



ROCKHOUNDS BASEBALL

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Media Release

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Bobby Crosby To Return As RockHounds Manager Oakland A's Announce 'Hounds Field Staff for the 2022 Season

The Oakland Athletics announced today that **Bobby Crosby** will return as RockHounds' field manager for the 2022 season.

He will be joined by pitching coach **Chris Smith**, hitting coach **Juan Dilone**, assistant hitting coach **Todd Takayoshi**, athletic trainer **Nick Voelker** and sport performance coach **Connor Hughes**. Dilone and Voelker were with the RockHounds in 2021, while Smith, Takayoshi and Hughes are new to the staff.

Crosby made his managerial debut in 2021, guiding the RockHounds to a 69-70 record and a second-place finish in the Double-A Central South Division. The club remained in playoff contention into the final week of the season.

He played in the Major Leagues for eight seasons (2003-10) and was the 2004 American League Rookie of the Year. On his way to the big leagues, he played for the RockHounds in 2002 and later made his coaching debut here as a member of Scott Steinmann's staff in the 2019 season.

Chris Smith comes to the Double-A level after three years (two seasons) with the Stockton Ports. He is a former Major Leaguer, having pitched for the Boston Red Sox (2008), Milwaukee Brewers (2009-10) and the A's (2016-17). Juan Dilone, now in his 27th season as a member of the A's organization, spent six seasons (2014-19) as hitting coach for the (Single-A) Beloit Snappers before joining the RockHounds in 2021. Todd Takayoshi, who played here (briefly) in 1995 with the Angels, joins the Oakland organization after six seasons on the Cincinnati Reds' farm.

In 2022, the RockHounds will celebrate the franchise's 50th Anniversary Season.

The club was "born" in 1972 and spent its first 13 seasons as the Double-A affiliate of the Chicago Cubs. The California Angels were the franchise's Major League parent club from 1985-98 (14 seasons) with the RockHounds / Oakland A's era beginning in 1999.

The RockHounds/ A's partnership, now entering its 23rd season, has produced all six outright league championships in franchise history (the 'Hounds captured the Texas League title in 2005, 2009 and four consecutive crowns from 2014-17).

Bobby Crosby *Manager*

The 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 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; he 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 the time, the sixth player in Oakland franchise history to be named American League 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 that year. He hit .224 in 61 games with the Pirates before being traded to Arizona and finished his career playing 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.

Bobby was scheduled to make his managerial debut with the Stockton Ports (of what was then the Advanced-A California League) in 2020 before the season was lost due to COVID. As a result, his first season as a manager came at the Double-A level.

(continued)



FRANCHISE EST. 1972

DOUBLE-A AFFILIATE OF THE OAKLAND A'S SINCE 1999

TEXAS LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2005 * 2009 * 2014 * 2015 * 2016 * 2017





RockHounds 2022 Field Staff Announced

Bobby Crosby *(continued)*

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

Bobby's dad, Ed, played in the Major Leagues from 1970-76 and was also an infielder, hitting .220 in 300 games with the Cardinals, Indians and Reds.

Chris Smith *Pitching Coach*

Chris Smith joins the RockHounds as the club's pitching coach after serving in the same capacity with Stockton in 2019 and 2021 (the Ports were Oakland's Advanced-A club from 2005-2019 before being reassigned to the Low-A level as part of the restructuring of the minor leagues in 2021).

He made the transition to coaching after finishing his five-year Major League career in 2017 with the A's.

Chris was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the fourth round of the 2002 draft out of the University of California, Riverside, and went on to a 15-year professional career, including stints with the Boston, Milwaukee, Oakland, San Diego and Seattle organizations. He made his Major League debut in June 2008 (with the Red Sox) and went 1-4 with a career 5.41 ERA in 77 MLB games. He also recorded 58 wins with a 3.86 ERA in 316 games in 14 seasons in the affiliated minors.

His career path is remarkable. After being released by Seattle in 2011, he returned to UC Riverside to pursue his college degree and perhaps begin his coaching career. Instead, he was convinced by a friend to return to pitching and, beginning with a two-year stint in the independent leagues, returned to The Show with Oakland in 2016 ... a span of six years between big league appearances.

Juan Dilone *Hitting Coach*

The 2022 season will be Juan's 27th 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 to the organization in 2002 and now enters his 21st season as a coach / instructor on the A's farm. Before being promoted to the RockHounds in 2021, he had spent four seasons (2016-19) as hitting coach with the Beloit Snappers of (Single-A) Midwest League.

Todd Takayoshi *Assistant Hitting Coach*

Todd is actually a franchise alum ... he was, briefly, a member of the 1995 Midland Angels during his minor league playing career.

He joins the A's organization after spending six years (five seasons) as a hitting coach with Cincinnati, most recently with the Reds' Double-A club, the Chattanooga Lookouts, in 2021. He previously had been with Cincinnati's Arizona Rookie League and Pioneer (Advanced Rookie) League clubs.

He also spent three seasons as the assistant hitting coordinator for the Los Angeles Dodgers and began his coaching career with an 11-year stint with the Angels, including six seasons (2007-12) as the club's roving hitting coordinator.

One of the top hitters in the University of Hawaii's history, Todd's playing career included four seasons with the Angels (1993-96) followed by two in the independent ranks. He was a two-time minor league batting champion and hit .407 with Reno of the (independent) Western League in 1997.

Nick Voelker *Athletic Trainer*

Nick joined the RockHounds as the club's head athletic trainer last season after spending 2019 in the same capacity with Oakland's (two) clubs in the Arizona (Rookie) League. He spent 2018, his first with the Oakland organization, in the Dominican Summer League and was named DSL Athletic Trainer of the Year. Before joining the A's, he had served as head athletic trainer for the Cincinnati Reds' affiliate in the Dominican League.

The Indianapolis, Indiana, native 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).

Connor Hughes *Sport Performance Coach*

Connor enters his fourth season with the A's organization. He spent 2021 as sport performance coach for the Lansing Lugnuts, Oakland's affiliate in the High-A Central. The of Minden, Nevada, native has a B.S. in Kinesiology from Boise State University.



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