

## Down At #34;The Valley#34;

Written by {ga=consigliere}

Tuesday, July 10 2007 7:00 PM -

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Im case you didn't hear him talking about it on &quot;All Bets Are Off With Bruce Drennan&quot;, Tony Lastoria is embarking on a tour for us that will see him visit all six of the Indians minor league affiliates over the next seven weeks. His first stop was in Mahoning Valley, one of the Indians Class A affiliates. Tony got a chance to talk to some of the players, take some video and pictures, and also watch the Scrappers win 4-1 this past Sunday night. He tells us all about it in the start of what should be an excellent series for us.



*This is the first in a series of articles as in the course of the next seven weeks I will visit all six of the Indians minor league affiliates in Winter Haven, Mahoning Valley, Lake County, Kinston, Akron and Buffalo. I'll recap each stop with a writeup including video and pictures, and also write several separate articles on players I talk to during my stay.*

Stop number one on my minor league road trip is in the books, as I ventured down to Niles, Ohio and took in the Indians short-season Class-A affiliate the Mahoning Valley Scrappers on Sunday night. The Scrappers came away with the win, 4-1, but this trip was not about what actually happened in the game and in the win-loss column, but instead a way to try and bring the Mahoning Valley minor league experience home to the fans.

A special thank you to Mike Pilch, the Director of Media Relations and team radio broadcaster, for all his help in setting up the visit, showing me around and helping with interviews. For those interested, I sat down with Mike for a few minutes and he talked at great length about his duties as the team's radio broadcaster and media relations contact.

Some very interesting stuff, of which I'll hopefully share in an article sometime this week or in the coming weeks.

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Here is a quick recap of the day in Mahoning Valley:

I arrived at the field around 3:45, about two hours and fifteen minutes before gametime. For those unfamiliar with where Mahoning Valley is located, it is in Niles, Ohio, which is a neighboring city to Warren and also very close to Youngstown as well.

Before the game, I talked to a few players such as right-handed pitcher Mike Eisenberg, shortstop Matt Thompson, and first baseman Todd Martin, of which I will write about in the next few days.

Once done with the interviews, I hung around and watched some players like outfielder Ramon Alvarado, outfielder Stephen Douglas and Martin hit in the cages and also watched catcher Osiel Flores hit off the tee while taking some hitting instruction. Here are a couple video clips from the batting cages (note: Manager Tim Laker is the person you see on the left of the screen):

Video 1: [Outfielder Ramon Alvarado \(#9\) hitting in the cages](#)

Video 2: [First baseman Todd Martin \(#26\) hitting in the cages](#)

Here are a few shots of Todd Martin in the cage:

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And here are some shots of [Dimitry Adorin](#) and [Steph D'Elia](#) taking some swings (note:

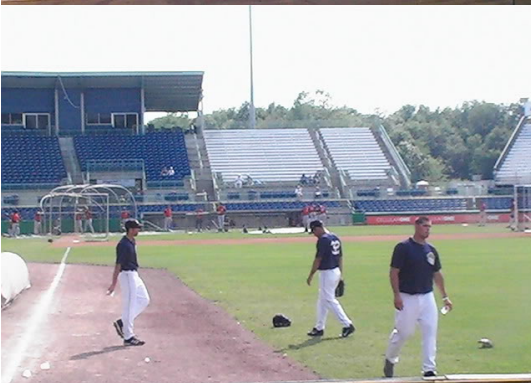
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While in the bullpen, I went to the batting cage to see the pitcher warm up and had a few quick words with some



While the game was in progress, I went up to the press box and took in the game. Here is a video of the view

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Watched the game on July 10th at the home of the Scrappers. This is Delage's second

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With [Chris Cioffi](#) left the game, right hander [Montero](#) came into the game. Here is a video





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And last, some field shots of some game action:



For more information on the game, visit the website at [www.mlb.com](http://www.mlb.com). The game was broadcast on ESPN2.