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A's Sign SS Robert Puason; 10 Other International Players

OAKLAND, Calif. – The Oakland A's signed shortstop Robert Puason and 10 other international players, the club announced today.

Puason was ranked second on MLB.com's Top 30 International Prospect list. "Robert is a dynamic switch-hitter with the tools to play a premium position at a very high level," said Dan Feinstein, the A's assistant general manager, major league and international operations. "He embodies everything our scouts look for in a young player, and we're looking forward to his continued development as an Athletic."

Puason, who turns 17 on Sept. 11, was one of four natives of the Dominican Republic to sign along with right-handed pitchers Yehizon Sanchez and Jesus Silverio and catcher Luis Marinez. The A's also signed six players from Venezuela, including right-handed pitchers Marco Breindembach and Pedro Torrealba, catchers Carlos Franco and Jayson Gainza and outfielders Moises Gallardo and Joseph Rodriguez. Rounding out the signings was outfielder Jasmad Diaz from Colombia.

"We are excited to add this group of players to the organization, and it affirms our commitment to add top international talent to our minor league system," said Feinstein.

The complete list of international signings follows:

Player	Position	Birthdate	Home
Marco Breindembach	RHP	11/7/2002	Los Teques, Venezuela
Jasmad Diaz	OF	4/6/2003	Barranquilla, Colombia
Carlos Franco	C	2/17/2003	Bolivar, Venezuela
Jayson Gainza	C	11/11/2002	Maracay, Venezuela
Moises Gallardo	OF	4/23/2003	Caracas, Venezuela
Luis Marinez	C	10/11/2001	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Robert Puason	SS	9/11/2002	La Romana, Dominican Republic
Joseph Rodriguez	OF	4/1/2003	Valencia, Venezuela
Yehizon Sanchez	RHP	11/16/2000	La Romana, Dominican Republic
Jesus Silverio	RHP	7/15/2002	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic
Pedro Torrealba	RHP	4/4/2003	Maracay, Venezuela

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Contact: Mike Selleck (510) 563-2233
mselleck@athletics.com