



ROCKHOUNDS BASEBALL

Media Release

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2021

Bobby Crosby Named RockHounds Field Manager

'Hounds Alum & Former American League Rookie of the Year To Guide Club In 2021

The Oakland Athletics have named **Bobby Crosby** as the RockHounds' field manager for the 2021 season.

The 2004 American League Rookie of the Year is both a former player (2002) and coach (2019) with the RockHounds and will make his managerial debut in 2021. He was scheduled to manage the Stockton Ports of the (Advanced-A) California League before the 2020 Minor League season was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Crosby will be joined by pitching coach **Steve Connelly**, hitting coach **Kevin Kouzmanoff**, assistant hitting coach **Juan Dilone**, head athletic trainer **Nick Voelker** and sport performance coach **Matt Mosiman**.

Crosby and Connelly (now in his third season) return from the RockHounds' 2019 field staff while Dilone and Mosiman will make "belated" debuts with the club - both were originally named to the 'Hounds' staff for the 2020 season.

Kouzmanoff, who enters his second season as a coach on the A's farm, played seven seasons in the Major Leagues, including the 2010 season with Oakland and concluding with a brief stint with the Texas Rangers in 2014.

Mosiman was promoted to the RockHounds after spending two seasons with Stockton while Dilone, a 25-year member of the A's organization, spent six seasons (2014-19) as hitting coach for the (Single-A) Beloit Snappers. Voelker spent the 2019 season, his second with Oakland, with the Arizona (Rookie) League Athletics.

The 2021 season marks the 22nd in the affiliation between the RockHounds and Oakland Athletics and the first in the newly structured Minor League alignment.

The RockHounds / A's partnership, which began in 1999, has produced all six of the franchise's outright Texas League championships (including the club's historic "Four-Peat" from 2014-2017). Since winning the first of those championships (in 2005), the RockHounds have reached the playoffs nine times in 15 seasons (and in five of the last six) through 2019. By comparison, the Cubs (1972-84) and Angels (1985-98) eras produced a total of five playoff appearances in 27 seasons.

Bobby Crosby

Manager

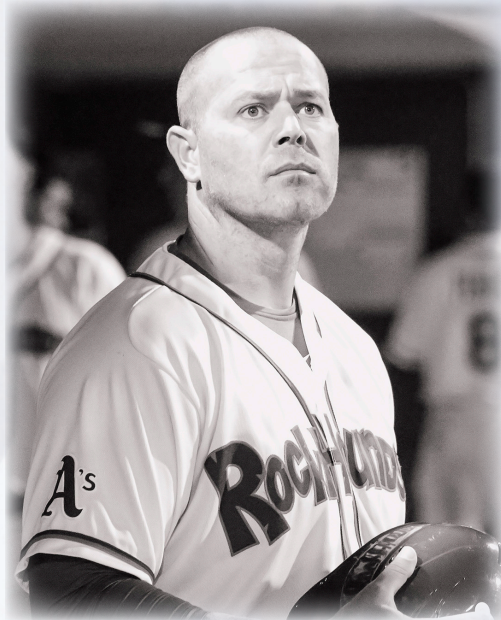


PHOTO BY DANNÉ BRADEN

The 40-year-old native of Lakewood, California, was selected by the A's in the first round of the 2001 draft (the 25th player taken overall) out of Long Beach State University. He reached the (Double-A) RockHounds in 2002, his second pro season (virtually one calendar year after being drafted) and hit .281 with seven home runs and 31 RBI in 59 games.

Bobby went on to make his Major League debut with a September call-up (September 2) in 2003, appearing in 11 games for the A's. The following spring he won the starting shortstop job in Oakland and went on to win the 2004 American League Rookie of the Year Award.

Power was what captured the voters' attention. "BC" ripped 22 home runs for the A's and was a runaway winner in the balloting, capturing 27-of-28 first-place votes.

He became, at that time, the sixth player in Oakland franchise history to win the AL Rookie of the Year Award (joining Jose Canseco and Mark McGwire, among others) and is one of four RockHound alums to claim the award (infielder Angel Berroa and pitchers Huston Street and Andrew Bailey are the others).

While the rookie campaign was, by far, his best, Bobby spent all or parts of eight seasons in The Show, appearing in 747 games and hitting .236 with 62 home runs and 276 RBI.

He was with the A's through the 2009 season before signing with Pittsburgh as a free agent in December of 2009. He hit .224 in 61 games with the Pirates before being traded to Arizona, and finished his career in nine games with the Diamondbacks.

He returned to the Oakland organization in 2019 as a coach on Scott Steinmann's RockHounds' field staff, helping guide the club to a second half South Division championship and a postseason berth.

Oakland had named him manager of (Advanced-A) Stockton before the 2020 season was lost, meaning he will begin his managerial career in the upper minors, certainly a "vote of confidence" in his abilities.

He was originally selected by the Anaheim Angels in the 34th round of the 1998 draft out of La Quinta High School (Westminster, California) but did not sign, instead choosing to attend Long Beach State, where he became Oakland's first-rounder three years later.

His dad, Ed, also played in the Major Leagues (1970-76) and was also an infielder, hitting .220 in 300 games with the Cardinals, Indians and (briefly) the Reds. Bobby's younger brother, Blake, was also drafted by the Athletics (42nd round, 2009) and is now a regional cross checker for the Toronto Blue Jays. Their older brother, Brian, is an artist for Walt Disney Imagineering.



CLASS AA AFFILIATE OF THE OAKLAND A'S



Steve Connelly

Pitching Coach

When Steve joined the Oakland organization as pitching coach with the Vermont Lake Monsters (Short-A New York-Penn League) in 2014, it brought his career "full circle." He had been selected by the A's in the 24th round of the 1995 draft (out of the University of Oklahoma) and went on to reach the Major Leagues in 1998, going 0-0, with a 1.93 earned run average, in three relief appearances with the Athletics.

Now entering his seventh season (eighth year) as a pitching coach on the A's farm, "Cons" spent 2015 with the (Single-A) Beloit Snappers and the following two seasons with the Stockton Ports before being promoted to the RockHounds in 2018.

Prior to returning to the A's as a pitching coach, he had served in the same capacity at the University of Alabama-Huntsville for three years (2011-13).

The native of Long Beach, California, was originally selected by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 25th round of the 1992 draft (out of Woodrow Wilson HS in Long Beach) but elected, instead, to attend Oklahoma. At OU, he was a member of the 1994 College World Series championship club (the Sooners defeated a Georgia Tech team that included future Major Leaguers Nomar Garciaparra, Jason Varitek and Jay Payton) and was drafted by the A's following his junior season in Norman.

After reaching the Show with Oakland in 1998, Steve finished his playing career (1999-2001, 2003) with the Fresno Grizzlies (San Francisco's Triple-A affiliate).

His 2019 RockHounds staff had the fifth-lowest earned run average in franchise's 48-year history (3.92) and was the first to post a collective strikeouts-to-walks ratio of more than three-to-one (3.02).

Kevin Kouzmanoff

Hitting Coach

Kevin went from being a walk-on at the University of Nevada-Reno to becoming a seven-season Major Leaguer (2006-11 and 2014), hitting .257 with 87 home runs and 371 runs batted in just under 700 games (685) in The Show.

After one season at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (2002), he walked on at Nevada, hitting .361 for the Wolf Pack and was selected by Cleveland in the sixth round of the '03 draft.

An exceptional defender, he played for the Indians (2006), Padres ('07-'09), Athletics ('10-'11), Rockies ('11) and Rangers (2014). His tenure with Texas was short, just 13 games (replacing an injured Adrián Beltré), but noteworthy -- he was named American League Player of the Week in his first week with the Rangers.

In 2009, "Kooz" set a National League single-season record for third basemen with a .990 fielding percentage, committing just three errors in 309 total chances and breaking the record of .987 by Colorado's Vinny Castilla (set in 2004). The Hall of Fame in Cooperstown asked Kevin if he would donate his glove to them, to which he replied, "I have to pick the glove. They aren't getting my gamer!"

His Major League debut was, literally, "one for the books." On September 2, 2006, Kevin became the 23rd major leaguer to hit a home run on the first pitch he ever saw in the big leagues. And ... he did it with the bases loaded, **the first "first pitch gland slam" in MLB history** (against the Rangers' Edinson Vólquez).

The 39-year-old California native (he was born in Newport Beach) joined the A's organization as hitting coach for the (Short-Season Single-A) Vermont Lake Monsters in 2019 and was scheduled to serve in the same role with the A's Arizona Rookie League clubs before the 2020 season was lost due to the pandemic.

Juan Dilone

Assistant Hitting Coach

The 2021 season will be Juan's 25th as a member of the Oakland organization, dating back to 1990 when he was signed by the Athletics as a non-drafted free agent. He spent six seasons as a minor league infielder and finished his career with (Advanced-A) Modesto in 1997. He returned in 2002 and now enters his 19th season as a coach / instructor on the A's farm, the last six of those seasons (2014-19) as hitting coach with the Beloit Snappers of (Single-A) Midwest League.

A native of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, "Dilo" and his family now make their home in Higuey, DR.

Nick Voelker

Head Athletic Trainer

Nick joins the RockHounds as the club's head athletic trainer after spending the 2019 season in the same capacity with Oakland's (two) clubs in the Arizona (Rookie) League. In 2018, his first with the Oakland organization, he was with the A's club in the Dominican Summer League and was named DSL Athletic Trainer of the Year.

Before joining the A's, he had been head athletic trainer for the Cincinnati Reds' affiliate in the Dominican League.

He received his bachelor's degree in Athletic Training from the University of Indianapolis in 2014 and earned his master's degree in Sport & Exercise Science in 2017 at the University of Central Florida (Orlando).

Nick is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Matt Mosiman

Sport Performance Coach

Matt also comes to the RockHounds from Stockton (2019), where he served as strength and conditioning coach for the Ports for two seasons. He spent 2017 in the same role with Oakland's club in the Dominican Summer League.

Prior to joining the A's organization, he interned at the University of Notre Dame, New Mexico State University and the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, where he had earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees.

A native of Oregon, Wisconsin, Matt makes his home in Stockton, California.

