



OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Media Release

Oakland Athletics Baseball Company • 7000 Coliseum Way • Oakland, CA 94621
510-638-4900 • Public Relations Facsimile 510-562-1633 • www.oaklandathletics.com

2012 Oakland A's Spring Training Media Information

Pitchers and Catchers Report on Feb. 18; Full Squad on Feb. 24

Spring Training Quick Facts (as of 1/29/12)

Training Site & Minor League Headquarters	Papago Park Baseball Complex 1802 North 64 th Street Phoenix, AZ 85008 General Phone: (480) 949-5951; FAX: (480) 945-0557
Stadium Headquarters	Phoenix Municipal Stadium 5999 East Van Buren Phoenix, AZ 85008 General Phone: (602) 797-5630; Public Relations FAX: (602) 225-9473 Press Box: (602) 797-5644
Hotel Headquarters	Doubletree Guest Suites 320 North 44 th Street Phoenix, AZ 85008 (602) 225-0500
Reporting Dates/First Workout	Feb. 18 (Pitchers and Catchers) / Feb. 19 Feb. 24 (Full Squad) / Feb. 25
A's Public Relations Contacts in Phoenix	Bob Rose, Director of Public Relations, (602) 797-5632, (510) 282-7279 cell Kristy Fick, Senior Manager, Player & Media Relations, (602) 797-5634, (510) 381-3714 cell Mike Selleck, Baseball Information Manager, (602) 797-5639, (510) 917-1171 cell Adam Loberstein, M. Relations & Broadcasting Coord., (602) 797-5634, (707) 337-0256 cell
Media Credentials	Kristy Fick, Senior Manager, Player & Media Relations, (602) 797-5634; (602) 225-9473 FAX
Photo Day	Monday, Feb. 27 at 7:00 a.m., Phoenix Municipal Stadium
Ticket Information	(510) 568-5600; (877) 493-2255; (602) 392-0074 (also available at Stadium Box Office)
Opening Day	Wednesday, March 28 vs. Seattle Mariners, Tokyo Dome, 3:10 a.m. PDT
Home Opener	Friday, April 6 vs. Seattle Mariners, O.co Coliseum, 7:05 p.m. PDT
2011 Record	74-88, 3rd place (AL West)
Top Returnees	Coco Crisp, CF, .264, 8 HR, 54 RBI, 49 SB, 136 games Grant Balfour, RHP, 5-2, 2.47 ERA, 62 games Brandon McCarthy, RHP, 9-9, 3.32 ERA, 5 CG Brian Fuentes, LHP, 2-8, 12 saves, 3.70 ERA Jemile Weeks, 2B, .303, 8 triples, 50 runs, 22 SB, 97 games Cliff Pennington, SS, .264, 8 HR, 58 RBI Scott Sizemore, 3B, .249, 11 HR, 52 RBI, 93 games Kurt Suzuki, C, .237, 14 HR, 44 RBI
Top Newcomers	Bartolo Colon, RHP, 8-10, 4.00 ERA, 29 games (New York Yankees) Jonny Gomes, OF, .209, 14 HR, 43 RBI, 120 games (Cincinnati/Washington) Seth Smith, OF, .284, 32 doubles, 9 triples, 15 HR, 59 RBI (Colorado Rockies) Josh Reddick, OF, .280, 18 doubles, 3 triples, 7 HR, 28 RBI, 87 games (Boston Red Sox) Jarrod Parker, RHP, 0-0, 0.00 ERA, 1 game (Arizona Diamondbacks) Collin Cowgill, OF, .239, 1 HR, 9 RBI, 36 games (Arizona Diamondbacks) Brad Peacock, RHP, 2-0, 0.75 ERA, 3 games (Washington Nationals) Tommy Milone, LHP, 1-0, 3.81 ERA, 5 games (Washington Nationals)

OAKLAND, Calif.—The Oakland Athletics will open Spring Training in Phoenix, Ariz. Saturday, Feb. 18, when pitchers and catchers report for duty. The group will stage its first practice the following day, Feb. 19, at the Papago Park training complex. Position players report Friday, Feb. 24, with the first full squad workout set for Saturday, Feb. 25, also at Papago Park.

Manager Bob Melvin, who joined Oakland last June, will welcome 58 players to his first A's Spring Training camp, including 18 non-roster invitees. The Athletics christen Cactus League play Friday, March 2 against the Seattle Mariners at Phoenix Municipal

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WORLD CHAMPIONS...1910 • 1911 • 1913 • 1929 • 1930 • 1972 • 1973 • 1974 • 1989

AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS...1902 • 1905 • 1910 • 1911 • 1913 • 1914 • 1929 • 1930 • 1931 • 1972 • 1973 • 1974 • 1988 • 1989 • 1990

Stadium, the first of 21 exhibition games played in the desert this year.

Oakland, which finished third in the American League West Division with a 74-88 mark last season, will make its 2012 regular season home debut Friday night, April 6 against the Seattle Mariners at the O.co Coliseum. In addition to the Cactus League slate, Oakland will make a rare appearance at Sacramento's Raley Field Saturday, March 31 to play its Triple-A affiliate River Cats in a 6:05 p.m. exhibition game, followed by the traditional three-game Bay Bridge Series against the San Francisco Giants April 2-4. The Giants will host the first (April 2, 7:15 p.m.) and third (April 4, 12:45 p.m.) games at AT&T Park in San Francisco, while the O.co Coliseum will be the site for Game 2 (April 4, 7:35 p.m.). The Spring Training schedule will be interrupted March 22, when the A's travel to the Pacific Rim to participate in Japan Opening Series 2012, which will feature two regular-season contests against AL West rival Seattle March 28-29 and exhibition contests against Yomuri March 25 and Hanshin March 26 at the Tokyo Dome.

What follows is pertinent information regarding the Athletics and Spring Training, including basic media policies for clubhouse and field access while the team is in Phoenix. We encourage you to contact the A's PR Department well in advance for interview requests, as Spring Training is always a demanding time for media inquiries. Thank you!

Spring Training Guidelines

Practices at Papago Park, Games at Phoenix Muni: Beginning when pitchers and catchers report, and continuing through the end of full squads, all A's workouts prior to the start of the Cactus League schedule will be held at the Papago Park Baseball Complex, located at 1802 North 64th Street (at McDowell) in Phoenix. The Papago Park Baseball Complex is approximately a five-minute drive from Phoenix Municipal Stadium. Workouts usually begin at 9 a.m. All A's players on the Major League roster will dress in the home clubhouse at Phoenix Municipal Stadium from the beginning of camp, then relocate to Papago for all practices.

A's Clubhouse: The A's clubhouse at Phoenix Municipal Stadium will be open to members of the media with proper credentials beginning at 8 a.m. The clubhouse may be closed at certain times for team meetings, etc. Please do not lounge or conduct interviews in the weight room/exercise area. Once the games begin, the clubhouse is open only to those media who need access to players who have completed their work for the day. Please contact Bob Rose if you need additional assistance. At Papago Park, no interviews will be allowed inside the administrative building and clubhouse, however, interviews can be conducted outside the facility when time allows.

Field Access: During workout sessions at Papago Park, members of the media will be permitted in the dugout areas, in the open area behind the backstop fence and on the grass behind the batting cages. No members of the media will be allowed in any part of fair territory or foul territory down the lines on any of the fields at Papago Park. While at Phoenix Municipal Stadium, members of the media will be allowed in the dugout area and foul territory behind home plate extending down to (but not past) first and third base until the batting cage is removed from the field of play. At that point, all media members must leave the field. The A's dugout will remain accessible to the media until 45 minutes before game time.

Manager Interview Sessions: Prior to the Cactus League schedule starting on March 2, A's manager Bob Melvin will be available to the media each morning at approximately 9:15 a.m. at Papago Park near the picnic tables outside the administrative building. Once games begin, he will be made available at Phoenix Municipal Stadium in the first base dugout at 9:15 a.m. Beginning Feb. 19, Melvin will also be available approximately 20 minutes after the conclusion of the workout session or home game in the first base dugout at Phoenix Muni.

Credentials and Parking

Credentials: All media members covering the A's Spring Training workout sessions and games must possess a credential issued by the Oakland A's, Major League Baseball or the Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA). Anyone without proper credentials will be denied access. Please contact Senior Manager, Player & Media Relations Kristy Fick of the A's public relations staff.

Parking: The A's provide complimentary parking at the Papago Park Baseball Complex and Phoenix Municipal Stadium to members of the media. Entrance to the main lot at Phoenix Muni, located on the corner of Van Buren and Priest, can be obtained by presenting your credential to the attendant. For the Papago complex, media should park in the lot located on the right immediately before reaching the main player's lot.

Meals: Once home games begin in March, lunch is available for \$8 to members of the media with proper credentials in the patio area in the right field corner of Phoenix Municipal Stadium. The A's are able to provide complimentary lunches to Bay Area beat writers, play-by-play broadcasters and designated team officials only. There is no lunch service at Papago Park.

Television/Photography: Still photographers and television camera crews with proper credentials must stay in assigned areas at all times. No roving is permitted. Still photographers or television camera crews are not allowed in the clubhouse, training room or weight room.

Miscellaneous Information

Spring Training History: This year marks the Athletics' 44th Spring Training in Arizona and 31st consecutive spring in Phoenix. After relocating from Kansas City in 1968, the A's spent their first Spring Training in Bradenton, Fla. and then moved to Arizona the following season. The A's trained in Mesa from 1969-78 before a three-year stay in Scottsdale (1979-81). The club then moved to Phoenix for the 1982 Spring Training season.

The Spring Schedule: The Oakland Athletics will play 27 exhibition games this spring in preparation for the 2012 season, including an abbreviated 21-game Cactus League schedule due to their participation in Major League Baseball's Japan Opening Series in Tokyo, when they open the regular season with two games against the Seattle Mariners March 28-29. Besides the dates in the desert, the A's also will play exhibition games against Yomuri March 25 and Hanshin March 26 while in Japan, make a rare appearance against the Triple-A River Cats in Sacramento March 31, and a final pre-season three-game Bay Bridge Series against the San Francisco Giants April 2-4. Oakland opens its Cactus League slate at Phoenix Municipal Stadium Friday, March 2 against the Mariners, and will play a total of 10 home games in Phoenix this year. The A's and Giants will meet only once in the desert, a split-squad matchup at Scottsdale Stadium March 17. The Athletics break camp March 21 following their final Cactus League game against the Kansas City Royals in Surprise, Ariz.

Broadcast Schedule: The A's will televise one Spring Training game from Arizona this year, with Comcast SportsNet California airing the Saturday, March 10 game at Phoenix Municipal Stadium against the Cincinnati Reds at 1:05 p.m. PDT. A total of seven Spring Training games from Arizona will be broadcast on 95.7 FM The Game and the A's Radio Network. All Saturday and Sunday games from Arizona will be aired, along with the Friday, March 16 game against Seattle at Phoenix Municipal Stadium, which starts at 7:05 p.m. PDT. In addition, all three Bay Bridge Series games—April 2 at San Francisco starting at 7:15 p.m. PDT, April 3 at Oakland starting at 7:35 p.m. PDT. and April 4 at San Francisco starting at 12:45 pm PDT—will be broadcast. Ken Korach returns for his 17th year in the A's broadcast booth and will be joined by Vince Cotroneo (seventh) and Ray Fosse, who enters his 27th season in the booth. All Spring Training games not aired on the A's Radio

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Network can be heard live via the club's website, 222.oaklandathletics.com.

Minor League Training Dates: Minor League pitchers and catchers will report to Papago Park March 5 (first workout is March 6), while position players report March 11 (first workout, March 12). Players report to Extended Spring Training April 5, with first workout April 6 and first game April 9.

Roster Information

Spring Training Roster Notes: The Athletics will have 58 players in camp this spring. In addition to the club's 40-man roster, the A's will have 18 non-roster invitees in camp.

Coaching Staff: Manager Bob Melvin, who signed a new three-year contract through the 2014 season on Sept. 21, welcomes back three returning members of last year's coaching staff in first base coach Tye Waller (6th season), third base coach Mike Gallego (4th season), and bullpen coach Rick Rodriguez (2nd season). Melvin has added three new faces to his 2012 staff in bench coach Chip Hale, hitting coach Chili Davis and pitching coach Curt Young, who returns to Oakland after one season as pitching coach in Boston. Hale, a San Jose, Calif. native who was on Melvin's staff in Arizona from 2007-09, served as third base and infield coach with the New York Mets the past two years. Davis, a three-time All-Star during an illustrious 19-year Major League playing career, was the Boston Red Sox's hitting coach at Triple-A Pawtucket in 2011.

Non-Roster Players (16): The Athletics will have 18 non-roster invitees to their 2012 Major League Spring Training camp. The players include LHP Fabio Castro, OF Michael Choice, OF Jeff Fiorentino, RHP Edgar Gonzalez, RHP Sonny Gray, OF Grant Green, OF Cedric Hunter, RHP Jim Miller, OF Brandon Moss, C Ryan Ortiz, C Landon Powell, OF Jason Pridie, RHP Travis Schlichting, RHP Evan Scribner, C Max Stassi, LHP Erick Threets, IF Wes Timmons and RHP Merkin Valdez. Twelve of the 18 non-roster players have Major League experience (Castro, Fiorentino, Gonzalez, Hunter, Miller, Moss, Powell, Pridie, Schlichting, Scribner, Threets and Valdez).

Signing Update:

Through 2012 (37): IF Brandon Allen, RHP Grant Balfour (includes club option for 2013), IF Daric Barton, LHP Jerry Blevins, LHP Dallas Braden, RHP Andrew Carignan, IF Chris Carter, RHP Bartolo Colon, RHP Ryan Cook, OF Collin Cowgill, RHP Fautino De Los Santos, RHP Joey Devine, C Josh Donaldson, LHP Sean Doolittle, LHP Pedro Figueroa, LHP Brian Fuentes (includes club option for 2013), RHP Graham Godfrey, OF Jonny Gomes, IF Kila Ka'aihue, RHP Brandon McCarthy, LHP Tommy Milone, OF Jermaine Mitchell, LHP Jordan Norberto, C Derek Norris, RHP Jarrod Parker, RHP Brad Peacock, IF Cliff Pennington, C Anthony Recker, OF Josh Reddick, IF Adam Rosales, RHP Tyson Ross, IF Scott Sizemore, OF Seth Smith, IF Eric Sogard, OF Michael Taylor, RHP Neil Wagner, IF Jemile Weeks.

Through 2013 (3): LHP Brett Anderson (includes club options for 2014 and 2015), C Kurt Suzuki (includes club option for 2014), OF Coco Crisp (includes club option for 2014)

Oakland A's Major Off-Season Transactions:

Dec. 17 Jarrod Parker, Collin Cowgill and Ryan Cook acquired from Arizona for Trevor Cahill and Craig Breslow.
Dec. 23 A.J. Cole, Brad Peacock, Tommy Milone and Derek Norris acquired from Washington for Gio Gonzalez and Rob Gilliam.
Dec. 28 Josh Reddick, Miles Head and Raul Alcantara acquired from Boston for Andrew Bailey and Ryan Sweeney.
Jan. 6 Agreed to terms with Coco Crisp on a two-year contract with a club option for 2014.
Jan. 16 Seth Smith acquired from Colorado for Guillermo Moscoso and Josh Outman.
Jan. 24 Agreed to terms with Bartolo Colon on a one-year contract.
Jan. 26 Agreed to terms with Jonny Gomes on a one-year contract.

How the Athletics 40-Man Roster Was Built

Free Agent Draft (Year; Round): LHP Dallas Braden (2004; 24th), RHP Andrew Carignan (2007, 5th), IF Cliff Pennington (2005, 1st), LHP Sean Doolittle (2007, 1st compensation), OF Jermaine Mitchell (2006, 5th), C Anthony Recker (2005, 18th), RHP Tyson Ross (2008, 2nd), C Kurt Suzuki (2004; 2nd), IF Jemile Weeks (2008, 1st).

Signed as Non-Drafted Free Agent: LHP Pedro Figueroa.

Signed as Free Agent: RHP Grant Balfour, RHP Bartolo Colon, OF Coco Crisp, LHP Brian Fuentes, OF Jonny Gomes, RHP Brandon McCarthy.

Acquired Via Trade: 1B Brandon Allen, LHP Brett Anderson, IF Daric Barton, LHP Jerry Blevins, IF Chris Carter, RHP Ryan Cook, OF Collin Cowgill, RHP Fautino De Los Santos, RHP Joey Devine, C Josh Donaldson, RHP Graham Godfrey, IF Kila Ka'aihue, LHP Tom Milone, LHP Jordan Norberto, C Derek Norris, RHP Jarrod Parker, RHP Brad Peacock, OF Josh Reddick, IF Adam Rosales, IF Scott Sizemore, OF Seth Smith, IF Eric Sogard, OF Michael Taylor, RHP Neil Wagner.

A's Acorns

STOCKPILING YOUNG TALENT: While the A's paid a steep price in trading All-Star pitchers Gio Gonzalez, Trevor Cahill and Andrew Bailey during an 11-day period in December, the haul of young talent acquired by Oakland in those deals—10 players total—should pay major dividends in the months and years ahead. As former GM Jim Bowden of *ESPN.com* wrote in a recent article, "No doubt it is tough to trade two 15-game winners like Gonzalez and Cahill, but the return was so large on both fronts the A's have improved their long-term future more than any team in baseball this offseason." Bowden went on to say that "Jarrod Parker and Brad Peacock could be potential No. 2 or No. 3 starters, Tom Milone should be a solid No. 5 starter and big-league ready now, and down the road, 19-year-old A.J. Cole may have the biggest upside of all." Keith Law of *ESPN.com* reinforced Bowden's view on the Gonzalez trade, saying "Oakland gets a future ace, a starting catcher (Derek Norris), a strong reliever who might be a back-end starter...(but) Cole is the prize here, a potential No. 1 starter who ranked 36th on my midseason top prospects update and the No. 2 prospect in Washington's system behind Bryce Harper." *Baseball America* ranks five of the offseason acquisitions (in bold) in its current Top 10 prospects in the A's organization: **1. Jarrod Parker, RHP; 2. Brad Peacock, RHP; 3. Sonny Gray, RHP; 4. A.J. Cole, RHP; 5. Michael Choice, OF; 6. Grant Green, OF; 7. Derek Norris, C; 8. Jermaine Mitchell, OF; 9. Michael Taylor, OF; 10. Tommy Milone, LHP.** *Baseball America* ranks five of the offseason acquisitions (in bold) among its current Top 10 A's prospects: **1. Jarrod Parker, RHP; 2. Brad Peacock, RHP; 3. Sonny Gray, RHP; 4. A.J. Cole, RHP; 5. Michael Choice, OF; 6. Grant Green, OF; 7. Derek Norris, C; 8. Jermaine Mitchell, OF; 9. Michael Taylor, OF; 10. Tommy Milone, LHP.** MLB.com ranks six A's among the Top 100 prospects in all of baseball: 26. Parker; 59. Choice; 75. Peacock, 85. Gray; 88. Cole; 94. Green. *Scout.com*,

meanwhile, has seven A's prospects on its Top 100. In addition to these prospects, the A's also obtained two Major League-ready outfielders in the trades in 24-year-old Josh Reddick, who batted .280 with 18 doubles, three triples, seven home runs and 28 RBI in 87 games for the Red Sox last season, and the 25-year-old Collin Cowgill, who hit .239 with a homer and nine RBI in 36 games last year with Arizona and appeared in the 2011 NL Division Series.

RIGHTING THE SHIP: Although a 74-88, third-place finish in the AL West may not suggest it, the midseason addition of Bob Melvin as the Athletics' new manager seemed to stem the tide last year and set the team in a more positive direction by season's end. Oakland, although saddled with its fifth consecutive non-winning season, showed significant improvement in the final half—as evidenced by a 35-35 mark after the All-Star Break. That second-half surge was fueled by an improved offense. After ranking at or near the bottom in most league categories at the All-Star Break, the A's rode the hot bats of Jemile Weeks (.310, 18 doubles, 5 triples after the ASB) and Cliff Pennington (.303, 16 doubles, 5 HR, 35 RBI) to a pronounced turnaround. After the break, the A's ranked third in walks (236), fourth in doubles (140), tied for fifth in triples (14), and sixth in batting average (.258) and runs scored (330) among American League teams.

STRONG UP THE MIDDLE: While the 2012 A's feature one of the youngest rosters in all of baseball, the old axiom "strong up the middle" will apply and could bode well for the team. The return of second baseman Jemile Weeks (.303, 8 triples, 50 runs, 22 SB in 97 games) and shortstop Cliff Pennington (.264, 26 doubles, 8 HR, 58 RBI, 14 SB) gives Oakland one of the better young double-play tandems in the Major Leagues, while center fielder Coco Crisp (.264, 27 doubles, 5 triples, 8 HR, 54 RBI, 49 SB) and catcher Kurt Suzuki (.237, 14 HR, 44 RBI) give the Athletics a proven, veteran presence on the diamond. Weeks, whose .303 average last year ranks second-best to Mitchell Page (.307 in 1977) in Oakland history for a rookie, batted .395 (32-for-81) with seven doubles, one triple and 32 RBI with runners in scoring position—a figure that would have led the majors if he had qualified (Victor Martinez, DET, .394). Crisp, a human highlight reel in the outfield, was successful in each of his final 23 stolen base attempts after the All-Star Break en route to tying the Yankees' Brett Gardner for the 2011 AL stolen base crown.

A NEW-LOOK STAFF: With the departures of Gonzalez, Cahill and Bailey, the 2012 A's pitching staff has undergone significant change from last year's group which ranked third in the American League with a 3.71 ERA and set a franchise record with 1,160 strikeouts. Anchoring the starting rotation will be right-hander Brandon McCarthy, who enjoyed a breakout season in 2011 in carving out a 9-9 record and 3.32 ERA with five complete games. Finally healthy, McCarthy set an Athletics' record for strikeout-to-walk ratio with a mark of 4.92 (123 strikeouts and 25 walks). The 28-year-old veteran went 8-4 with a 3.15 ERA in 14 starts after the All-Star Break, tying for third in the American League in post-break wins and ranking eighth in ERA. Veteran left-hander Dallas Braden (1-1, 3.00 ERA), whose rehab from shoulder surgery has gone so well he may be ready by early season, will certainly reclaim his staff leader role in 2012 when available. Others who will be vying for a rotation spot are right-handers Bartolo Colon (8-10, 4.00) and Tyson Ross (3-3, 2.75), both who have overcome arm injuries, as well as right-hander Graham Godfrey, the ace of the Triple-A Sacramento staff last year with 14 wins and a 2.68 ERA. Colon signed a one-year free agent contract in January after resurrecting his career with the Yankees last year when he won his most games (eight) since his 21-win, Cy Young Award season with the Angels in 2005. Three pitchers acquired in the blockbuster offseason trades could also figure in the competition, as right-handers Jarrod Parker (0-0, 0.00 ERA, one start with Arizona) and Brad Peacock (2-0, 2.75 ERA in three games with Washington), and southpaw Tommy Milone (1-0, 3.81 ERA in five games with Washington) all feature big-league talent. Any starts made by Brett Anderson next year will be viewed as a bonus, as the gifted left-hander continues to improve from 2011 Tommy John surgery. Anderson has won 21 games before his 24th birthday, and when healthy, could be one of the aces of the staff. In the bullpen, there will be at least four pitchers competing for the closer role vacated by Bailey. Left-hander Brian Fuentes (2-8, 12 saves, 3.70 ERA), who has 199 career saves, is a bona fide candidate, as is right-hander Grant Balfour (5-2, 2.47 ERA) who held opponents to a team-best .199 batting average. Joey Devine (1-1, 3.52 ERA), three seasons removed from a brilliant 2008 campaign (6-1, 0.59), and young fireballer Fautino De Los Santos (3-2, 4.32 ERA) could also land the job. No matter, all four aforementioned pitchers should be significant pieces of the bullpen puzzle, as will left-handed veteran Jerry Blevins (0-0, 2.86).

HONOR AMONG THIEVES: When Crisp swiped 49 bases last season, he became the A's fourth player to win an American League stolen base crown. Crisp, who shared that distinction with the Yankees' Brett Gardner, continues Oakland's long tradition of producing stolen base champs. It started with shortstop Bert (Campy) Campaneris, the A's mercurial leadoff man who led the American League in stolen bases four straight seasons from 1965-68 and then added two more crowns in 1970 and 1972. Campaneris, who still ranks 14th all-time with 649, handed the baton to Billy North, a center fielder who won the AL stolen base title in both 1974 and 1976. And, of course, the best was yet to come. Hall of Famer Rickey Henderson reeled off 12 AL stolen base crowns during his illustrious career, including 11 over a 12-year span from 1980-91, only missing in 1987 due to injury. He sits atop the all-time career stolen base list with 1,406, almost 500 bags ahead of No. 2 Lou Brock (938), and also set the Major League single season mark with 130 as an Athletic in 1982. Crisp accomplished his 49 stolen bases in only 136 games last season, and figures to be a top candidate for the stolen base title again this year. However, he is by no means the A's only stolen base threat this year, as Weeks (22 SB in 97 games in 2011) and Pennington (14 SB in 2011, 29 in 2010) should add to the team's run dimension as well.

RETURNING TO THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN: For the second time in the last five years, the Oakland A's will be opening the regular season in Japan. The A's will play two "home" games against the Seattle Mariners in the Japan Opening Series 2012, scheduled for Wednesday, March 28 and Thursday, March 29 in the Tokyo Dome. Start times for both games will be 7:10 p.m. local time (3:10 a.m. PDT). This marks the second time the A's have christened their season in Japan, having split a two-game series with Boston in 2008. The Red Sox won the opener, 6-5 in 10 innings, while the A's prevailed, 5-1, in the second contest. The two-game series drew 80,363 fans. This year's trip will also feature Oakland playing the Yomiuri Giants March 25 (3:10 a.m. PDT) and the Hanshin Tigers March 26 in 7:10 p.m. (8:10 p.m. PDT on March 25) exhibition games. Ironically, the Mariners and Athletics were scheduled to open the 2003 season in Japan, but the trip was cancelled the day after war broke out in Iraq. Bob Melvin, then Seattle's manager in 2003, missed that trip. Now nine years later, he will finally get the opportunity to participate in the Japan Opening Series, only this time as Oakland's skipper.

RADIO HOME FOR A'S BASEBALL: For the second straight season, 95.7 FM The Game, the Bay Area's only FM sports talk radio station, will air every Oakland regular season game, as well as 10 Spring Training games (including the Bay Bridge Series) this year. Ken Korach, Vince Cotroneo and Ray Fosse will provide description on 95.7 FM. Chris Townsend will again host a pre- and post-game show.

SPRING TRAINING TICKETS: Spring Training tickets for all A's home games at Phoenix Municipal Stadium are currently on sale at www.oaklandathletics.com/spring or by calling 1-877-493-BALL (1-877-493-2255). The Phoenix Municipal Stadium Box

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Office opens Monday, Feb. 6 at 10 a.m. MST. Office hours of operations are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, and during all home games. Base ticket prices are as follows: Field Box \$25, Lower Box \$22, Upper Box \$18 and Outfield Reserve \$12. For Spring Training season tickets, call the A's Tickets Services Office at 510-568-5600, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PST Monday through Friday.

TICKET INFORMATION: Tickets for all A's home games can be purchased at all usual ticket outlets, including the O.co Coliseum Box Office, online at oaklandathletics.com, or over the phone by calling (877) 493-BALL. Season, group and luxury suite tickets can be purchased by calling (510) 638-GoA's (4627). Season ticket plans for 2012 start as low as \$9 per game and include a discounted parking option and free ticket exchange options. For the first time in club history, the A's will use Dynamic Ticket Pricing for all individual game tickets for the 2012 season, with rates fluctuating based on factors affecting supply and demand. Fans can lock in their price and save by purchasing their seats early.

2012 Spring Training Schedule

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Fri	March 2nd	Seattle	Peoria	12:05 pm
Sat	March 3rd	*Seattle	PHOENIX	12:05 pm
Sun	March 4th	*Chicago Cubs	Mesa	12:05 pm
Mon	March 5th	Los Angeles Angels (SS)	PHOENIX	12:05 pm
		Chicago Cubs (SS)	Mesa	12:05 pm
Tues	March 6th	Milwaukee	Maryvale	12:05 pm
Wed	March 7th	Los Angeles Dodgers	PHOENIX	12:05 pm
Thur	March 8th	Los Angeles Dodgers	Glendale	12:05 pm
Fri	March 9th	Colorado	Scottsdale	12:05 pm
Sat	March 10th	** *Cincinnati	PHOENIX	12:05 pm
Sun	March 11th	*Kansas City	PHOENIX	1:05 pm
Mon	March 12th	Chicago White Sox	Glendale	1:05 pm
Tues	March 13th	Milwaukee	PHOENIX	1:05 pm
Wed	March 14 th	OFF DAY		
Thur	March 15 ^h	Texas	Surprise	1:05 pm
Fri	March 16 th	*Seattle	PHOENIX	7:05 pm
Sat	March 17 th	*Chicago Cubs (SS)	PHOENIX	1:05 pm
		San Francisco (SS)	Scottsdale	1:05 pm
Sun	March 18 th	*Arizona	Scottsdale	1:05 pm
Mon	March 19 th	Arizona	PHOENIX	1:05 pm
Tues	March 20 th	Chicago Cubs	PHOENIX	1:05 pm
Wed	March 21 st	Kansas City	Surprise	1:05 pm
Thur	March 22 nd	<i>Travel to Tokyo</i>		
Fri	March 23 rd	<i>Arrive Tokyo</i>		
Sat	March 24 th	<i>Workout - Tokyo Dome</i>		
Sun	March 25 th	^Yomiuri Giants (Exhibition)	TOKYO	3:10 am
Sun	March 25 th	^Hanshin Tigers (Exhibition)	TOKYO	8:10 pm
Tues	March 27 th	OFF DAY		
Wed	March 28 th	*^Seattle	TOKYO	3:10 am
Thur	March 29 th	*^Seattle	TOKYO	3:10 am
Fri	March 30 th	OFF DAY		
Sat	March 31 st	Sacramento	Sacramento	6:05 pm
Sun	April 1 st	OFF DAY		
Mon	April 2nd	*#**San Francisco	San Francisco	7:15 pm
Tues	April 3rd	*+San Francisco	OAKLAND	7:35 pm
Wed	April 4th	*#San Francisco	San Francisco	12:45 pm
Thur	April 5th	OFF DAY		
Fri	April 6th	*+**SEATTLE	OAKLAND	7:05 pm

All times listed are Pacific; (SS) Denotes split squad
Home games at Phoenix Municipal Stadium
^ Tokyo Dome
AT&T Park, San Francisco
+ O.co Coliseum, Oakland
*games broadcast on 95.7 FM The Game
**televised on Comcast SportsNet California

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