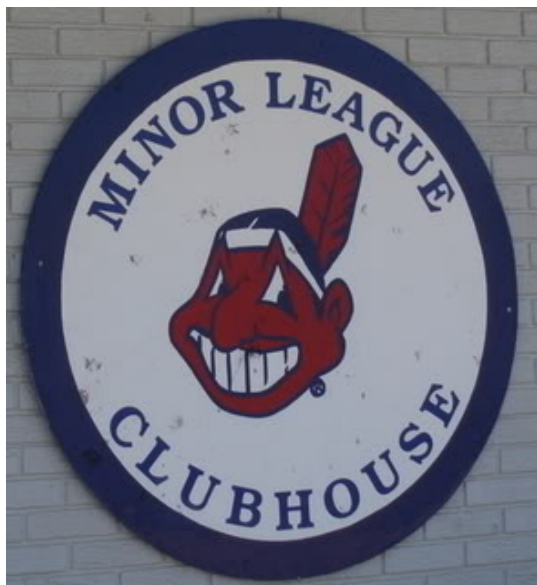


Minor Happenings: Stevens Closing In On Callup

Written by {ga=consigliere}

Wednesday, June 25 2008 7:00 PM -

It's time to check in on The Happenings down on the Indians farm again, and Tony is here with all sorts of good nuggets today. This week, he touches on Jeff Stevens who is closing in Buffalo and just added a new pitch to his arsenal, talks with Lake County pitching coach Ruben Niebla about his relief corps, the resurgence of Trevor Crowe and Asdrubal Cabrera, the return of Tony Sipp and Matt McBride and 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 am heading to Frederick, MD tomorrow for the weekend to see Kinston play, and then also enjoy a little R&R in Washington D.C. to do some sightseeing. This will be my second look at Kinston this year so I am excited to go.

I have not seen them since the first week of the season almost three months ago....my has this season flown by.

In case you missed them, as promised here last week, I pumped out several player articles over the past week. On Friday I did a feature on [Adam Davis's transition to catcher](#), Saturday I wrote about Akron closer

[Randy Newsom's success](#)

on the diamond and in the business world, on Sunday I wrote about Akron reliever

[Erik Stiller's success as an undrafted Princeton grad](#)

, and on Tuesday I wrote about

[up-and-coming starting pitching prospect Ryan Morris](#)

Also, I was in Lake County (again) this past Tuesday. I go there often because of all the affiliates it is the most accessible team for me since it is only 15 minutes or so from my house, but also because everyone, from the gameday staff to the coaches to the players are

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phenomenal there and easy to work with.

Anyway, I have a previous conversation with Dustin Realini from my last visit hopefully set to post sometime this weekend, and during my visit on Tuesday I talked to right-hander starter Joey Mahalic and right-handed reliever Dallas Cawiezell.

So look for those.

Mahalic is an interesting kid, as his dad is a former NFL linebacker and wore #45 at Notre Dame the year before the famed Rudy Ruettiger wore it.

Indians Minor League Player Of The Week

(for games from June 19th through June 25th)

Trevor Crowe (Outfielder - Akron)

.514 AVG (19-for-37), 11 R, 5 2B, 2 HR, 12 RBI, 2 BB, 1 K, 1 SB

Talk about a hot week. Crowe was not only sensational this past week hitting .514 and piling up six multi-hit games in the seven games played, but for the month of June he is hitting a .407 with 2 HR, 18 RBI and a 1.038 OPS. During his seven game tear,



Crowe has raised his batting average 75 points from .234 to .309. Crowe had an 11-game streak of scoring a run and an impressive string of five consecutive multi-hit games snapped on Tuesday night when he went 0-for-3 at the plate, which he promptly bounced back from the next night scoring two runs and going 4-for-5 at the plate.

On the year, Crowe is hitting .309 with 2 HR, 20 RBI, 7 stolen bases, and an .840 OPS.

Crowe was limited in the early going this season as he missed 35 games in April and May with a back strain. After being put on the disabled list just two games into the season, Crowe finally returned on May 16th and essentially had to use the rest of the month as his spring training after being out so long. Now that he is healthy, this month he has been able to do a lot more work in the cages which is something he could not do while he was hurt.

He has also been able to apply instruction from coaches as well as get into a routine.

Crowe has been a hot and cold player during his time with the Indians. Last year, he hit .212 with a .566 OPS up until the start of July, and then from July 1

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on .310 and .838 OPS.

In 2006, after a sensational Kinston campaign the first half of the season where he hit .330 with a .924 OPS in 60 games, he only hit .234 with a .643 in 39 games with Akron the second half of the season.

Crowe has yet to put it together for a full season, although injuries have been most to blame.

An ankle injury shortly after his callup to Akron in 2006 cooled him off, and the back strain two days into the start of this season quickly fizzled the start of his season.

Crowe was also named Bank of America Eastern League Player of the Week on Monday for the week ending June 22nd. Crowe hit .464 (13-28) last week with two home runs, eight RBI, four doubles, and nine runs scored in six games. With Crowe winning player of the week honors, it is the second straight week an Akron player has won the award as third baseman Wes Hodges won the award last week.

Pitchers David Huff and Randy Newsom have also earned weekly awards this season.

Honorable Mentions: Jared Goedert, 3B, Kinston (.400 AVG, 2 HR, 8 RBI); Lucas Montero, OF, Lake County (.353 AVG, 2 HR, 5 RBI, 4 SB); Adam Abraham, 3B, GCL Indians (.313 AVG, 1 HR, 5 RBI); Brock Simpson, OF, Mahoning Valley (.367 AVG, 0 HR, 4 RBI); Hector Rondon, RHP, Kinston (1-0, 0.00 ERA, 7 IP, 3 H, 2 BB, 9 K); David Huff, LHP, Buffalo (1-0, 0.00 ERA, 7 IP, 5 H, 0 R, 0 BB, 9 K)

Previous Winners:

6/12 to 6/18: Chris Gimenez (C - Akron)
6/5 to 6/11: Jim Deters (RHP - Kinston)
5/29 to 6/4: Steven Wright (RHP - Kinston)
5/22 to 5/28: Chris Archer (RHP - Lake County)
5/15 to 5/21: David Huff (LHP - Akron)
5/8 to 5/14: Steven Wright (RHP - Kinston)
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 has been in Winter Haven the last few days checking out the Gulf Coast league team playing there and offered up some comments on the team and some players there:

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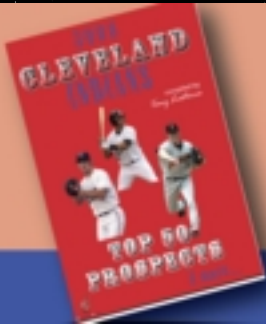
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