



Baseball is back! You already knew that of course, but I'm referring to the full-season minor league affiliates throughout the organization, not just the big-league club. The Clippers, Aeros, Mudcats and Captains all opened up play last week, with Columbus going 2-2, Akron sitting at 1-3, Carolina sweeping their way to a 3-0 start and Lake County opening up by dropping 3 of their first 4. Team records are of course far less important than individual performances, so let's kick off the inaugural 2013 issue of *Around the Farm*, which will highlight some of the more important and impressive performances of the prospects throughout the Indians organization from the opening series of the 2013 season.

Francisco Lindor, SS-CAR: 6-11, 3B, 2B, RBI, BB, 2 R, 2 SB, K.

It's only fitting that the top prospect in the Indians organization is the featured player here on 2013's initial installment of *Around the Farm*. After three games this year Lindor is hitting a robust .545/.583/.818 with a pair of stolen bases, an impressive Carolina League debut for the 19-year old switch-hitting shortstop. Lindor stuck around major league camp this spring for a lot

longer than anyone predicted, mainly because he didn't look at all overwhelmed at the plate or in the field at the major league level. That's pretty remarkable for a 19-year old with one professional season under his belt. There's no real hurry to get Lindor to Cleveland, but it's beginning to look like he may force the issue. There's no doubt that his glove will play, and he's done a nice job answering lingering questions about his bat. He's a top-10 prospect in all of baseball, and a guy who we could see in Cleveland sooner than anyone expected when he was drafted in June of 2011.

Daisuke Matsuzaka, SP-COL: 5 IP, 2 ER, 4 H, 6 K, 3 BB. Encouraging first start for Matsuzaka, as he did a nice job missing bats with 6 Ks. The 3 walks are a little discouraging, as command and control are a big issue for the Japanese pitcher.

Cory Kluber, SP-COL: W (1-0), 6 IP, 3 ER, 6 H, 4 K, BB. One of the contenders for the 5<sup>th</sup> spot in the Indians rotation, Kluber got the W in his first start of the season with the Clippers. He turns 27 on Wednesday, and will be one of the first options the Indians turn to if injury or ineffectiveness strikes one of the members of the Tribe rotation.

Joe Martinez, SP-COL: 5 2/3 IP, 3 H, 3 K, BB. Martinez got the start for Columbus on opening day after Bauer was selected to make a spot start in Cleveland. He didn't get the win, but the 30-year old righty scattered four baserunners over 5 2/3's solid innings of work.

Fernando Nieve, SP-COL: L (0-1), 6 IP, 2 R (1 ER), 3 H, 7 K, 2 BB. Brandon Inge drilled a homer off of Nieve in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning of a 3-0 Clippers loss on Sunday.

Nick Hagadone, RP-COL: IP, 3 K, BB. Hagadone struck out the side in his only inning of work so far this season. The power lefty will almost certainly end up in the Indians bullpen at some point this season.

Matt Langwell, RP-COL: W (1-0), 2 2/3 IP, 2 K, 2 BB. Langwell made a pair of appearances for the Clippers, picking up the victory in the Clippers opening day win.

Scott Barnes, RP-COL: IP, ER, 2 H, BB. Tough inning for Barnes, who's battling with Hagadone

to be the first lefty called up to the Indians bullpen this year.

Matt Capps, RP-COL: 2 IP, 2 H, K, BB. The rehabbing Capps was working between 91-94 MPH with his fastball in spring training, and could contribute to the Indians bullpen at some point this season.

Gio Soto, RP-COL: IP, ER, H, K. The Indians finally decided to move Soto to the bullpen, a move I've been advocating for two years now. He reminds me a lot of former Indian Raffy Perez, and I think he could be a valuable lefthanded arm out of the pen.

Preston Guilmet, RP-COL: IP, R (0 ER), H. Guilmet continues his ascent up the Indians organizational ladder as the 25-year old reliever will spend the 2013 season at the AAA level.

Jeremy Hermida, OF-COL: 7-16, 2 HR (2), 2B, 3B, 6 RBI, BB, 4 R, 2 K. Formerly a top prospect with the Marlins, Hermida had a big opening series for the Clippers. He's 29 now and no longer a prospect, but there's a chance that he can fill a role as a 4<sup>th</sup> OF at the major league level.

Yan Gomes, C-COL: 4-12, 2 2B, 2 RBI, BB, K. The Brazilian-born catcher came over in the Esmil Rodgers trade along with Mike Aviles. He hit .407/.467/.704 with a HR for the Indians this spring, and the slugging backstop will likely spend some time in Cleveland this season.

T.J. House, SP-AKR: 5 IP, ER, 5 H, 5 K. House was in line for a victory in his season debut, but the Aeros bullpen couldn't hold onto the lead. More of a command and control guy than an overpowering strikeout artist, seeing him record 5 punchouts in as many innings of work is extremely encouraging.

Danny Salazar, SP-AKR: L (0-1), 5 IP, ER, 2 H, 5 K, 2 BB. Salazar was the hard-luck loser for the Aeros on opening day, allowing just one earned run on two hits with 5 strikeouts. Salazar is one of the top pitching prospects in the organization, and if he can stay healthy and effective in his first full season after Tommy John surgery it would be huge for the organization.

