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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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A's Designate RHP Schlitter for Assignment; Reinstate and Option RHP Cotton

OAKLAND, Calif. – The Oakland A's designated right-handed pitcher Brian Schlitter for assignment to clear a roster spot for left-handed pitcher Jake Diekman, who was acquired from Kansas City on Saturday. The A's also reinstated right-handed pitcher Jharel Cotton from the 60-day injured list and optioned him to Triple-A Las Vegas.

Schlitter was selected from Las Vegas June 23 and appeared in six games for Oakland, posting a 3.72 ERA and .324 opponents batting average. He struck out six and walked four in 9.2 innings. The 33-year-old right-hander also went 4-1 with a 3.89 ERA in 27 games with the Aviators.

Diekman has a 4.75 ERA and .212 opponents batting average in 48 relief appearances with Kansas City. He has struck out 63 batters in 41.2 innings and ranks ninth among American League relievers in strikeouts. The 32-year-old left-hander made his Major League debut with Philadelphia in 2012 and is 14-21 with a 3.87 ERA in 413 appearances over eight seasons in the majors with the Phillies (2012-15), Rangers (2015-18), Diamondbacks (2018) and Royals (2019). Diekman has 446 strikeouts in 353.2 career innings, an average of 11.35 per nine innings.

Cotton began the season on the 60-day injured list as he continued his recovery from March 31, 2018 ulnar collateral ligament reconstruction surgery. He began a rehab assignment with Single-A Stockton May 17 and went 0-1 with a 6.43 ERA in three games before his rehab was halted May 29 due to a hamstring injury. Cotton underwent a debridement surgery on the hamstring June 6 and resumed his rehab July 9. He was moved up to Las Vegas July 11 and went 1-1 with an 8.16 ERA in eight rehab appearances, including two starts, overall.

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