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A's Agree to Terms with 1B/DH Mitch Moreland on a One-Year Contract

OAKLAND, Calif. – The Oakland A's have agreed to terms with first baseman/designated hitter Mitch Moreland on a one-year contract, the club announced today. To clear a spot on the 40-man roster, the A's designated right-handed pitcher Paul Blackburn for assignment.

Moreland began the 2020 season with Boston and was batting .328 with eight home runs and 21 RBI in 22 games when he was traded to San Diego Aug. 30. He hit .203 with the Padres and combined for a .265 average, 10 home runs and 29 RBI in 42 games overall. The 35-year-old left-handed hitter had career bests in slugging (.551) and OPS (.894) and his .342 on-base percentage was his best since his rookie campaign in 2010. Moreland is a .252 hitter with 176 home runs and 588 RBI in 1179 games in 11 seasons in the majors with Texas (2010-16), Boston (2017-20) and San Diego (2020). He won the Gold Glove for American League first basemen in 2016 and was named to the All-Star team in 2018. Moreland has played in the postseason in eight of his 11 seasons.

Blackburn had two stints with the A's last year but pitched just once when he started the second game of the Sept. 26 doubleheader against Seattle. He allowed seven runs on five hits and two walks in 2.1 innings and was the losing pitcher in the A's 12-3 loss. The 27-year-old right-hander made his Major League debut with Oakland in 2017 and is 5-7 with a 5.69 ERA in 21 games, including 18 starts, in four seasons with the A's.

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