

Minor Happenings: LaPorta, Stevens Set For Olympics

Written by {ga=consigliere}

Wednesday, July 16 2008 7:00 PM -

T checks into his usual Thursday night spot with Minor Happenings, which is jammed with great nuggets this week about all the Indians affiliates and top prospects. Tony talks about Jeff Stevens (guy we got in the Brandon Phillips trade) and Matt LaPorta being named to the USA Olympic team and also notes that two other Indians prospects will play for Team Canada. Tony also has some early reports from Farm Director Ross Atkins on Matt LaPorta and the other new Indians acquired from Milwaukee. Enjoy.



'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.

For those that may have missed them, check out the feature articles on [Wyatt Toregas](#) , [Beau Mills](#) , and [Trevor Crowe](#) that posted over the past few days.

Also, coming down the pipeline maybe in August and for sure next year will be a weekly *Minor Happenings* radio show.

More details on this later, but for now it looks like it will be a go and will be streamed on-line.

There will be podcasts of the show, so even if you miss it live any episode will be available for download.

More on all this later, but wanted to mention it now so those interested could be on the lookout for it.

The show would probably be an hour and on at 9pm or 10pm on a Thursday night.

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And one quick note to mention that *Minor Happenings* may post a little late next week, probably on Friday or maybe on Saturday. I am leaving on a two week vacation and baseball trip where I was able to bookend a family vacation with some baseball visits to the Indians affiliates.

I will be down in Winter Haven, FL next weekend July 25-27th to see the GCL Indians play and will also see them in Clearwater, FL at the Phillies complex on Monday the July 28th.

Then, on my way home I will be stopping in Myrtle Beach, SC to see Kinston play August 4-5th.

Also, I am still working it out, but there is a 50/50 chance I will be in Durham, NC on Sunday August 3rd to see Team USA and Team Canada play each other in exhibition play.

So, as you can see, these next few weeks will be busy!

Indians Minor League Player Of The Week

(for games from July 10th through July 16th)

Niuman Romero (Infielder - Kinston)

.444 (12-for-27), 6 R, 6 2B, 1 HR, 6 RBI, 0 BB, 3 K

Romero is having a dream season at advanced Single-A Kinston. He is not considered much of a prospect, but at 23 years of age

and in High-A he has the potential to develop into a useful utility player in the major leagues someday. His versatility is of great value to Kinston where he has played nine games at first base, 21 games at second base, six games at third base, and 31 games at shortstop.

He has even pitched in one game (which I saw) in mop up duty in a blowout loss to Potomac the first week of the season.

Romero got a chance to play more regularly when shortstop Carlos Rivero came up lame in late-May with an ankle injury. Given the chance to play everyday, the results have been staggering. Romero hit .187 with a .452 OPS in April in only 27 at bats, but hit .303/.819 in 66 at bats in May, .283/.814 in 92 at bats in June, and so far in July is hitting .440/1.131 in 50 at bats. Romero is currently in the midst of a 20-game hitting streak which is the longest in the Carolina League this season and is hitting .311 with 6 HR, 30 RBI and an .840 OPS on the season.

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Romero was also named the Carolina League Batter of the Week for the week ending July 13th.

The All Star infielder hit .444 (12-for-27) with six doubles, two home runs, nine RBI, three walks, two strikeouts and a 1.263 slugging percentage from July 7

th

to July 13

th

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Honorable Mentions:

Jeremie Tice (3B - Mahoning Valley): .417 AVG, 8 R, 1 2B, 2 HR, 4 RBI, 3 BB, 4 K

Jared Goedert (INF - Kinston): .333 AVG, 5 R, 2 2B, 1 HR, 8 RBI, 2 BB, 3 K

Wyatt Toregas (C - Akron): .389 AVG, 2 R, 3 2B, 0 HR, 5 RBI, 1 BB, 1 K

Frank Herrmann (RHP - Buffalo): 0-1, 0.00 ERA, 6 IP, 0 ER, 3 H, 3 BB, 10 K

Kelvin De La Cruz (LHP - Lake County): 0-1, 2.57 ERA, 7 IP, 4 H, 2 ER, 0 BB, 7 K

Previous Winners:

7/3 to 7/9: Nick Weglarz (OF - Kinston)

6/26 to 7/2: Stephen Head (1B/OF - Akron)

6/19 to 6/25: Trevor Crowe (OF - Akron)

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)

Directors Cuts

Indians Farm Director Ross Atkins this week commented again on the players received in the C.C. Sabathia trade as well as a few players from around the system:

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Buffalo Notes: (12/5) - Five Lineup: 3-5 (3) at the end of the game. David Huff had a great performance in his first start in Buffalo, going 6-0 with 5 strikeouts and 1 walk. He pitched 6.1 innings, allowing 1 run on 4 hits and 2 walks. He struck out 11 batters, a

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Murray, Akron (4/10/05) with the phone number 656-656-6565. The URL is http://www.aakron.com. The text is partially obscured by a black bar.



Knoxton, Knox (11/11/12) with the phone number 419-419-4194. The URL is http://www.knoxton.com. The text is partially obscured by a black bar.



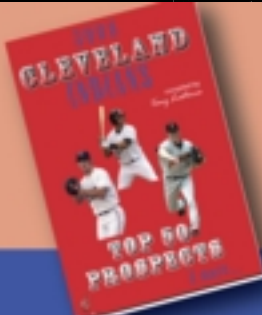
Lake County, Dayton (4/11/14) with the phone number 937-937-9373. The URL is http://www.lakecounty.com. The text is partially obscured by a black bar.



Marietta, Yellow (12/15/05) with the phone number 419-419-4194. The URL is http://www.scrappers.com. The text is partially obscured by a black bar.



Cleveland, Indian (10/10/05) with the phone number 216-216-2161. The URL is http://www.cleveland.com. The text is partially obscured by a black bar.



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