



# MEDIA RELEASE OAKLAND ATHLETICS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **A's Select C Tyler Soderstrom in First Round of First-Year Player Draft**

**OAKLAND, Calif.** – The Oakland A's selected catcher Tyler Soderstrom from Turlock High School with the 26<sup>th</sup> selection in the first round of the 2020 First-Year Player Draft, the club announced today.

Soderstrom was the Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year for 2019-20. He played in just five games for Turlock (Calif.) High School this year before the season ended early, but hit .450 with four home runs and a 1.340 OPS in 28 games as a junior. The 18-year-old left-handed hitter had a .373 career average in 82 games for the Bulldogs and was ranked as the No. 7 high school prospect by *Baseball America*. Soderstrom was rated as the 19<sup>th</sup> best 2020 draft prospect by milb.com.

Soderstrom is the son of Steve Soderstrom, who was San Francisco's first round pick in 1993. Steve pitched professionally for seven seasons, including three starts with the Giants in 1996. This is the third time the A's have used their first round pick on the son of a first round pick. In 2002, Oakland selected Nick Swisher, son of Steve (1973, White Sox) and in 1994 the A's drafted Ben Grieve, son of Tom (1966, Senators). The Soderstrom's are the 10<sup>th</sup> father and son duo to be selected in the first round.

This marks just the second time in the last seven years the A's have selected a high school player with their first pick in the draft, with the other being outfielder Austin Beck in 2017. The last time the A's took a catcher with their first pick was Landon Powell in 2004 and the only time Oakland chose a high school catcher in the first round was in 1974 when they selected Jerry Johnson.

The draft concludes tomorrow with rounds two through five beginning at 2:00 PM Pacific time. The A's will have pick numbers 58, 98, 127 and 157.

### **A's 2020 Draft Picks**

<b>Rd</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Pos</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>B/T</b>	<b>Ht.</b>	<b>Wt.</b>
1	Tyler Soderstrom	C	HS	Turlock HS	Turlock, CA	L/R	6-2	200

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