

Minor Happenings: Miller Returns To Buffalo

Written by {ga=consigliere}

Wednesday, April 23 2008 7:00 PM -

He's baaack. Tribe top prospect Adam Miller, that is. Miller made his debut last night as the starting pitcher for the AAA Buffalo Bisons, and the results were encouraging. Predictably, Tony has all the info on Miller's '08 debut, as well as a slew of other interesting nuggets of information on the Indians top prospects and farm system in this Thursday's edition of Minor Happenings.



"Minor Happenings" covers the important developments and news in the Indians farm system. While most of the information in this report is from my own research and through interviews I have conducted with organizational personnel, some information in this report is collected and summarized from the various news outlets that cover each team.

Last weekend, I was in Eastlake, Ohio to see Single-A Lake County in action. I did a piece on [closer Vinnie Pestano yesterday](#), and will have pieces on outfielder Matt Brown and right-handed starter Chris Archer over the coming weekend.

Also, last weekend, I wrapped up my Kinston visit from the previous week with a piece on [Jerad Head, Paolo Espino, and Carlton Smith](#).

Also, as an FYI again, I started up a blog this past October, [The Cleveland Indians Minor League Insider](#). Those who want up to date news and information should go there as I will be updating my blog almost daily with any news and developments as I get them.

I also will be providing game recaps nightly.

This information will still be included in *Minor Happenings*, but since it only posts weekly this is an option to get the news much more quickly.

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Indians Minor League Player Of The Week

(for games from April 17th through April 23rd)

Hector Rondon (Right-handed Pitcher - Kinston)

0-0, 0.00 ERA, 2 games, 10 IP, 6 H, 2 BB, 12 K

Advanced Single-A Kinston is off to a slow start in virtually every category from pitching, to hitting, to defense. One of the strengths going into the season was supposed to be a starting rotation filled with several promising pitchers, most notably Hector Rondon.



Like most of the pitchers in the rotation, the 6'3 180 pound right-hander from Venezuela is off to a very slow start. In four starts Rondon is 0-2 with a 4.67 ERA and in 17.1 innings pitched has allowed 18 hits and seven walks while striking out 21.

While the overall numbers look bad, in his last two starts over the past week Rondon was very good. Last Friday, Rondon took a step in the right direction with a nice outing by throwing six shutout innings and allowing three hits and no walks while striking out seven on just 77 pitches.

He followed that up with another good outing last night, going only four innings but not allowing an earned run on three hits, two walks and striking out five.

It is a 180 degree turnaround for Rondon, as in his first two starts he had problems with allowing way too many baserunners (2.32 WHIP).

The overnight change for Rondon is a result of Indians coaches working with his delivery and challenging him to be more aggressive with his breaking ball.

He has started throwing his secondary pitches for strikes, and the rest of his pitches are feeding off of that and making him much tougher to hit.

Honorable Mentions:

Ryan Edell (LHP - Akron): 1-0, 1.98 ERA, 2 games, 13.2 IP, 9 H, 3 R, 3 BB, 8 K

Ryan Miller (LHP - Lake County): 1-0, 0.00 ERA, 1 game, 6 IP, 3 H, 0 R, 2 BB, 7 K

David Huff (LHP - Akron): 0-0, 1.35 ERA, 1 game, 6.2 IP, 1 H, 1 R, 2 BB, 6K

Aaron Herr (3B - Buffalo): .391 AVG (9-23), 6 R, 2B, 3B, 3 HR, 6 RBI, 2BB, 6 K

Previous Winners:

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4/10 to 4/16: Wes Hodges (3B - Akron)

4/3 to 4/9: Kelvin De La Cruz (LHP - Lake County)

Director's Cuts

This week, Indians Farm Director Ross Atkins talks about some of the players on the Triple-A Buffalo roster:



On Laffey and Sowers: "It really has been a good start for both guys. Aaron and Jeremy have been extremely professional having not made the team coming out of spring training and went right down to Buffalo and got to work.

Both of them have put up such remarkably similar numbers that we are in a great situation having both of them available for the spot start.

Obviously, Eric Wedge would like to have Jake Westbrook healthy, but with him not having our choice between Laffey and Sowers is a great situation to be in.

Both guys put the ball over the plate, both guys have a feel for three pitches, and both guys can get a groundball.

So, those are the things we are looking for and the fact that we have the option to bring up one of the two and the fact that we have two to pick from is really a good situation."

On Brian Slocum: "He has been great. He has actually from a performance standpoint been as good as Laffey and Sowers. It is really just a matter of him repeating that and sustaining some health before we consider him as a viable major league starter.

But I gotta believe at some point we see him help the major league team."

On Andy Gonzalez: "He would be much heavier on the radar screen if he was on the 40-man roster. But I will tell you what, he is really off to a great start. He has three home runs already, he has great at bats every night, and he can play everywhere but catch and pitch.

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He is a great asset for us to have down there in Triple-A.

He just lost his father and had a baby girl, so he has really been through a whirlwind of emotions.

Coming into major league spring training and performing and going back to Triple-A and doing a great job there is a testament to his professionalism.

We are really glad to have him as a member of this organization."

On Jordan Brown: "You know what, we were anxious about [his transition to Triple-A]. Mostly because he has been so good, we continued to ask ourselves if he could keep doing it and he just keeps doing it.

He reminds us a lot of the Sean Casey's of the world, guys who just have an innate ability to square up the baseball.

He's gone into Triple-A and really shown that it is just a game and he is still standing 60 feet six inches away and has not made the game more difficult.

He is really off to a good start there."

Miller Back In The Rotation, Closing Soon?

Buffalo right-hander and Indians top prospect Adam Miller finally made his long anticipated season debut last night. The 23-year-old fireballing right-hander went five innings and allowed no earned runs on four hits, two walks and struck out two.

Miller was sharp, as he threw 84 pitches and 55 of them for strikes.

He left after the fifth inning with Buffalo in the lead; however, did not record a win as the bullpen could not hold the lead.

Miller's season debut was delayed because of an annoying blister he suffered early in spring

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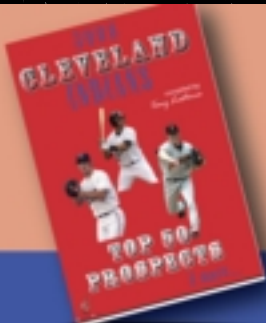
Akron Beacon-Journal (7-14-08) - [Miller Returns To Buffalo](#) - [Akron Beacon-Journal](#)



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