

Minor Happenings: Miller's Season Is Over

Written by {ga=consigliere}

Saturday, August 16 2008 7:00 PM -

Tony is back with yet another installment of Minor Happenings. At the end of the week he recapped his visit to Winter Haven and Myrtle Beach in two separate pieces, and today starts to get things back to normal with a regular (shorter) version touching on some of last weeks news and notes. Today, Tony touches on the recent splash the Indians made at the end of the week with some big signings from the recent draft. Also, he has a ton of comments from Farm Director Ross Atkins on a several prospects, talks about John Drennen's disappointing season, gives us an update on the Indians players participating in the Olympics, and more! Also, if you missed his radio show from Thursday night be sure to check it out!



"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.

Here is a quick regular version of *Minor Happenings* this week, and then things will finally get back to normal next week as we head down the home stretch on the season.

In case you missed it, two special editions of *Happenings*

posted on Wednesday and Thursday with one covering my

[visit to the GCL](#)

to see the Indians rookie-level affiliate in Winter Haven, and the other covering my

[visit to Myrtle Beach](#)

to see the Indians advanced Single-A affiliate Kinston.

Also, in case you missed it, fellow writer [Paul Cousineau](#) and I conducted a radio show on Thursday night for one hour talking about the Indians as well as the minor leagues.

I was laid up all day sick with 101+ temperature and the flu, but we still managed to set sail on our maiden voyage and I thought for our first ever radio experience it went quite well.

There is lots to work on and this is nowhere where we expect it to be, but we'll get there.

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You can listen or download the podcast

[here](#)

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We'll be back on this coming Thursday at the same time (9pm EST), so please call in!

We need some practice with callers, plus holy smokes it can be really hard to talk for an hour straight!

Also, feedback and ideas are welcome, good or bad!

Indians Minor League Player Of The Week

(for games from August 7th to August 13th)

John Drennen (Outfielder - Kinston)

.400 AVG (6-for-15), 4 R, 1 2B, 2 HR, 8 RBI, 3 BB, 1 K

Kinston outfielder John Drennen put up really his first hot stretch of the season this past week in a season that otherwise has been a huge disappointment. The former 2005 first round pick has really been in decline since a solid 2006 campaign where he hit .296

with 6 HR, 38 RBI and an .809 OPS in 98 combined games at Lake County and Kinston. After hitting .254 with 13 HR, 77 RBI and a .727 OPS in 131 games at Kinston last year, Drennen returned for his third season in Kinston this year but his numbers have slipped across the board to .231 with 3 HR, 36 RBI, and a .618 OPS.

Drennen actually got off to a solid start this year hitting .298 with a .755 OPS in 21 games in April and followed that up with a solid May where he hit .273 but his OPS started to slip and finished at .653 in 20 games. Since then, it has been all downhill for Drennen as he hit .194/.505 in 26 June games, .188/.542 in 25 July games, and so far in August is hitting .217/.715 in 12 games.

These are obviously not the kind of numbers you want to see, and the dramatic decline over the course of the season for a player in his third year at the same level begins to make you wonder if he has simply reached his ceiling or that his heart may no longer be in it. There is no doubt that he may have been frustrated having to return to Kinston for a third straight year, so hopefully that frustration has not carried over into his play.

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In any case, with numbers like these and no signs of development or improvement, Drennen could very well be a roster casualty sometime this offseason or during spring training next year.

The hope here is that with the small spurt of success Drennen had last week, possibly some confidence emerges and he can finish strong to somewhat salvage his season.

Honorable Mentions:

Jordan Brown (1B - Buffalo): .444 AVG (8-for-18), 1 2B, 1 RBI

Kevin Dixon (RHP - Akron): 0-1, 2.57 ERA, 14 IP, 9 H, 4 ER, 1 BB, 7 K

Kelvin De La Cruz (LHP - Kinston): 1-0, 2.00 ERA, 9 IP, 7 H, 2 ER, 5 BB, 9 K

Carlos Rivero (SS - Kinston): .409 AVG (9-for-22), 3 2B, 0 HR, 4 RBI

Ron Rivas (SS - Lake County): .500 AVG (8-for-16), 1 2B, 1 3B, 0 HR, 2 RBI

Previous Winners:

07/31 to 08/06: Carlos Santana (C - Kinston)

07/24 to 07/30: Matt Brown (OF - Lake County)

07/17 to 07/23: Michael Aubrey (1B - Buffalo)

07/10 to 07/16: Niuman Romero (3B - Kinston)

07/03 to 07/09: Nick Weglarz (OF - Kinston)

06/26 to 07/02: Stephen Head (1B/OF - Akron)

06/19 to 06/25: Trevor Crowe (OF - Akron)

06/12 to 06/18: Chris Gimenez (C - Akron)

06/05 to 06/11: Jim Deters (RHP - Kinston)

05/29 to 06/04: Steven Wright (RHP - Kinston)

05/22 to 05/28: Chris Archer (RHP - Lake County)

05/15 to 05/21: David Huff (LHP - Akron)

05/08 to 05/14: Steven Wright (RHP - Kinston)

05/01 to 05/07: Jeremy Sowers (LHP - Buffalo)

04/24 to 04/30: Jose Constanza (OF - Akron)

04/17 to 04/23: Hector Rondon (RHP - Kinston)

04/10 to 04/16: Wes Hodges (3B - Akron)

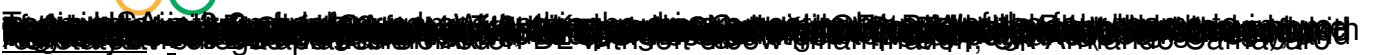
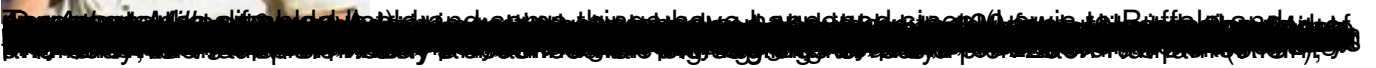
04/03 to 04/09: Kelvin De La Cruz (LHP - Lake County)

Director's Cuts

Indians Farm Director Ross Atkins chimes in once again with some thoughts on several players up and down the system. Do note, because of the delay in posting this piece due to the GCL and Kinston pieces that went up a few days ago some of these

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Miller's season ended with a bang as he pitched a no-hitter against the Detroit Tigers on August 15. Miller, who is from Michigan, and