



ROCKHOUNDS

BASEBALL

Media Release

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8 2018

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RockHounds Field Staff Is Back ... "Plus One"

Manager Scott Steinmann Returns For Second Season; RockHound Alum & Former AL Rookie of the Year Bobby Crosby Joins Staff

The RockHounds will have a familiar look "at the top" for the 2019 Texas League season.

The Oakland Athletics today announced that the RockHounds' field staff will return intact, led by **Scott Steinmann**, who enters his second season as the club's field manager. He will be joined by pitching coach **Steve Connelly**, hitting coach **Tommy Everidge**, Athletic Trainer **Justin Whitehouse** and strength & conditioning coach **Omar Aguilar**, all returning from the 2018 club.

Also joining the staff is former RockHound and American League Rookie of the Year **Bobby Crosby**, who will serve as a coach.

Steinmann's second season with the RockHounds, Oakland's Double-A affiliate (see below), will be his third overall with the A's. He came to the organization after spending 17 seasons as a coach and manager on the Seattle Mariners' farm and managed the Beloit Snappers, Oakland's affiliate in the (Single-A) Midwest League club, in 2017 before being promoted to the 'Hounds last season.

Both Connelly and Everidge joined the RockHounds' staff last season after spending 2016 and 2017 with the Stockton Ports (Oakland's affiliate in the Advanced-A California League). Whitehouse, now in his 12th year as the club's Athletic Trainer, joined the RockHounds in 2008 and has been part of five of the franchise's six outright Texas League championship clubs. Aguilar enters his second year with the club.

The RockHounds will look to "pick up where they left off" from 2018. Despite missing the playoffs for the first time in five seasons, the 'Hounds were the league's best team over the last three weeks of the season, winning 17-of-their-last-21 games.

The 'Hounds begin the 2019 season on Thursday, April 4, at Frisco, and host the RoughRiders one week later (April 11) in the home opener at Security Bank Ballpark.

The Texas League enters a new era, of sorts, following the departure of the San Antonio franchise (the Missions are now part of the Triple-A Pacific Coast League). Amarillo, returning to the league for the first time since 1982, will join Corpus Christi, Frisco and the RockHounds in the Texas League South Division, with Arkansas, Northwest Arkansas, Springfield and (defending league champion) Tulsa again comprising the North.

The 2019 season also marks the 21st in the affiliation between the RockHounds and Oakland Athletics, a partnership that has produced all six of the franchise's outright Texas League championships (all, remarkably, in the last 14 seasons, including the historic "Four-Peat" from 2014-2017). The A's amazing run to the 2018 American League playoffs was fueled, in part, by Gold Glove corner infielders (and RockHound alums) Matt Chapman (2014 & 2016) and Matt Olson (2015).

SCOTT STEINMANN **MANAGER**

The 45-year-old Ohio native (born in Cincinnati) played college baseball at Miami University (Oxford, OH) and was signed by the Seattle Mariners as a non-drafted free agent on August 3, 1995. He played three seasons as a first baseman and outfielder on the M's farm (1996-98), reaching the Double-A level in his third season, before being released in October of 1998.

"Steiny" transitioned directly into coaching, also with Seattle, in 1999, serving as a roving catching instructor before joining the field staff of the Everett AquaSox (Short-A, Northwest League). In 17 seasons with Mariners, he served as a coach and manager at virtually every level of the club's minor league system.

His tenure with Seattle included nine managerial seasons, including the Arizona Rookie League (Peoria, 2003-04 and 2011) ... three stints in the (Single-A) Midwest League (Wisconsin in 2005 and Clinton in 2009, 2014-15) ... Advanced-A (High Desert, California League, in 2007) and one season (2008) at the Double-A level, when he led the West Tenn Diamond Jaxx (Jackson, Tennessee) to a first half division pennant in the Southern League.

His 2005 club, the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, reached the Midwest League championship series and his 2014 club made a different kind of history. Trailing the Burlington Bees, 17-1 (May 7 at Burlington, Iowa), the Clinton LumberKings rallied back with 19 unanswered runs for a remarkable 20-17 win, thought to be the largest deficit ever overcome in a minor league game.

In addition to managing, he also served as a coach with Everett (1999, 2010 and 2012), Wisconsin (2000-01), San Bernardino (Advanced-A California League in 2002), Peoria (2006) and the Tacoma Rainiers of the (Triple-A) Pacific Coast League in 2013.

The 2019 season will be his third with the A's organization. His Beloit club went 65-73 in the (Single-A) Midwest League in 2017.

Scott and his wife, Suzy, now make their home in Chandler, Arizona, with daughter, Alex, and son, Ben.

STEVE CONNELLY **PITCHING COACH**

The 44-year-old Long Beach, California, native began his professional playing career with Oakland after being selected in the 24th round of the 1995 draft out of the University of Oklahoma. He briefly reached the Major Leagues in 1998, going 0-0, with a 1.93 earned run average, in three relief appearances with the A's.

He returned to the organization, and began his professional coaching career, with the Vermont Lake Monsters (Short-A New York-Penn League) in 2014. After one season with (Single-A) Beloit, Steve spent 20016 and 2017 with the Stockton Ports (Advanced-A / California League) before being promoted to the RockHounds.

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).

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(STEVE CONNELLY, CONTINUED)

Originally selected by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 25th round of the 1992 draft (out of Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach, CA), he elected to attend the University of 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, he finished his playing career (1999-2001, 2003) with the Fresno Grizzlies (San Francisco's Triple-A club).

Steve and his wife, Emily, have four children (Vee, John, Lochlan and Atkins) and make their home in Huntsville, Alabama.

TOMMY EVERIDGE HITTING COACH

One of the most prolific power hitters in franchise history, Tommy returned to the RockHounds in a coaching capacity in 2018 after spending parts of three seasons with the club (2007-09) during his seven-year playing career.

Oakland's 10th round selection in the 2004 draft out of Sonoma State University (Rohnert Park, California), Everidge was named to the Texas League Postseason All-Star Team in 2008 after leading the league with 115 RBI. That total ranks fifth all-time in franchise history and is the most in the Security Bank Ballpark era (which began in 2002). Ten of his ribbies came in one game (May 26 at Tulsa), in which he went 4-for-6 with two home runs (one of them a grand slam). In the Texas League's 130-year history, he remains one of just seven players to amass 10 (or more) RBI in a single game.

Despite his outstanding production, Tommy found himself back with the 'Hounds to open the 2009 season. He responded by hitting .329 with 53 RBI in 55 games before receiving a long overdue promotion to Triple-A. He finished the '09 season in the Major Leagues with Oakland, appearing in 24 games with the A's.

His first coaching assignment with the A's came with (Short-A) Vermont in 2014 (along with Steve Connelly) and he spent two seasons with the New York-Penn League Lake Monsters. Now in his sixth year as a coach, he was promoted to the RockHounds after spending 2016 and 2017 with the (Advanced-A) Stockton Ports.

The 35-year-old is a native of the Bay Area, born in Glen Ellen (California). Tommy continues to make his home there with his wife, Kellie, and daughter, Allison.

BOBBY CROSBY COACH

The 25th overall selection in the 2002 draft (by Oakland) out of Long Beach State University, Crosby played parts of eight seasons in the Major Leagues and was named the 2004 American League Rookie of the Year after hitting 22 home runs with 64 RBI for the A's.

The second-generation big leaguer (his dad, Ed, played in parts of six seasons in the 1970's) spent all or part of 2003-09 with Oakland before finishing his playing career (62 HR and 247 RBI in 747 games) with the Pirates and Diamondbacks in 2010.

Bobby was promoted to the RockHounds from Modesto, which was then one of two A's affiliates in the (Advanced-A) California League, midway through the 2003 season. He hit .281 in 59 games with the 'Hounds, with seven home runs and 31 RBI and made his big league debut the following season.

The coaching position is the first of his professional career for the 38-year-old native of Lakewood, California.

JUSTIN WHITEHOUSE ATHLETIC TRAINER

The Stockton, California, native enters his 19th season with the A's organization; his 12th as a member of the RockHounds field staff. In more than a decade as a member of the RockHounds field staff, Justin has been part of five of the franchise's six Texas League championship clubs (2009 and the 2014-17 "Four-Peat") and now has the longest tenure of any player or field staff member during the Oakland era (and, quite probably, in franchise history).

He joined Oakland's minor league training staff in 2001 and spent his first seven seasons at the Single-A level, beginning with a two-year stint with Visalia, at that time one of Oakland's two California League affiliates. Kane County (Midwest League) then replaced Visalia as an A's affiliate and he spent the next five seasons (2003-07) with the Cougars (and was named Midwest League Athletic Trainer of the Year in the last of the those seasons). He was promoted to the RockHounds in 2008 and was also selected to work the prestigious Arizona Fall League at the end of that season.

He is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno (with a bachelor's degree in health education) and his wife, Susan, is a member of the Wolfpack's Athletic Hall of Fame (swimming & diving). Justin and Susan, who have two children (Cassie and Lance), make their home in Reno.

A Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC), Justin earned his master's degree (physical education with an emphasis in athletic training and biomechanics) at San Diego State University. His résumé also includes two seasons (1997 and 1998) as an intern with the San Francisco 49ers, working the club's spring and summer training camps.

OMAR AGUILAR STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH

Now in his sixth season with the A's organization, Aguilar returns as the RockHounds' strength & conditioning coach after previously serving in the same position with the (Midwest League) Beloit Snappers in 2017.

He is a magna cum laude graduate of Inter-American University of Puerto Rico (with a bachelor's degree in Sport Technology) and is pursuing his master's at Logan University (Chesterfield, Missouri). Omar, whose background also includes the US Army's Officer Candidate School (2012-13), began his baseball career as a strength coach with the Los Angeles Dodgers Arizona (Rookie) League club in 2012. He has also worked as a strength and conditioning coordinator with Major League Baseball's development program in Latin America.

