



Well Tribe fans, we're about to break into the top 20 prospects in the Indians organization. A sincere thanks for following along on our little ride, and I promise we're on the home stretch here. Today, we'll look at a power hitting 1B who has a little trouble with the slider, a tantalizing young OF from Venezuela, a 2012 draftee with a heart of gold, a(nother) power righthanded reliever who's dealing with some injury issues and a southpaw starter who is one of the most entertaining interviews in the entire organization, even if he is an LSU fan.

20. Jesus Aguilar, 1B

DOB: 6/30/1990

Height/Weight: 6-3/240 lbs

Bats/Throws: Right/Right

Acquired: International free agent in 2007

2012 Stats: .280/.372/.461 with 15 HR and 71 RBI in 127 games between Carolina and Akron

Scouting Report: Aguilar is one of the few power corner IF prospects in the Indians system. He's a big, big kid who looks like the 6'3" 240 lb official listing might be a bit low. He has impressive raw power, and when he really gets into a pitch it can go a long, long ways. His raw power is up there with anyone in the system, but as Aguilar has risen through the system the power has struggled to show up in game situations. He broke out with an .865 OPS and 23 HR in 2011, mostly in the low-A Midwest League with the Lake County Captains. But in 2012 with the Carolina Mudcats, he managed just 12 HR in 107 games. He did have an impressive run with AA Akron to close out the season, putting up a .292/.402/.500 line with 3 HR and 13 RBI in 20 games in the Eastern League. But his K rate also jumped when he was promoted to AA, as he struck out 24 times in those 20 games after whiffing just 91 times in 107 Carolina League contests.

Aguilar's power is really his only plus tool. His hit tool is average, and he's still susceptible to breaking balls down and out of the strike zone. He can turn around a fastball as well as anyone in the minor league system, which was proven in his at-bats against uber-prospect Dylan Bundy. Aguilar collected hits against Bundy in the Carolina League, Eastern League playoffs and the MLB Futures Game last season, all while facing Bundy's upper-90's heat. But to be a more complete hitter, he's got to get better with his pitch recognition and selection. As he progresses through the minor league levels, breaking balls are just going to get better and better, and his approach will be exploited by more advanced pitching.

Aguilar's defense is considered below average, although it is improving. He's really working hard at that aspect of his game, as last year in Spring Training he'd go out onto the fields as much as an hour early to take groundballs from minor league instructor Travis Fryman. But his range remains below average, even as he continues to improve his hands. Aguilar is a bat-only prospect at 1B, and guys like that really have to mash in order to make it to The Show. 15 HR

and a .461 SLG is decent, but it's not mashing, and Aguilar's power stroke will have to come back if he wants to continue to advance up the organizational ladder.

Aguilar should begin 2013 back in AA Akron, which will be a challenge for the soon to be 23-year old 1B. If he can clean up his approach and do a better job laying off of breaking balls (particularly sliders) down and out of the strike zone, he can make pitchers come to him with fastballs in the zone more often. And if he gets a mistake up in the strike zone, he can really make pitchers pay. If his approach remains the same or even regresses, then Aguilar will have real trouble with AA pitching.

Glass half-full: A middle of the order presence at 1B

Glass half-empty: Pedro Cerrano before Jobu taught him to hit the curveball

19. Anthony Santander, LF

DOB: 10/19/1994

Height/Weight: 6-2/187 lbs

Bats/Throws: Switch/Right

Acquired: International free agent in 2011

2012 Stats: .305/.381/.494 with 4 HR and 23 RBI in 43 games with Rookie Arizona

Scouting Report: Santander was one of the Indians big signings out of the international market in 2011, along with shortstop Dorssys Paulino. Santander was born and raised in Venezuela, and signed with the Indians for \$385,000. He made his stateside debut in the complex leagues as a 17-year old last season, and more than held his own with an .874 OPS in 43 games with the Rookie League Indians.

Santander is going to make his money with his bat. He has an above-average hit tool, and even though he just started switch-hitting a couple of years ago he's already showing promise from both sides of the plate. He's not an elite athlete, but has a smooth, clean swing from both sides of the plate and does a nice job getting the bat on the ball. His power projects to be above average, as he's got quite a bit of room to fill out on his 6'2" frame. Adding strength and good weight will help him become a potential impact bat down the road.

Defensively, Santander has above-average speed but a below-average arm so he'll likely be limited to LF at higher levels in the system. He played nine games in RF last year, but unless his arm takes a big step forward he's not going to be able to play in right beyond Arizona. Even with the limited defensive profile, Santander is a potential impact prospect thanks to his ability at the dish. His size, speed and projection are a tantalizing package in a system desperate for corner bat prospects. He'll probably open 2013 in extended spring training and join up with the short-season Mahoning Valley Scrappers when the NYPL starts up in June.

Glass half-full: A middle of the order bat in LF

Glass half-empty: His bat can't carry him all the way to the show



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