



And then there were ten. From here on out, we're looking at players who are going to be counted on to fuel the Indians next "window of contention," whether that window cracks open in 2013 or beyond. One of the players that we're looking at today has already pitched at the corner of Carnegie and Ontario. One should be there as early as 2014, injury permitting. We're also going to look at a pair of centerfielders from drastically different backgrounds; one a 1st round pick out of Texas A&M who is making the transition from RF, and one who was an infielder in the Dominican Republic until the Indians decided his athleticism and speed would be of better use in CF. Finally, we'll break down the details on a Dominican SS/2B with surprising pop for his size, and who doesn't stop smiling as long as his feet are on a baseball diamond.

10. Cody Allen, RHP

DOB: 11/20/1988

Height/Weight: 6-1/220 lb.

Bats/Throws: Right/Right

Acquired: 23rd round pick in the 2011 MLB draft

2012 Stats: 0-1 with a 3.72 ERA, 27 K and 15 BB in 29 IP for Cleveland; 3-2 with 3 saves and a 1.87 ERA, 52 K and 9 BB in 43 1/3 IP between Carolina, Akron and Columbus.

Scouting Report: Selected in the 23rd round of the 2011 draft out of St. Petersburg College, Allen signed quickly and threw 54 2/3 innings with 75/14 K/BB across four levels in 2011, primarily in Mahoning Valley and Lake County. His meteoric rise through the system continued in 2012, as after making brief stops in Carolina (4 IP) and Akron (7 2/3 IP), he made 24 dominant appearances in Columbus (31 2/3 IP, 2.27 ERA, 35 K, 9 BB) before debuting in The Show about 13 months after he was drafted. Allen doesn't have the ultimate ceiling of some of the guys that appear below him on this list, but he has an awfully high floor as he's already reached the majors and proven to be effective against MLB hitters.

Allen's primary pitch is his plus fastball, a mid-90's offering that consistently misses bats. When he's locating the pitch, he pitches ahead in the count and makes it very, very tough on hitters. He compliments the fastball with a hard, plus curveball that sits in the low to mid-80's. When he's working in the zone, he's an extremely effective pitcher who should be able to pitch in the back end of a major league bullpen for a long time. He reminds me a lot of Vinnie Pestano; he's a two-pitch guy who is fearless on the mound and just goes out and attacks hitters every time he's on the bump.

Allen doesn't really have a third pitch, and as such he doesn't really have anything to change speeds or the eye level of the hitter. His curve is more of a slurve than a 12-6 offering, and while it's effective there's a chance hitters will start to hit him harder after he's been around the league a few times. His command and control got a little sloppy when he reached the majors last year, as he walked 6 more hitters in his 29 innings in Cleveland than he did in 43 1/3 innings in the minors. Some of that can likely be put down to his inexperience in the pros, and I'd expect his

control to improve in 2013. It bears monitoring, but I fully expect Allen to be an effective member of the Tribe bullpen in 2013 and beyond.

Glass half-full: An elite arm in the backend of a bullpen, whether he eventually sets up or closes

Glass half-empty: A solid setup arm in the back end of a bullpen



9. Luigi Rodriguez, CF

DOB: 11/13/1992

Height/Weight: 5-11/160 lb.

Bats/Throws: Switch/Right

Acquired: International free agent in 2009

2012 Stats: .268/.338/.406 with 11 HR, 48 RBI and 24 SB in 117 games for Lake County.

Scouting Report: When he was signed out of the Dominican Republic in 2009, Rodriguez was primarily a 2B. The Indians had him split time between 2B and the outfield in the Dominican Summer League back in 2010, but converted him full-time to an OF when he made the move stateside in 2011. When you watch Rodriguez play the game, it's easy to see why the Indians wanted to take advantage of his athleticism in CF. He's one of the fastest players in the organization, and a superior athlete. He can make some spectacular plays in the outfield, but he's young, raw and can still look lost at times.

Rodriguez has surprising pop for his size, but will probably top out at average power. His hit tool is below average right now, as he still has a lot of swing and miss in his game (133 K's last year). He needs to improve his pitch selection and recognition, as he still struggles against offspeed stuff. He did draw 50 walks last year, but with his bat profiling as a leadoff hitter it would be nice to see that number continue to climb as he gets more at-bats against advanced pitching. As a switch hitter he's much better from the left side, having put up a .275/.356/.413 line as opposed to a .243/.272/.383 line from the right side of the plate. There's some doubt as to whether Rodriguez's overall skills will improve with experience, but the raw tools are all there so he's going to get every opportunity to succeed. His speed could be a weapon on the basepaths, but he still needs to work on reading pitchers and getting better jumps. I'd like to see him try and steal more next year even if his success rate isn't great, because that's really the only way he's going to get better.

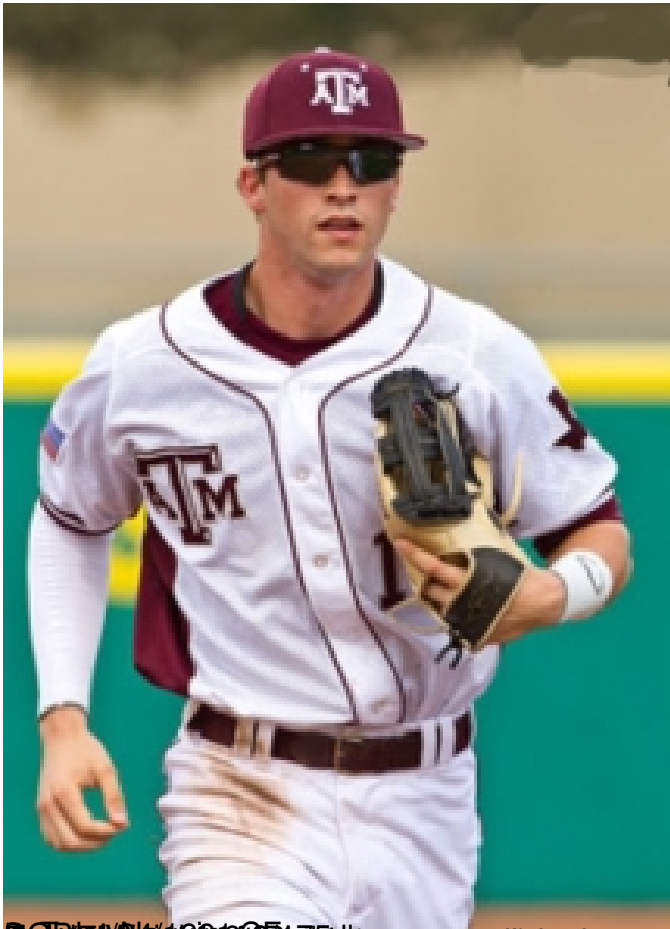
Defensively, Rodriguez is tantalizingly inconsistent. He has plus speed and covers a ton of

ground in CF. He goes back on the ball extremely well and does a nice job running down line drives in the gaps. His arm is average but adequate, but it will never be a weapon like Tyler Naquin or Carlos Moncrief. He still has trouble with reads on some balls off the bat, especially line drives hit right at him which can be the toughest for a CF to get a read on. Like with the bat, the inexperience sometimes shines through but all of the raw tools are there to project a future CF, but he needs more reps in order to turn that projection into reality.

Reps, reps reps. That's the story for Luigi Rodriguez. He'll likely play all of 2013 in Carolina, which is a challenging environment for a 20-year old. The triple slash line is far less important than the potential improvement in his overall approach and defensive ability. If he posts a sub-.700 OPS but makes strides in his tools from April to September, then it will be a successful season for the young CF. Look past the stats to the raw performance with Rodriguez, because experience and improvement are what we should be looking for in 2013.

Glass half-full: A 1st division, leadoff hitting CF

Glass half-empty: Never fixes his approach and tops out at AAA



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