

## Minor Happenings: Martin Is King Of The Valley

Written by {ga=consigliere}

Thursday, July 19 2007 7:00 PM -

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With all Tony's visits to the Indians different minor league affiliates over the last couple weeks, he had so much content ... he needed to break "Minor Happenings" into three parts! This is Part II, and Tony was actually able to talk with this weeks TheClevelandFan.com Minor League Player of the Week (Todd Martin) while out in Mahoning Valley to see the Scrappers play. That interview is inside, as well as two interviews with Mahoning Valley shortstop Mark Thompson and Akron first baseman Michael Aubrey.



As noted yesterday, Minor Happenings has been broken up into three installments this week. Today, the second installment covers the Player of the Week, and also two short writeups of Akron first baseman Michael Aubrey and Mahoning Valley shortstop Mark Thompson.

Tomorrow, the regular recap of the news and notes in the system will post sans the Player of the Week and Director's Cuts since they were featured in a separate article.

Also, another reminder that there will be no Minor Happenings next week, but I have several articles in the pipeline which should post while I am on vacation. A recap of my visit to Lake County, along with writeups of right-hander Mike Eisenberg, outfielder Brian Barton, and third baseman Beau Mills should all post sometime next week.

## TheClevelandFan.com Minor League Player Of The Week

*(for games from July 12 through July 19)*

### **Todd Martin (First baseman - Mahoning Valley)**

*.438 AVG (14-32), 6 R, 3 HR, 9 RBI, 3 BB*

For the second week in a row, Mahoning Valley first baseman Todd Martin takes home Player of the Week honors. Martin is a 2006 undrafted free agent signing out of Middle Tennessee State, and has been one of the biggest surprises and

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### Aubrey Looking To Make Up For Lost Time

Akron first baseman Michael Aubrey is as talented a first baseman you will see in the minors, as he is an excellent hitter and is slick with the glove at first base. Coming into this season, in 238 career minor league games, he had hit .318 with 37 HR, 193 RBI, and a .923 OPS.

But, his problem the last several years has not been production, but staying healthy. He has endured many long spells on the disabled list the last three years, and those 238 games played coming into the season have come over 3 ½ seasons (roughly 460 possible games).

Last year, for the second straight year, Aubrey was lost early in the season when he injured himself sliding into second base and suffered a surface fracture on his right knee joint.

This year, a promising spring



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only hitting .230 with 0 HR, 6 RBI, 5 stolen bases and a .599 OPS in 27 games. Even still, Thompson is working hard and doing his best to make the necessary adjustments to get back on track.

"I'm just trying to get more of a load with my hands at the plate," says Thompson. "It is a little bit of an adjustment (professional baseball), but not that much different from college.

Using wood bats, and the velocity of pitchers is different.

Also, playing every day, and getting a routine going."

Thompson is a versatile defender, as not only can he play shortstop, he says he can also play second base and can even play the outfield if needed.

Here is a video of Thompson in action:

Video 1: [Shortstop Mark Thompson at the plate](#)