



OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Media Release

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A's Post Most Wins Since 2006, Finish 2nd in AL West With 81-81 Mark **Pitching Staff's AL-Leading 3.56 ERA, Braden's Perfect Game Highlight 2010 Campaign**

OAKLAND, Calif. – Staying in contention in the American League West until late September, the young and rising Oakland Athletics took significant strides in 2010. Manager Bob Geren's club, which posted its first non-losing record (81-81) in four years, stayed within striking range of the Texas Rangers for much of the season before finally being eliminated by the AL West champions in Oakland Saturday, Sept. 25.

Their playoff hopes dashed, the A's rebounded from a six-game losing streak (Sept. 24-29) to sweep Seattle in a four-game road series on the season's final weekend. The late surge enabled Oakland to reach the elusive .500 mark and claim second place in the AL West, its highest finish since the 2006 club won the division en route to a 93-69 record and American League Championship Series appearance. Their final 81-81 ledger was the 33rd time this season the A's featured exactly a .500 record, the most ever in franchise history. Injuries and a light-hitting offense deprived Oakland of a possible playoff berth, even though its pitching staff led the American League in ERA (3.56), shutouts (17) and slugging percentage (.379) and ranked second in opponents batting average (.245). The A's, who had registered previous marks of 76-86 in 2007, 75-86 in 2008 and 75-87 in 2009, did avoid their fourth straight losing season, however.

The Athletics used the disabled list 23 times this year, the second most in Oakland history (25 in 2008). Among the players who missed all or much of the 2010 season were All-Star pitchers Ben Sheets, Justin Duchscherer and Andrew Bailey, other key pitchers Brett Anderson and Joey Devine, as well as six-time Gold Glove third baseman Eric Chavez, and outfielders Coco Crisp, Ryan Sweeney and Conor Jackson.

However, there is reason for optimism as the A's enter the offseason, much of it stemming from perhaps the best young pitching staff in the majors. Anchored by All-Star righthander Trevor Cahill (18-8, 2.97 ERA), Oakland's starting rotation chiseled out a 3.47 ERA this season, which ranked first in the majors. That is the lowest ERA by an American League team in 20 years, since Boston etched a 3.32 ERA in 1990. What makes the A's number that much more impressive is the fact their rotation averaged 23 years of age for most of the season.

The 22-year-old Cahill, who emerged as a bona fide Cy Young Award candidate this year, ranked third in the American League in opponents batting average (.220), fourth in ERA and matched the longest streak in modern Major League history by allowing six hits or fewer and pitching at least 5.0 innings in 20 consecutive starts (tying Nolan Ryan, 1972-73). Also, his win total is the most by an AL pitcher 22 years old or younger since Kansas City's Bret Saberhagen went 20-6 in 1985, and is the third most by an A's pitcher 22 or younger since 1907 (Vida Blue, 24, in 1971; Jimmy Dygert, 21, in 1907). Besides Cahill, the A's mostly featured a rotation that included 27-year-old Dallas Braden (11-14, 3.50 ERA), 25-year-old Gio Gonzalez (15-9, 3.23 ERA), 24-year-old Vin Mazzaro (6-8, 4.27 ERA) and 22-year-old Anderson (7-6, 2.80 ERA). Sheets (4-9, 4.53) was placed on the DL July 20 with a strained right elbow, which required season-ending surgery.

Braden, who notched a career-high 11 wins despite receiving the fourth lowest run support (3.60) in the American League this season, provided A's fans with one of the greatest individual performances in franchise history when he twirled a perfect game against Tampa Bay on Mother's Day (May 9). It was the 19th perfect game in Major League history, as he struck out six Rays in retiring 27 consecutive hitters en route to a 4-0 victory. It was the first complete game in Braden's career and the fiery southpaw went on to post five route-going efforts in 2010, which ranked fourth most in the American League and were the most by an Oakland pitcher since 2004 (Mark Mulder, 5). In addition, his two shutouts this year tied for the AL lead and were the most by an A's hurler since 2004 as well (Tim Hudson, 2).

Much like Cahill, Gonzalez enjoyed a breakthrough season, ranking in the American League's top 10 in wins (10th-T, 15), ERA (8th, 3.23) and opponents batting average (10th, .229). Gonzalez went 8-3 with a 2.59 ERA in 15 starts after the All-Star Break.

Overcoming a slew of injuries, the A's bullpen also performed admirably this season. Led by two-time All-Star Andrew Bailey and one of the league's best lefthanded relievers, Craig Breslow, the bullpen ranked third in the AL in save percentage (74.5%, 38 of 51) and first batters faced (.214), and fourth in inherited runners to score (27.1%, 54 of 199). Bailey missed 44 games due to rib and arm injuries, yet still registered a 1-3 mark and 1.47 ERA in 47 relief appearances while converting 25 saves in 28 opportunities. Breslow, who led the bullpen in appearances (75) and opponents batting average (.194), posted a 4-4 record with five saves and a 3.01 ERA in striking out a career-high 71 batters and allowing only 53 hits in 74.2 innings. His appearances ranked second in the AL, while his strikeouts tied for sixth and were the most by a left-handed reliever in Oakland history.

Unfortunately, A's hitters could not keep pace with the pitchers. For only the second time in the last 28 non-strike seasons, Oakland scored less than 700 runs (663 this year, 646 in 2008). The A's ranked second-to-last in the AL in home runs (109), extra base hits (415), slugging percentage (.378) and batting average with runners in scoring position (.241), and scored the league's fourth fewest runs. Sweeney (.294) and Mark Ellis (.291) were the club's leading hitters, while Kevin Kouzmanoff was the team leader in home runs (16) and RBI (71, tied with Kurt Suzuki). Kouzmanoff's homers were the fewest by an A's leader in Oakland history (previous low: 17 by Mitchell Page in 1978, and Dwayne Murphy and Davey Lopes in 1983). Ellis led the majors with a .414 batting average in September, setting an Oakland record with 43 hits in the month. Daric Barton, who batted .273, led the AL in walks (110) and ranked fifth in on-base percentage (.393).

The one offensive area where the 2010 A's excelled was on the base paths, where they ranked third in the American League and majors with 156 stolen bases, and topped the AL in stolen base percentage (80.4%, 156 of 194). Leading the charge were Rajai Davis (50, 2nd in AL), Coco Crisp (32, 9th-T) and Cliff Pennington (29, 12th), who combined for 111 thefts. It marked the first time three A's players had stolen that many bags since 1983, when Rickey Henderson (108), Mike Davis (32) and Bill Almon (26) combined for 166.

2010 Team Accomplishments

- The A's finished the 2010 season with an 81-81 record, snapping their streak of three consecutive seasons with a losing record...were exactly .500 22 times after the All-Star Break and 33 times for the season, which is an Athletics record...posted their best mark since winning the American League West with a 93-69 record in 2006...finished in second place in the West, nine games behind Texas...the second place finish is the A's best over the last four years...this marks the second time in Oakland history the A's finished the season with a .500 record (also 1987).
- The A's spent 32 of the first 60 days of the season with at least a share of first place in the American League West...were in a tie for first place following the conclusion of play on June 3 and had a 29-26 record...the A's then went 5-14 over the next 19 games through June 24 while Texas went 16-3...that put the A's a season high 11 games out of first place entering play June 25...then went 43-35 from June 25-September 23 while the Rangers went 40-40...were never closer than seven games nor farther back than 10 games over that stretch...had a season high six-game losing streak from September 24 to 29 before finishing the season with a four-game winning streak.
- The A's pitching staff compiled an American League-leading 3.56 ERA, which also ranked third in the majors...it was the lowest mark by an A's team since the 1990 club posted a 3.18 ERA...also led the AL in shutouts (17), opponents slugging percentage (.379) and pickoffs (27) and ranked second in opponents batting average (.245) and opponents on-base percentage (.313)...the 17 shutouts were the second best total by an A's team over the last 21 years (had 19 in 2002) and the third best total in the designated hitter era (since 1974)...the A's now have a 3.97 ERA since 2000, which is the best mark by an AL team over that span and third lowest in the majors behind the Braves (3.90) and Dodgers (3.92).
- A's starting pitchers were 64-58 with a Major League-leading 3.47 ERA...that is the lowest ERA by an American League team since Boston had a 3.32 ERA in 1990...also had the lowest opponents slugging percentage in the majors (.373) and led the AL in opponents batting average (.243)...**Trevor Cahill** won 18 games and **Gio Gonzalez** won 15, marking the third time in Oakland history (2001, 2002) two pitchers 24-years old or younger won at least 15 games...it is just the 17th time in the post-World War II ERA a Major League team has done it.
- The A's had 156 stolen bases, which was the ninth best single season total in Oakland history and the most by an A's team since the 1989 club stole 157...ranked third in the American League and the majors in steals...were caught stealing just 38 times for a success rate of 80.4%...that was the second best mark in Oakland history to the 2008 club, which had a mark of 80.7%...led the AL and ranked second in the majors in stolen base percentage.
- **Rajai Davis** (50), **Coco Crisp** (32) and **Cliff Pennington** (29) combined for 111 of the A's 156 stolen bases...those are the most steals by three Oakland teammates since 1983 when Rickey Henderson (108), Mike Davis (32) and Bill Almon (26) combined for 166...had two players with 30 or more stolen bases for the first time since 1995 and three with 20 or more steals for the first time since 1992.
- The A's hit 109 home runs, which was the fourth lowest total in Oakland history in a non-strike season and the fewest since the 1979 club hit 109...had the second fewest home runs in the American League and third fewest in the majors...**Kevin Kouzmanoff** led the A's with 16 home runs, the fewest by a team leader in Oakland history...the previous low was 17 by Mitchell Page in 1978 and Dwayne Murphy and Davey Lopes in 1983.
- The A's ranked ninth in the American League with a .256 batting average and .324 on-base percentage, but their .378 slugging percentage was second lowest in the AL as was their .241 average with runners in scoring position...had the fourth fewest runs scored in the AL with 663, marking just the second time in the last 28 years the A's scored fewer than 700 runs in a non-strike season (had 646 in 2008)...had 527 walks for the second consecutive season and have not walked fewer than 527 times in a non-strike season since 1985 when they had 508...were walked just 16 times intentionally, matching last years total, which is second fewest by a Major League team since the intentional walk became an official stat in 1955...had 30 triples, which were the most by an A's team since 1987 (33).
- The A's bullpen ranked sixth in the American League with a 3.75 ERA...finished with 38 saves, which tied for fourth fewest in the AL...had just 13 blown saves, which tied for the fewest in the AL, and ranked third in save percentage (74.5%)...had the third fewest save opportunities (51).
- The A's committed 99 errors, which was fifth fewest in the American League...it marked the sixth time in the last seven years the A's committed fewer than 100 errors.
- The A's compiled 47-34 (.580) record in Oakland compared to 34-47 (.420) on the road...had their best home mark since 2006 but posted a losing record on the road for the fourth consecutive season...the pitching staff had a 3.02 ERA at home compared to 4.13 on the road...had the third lowest home ERA in the majors and the third lowest road ERA in the American League...allowed just 62 homers at home, which was the fewest in the AL, and 91 on the road, which tied for second most.
- The A's posted a 35-21 (.625) record during day games compared to 46-60 (.434) at night...had the second best day record in the majors and the fourth worst mark in the American League at night...compiled a 3.03 ERA during the day and 3.84 at night...had the lowest day ERA in the majors.
- The A's used the disabled list 23 times, which was the second highest total in Oakland history to the record of 25 in 2008...the 23 players combined to miss an Oakland record 1398 games, an average of 60.8 per games per stint...had at least five players on the DL all year and have not had fewer than three players on the DL since the end of the 2006 season when they had one...have now used the DL 87 times since the start of the 2007 season, which is second most in the majors.
- **Daric Barton** led the AL with 110 walks, ranked fifth with a .392 on-base percentage and tied for ninth with five triples.
- **Craig Breslow** ranked second among American League relievers with 75 games pitched, tied for fourth with 74.2 innings and tied for sixth with 71 strikeouts...the strikeouts set an Oakland record for a left-handed relievers and the games pitched tied for fifth most by any pitcher in Oakland history.
- **Trevor Cahill** tied for fourth in the American League with 18 wins, which were the most wins by an Athletic since Mark Mulder won 17 in 2004, and Barry Zito won 23 and Mark Mulder 19 in 2002...is the first American League pitcher to win at least 18 games at the age of 22-years old or younger since Brett Saberhagen went 20-6 for Kansas City as a 21-year old in 1985...his wins tied for the third best total by a 22-year old or younger in Athletics history behind Vida Blue (24 in 1971) and Jimmy Dygert (21 in 1907)...had a 2.97 ERA, which ranked fourth in the AL and was the best by an AL pitcher his age since Kevin Appier had a 2.76 ERA in 1990...ranked third in the AL in opponents batting (.220), fourth in opponents on-base percentage (.287) and fifth in opponents slugging (.329).
- **Coco Crisp** stole a career high 32 bases in just 75 games...he tied for ninth in the American League in stolen bases and was successful in 32 of 35 (91.4%) attempts, which was the best percentage in the majors and second best in Oakland history.
- **Rajai Davis** stole a career high 50 bases, which ranked second in the American League and third in the majors...he became the seventh player in Athletics history to steal 50 bases and is the first since Rickey Henderson had 66 in 1998...he now has 116 career steals with the A's, which ranks eighth in Oakland history...in addition to steals, he also had career highs in runs (66), hits (149), doubles (28), home runs (5) and RBI (52).
- **Mark Ellis** ranked second among American League second basemen with a .995 fielding percentage and has now finished in the top two in each of the last four seasons in which he qualified for the leaders...his .990 career percentage is second best in major league history among second basemen with 750 or more games.
- **Gio Gonzalez** was 15-9 with a 3.23 ERA...he tied for fourth in the American League in games started (33), ranked fifth in opponents slugging percentage (.329), eighth in ERA, 10th in opponents batting average (.229) and tied for 10th in wins...however, he issued the second most walks (92)...he was 6-5 with a 4.21 ERA over his first 14 starts but then went 9-4 with a 2.53 ERA over his final 19 starts beginning June 21...his ERA was third best in the American League over that span.
- **Cliff Pennington** ranked fourth in the American League in triples (8), tied for fourth in sacrifice hits (12) and was fifth in stolen base percentage (85.3%)...his 29 steals were the most by an A's infielder since Carney Lansford had 35 of his 37 steals in 1989 while playing the infield.
- **Kurt Suzuki** tied Kevin Kouzmanoff for the team lead with 71 RBI, which was the second lowest RBI total by a team leader in Oakland history (Mitchell Page, 70 in 1978)...the A's pitching staff had a 3.27 ERA with him behind the plate, which was the lowest catchers ERA in the AL by more than half a run.

2010 Organizational Accomplishments

- The Oakland A's Community Fund supported more than **1,500** charitable organizations through monetary contributions, donated auction items and tickets this season in its efforts to improve the quality of life for people throughout the Bay Area. Specifically, the organization funded endeavors to improve educational programs, aid the underprivileged, assist in crime and drug prevention, promote health awareness, and champion children and senior welfare. The A's Community Fund donated approximately **\$600,000** to various community programs.
- On Sept. 5, the A's raised **\$70,650** on Breast Cancer Awareness Day with proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society, Cancer Prevention Institute of California, and Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Over the past 12 years, the A's Breast Cancer Awareness Day has raised over **\$1.145** million for breast cancer education and research. Funds were raised through the sale of special ticket packages, commemorative pins, jerseys and hats, an A's autographed quilt raffle, and fan and sponsor support. In addition, as a part of "A Gift of Faith" grant, the A's donated **\$5,000** to the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund of San Francisco in memory of the late Faith Fancher, the longtime KTVU Channel 2 reporter. A's Breast Cancer Awareness Day was presented by Big O Tires, while additional sponsors included Contra Costa Oncology, the *Contra Costa Times*, Comerica Bank, Ross Dress For Less, State Roofing Systems of San Leandro and XFINITY.
- The A's raised more than **\$31,000** at the 11th Annual MUG Root Beer Float Day Aug. 4 with proceeds benefiting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Funds were raised through the sale of root beer floats, tips given in exchange for autographs and pictures with the celebrity scoopers, the sale of autographed mugs and a silent auction of sports memorabilia. Since 2003, the A's have raised over **\$300,000** for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation through MUG Root Beer Float Day. MUG Root Beer Float Day was sponsored by Pepsi. The ice cream for the event was donated by Dreyer's.
- The Oakland A's Community Fund Golf Classic, staged at Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton June 24, raised more than **\$100,000** for the A's Community Fund through the tournament, and silent and live auctions. The A's Community Fund Golf Classic was sponsored by Chevron and State Roofing Systems of San Leandro.
- The A's Community Fund held silent auctions of various sports memorabilia on all Saturday and Sunday home dates. Various charity groups received a portion of the more than **\$50,000** raised as silent auction partners.
- The Fourth Annual Dave Stewart/Oakland A's High School Baseball Showdown was hosted by De La Salle High School and the A's Community Fund May 1 at the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum. In hopes of promoting youth interaction at the high school level, the event featured games between local high schools and an appearance by former A's pitcher Dave Stewart. The event raised **\$9,600** through ticket sales, sponsorship packages, scoreboard messages and signage, and will benefit inner-city youth programs, including the Metropolitan Junior Baseball League and the Oakland Babe Ruth Little League All-Star College Tour.
- The A's collected **2,416** pounds of food and **\$3,648.25** on Food Bank Wednesdays this season, which provided **14,500** meals for children and adults facing hunger in Alameda County.
- On July 24, the A's raised over **\$100,000** at this year's Dinner on the Diamond with proceeds benefiting the Oakland A's Community Fund and PLAYWORKS. Funds were raised through the sale of sponsorship packages and a live auction. A's Dinner on the Diamond was sponsored by the Wolff and Fisher families.
- The A's Community Fund Haitian Relief efforts raised **\$42,000** to aid Haitian earthquake victims. A's fans raised \$22,000 and the Oakland Athletics contributed another \$20,000. UNICEF and Doctors Without Borders, two agencies that played a vital role in on-the-ground relief efforts in Haiti, received approximately \$21,000 each from the A's Community Fund.
- The A's, in partnership with California Donor Transplant Network and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, hosted Donate Life Night Aug. 21. Through ticket sales and corporate donations from companies including TriNet, more than \$12,000 was donated to the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital Social Services Transplant Fund. During the game, the A's raised awareness about the importance of registering to be an organ donor.
- Over **20,000** students in **100** Bay Area schools participated in the A's Home Run Readers program during the 2009-10 school year. Sixty-six schools reached their goals and 10 schools received a visit from a member of the A's front office and the team's mascot Stomper. Six of those schools received a visit from an A's player or coach to congratulate the students for reaching their goals and to encourage them to continue reading outside of the classroom. The program concluded with A's Home Run Readers Day at the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum. The Home Run Readers program was sponsored by the California Police Youth Charities and Teammates for Kids Foundation.
- The A's "Mathletics" program is a unique program designed to promote the importance of math among Bay Area youth. Each season, the A's design and distribute workbooks (also available online) to participating schools which utilize simple formulas for calculating statistics of A's players. Students who complete their workbooks correctly and submit the answer sheet to the A's, receive two ticket vouchers. Since the program's inception in 2003, over **170,000** Bay Area and Northern California students' grades first through eighth have participated. The A's "Mathletics" program is sponsored by Ross Dress For Less and supported by Comcast SportsNet California.
- Before selected A's home games, volunteers offered tutoring at the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum for at-risk students as a part of the Green Stampede Homework Club. Students who attended the study group were rewarded with tickets to that night's game and if the students attended all eight study groups, they received a visit from an A's player.
- The A's Amigos program gave Hispanic children the opportunity to hear an A's player speak about the importance of education, sportsmanship and hard work. In addition to the pregame visit, each child received a game ticket and an A's hat. The A's Amigos program is sponsored by Kelly-Moore Paints and XFINITY, Home of the Most Live Sports.
- Over **10,000** children from Bay Area youth groups from low to moderate-income families were treated to A's games as part of the Little A's program. In addition to a game ticket, each child received a Bank of America water bottle and family passes to the Oakland Zoo. The Little A's program is sponsored by Bank of America and supported by the Oakland Zoo.
- This season, over **6,500** A's tickets were donated to local charities and non-profit agencies by A's players Eric Chavez, Dallas Braden, Mark Ellis, Tyson Ross and Brad Ziegler. The charities and non-profits included Pastime for Patriots, Boys & Girls Club of Oakland, Hoover Tyler Little League in Stockton, and Northern Light School in Oakland among others.
- Since 1986, The Men's Wearhouse and George Zimmer have donated more than \$1 million dollars to the Oakland Zoo through the A's Double Play program.