



We're really getting into rarefied air now, as we look at the #15-11 prospects in the entire Indians system. Unsurprisingly, we're going to take a look at another power righthanded reliever, but this time it will be the best power righthanded reliever who has yet to grace the mound on the corner of Carnegie and Ontario. Additionally, we'll look at a lefty who has already seen time with the big club, a 2011 draft pick looking to pick up the pieces after a disastrous 2012, a breakout 2B who went from unranked last year to just shy of the top-10 this year and finally...#WASHTIME!

15. Trey Haley, RHP

DOB: 6/21/1990

Height/Weight: 6-3/180 lb.

Bats/Throws: Right/Right

Acquired: 2nd round pick in the 2008 draft

2012 Stats: 4-1, 2.33 ERA with 49 K and 19 BB in 38 2/3 IP between Rookie Arizona, Carolina and Akron.

Scouting Report: If you saw Trey Haley walking down the street, the first thought that would pop into your head would likely be "this guy is a pitcher." He just looks like he was built to throw a baseball. Tall, strong, with long arms and legs, it's easy to see where Haley gets his velocity from. His 2.33 ERA from last year is actually deceptively high; 5 of the 10 ER Haley allowed last season occurred in 6 innings of rehab work with Rookie League Arizona. In 32 2/3 IP in Carolina and Akron, Haley allowed just 5 ER on 18 hits, striking out 40 and walking 17. He didn't allow a single HR last year, and has given up just one longball since the beginning of the 2011 season (83 IP). Haley was a starter through the 2010 season, but the Indians began the transition to the bullpen in 2011 due to control and durability problems. But as far as pure arms go, Haley has one of the best in the organization.

Haley has one of the best fastballs in the organization, a plus-plus four-seamer that sits comfortably in the 94-96 MPH range and can touch triple digits. He also has a two-seamer that has a little less velocity, but nice sinking action and generates a lot of groundballs. Haley has the ability right now to get minor league hitters out with just his fastball-sinker combination. But he compliments his fastballs with a solid curveball that flashes plus, a slider and a developing changeup. The curveball is his best secondary offering at this stage of his career, a pitch that became much more consistent last year. His slider lags behind the curve, but it has a lot of potential as a real swing and miss pitch for Haley because it's velocity is close enough to his fastball to fool a lot of hitters. He uses the changeup sparingly, but scouts that have seen it say it's a potential weapon for him down the road if he can continue to refine the pitch. It's an impressive repertoire for a reliever, something that Haley benefits from due to his days as a starter.

Haley missed time the past two seasons with what he thought was a groin injury, but ended up being diagnosed as a sports hernia. He had surgery to finally correct the lingering issue midseason last year, and when he came back he was stronger and more effective than ever.

Haley was transitioned to the bullpen in part due to his durability issues and in part due to his spotty command. There's a decent chance now that the hernia is finally fixed that one or even both of those issues could be behind him. Haley is a big, athletic kid with a very clean, repeatable delivery. There's no mechanical flaw holding him back from having better command, and if he can cut down on the walks and locate his fastball in the zone, then there's a possibility that he could end up in the rotation again down the road. An arm as talented as his almost seems like a waste in the bullpen, as even as an elite closer he'd only be throwing 60-80 innings per season as opposed to 200+ as a starter. I'm not sure what the Indians have in mind for the talented righty out of Nacogdoches, TX, but if he returns to a starting role, there's a chance that he's a top-5 prospect in the organization next year. As it is he has the potential to be a backend arm in a major league bullpen as soon as this season, although he could use some additional seasoning in the minors. It will be interesting to see what the Tribe brass ends up doing with Haley, as with a little patience I think he can still be a starter in the major leagues.

Haley pitched effectively in the elite Arizona Fall League this past offseason, was added to the 40-man roster. He's clearly in the Indians plans for the future, it's just a matter of how soon and in what role. He'll likely open up 2013 with AA Akron, but could move quickly to AAA Columbus if he remains in the bullpen. He has an outside shot at pitching in the major leagues as soon as 2013 if the big club has a need for a righthander out of the bullpen.

Glass half-full: A #2 starter in a major league rotation

Glass half-empty: An elite backend reliever







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