

Tony completed his six affiliates in seven weeks trip a few weeks back, and chimes in today with the sixth and final installment recapping his trip to Kinston, NC to see the Indians advanced Single-A affiliate the Kinston Indians. Tony was there for an entire weekend, took in the action and has a boatload of videos and pictures to share, and he also provides an inside look at the Kinston organization and a lot of things that go on behind the scenes. Enjoy!



*This is the sixth in a series of six articles where in the span of seven weeks from early July until the end of August I visited all six of the Indians minor league affiliates. I recapped each visit to Winter Haven, Mahoning Valley, Lake County, Kinston, Akron and Buffalo with a short writeup consisting mostly of video and pictures, and also have written several separate articles on players I talked to during my visit.*

Kinston, North Carolina.

Having never been there, I had no idea what I was in store for when I visited there a few weeks back on the final weekend of August. After already visiting affiliates in large metropolitan areas in Akron and Buffalo, visiting Lake County which is a bustling area on the outskirts of major metropolis Cleveland, and Mahoning Valley which is located just outside of another major Ohio city in Youngstown, when I stepped off my plane in Jacksonville, NC I knew I was in for something different.

My trip to Kinston started with the arrival in Jacksonville, NC, a military town located about 30 miles outside of Kinston. With Kinston being nowhere near a major airport except Raleigh which is almost two hours away, I had to use one of the many regional airports surrounding

Kinston to get there.

Jacksonville was a small airport consisting of just three terminals, as when you go through the security check you literally find yourself standing in the terminal. That's how small it is.

After getting my rental car, I headed into Kinston. On my way into town, I found I was definitely out in the middle of nowhere, and in an area much different than the fast-paced lifestyle we live in day in and day out in Northeast Ohio. Loc

al radio stations comprised mostly of country music, and talk radio centered mostly on NASCAR, East Carolina Pirate football, and North Carolina State Wolfpack football.

On my way in, it was pretty much just an open road with houses here and there along the side of the road. There were not any national food or shopping chains in sight, and the only food chain that I saw was McDonald's. I passed by Bill's Used Car Sales, which just happened to be a small ranch house with a long gravel driveway that had two beatup cars parked to the side of the driveway which I would assume were the used cars for sale.

Yes, things were certainly different here.

When I finally arrived in Kinston, to my surprise the city was bigger than I thought it would be, but I never expected it to be such a depressed and rundown area. Passing through the downtown there are more boarded up windows and condemned buildings than there are open businesses. Here are a few pictures on the way in:

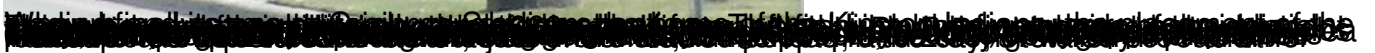
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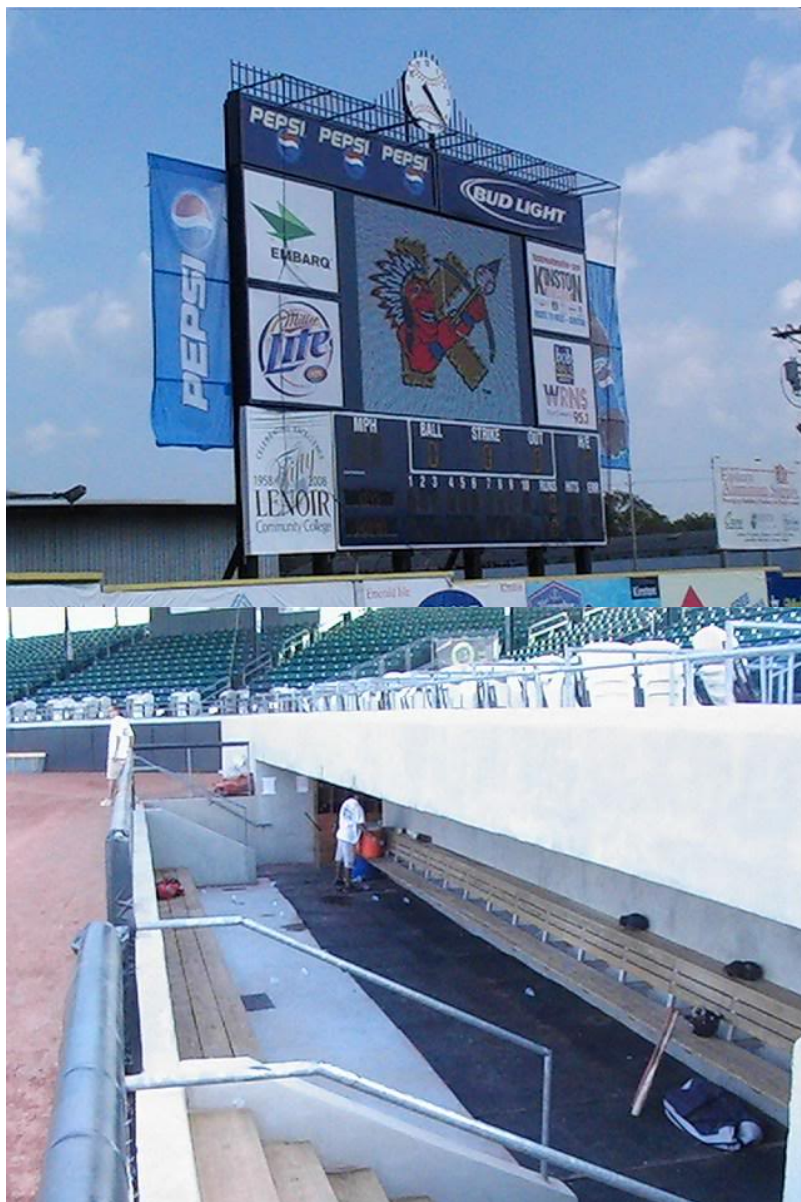
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and the pitcher and catcher are good



we have some pictures for them in action in and around the cage, and taking infield.

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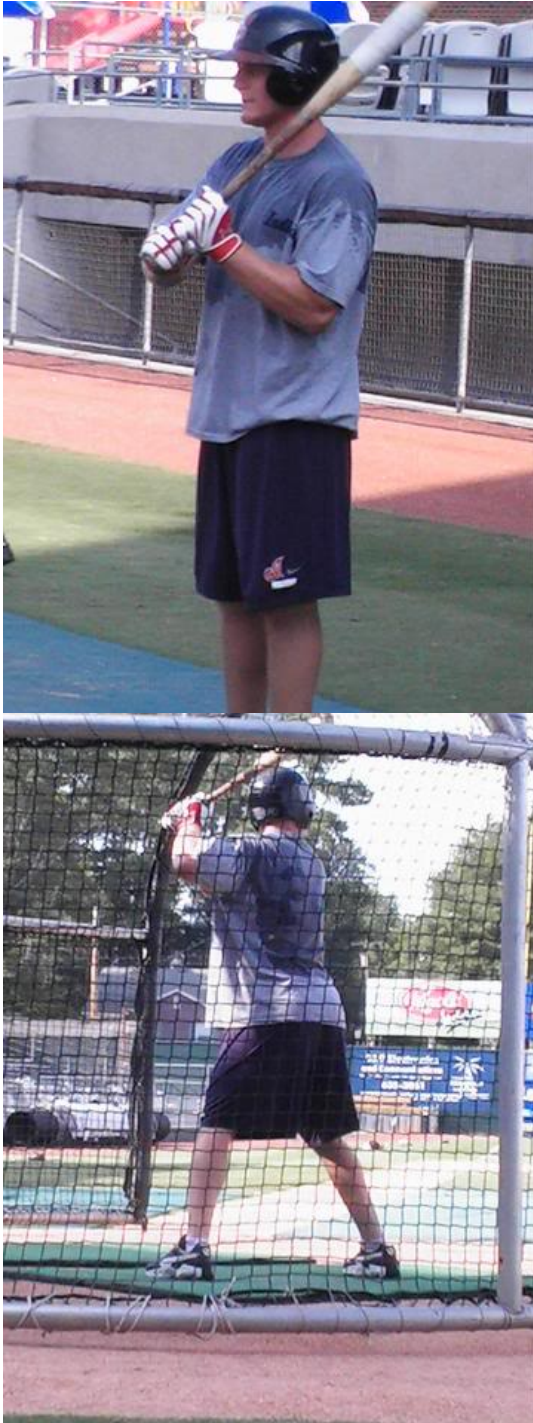
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While Kinston's [baseball team](#) was downed in the first round of the playoffs, the team's performance was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the players and coaches. The team's best

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Make me some kids of speedy and scrappy outfielder Jose Constanza:



More on [some pictures of Rodriguez in action:](#)



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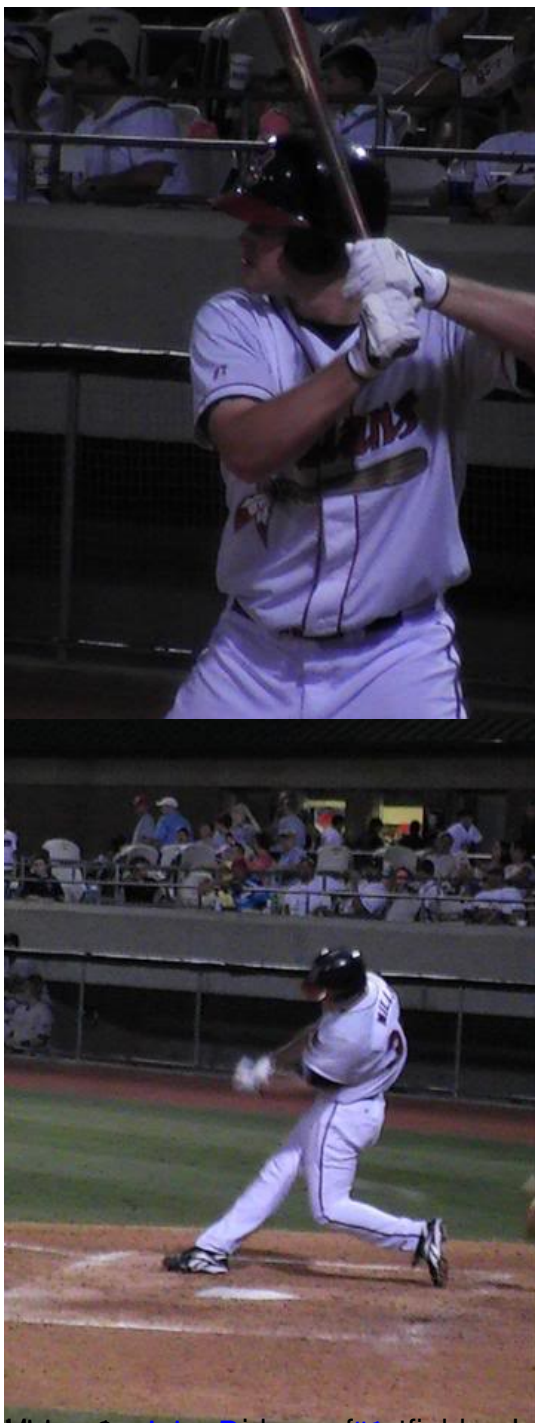


Mills on the field (top) and at the plate (bottom). Mills is the 2007 first round draft pick Beau Mills in action at the plate:

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When we see a hit or a fly ball, we often see John Drennon in action at the plate:  
And, finally, here is a random assortment of pictures for various players:



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