



Day two of the prospect countdown rolls on, and today we'll tackle the #55-51 prospects in the system. We'll look at a soft-tossing righty, the Cook twins, the best moustache in the organization and a catcher-turned-first baseman who needs to improve his power output to regain some of his prospect standing. We're barely two days into the countdown, and I'm already second-guessing myself on whether or not I have at least one guy ranked too low on this list.

55. Mason Radeke, RHP

DOB: 6/13/1990

Height/Weight: 6-1/175 lb.

Bats/Throws: Right/Right

Acquired: 35th round pick in the 2011 MLB draft

2012 Stats: 8-7 with 1 SV and a 3.28 ERA with 119 K and 26 BB in 115 1/3 IP between Akron and Lake County

Scouting Report: Radeke was selected in the 35th round out of Cal Poly in 2011, and signed early enough to throw 43 2/3 innings in 9 starts for the Scrappers that same year. He spent the majority of 2012 with low-A Lake County, but did appear in 3 games for the Aeros. He threw 6 innings in AA, allowing just 1 ER and striking out a pair. With the Captains, he put up a 3.38 ERA in 109 1/3 innings, striking out 117 and walking just 24. He began the season in the bullpen, but transitioned to the rotation mid-year and went 2-5 with a 3.68 ERA as a starter. It was an impressive performance for Radeke in his first full professional season, one that the 22-year old Radeke will need to build on in 2013 to stay on track with respect to his age and level.

Despite the solid strikeout numbers, Radeke is more of a command and control guy than a hard throwing K machine. His fastball sits in the high 80's, and has some natural sink and nice arm side run. He also throws a curve, slider and changeup, and he commands all four pitches well. He is comfortable throwing any of them in any count, and it helps him keep hitter off balance because they never know what's coming. He walked just 2 batters per 9 IP last season while striking out 9.3, so it's clear that when he's locating his pitches he can get low-A hitters out pretty consistently.

As Radeke rises through the organizational ranks, it's going to be tougher and tougher for him to get by on command and control alone. His fastball velocity is below average, and it's tough for RHP who don't crack the 90 MPH barrier to make it to The Show. Still, he's done everything the Indians have asked him to so far in his career, so it's hard to just completely dismiss the results he's been able to produce. He'll likely begin 2013 with high-A Carolina, and the Carolina League hitters will test his ability to locate all four of his pitches very early on.

Glass half-full: A back of the rotation starter

Glass half-empty: A swingman out of the bullpen





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