

A Minor League Stop in Lake County

Written by {ga=consigliere}

Monday, August 06 2007 7:00 PM -

Tony Lastoria is in the process of visiting all six of the Indians minor league affiliates over a seven week stretch. Stop #3 was in Eastlake, OH to go see the Lake County Captains in action. Tony had a chance to speak with Tribe Minor League Director Ross Atkins there, and also toured the facility ... taking a host of great pictures and also getting an opportunity to talk with several of the players.



This is the third in a series of six articles where by the end of August I will have visited all six of the Indians minor league affiliates in seven weeks. I'll recap each stop in Winter Haven, Mahoning Valley, Lake County, Kinston, Akron and Buffalo with a short writeup consisting mostly of video and pictures, and also write several separate articles on players I talk to during my visit.

Stop number three on my minor league tour went into the books a few weeks back, this time at Single-A Lake County. I actually completed this visit back on July 13th, but due to a vacation and a large amount of material to cover for *Minor Happenings* the past few weeks, the posting of this writeup was delayed. Also,

be sure to check my previous writeups for my visits to

[Mahoning Valley](#)

and

[Akron](#)

I ended up picking a great night to go to the game and tour the facility and talk to the players. Not only was it a beautiful night, but several of the Indians top scouts and most of the minor league decision-makers were in attendance. One of those people in attendance was Farm Director Ross Atkins whom I had a chance to sit down and [talk to about several prospects](#) at Lake County and throughout the system. During my visit I took a lot of pictures and video, so I'll be brief with my comments and let the pictures and video do most of the talking.

Before I get started with a recap of the visit, here is some background on the franchise. The franchise started back in 1991 as an expansion team in the South Atlantic League in Columbus, GA and called themselves the "Indians" in 1991 and then changed their name to the "Red Stixx" in 1992. In 2003, they re-located to Eastlake, Ohio and became known as the Lake County Captains. In that inaugural 2003 season in Eastlake, the Captains put up the best winning percentage in all of baseball, and finished 97-43 (.693) and lost in the South Atlantic League Championship Series to Rome.

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The move to Eastlake, OH has brought yet another one of the Indians minor league affiliates closer to the homebase operations in Cleveland. Also, there is a strong following in Eastlake and the surrounding cities, as the Captains set all sorts of attendance records in 2003. And, even though the Captains have failed to make the playoffs since that inaugural campaign, they still draw well.

The stadium is located in [Eastlake](#) at the corner of the very busy intersection at Vine Street and Route 91, and there is a pedestrian bridge that allows fans to walk from the main parking lot across the street and over the busy four-lane highway Route 91 to the stadium. Here are a few shots of the exterior of the stadium (scroll over any picture for a brief description of who or what the picture is):



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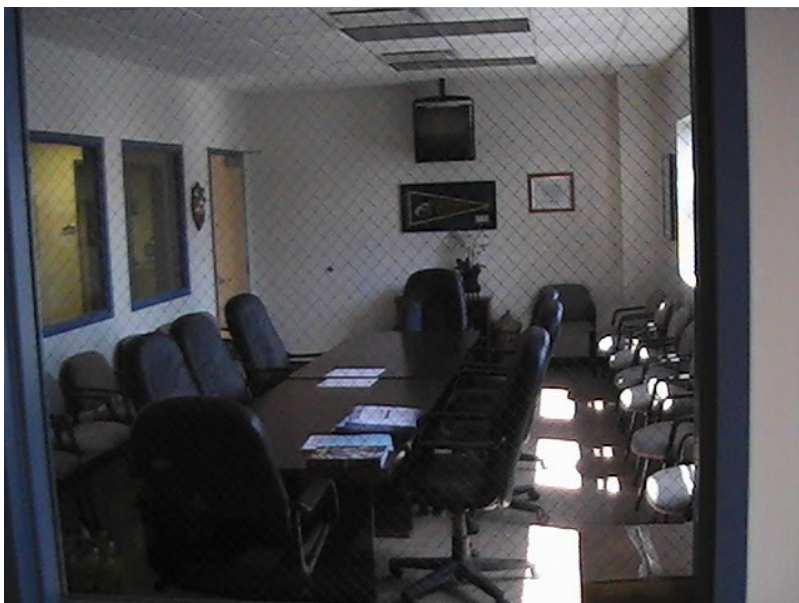


Once inside, I passed through the administrative offices. Here are two pictures of the meeting room and some plaques on the wall:

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Had a chance to visit about three hours before gametime, so had a chance to tour the field. Here
[360 degree view inside Classic Park](#)

Here are some shots from the dugout and on the field:

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Here are a few shots of the Captains bullpen:

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hit implemented behind the right field and pitcher's mound area, which is the large

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Here are some shots of the dugout area:



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And, finally, here are two shots of the Captains large scroeboard:

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After touring the field, I hung around behind the cages on the field while players like Beau Mills, Matt McBride, Carlos Rivero and others take some hacks. Here is a video of Rivero in the cage:

Video 1: [Carlos Rivero takes batting practice](#)

And, here are some shots of other players taking batting practice:

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Chicago Cubs' Ryan Sengstack playing that night, as he worked for the Cubs before the gates with his firm

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Getting ready to swing the bat off the strike zone, batting on first base, ran the bases



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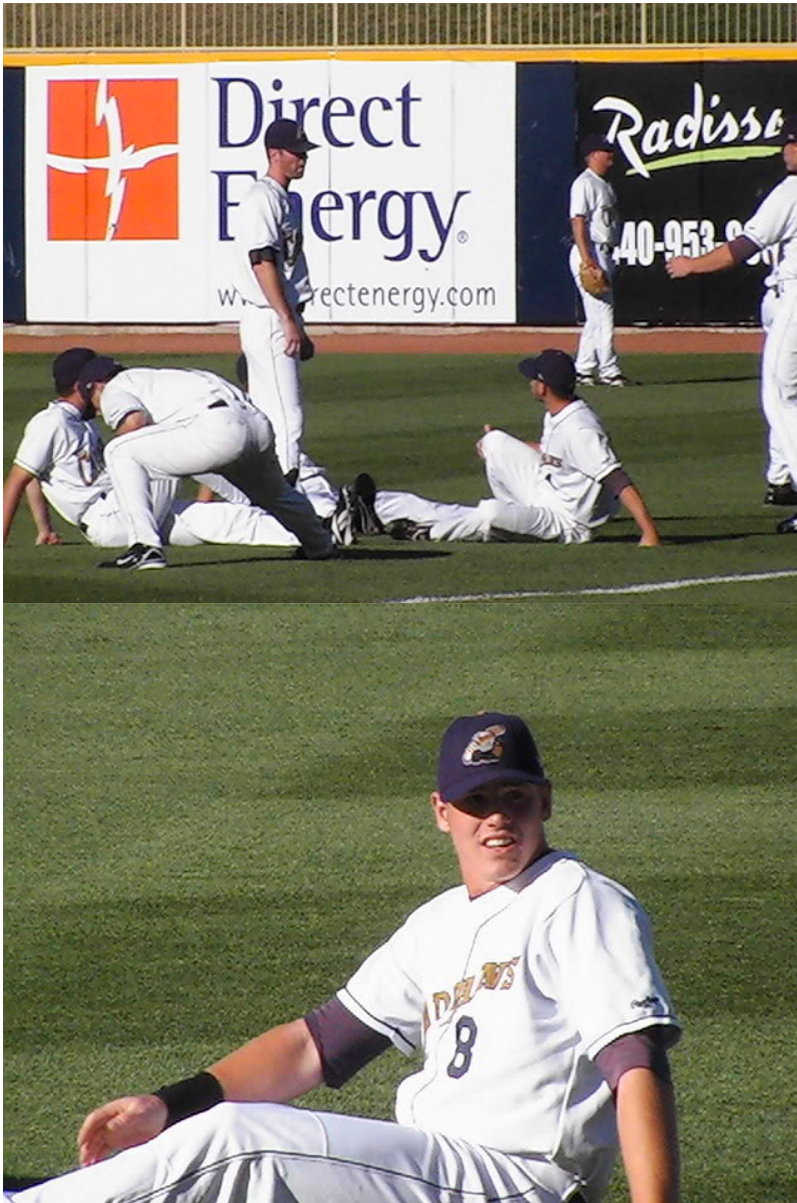


Here are some shots of various players stretching before the game:

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While game finally took hitlers in the Captains shifted to watching instead of Gomez pitching Gomez
[Jeanmar Gomez brings the heat](#)

And, here are some pictures of Gomez on the mound:



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2007 top draft pick Beau Mills played third base, and here is a video of him at the plate:
[Beau Mills at the plate](#)

And, here are some pictures of Mills in action at third base and at the plate:

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Video 1: [Pena at the plate](#)

Video 2: [More of Pena hitting](#)

Here are a few pictures of Pena:



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Statista.com Matt McBride from as of the 10 pages per slide in the group system, no print the slide to be to
[Matt McBride at the plate](#)

Here are some pictures of McBride in action:

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Older brother Cirilo Cumberland has hit somewhat of a surprise of late as he has been swinging
[Cirilo Cumberland at the plate](#)

And, here are a couple pictures of him in action:

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© 2007 by Professor Dan Ham. An assortment of pictures of various players in action, starting with

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Second baseman Adam Davis:

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Reliever Austin Cross and first baseman Fernando Pacheco:



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scott@theclevelandfan.com