



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 2020

A's Select OF Tom and RHP Jimenez in Major League Rule 5 Draft

OAKLAND, Calif. – The Oakland Athletics selected outfielder Ka'ai Tom from the Cleveland organization in the first round of the Major League portion of the Rule 5 Draft and right-handed pitcher Dany Jimenez from the Toronto organization in the second round, the club announced today. The A's also chose right-handed pitcher Zach Jackson from the Toronto organization in the first round of the Triple-A Phase and right-handed pitcher Brett Graves from the Miami organization in the second round.

Tom was selected from the Triple-A Columbus roster in the Cleveland organization in the first round. He was a non-roster invitee with the Indians last spring and hit .318 with three RBI in 14 games. The 26-year-old left-handed hitter was not added to Cleveland's 60-man player pool and did not play in 2020. Tom was originally selected by the Indians in the fifth round of the 2015 First-Year Player Draft out of the University of Kentucky and is a .270 career hitter with 49 home runs, 255 RBI and a 360 on-base percentage in 473 games in five seasons in the Cleveland farm system. The Hawaiian native has played 164 games in left field, 149 in center field and 118 in right field.

Jimenez was selected from the Triple-A Buffalo roster in the Toronto organization in the second round. This is the second consecutive year he was chosen in the Rule 5 draft as he was selected by San Francisco last year. The 26-year-old right-hander made his ML debut with the Giants in 2020 and logged a 6.75 ERA in two relief appearances before he was returned to the Blue Jays. Jimenez did not pitch the rest of the year and is currently playing for Licey in the Dominican Winter League, where he has not allowed a run or a hit in 4.0 innings of relief over five appearances. He has a 19-10 record, 24 saves, a 3.43 ERA and .207 opponents batting average in 104 career appearances, including 11 starts, in five minor league seasons in the Toronto farm system. The native of the Dominican Republic has 257 strikeouts in 197.0 innings, an average of 11.74 per nine innings.

Jackson, 25, was originally drafted by Toronto in the third round of the 2016 First-Year Player Draft out of the University of Arkansas. The right-hander has spent his entire career in the Blue Jays organization, advancing as high as Triple-A Buffalo in 2019. In 46 appearances for Buffalo, he finished 9-0 with a 3.97 ERA and one save in 68.0 innings pitched. He recorded 68 strikeouts, 34 walks, 10 home runs allowed, and a 1.324 WHIP. For his career, he is 14-6 with a 3.07 ERA in 145 games pitched (zero starts), including eight saves, 234 strikeouts, and 123 walks in 199.2 innings of work. Jackson was not part of Toronto's 60-man player pool in 2020 and has yet to make his Major League debut.

Graves, 27 (28 on January 30), spent last season in the Miami organization but did not pitch. The right-hander was 5-5 with a 2.60 ERA (18 er, 62.1 ip) with 73 strikeouts between Double-A Jacksonville (32 games) and Triple-A New Orleans (13) games in 2019. He made 21 relief appearances with Miami in 2018, going 1-1 with a 5.40 ERA (20 er, 33.1 ip) with 21 strikeouts. In six minor league seasons, he is 29-28 with a 4.69 ERA (231 er, 443.2 ip) with 343 strikeouts in 130 games, including 69 starts with Oakland (2014-17) and Miami (2018-2020). He was selected by Oakland in the 3rd round of the 2014 MLB First-Year Player Draft out of the University of Missouri. Miami selected Graves from Oakland during the 2017 Rule 5 Draft.

The A's did not have any players selected by other teams in the Major League portion of the draft. Right-handed pitcher Seth Martinez was chosen by the Houston Astros in the Triple-A phase. Martinez was the A's 17th round selection in the 2016 First-Year Player Draft and is 15-20 with 19 saves and a 3.11 ERA in 108 games, 11 starts, in four seasons in the A's farm system.

– athletics.com –

Contact: Mike Selleck - mselleck@athletics.com