

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 5, 2011

GIO GONZALEZ OF THE OAKLAND ATHLETICS AND JOSE BAUTISTA OF THE TORONTO BLUE JAYS NAMED AMERICAN LEAGUE CO-PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

A pair of 2010 American League All-Stars, starting pitcher Gio Gonzalez of the Oakland Athletics and Jose Bautista of the Toronto Blue Jays, have been named **American League Co-Players of the Week** for the period ending July 3rd. The announcement was made earlier today on MLB Network.

In a pair of starts, Gonzalez went 2-0 with a 0.60 ERA and a Major League-leading 16 strikeouts en route to winning his first career A.L. Player of the Week honor. In addition to being the only pitcher in the league to record two wins last week, Gonzalez finished second in the league in ERA and innings pitched. On Tuesday, June 28th, the left-hander stymied the Florida Marlins over a season-high eight innings, allowing one hit and striking out nine as the A's defeated the visiting Marlins, 1-0. Emilio Bonifacio of the Marlins led off the game with a single, but Gonzalez outdueled Javier Vazquez the rest of the way for his second one-hit performance of the season, last accomplishing the feat on May 17th with seven innings of one-hit ball against the Angels. After learning of his first All-Star appointment on Sunday, the 38th overall selection in the 2004 First-Year Player Draft went seven strong innings, surrendering one run on five hits and striking out seven as the A's topped the Arizona Diamondbacks, 7-2. The 25-year-old improved to 8-5 overall with the victory, winning his third straight decision.

Bautista, who finished the 2011 balloting as the leading vote-getter in All-Star Game history with more than seven million votes, batted .391 (9-for-23) with three doubles, four home runs and eight RBI in seven games for his fourth career weekly honor (last: August 30, 2010). Among the league leaders, the 30-year-old paced the A.L. with 24 total bases and a 1.043 slugging percentage, tied for first in homers and RBI and tied for second in runs scored (6), walks (5) and doubles. On June 28th, Bautista homered and drove in three runs as the Jays fell to the Pittsburgh Pirates, 7-6, at Rogers Centre. In the middle game of a set with the Phillies on Saturday in Toronto, the right-handed slugger launched a fourth-inning solo homer against former Blue Jays ace Roy Halladay. Facing Cliff Lee on Sunday, the Dominican Republic native went 2-for-4 with a solo home run and two runs scored as the Jays defeated the Phillies, 7-4. It was Bautista's Major League-leading 27th home run of the season and his fourth in six games.

Other outstanding performances include Baltimore's Nick Markakis (.519, 14 H, .519 OBP) and Mark Reynolds (4 HR, 8 RBI, 5 R); Seattle starting pitcher Jason Vargas (SHO, 6 H, 7 K, 0 BB vs. Padres on July 1st); Yankees left-hander CC Sabathia (1-0, 0.00 ERA, 13K, 2 BB) and second baseman Robinson Cano (.348, 3 2B, 3 3B, 6 RBI); and Texas slugger Nelson Cruz (.300, 2 HR, 8 RBI).

The co-winners of the American League Player of the Week, Gio Gonzalez and Jose Bautista, are each awarded a watch courtesy of Game Time, the leader in licensed sports watches, available at MLB.com.

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