

Minor Happenings: Aubrey To Cleveland?

Written by {ga=consigliere}
Thursday, May 15 2008 7:00 PM -

It's "Minor Happenings" time here once again on the site, Tony's comprehensive weekly column that gives our readers a look at all the latest that is going on in the Indians farm system. This week, Tony passes along the latest scoop on a player that could be headed here to Cleveland, talks about Akron's unhittable closer, provides an update on the return of Shin Soo-Choo, starts to take a look ahead at the 2008 Draft, and much much more.



"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.

I'll be kicking up my next round of minor league pitstops this weekend as I will be visiting Lake County twice (Sat 5/17 and Tues 5/20), go to Akron over Memorial Day weekend, and then round out the month in Buffalo on Friday May 30th.

For those who may have missed it, I did a piece on the [release process in the Indians farm system](#) earlier this week. It is a pretty raw piece, and it gets right down to it and sort of provides an inside look at the process and what the players do after they are released.

I also posted a feature piece on left-hander [Chuck Lofgren](#) last weekend.

Indians Minor League Player Of The Week

(from May 8th through May 14th)

Steven Wright (Right-handed Pitcher - Kinston)

1-0, 0.82 ERA, 2 starts, 8 H, 1 R, 3 BB, 8 K

Last Thursday, right-hander Steven Wright picked up his first win of the season. It was Wright's

Minor Happenings: Aubrey To Cleveland?

Written by {ga=consigliere}

Thursday, May 15 2008 7:00 PM -

best outing of the year where he

threw six shutout innings and allowed only four hits and no walks whiling striking out five. He followed that up with another very good outing on Tuesday, going five innings and allowing one run on four hits and three walks while striking out three.

On the season, Wright is now 1-2 with a 2.41 ERA in seven starts.

Wright is a former 2nd round pick in the 2006 Draft out of the University of Hawaii. His good start to the season is light years better than the season he endured last year when he split time at Single-A Lake County and Kinston, going 7-9 with a 5.67 ERA in 27 combined starts between the two stops. Wright throws a low 90s fastball and compliments it with a curveball, slider and changeup. In the offseason and in spring training the Indians worked with Wright's delivery and made some minor adjustments that seem to be paying off. The biggest adjustment was his mental approach where they got him to focus less on his mechanics and more on just attacking hitters and getting his fastball located in the zone. Wright also looks a lot more confident on the mound, which is good to see.

Honorable Mentions: Ryan Mulhern, 1B, Buffalo (.524 AVG, 2 HR, 5 RBI); Michael Aubrey, 1B, Buffalo (.440 AVG, 0 HR, 2 RBI); Roman Pena, OF, Lake County (.407 AVG, 1 HR, 7 RBI); Chris Nash, 1B, Lake County (.435 AVG, 2 HR, 8 RBI); Kelvin De La Cruz, LHP, Lake County (2-0, 0.82 ERA, 9 H, 8 BB, 9 K)

Previous Winners:

5/1 to 5/7: Jeremy Sowers (LHP - Buffalo)

4/24 to 4/30: Jose Constanza (OF - Akron)

4/17 to 4/23: Hector Rondon (RHP - Kinston)

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

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

Director's Cuts

Indians Farm Director Ross Atkins was in Buffalo this week, and offered up some comments on the following players:

Minor Happenings: Aubrey To Cleveland?

Written by {ga=consigliere}
Thursday, May 15 2008 7:00 PM -



Minor Happenings: Aubrey To Cleveland?

Written by {ga=consigliere}

Thursday, May 15 2008 7:00 PM -



On the right hand side of the page, there is a link to the [Affiliate Notebook](#).
Affiliate Notebook



Buffalo Notes (18-23, 4th place): Right-hander Adam Miller threw five shutout innings last Friday, scattering three hits and two walks while striking out four.

Minor Happenings: Aubrey To Cleveland?

Written by {ga=consigliere}

Thursday, May 15 2008 7:00 PM -

At one point in the game Miller retired nine in a row, and it easily was his best outing so far of the season.

In five starts this year, Miller is now 0-1 with a 2.28 ERA. ... Last Thursday, right-hander Brian Slocum pitched 5.2 scoreless innings and scattered four hits and a walk while striking out eight.

On the season, Slocum is 3-2 with a 4.17 ERA in eight starts. ... On Monday, left-hander Jeremy Sowers was lifted after 58 pitches in order to keep him rested for a spot start for the Indians against Cincinnati on Friday. ... Outfielder Jason Cooper's mammoth home run to right field on Tuesday night was his third on the season and his 43rd as a Bison.

The home run puts Cooper 8th on the Buffalo career home run list and is two shy of 7th place Torey Lovullo.

On the season, Cooper is hitting .237 with 3 HR, 16 RBI and a .799 OPS. ... On Sunday, outfielder Jason Tyner was called up to Cleveland.

When Tyner was called up, he was hitting .370 in May and was in the midst of a 10-game hitting streak.

Right-handed reliever Tom Mastny was returned to Buffalo. ... Infielder Josh Barfield has a 12-game hit streak and is hitting .250 with 4 HR, 14 RBI and a .671 OPS on the season. ... With 11 hits in his last 21 at bats, first baseman Ryan Mulhern has raised his average 63 points in five games from .187 to .250. ... Catcher Dave Wallace has been traded to the Washington Nationals for a player to be named later.



Akron Notes (17-20, 4th place): On Thursday, Akron won 1-0 but the win was preserved with an outstanding play by right fielder Ryan Goleski. With one out in the 9th and the tying run on second, the opposition tried to score on a hit to right field but Goleski threw a seed from medium right field and gunned down the runner at the plate.

Catcher Armando Camacaro also made a great block on the play and held onto the ball after a collision at the plate. ... As of Wednesday, Akron has played sparingly in the last week thanks to Mother Nature.

They had a scheduled off day on Monday, and their games on Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday were all rained out. ... Out of 12 teams in the Eastern League, Akron is 8th

in the league in team ERA (4.51) and 11

Minor Happenings: Aubrey To Cleveland?

Written by {ga=consigliere}

Thursday, May 15 2008 7:00 PM -

th

in team batting average (.248). ... Third baseman Wes Hodges is hitting .277 with 7 HR, 32 RBI, and an .820 OPS. ... Shortstop Josh Rodriguez is hitting .254 with 2 HR, 12 RBI, and a .667 OPS. ... Left-hander David Huff is 3-1 with a 2.14 ERA in eight starts, and in 46.1 innings has allowed only 29 hits and 11 walks while striking out 43.



Kinston Notes (15-21, 4th place): Right-hander Joanniel Montero has been called back up to Kinston after making a spot start for Low-A Lake County. He has taken the roster spot of left-hander Heath Taylor who was put on the disabled list with elbow problems. ... Montero has also replaced right-hander Paolo Espino in the starting rotation.

Espino struggled in six starts going 0-2 with an 8.78 ERA, and will now pitch out of the bullpen. ... On Monday, right-hander Josh Tomlin made a spot start and went 4.2 innings and allowed a run on two and struck out three.

Tomlin was filling in for right-hander Paolo Espino who has been demoted to the bullpen. ... Right-handed closer Luis Perdomo gave up his first runs of the season on Wednesday night when he blew a save opportunity in the ninth inning and allowed two runs on three hits.

Coming into the game, Perdomo had gone 15 straight appearances and 21 innings to start the season without giving up an earned run.

On the season, Perdomo is now 1-1 with 8 saves and a 0.82 ERA. ... Outfielder Johnny Drennen returned from the disabled list last Thursday.

In his first game back he went 1-for-4 and extended his on-base streak to 21 consecutive games and 31 overall when the last ten games of 2007 are included.

The streak came to a halt on Friday when he failed to reach base.

On the year, Drennen is hitting .298 with 0 HR, 4 RBI, and a .756 OPS. ... Last Thursday, infielder Todd Martin was put on the disabled list with hamstring problems and left-handed reliever Matt Meyer was activated from it. ... Right-hander Mike Pontius had a rough first outing at Kinston last Thursday.

After being promoted last Wednesday from Lake County when he threw 21.1 scoreless innings in nine appearances, Pontius was hammered in his Carolina League debut going only two thirds of an inning and allowing three runs on three hits and three walks.

Things were much better his second outing as he went pitched two shutout innings on Monday.

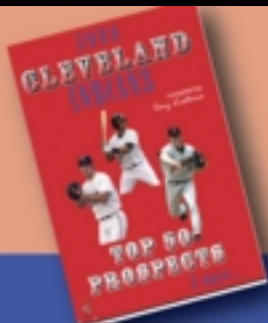
Minor Happenings: Aubrey To Cleveland?

Written by {ga=consigliere}

Thursday, May 15 2008 7:00 PM -



<http://www.indianstopprospects.blogspot.com/2008/05/14/indian-stopprospects.html>



2008 CLEVELAND TOP 50 PROSPECTS & MORE

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY

EMAIL TLASTORIA@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE DETAILS

OR VISIT <http://indianstopprospects.blogspot.com>