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## MITCH GARVER AND AARON SLEGERS NAMED 2017 TWINS MINOR LEAGUE PLAYER AND PITCHER OF THE YEAR

**Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN**—The Minnesota Twins announced today that catcher **Mitch Garver** has been named the 2017 Sherry Robertson Award winner as the Twins Minor League Player of the Year and right-handed pitcher **Aaron Slegers** has been named the 2017 Jim Rantz Award winner as the Twins Minor League Pitcher of the Year.

Garver, 26, split the season between Triple-A Rochester and Minnesota, combining to hit .279 (102-for-366) with 30 doubles, 17 home runs and 48 RBI in 111 games. The 6-foot-1, 220-pound catcher was named International League Player of the Week in early July and was named an International League Postseason All-Star.

The Albuquerque, New Mexico native was selected by the Twins in the ninth round of the 2013 First-Year Player Draft out of the University of New Mexico. He appeared in 23 games for the Twins this season, playing catcher, first base and outfield. In parts of five minor league seasons, he has hit .271 (493-for-1819) with 127 doubles, 51 home runs and 286 RBI in 508 games.

Slegers, 25, spent nearly the entire season with Triple-A Rochester, going 15-4 with a 3.40 ERA (148.1 IP, 56 ER), 29 walks and 119 strikeouts in 24 starts. He made his major league debut in August and appeared in four games (3 starts) for the Twins. Slegers led the Twins minor league system in wins, innings pitched and starts. Additionally, he led all of Triple-A in wins and was tied for first among all Minor League Baseball farmhands in wins. The 6-foot-10, 245-pound pitcher earned International League Pitcher of the Week honors in mid-July.

The Scottsdale, Arizona native was selected by the Twins in the fifth round of the 2013 First-Year Player Draft out of Indiana University. In parts of five minor league seasons, he has posted a record of 43-29 with a 3.50 ERA (601.0 IP, 234 ER), 134 walks and 447 strikeouts in 106 games (97 starts).

The Sherry Robertson Award, named in honor of the Twins' first farm director, was established in 1970 to recognize the top Twins minor league performer each season. Since 2002, the award has recognized the Twins Minor League Player of the Year while an additional award has been created to recognize the Twins Minor League Pitcher of the Year. This award was named in honor of former Twins Minor League Director and Twins Hall of Famer Jim Rantz. Past winners of the Sherry Robertson Award include Butch Wynegar (1974), Kent Hrbek (1981), Gene Larkin (1986), Paul Sorrento (1989), Denny Neagle (1990), Marty Cordova (1992), LaTroy Hawkins (1993 and '94), Todd Walker (1996), David Ortiz (1997), Doug Mientkiewicz (1998), Michael Cuddyer (2001), Joe Mauer (2003), Jason Kubel (2004), Brian Dozier (2011), Byron Buxton (2013), Kennys Vargas (2014), Max Kepler (2015) and Zack Granite (2016). Past winners of the Jim Rantz award include Jesse Crain (2003), Scott Baker (2004), Francisco Liriano (2005), Matt Garza (2006), Kyle Gibson (2010), José Berríos (2014 and '15) and Stephen Gonsalves (2016).

Garver and Slegers, along with the other Twins 2017 award winners, will be recognized at the 13th Annual Diamond Awards dinner, which will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2018.



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## SHERRY ROBERTSON AWARD WINNERS

1970	Mark Wiley	1986	Gene Larkin	2003	Joe Mauer
1971	Steve Brye	1987	Mike Dyer	2004	Jason Kubel
1972	Tom Smithson	1988	Pete Delkus	2005	David Winfree
1973	Craig Kusick	1989	Paul Sorrento	2006	Alexi Casilla
1974	Butch Wynegar	1990	Denny Neagle	2007	Brian Buscher
1975	Steve Luebber	1991	Pat Mahomes	2008	Ben Revere
1976	Dan Graham	1992	Marty Cordova	2009	Ben Revere
1977	Greg Field	1993	LaTroy Hawkins	2010	Joe Benson
1978	Steve Douglas	1994	LaTroy Hawkins	2011	Brian Dozier
1979	Steve Green	1995	Javier Valentin	2012	Oswaldo Arcia
1980	Bob Konopa	1996	Todd Walker	2013	Byron Buxton
1981	Bob Konopa	1997	David Ortiz	2014	Kennys Vargas
1982	Jeff Reed	1998	Doug Mientkiewicz	2015	Max Kepler
1983	Tim Teufel	1999	Michael Restovich	2016	Zack Granite
1984	Curt Wardle	2000	John Barnes	2017	<b>Mitch Garver</b>
1985	Mark Davidson	2001	Michael Cuddyer		
		2002	Lew Ford		

## JIM RANTZ AWARD WINNERS

2002	J.D. Durbin	2008	Anthony Slama	2014	José Berríos
2003	Jesse Crain	2009	David Bromberg	2015	José Berríos
2004	Scott Baker	2010	Kyle Gibson	2016	Stephen Gonsalves
2005	Francisco Liriano	2011	Liam Hendriks	2017	<b>Aaron Slegers</b>
2006	Matt Garza	2012	B.J. Hermsen		
2007	Kevin Slowey	2013	Andrew Albers		

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