



# OAKLAND ATHLETICS

## Media Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **A's Select RHP Sonny Gray in First Round of 2011 First-Year Player Draft**

**OAKLAND, Calif.** – The Oakland A's selected Vanderbilt University right-handed pitcher Sonny Gray in the first round of the 2011 First-Year Player Draft, the club announced today.

Gray is 11-3 with a 2.01 ERA and .192 opponents batting average in 16 games, all starts, for the Commodores this year. In 107.2 innings he has struck out 115 and walked 39 while allowing just four home runs. His season continues this weekend when Vanderbilt squares off against Oregon State in the NCAA Super Regionals with the winner of the best of three series advancing to the College World Series.

Gray was a Second-team All-SEC selection in 2010 after going 10-5 with a 3.48 ERA in 19 games, 16 starts. He led the team in strikeouts (113), innings pitched (108.2) and walks (48). The 5-11, 200-pound right-hander was a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American in 2009, logging a 5-1 mark and a 4.30 ERA in 22 appearances. The 18<sup>th</sup> overall selection in the draft, Gray was named as having the Best Secondary Pitch among College Pitchers by *Baseball America*.

Gray is the first college pitcher the A's have selected with their first pick since 2007 when they tabbed UC Riverside right-handed pitcher James Simmons. Oakland's other recent first round picks include outfielder Michael Choice (Texas-Arlington, 2010), shortstop Grant Green (USC, 2009), second baseman Jemile Weeks (Miami, 2008), shortstop Cliff Pennington (Texas A&M University, 2005) and catcher Landon Powell (University of South Carolina, 2004).

Gray is the A's only selection on the first day of the draft, which continues with the second round tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. The A's, who relinquished their 2<sup>nd</sup> round pick to Tampa Bay as compensation for the signing of free agent Grant Balfour, resume drafting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round with the 105<sup>th</sup> overall selection. Oakland will then have the 136<sup>th</sup> pick and every 30<sup>th</sup> pick after that. The draft will conclude Wednesday beginning at 9:00 a.m.

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