



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## A's, Blue Jays, Devil Rays & Reds Claim Two Topps/Minor League Players of Year

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.--The Cincinnati, Oakland, Tampa Bay and Toronto organizations each have had two of their farmhands named the Topps Player of the Year in their respective leagues. The George M. Trautman Awards are given annually in each of the 16 domestic affiliated leagues by the Topps Company of New York in conjunction with Minor League Baseball. Overall, 12 different Major League organizations are represented.

Wichita's Alex Gordon highlights the list. The Texas League third baseman, and Kansas City farmhand, was earlier named as the overall Minor League Baseball Player of the Year by Topps. Joey Votto (Chattanooga/Cincinnati) paced the Southern League in batting average and in eight other offensive categories. His 46 doubles tied for tops in the Minors.

Ten of the honorees finished in the top three in their league in either runs batted in or slugging percentage. Kevin Witt (International), Cody Ehlers (Florida State), Jeff Baisley (Midwest) and Eugenio Velez (South Atlantic) joined Votto in finishing in the top three in both.

Topps salutes the top performances throughout Minor League Baseball, including monthly awards and all-star teams in each classification.

### 2006 TOPPS/MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS-OF-THE-YEAR

League	Player	Club/Organization	Pos.	AVG	HR	RBI	W-L-ERA
International	Kevin Witt	Durham/Tampa Bay	1B	.291	36	99	
Pacific Coast	Scott McClain	Sacramento/Oakland	3B	.252	28	107	
Eastern	Adam Lind	New Hampshire/Toronto	OF	.310	19	71	
Southern	Joey Votto	Chattanooga/Cincinnati	1B	.319	22	77	
Texas	Alex Gordon	Wichita/Kansas City	3B	.325	29	101	
California	Reid Brignac	Visalia/Tampa Bay	SS	.326	21	83	
Carolina	Jordan Brown	Kinston/Cleveland	OF	.290	15	87	
Florida State	Cody Ehlers	Tampa/New York-AL	1B	.298	18	106	
Midwest	Jeff Baisley	Kane County/Oakland	3B	.298	22	110	
South Atlantic	Eugenio Velez	Augusta/San Francisco	2B	.315	14	90	
NY-Penn	Jordan Parraz	Tri-City/Houston	OF	.336	6	38	
Northwest	Cyle Hankerd	Yakima/Arizona	OF	.384	4	38	
Appalachian	Travis Snider	Pulaski/Toronto	OF	.325	11	41	
Pioneer	Chris Valaika	Billings/Cincinnati	SS	.324	8	60	
Gulf Coast	Clayton Kershaw	Dodgers/Los Angeles-NL	P				2-0-1.95
Arizona	Cedric Hunter	Padres/San Diego	OF	.371	1	44	

*(Statistics do not reflect players' performances in other leagues.)*

**NEXT: Topps' Class Triple-A All-Star Team, Nov. 7**

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