



OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Media Release

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A's Do Not Tender Contracts to Cust, Buck and Encarnacion

OAKLAND, Calif. – The Oakland A's did not tender contracts to designated hitter Jack Cust, outfielder Travis Buck and third baseman Edwin Encarnacion, the club announced today. The A's did offer contracts to all other unsigned players on the 40-man roster, including their seven remaining arbitration eligible players: Dallas Braden, Craig Breslow, Joey Devine, Conor Jackson, Kevin Kouzmanoff, Ryan Sweeney and Brad Ziegler.

Cust began the 2010 season at Triple-A Sacramento and was hitting .273 with four home runs and 19 RBI in 33 games with the River Cats when he was promoted to Oakland May 15. He spent the remainder of the season with the A's and hit .272 with 13 home runs and 52 RBI in 112 games. The 31-year old added 68 walks for a .395 on-base percentage but led the A's in strikeouts for the fourth consecutive season with 127. Cust's batting average was the best of his four seasons with Oakland but the home runs and RBI were his lowest totals. He batted .247 with 97 home runs, 281 RBI, 377 walks and 673 strikeouts in 533 games over the last four years with the A's after hitting .222 with five home runs and 19 RBI in 70 games with four teams from 2001-06.

Buck was on the A's Opening Day roster for the fourth consecutive season last year but hit just .167 with a home run and two RBI in 14 games over two stints. He was placed on the disabled list April 21 with a strained right oblique and was reinstated from the DL and optioned to Sacramento July 30. The 27-year old left-handed hitter returned to Oakland August 16 and went 0 for 10 in three games before returning to the minors August 24. Buck spent the remainder of the season with Sacramento and batted .298 with three home runs and 17 RBI in 32 games overall with the River Cats.

Encarnacion was claimed by the A's off waivers from Toronto November 12 after batting .244 with 21 home runs and 51 RBI in 96 games with the Blue Jays. He was hitting .200 with nine home runs and 22 RBI over his first 37 games before being optioned to Triple-A Las Vegas June 20. The 27-year old right-handed hitter returned July 3 and hit .269 with 12 home runs and 29 RBI over his final 59 contests. Encarnacion started 95 games at third base for the Blue Jays. In addition to his time in the minors, he also had two stints on the disabled list with a strained right shoulder and sprained left wrist.

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