



There's no stopping this train now that it is out of the station. In today's always-exciting installment of the Indians Prospect Countdown, we're going to take a look at a pair of first baseman who are new to the organization as of this offseason, coming over from other AL rivals. We're also going in-depth with a pitcher and a catcher who had disappointing 2012 campaigns with the Lake County Captains and are looking to rebuild their value in the organization, and a flamethrowing righty reliever who just cannot seem to stay healthy and on the mound.

40. Mike McDade, 1B

DOB: 5/8/1989

Height/Weight: 6-1/250 lb.

Bats/Throws: Switch/Right

Acquired: Via trade in 2012 for Esmil Rodgers

2012 Stats: .285/.360/.445 with 19 HR and 67 RBI between AAA Las Vegas and AA New

Hampshire

Scouting Report: Acquired in the Esmil Rodgers deal, McDade is a first baseman who will turn 24 this May. He was originally drafted out of high school in the 6th round of the MLB draft back in 2007, and had spent his entire career in the Blue Jays organization. Last season was his first exposure to AAA pitching, and in 18 games with Las Vegas he posted an .885 OPS and popped a pair of HR. Small sample size, but encouraging nonetheless.

McDade's career minor league numbers are underwhelming for a 1B; he's hit .265/.323/.420 with 76 HR in 630 games. But since the 2009 season in Lansing, McDade has been a different player. After hitting just 6 HR in his first two MiLB seasons, McDade hit 16, 21, 16 and 17 bombs from the 2009-2012 season. So 70 of McDade's HR have come in his last 479 games, a much better ratio. Still not quite what you're looking for in a middle of the order 1B, but better.

McDade is a switch hitter, and actually has better splits as a lefthanded hitter. Over the last two seasons, he's posted an .819 OPS against righthanded pitching and a .709 OPS against southpaws. That OPS difference is fueled by the fact that 24 of McDade's 32 HR have come from the left side of the plate.

McDade is on the 40-man roster, and his spot survived every time the Indians added a new player even as guys like Russ Canzler and Thomas Neal were being DFA'd. The Indians clearly like what they have in McDade, and feel like he has a future in the organization. He'll be in the mix for at bats at 1B in Columbus in 2013, and he should fare well in the high-octane offensive environment that is Huntington Park. His road to the corner of Carnegie and Ontario is unclear with the presence of Mark Reynolds and Nick Swisher, but Reynolds was signed to a one-year deal, so the Indians could easily find themselves in need of a 1B/DH come 2014, and McDade will be waiting in the wings.

Glass half-full: A 2nd division starter at 1B

Glass half-empty: McDade doesn't develop enough power to be an everyday 1B





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