



OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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A's Agree to Terms With Kurt Suzuki on 4-Year Contract *New Agreement Runs Through 2013 Season with Club Option for 2014*

OAKLAND, Calif. – The Oakland Athletics have agreed to terms with catcher Kurt Suzuki on a new four-year contract through the 2013 season, the club announced today. The agreement, which begins immediately and supersedes Suzuki's previous 2010 contract, also includes a club option for the 2014 season.

By reaching this new agreement, the A's will avoid the catcher's arbitration years (2011-13), as well as hold an option on his first season of possible free agency (2014).

Suzuki, 26, has emerged as a team leader and one of baseball's elite catchers during his four seasons with the Oakland Athletics. Selected in the second round of the 2004 First-Year Player Draft out of Cal State Fullerton, the Wailuku, Hawaii native has posted a .269 batting average with 39 home runs with 83 doubles, 39 home runs and 206 RBI in 431 career games with the A's since his major league call-up midway through the 2007 season.

The 5-11, 196-pound veteran enjoyed a breakthrough year in 2009, when he led American League catchers in games started for a second consecutive season (132) and became only the second catcher in franchise history to lead the A's in RBI (88). He batted .274 last season, also pacing Oakland in hits (156), doubles (37), slugging percentage (.421), hit by pitches (8) and sacrifice flies (7). His doubles, RBI and stolen bases (8) also led all AL catchers last year.

Despite missing 22 games due to stints on the Disabled List (19 games from April 24-May 5, intercostal strain) and the Bereavement/Family Medical Emergency List (3 games, June 18-20) this season, Suzuki enters tonight's series opener against the Chicago White Sox with a .257 average, 37 RBI and team-leading 10 home runs in 68 games. He's batting .409 (9 for 22) with seven runs scored in his last six contests, and he currently ranks third in home runs and fourth in RBI among American League catchers.

Suzuki's value to the A's transcends his own personal statistics, however, as he is considered one of the best handlers of pitchers in baseball today. In 2010, Oakland's pitchers—many of whom are among the youngest in the majors—have compiled a 3.36 ERA in games caught by Suzuki. That figure is the lowest among all AL catchers and ranks second lowest in the majors to St. Louis' Yadier Molina (2.82).

In addition, Suzuki was named the 2009 recipient of the Jim "Catfish" Hunter Award, which honors an A's player whose play on the field and conduct in the clubhouse best exemplifies the courageous, competitive and inspirational spirit demonstrated by the late Hall of Fame pitcher. The award is voted upon by Oakland A's players and coaches.

Also, the Oakland catcher was named co-recipient of the 2009 Dave Stewart Community Service Award, given annually to an A's player for outstanding work in the community. Last year, Kurt and his wife, Renee, spearheaded efforts to raise more than \$61,000 for the Jon Wilhite Recovery Fund, which helped alleviate medical costs accrued by his friend and former Cal State Fullerton teammate who was injured in the tragic car accident that took the lives of Angels' pitcher Nick Adenhardt and two others. Suzuki's year-by-year and career statistics with Oakland:

Year	Club	AVG.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SH	SF	HP	BB	SO	SB	CS	SLG	OBP	E
2007	OAKLAND	.249	68	213	27	53	13	0	7	39	3	5	3	24	39	0	0	.408	.327	2
2008	OAKLAND	.279	148	530	54	148	25	1	7	42	2	1	11	44	69	2	3	.370	.346	6
2009	OAKLAND	.274	147	570	74	156	37	1	15	88	1	7	8	28	59	8	2	.421	.313	5
2010	OAKLAND	.257	68	265	34	68	8	1	10	37	0	0	8	15	25	2	1	.408	.316	5
Major League Totals		.269	431	1578	189	425	83	3	39	206	6	13	30	111	192	12	6	.400	.327	18

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