



Day three of the countdown is unofficial outfielder day! We're going to take an in-depth look at three of the outfielders in the system, only one of which has played at the AA level. All three are above-average to plus runners, and all three can contribute with the glove as well as with the bat. In addition to the outfielders, we're going to get a look at my favorite catcher in the system and a soft-tossing southpaw who is looking to bounce back from an injury-plagued 2012 season here in 2013.

50. Bryson Myles, OF

DOB: 9/18/1989

Height/Weight: 5-11/230 lb.

Bats/Throws: Right/Right

Acquired: 6<sup>th</sup> round pick in the 2011 MLB draft

2012 Stats: .290/.355/.379 with 3 HR, 59 RBI and 20 SB in 102 games with Lake County

Scouting Report: Myles was selected in the 6<sup>th</sup> round of the 2011 draft out of Stephen F. Austin State, and is build more like a linebacker than an outfielder. In fact, coming out of high school Myles had a scholarship offer from TCU to play football but elected to pursue baseball instead. His senior year at Stephen F. Austin, Myles led all of college baseball with 53 stolen bases, and also popped 8 HR. Myles signed early enough in the process to play 50 games with the Mahoning Valley Scrappers in 2011, and he swiped 20 more bags in 27 attempts as a professional, along with putting up a .795 OPS. He played all of 2012 with low-A Lake County, and had another solid season at the plate with a .734 OPS and 20 more stolen bases, but this time he was caught stealing 12 times as well. Myles actually isn't a burner, but he's a 60 runner with outstanding instincts and does a nice job reading pitchers and getting good jumps. As he gets higher and higher in the organization though, stealing bases will become increasingly difficult as pitchers do a better job holding runners on as they mature and gain experience.

At the plate, Myles has below-average power, as he's hit just 4 HR in 561 career at bats. He did hit 20 doubles and a pair of triples last season, and drove in 59 runs. He has a very flat, line drive swing and does a very good job making consistent contact. He hit .290 last year, and struck out 85 times. He's a good bunter, both for base hits and when he's asked to lay down a sacrifice.

Defensively, Myles was a CF in college but will end up in an OF corner as a professional. As mentioned, his speed is above average but not plus, and his arm is only about average. He's played 24 games in CF since turning pro, but his 85 games in LF last year will be much more of the norm for Myles. He should be an above average defender in LF, but probably doesn't have the arm for RF.

Myles has been solid but not spectacular in his two seasons as a professional. He'll be 23 for the 2013 season, and will likely start off in high-A Carolina. The Carolina League can be a challenging environment for hitters, so if Myles can even repeat his 2012 numbers that would be considered a step in the right direction for the young OF. His bat doesn't really project well to an outfield corner, but he also doesn't project to have the defensive chops for CF. Myles will have to take some steps forward with the bat to avoid the dreaded "tweener" label, or else he'll end up as more of a 4<sup>th</sup> OF than a starter.

Glass half-full: A 2<sup>nd</sup> division starter in LF

Glass half-empty: A 4<sup>th</sup> OF



49. Roberto Perez, C

DOB: 12/23/1988

Height/Weight: 6-0/227 lb.

Bats/Throws: Right/Right

Acquired: 33<sup>rd</sup> round pick in the 2008 MLB draft

2012 Stats: .212/.336/.293 with 1 HR and 31 RBI in 95 games with Akron

Scouting Report: Perez has four professional seasons under his belt, and is the owner of a career triple slash line of .234/.364/.336. He's risen steadily through the organization, splitting his rookie 2009 between Arizona, Mahoning Valley and Lake County before playing the entire 2011 season in Kinston and then spending last year with Akron. As you see from his raw numbers, Perez is not going to be an impact bat behind the plate. But he's an elite defensive catcher, and that's something that can be invaluable regardless of his contributions on the offensive side of the ledger.

At the plate, Perez is a below-average hitter with below-average power. His career average in 362 minor league games is .234, and he's hit just 12 HR. Considering his lack of power, he has a surprisingly productive approach, drawing 216 walks and striking out 285 times in his four seasons with the Indians organization. His on-base ability did take a step backwards last season, as Perez drew 49 walks in 95 games after walking 80 and 62 times in 2010 and 2011, respectively. If Perez can get his walk rate back up, he could provide some value at the plate, but he's never going to be a weapon offensively.

Defensively is another story. Perez is one of the best defensive catchers in all of minor league baseball. He has an elite arm and incredibly quick actions, getting the ball down to 2<sup>nd</sup> base faster than anyone I've ever seen in the minors. He gunned down 35 of the 86 runners who tried to steal on him last season, an impressive 41% CS percentage. When a runner steals on Perez, the base is usually stolen more on the pitcher than on the catcher. He gets the ball out of his hand quickly, and makes strong, consistent throws that make it easy on the middle infielders applying the tags on the receiving end. His pop times are consistently in the sub-two second range, and I've recorded a couple of 1.8's and even a 1.7, which is outstanding. He loves throwing behind runners when they are napping on the bases, frequently picking guys off of first base who sleep on Perez's arm. He has quick feet, moving extremely well behind the plate,

doing a nice job blocking pitches in the dirt and keeping the ball in front of him. He calls an excellent game and does a nice job working with pitchers. Every pitcher in the organization who I ask about throwing to Roberto raves about the experience, talking about how much they enjoy it when he's behind the plate. Perez has no weaknesses behind the plate, doing everything you'd expect out of a Gold Glove catcher.

Perez has the defensive chops to catch in the major leagues right now. The question is whether or not his bat will hold him back from ever making it to The Show. He's up with the big club in spring training, but will likely be sent down to minor league camp in mid-March. He doesn't project as an everyday starter at the major league level, but can carve out a role as a career defense-oriented backup. Sal Fasano managed to stick around for 11 major league seasons despite a career OPS of just .687, because he was a good defender and a positive presence in the clubhouse. Perez can be that type of guy; his defense is just that good. He could start out back with AA Akron in 2013, but the 24-year old is ready to handle AAA pitchers any time the Indians need him in Columbus.

Glass half-full: An elite defensive backup catcher

Glass half-empty: Remember Wyatt Toreagas? Exactly.





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