, Lopez is a .221 hitter with 15 home runs, 111 RBI and a .278 on-base percentage. He spent all of 2018 with Single-A Beloit, hitting .239 with 10 home runs in 84 games played.

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