

Minor Happenings: Martin Is Back On The Radar

Written by {ga=consigliere}

Wednesday, September 03 2008 7:00 PM -

What an opening night in the playoffs for Lake County and Akron! The Captains won 10-4, and the Aeros won 6-5 in 12 innings behind a HUGE night from mega-prospect Matt LaPorta. In this latest edition of Happenings, Tony recaps the playoff wins and focuses on AA Akron, with all kinds of info on the Aeros and snippets from conversations Tony had with many of the players on a recent trip there.



“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.

Wow, what an opening night in the playoffs last night for both Lake County and Akron. Lake County cruised to a 10-4 win in Game 1 of their best-of-three series and can wrap things up at home on Friday night (7:05 pm) in Game 2 or if necessary on Saturday night (7:05 pm) at home in Game 3.

Outfielder Juan Valdes was the key player offensively going 2-for-4 with a HR and 4 RBI, and right-hander Joey Mahalic was outstanding going five shutout innings for the win.

Akron won their game 6-5 in 12 innings, blowing leads of 4-3 in the 8th and 5-4 in the 9th to finally secure the win in extra innings.

Matt LaPorta broke out and went 4-for-5 with 2 HR and 4 RBI and was the star of the game for Akron, and newcomer Neil Wagner was the unsung hero pitching three scoreless innings of relief in extra innings for the win.

Game 2 of the best-of-five series is tonight in Bowie (7:05 pm).

Anyway, today is another special edition of *Happenings*. In past weeks I sort of wrapped up the season coverage with extended pieces on the

[GCL Indians](#)

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[Kinston](#)

, and

[Lake County](#)

, and this time the focus is on Double-A Akron.

Today's piece is a rundown of some players I had not had a chance to talk to yet this year or talk much about.

Also, I'll have a separate piece featuring right-hander Kevin Dixon sometime before the end of the month.

Also, don't forget that every Thursday at 9:30 PM (EST) I have my [weekly hour long radio show](#) . My co-host Paul

Cousineau is still on vacation, but this week

[Brian McPeck](#)

will be substituting as we talk about a myriad of Indians topics relating to the major league and minor league teams.

Check it out!

And if you miss the live broadcast you can download and listen to the show anytime.

For those wondering where I'll be this next week, I will be in Mahoning Valley tonight to wrap things up there for a season ending special piece on them next week. I'll be targetting a lot of the new big draft signings like Tim Fedroff, Trey Haley, Zach Putnam and others.

Also, I will be in Lake County tomorrow to take in Game 2 and if Akron wins their opening round I will be in Akron next Tuesday or Wednesday next week for Game 1 or 2 of their championship series.

And last, there will be a regular edition of *Happenings* tomorrow. Things are quickly winding down on the season!

Martin Is Back On The Radar

Right-hander J.D. Martin is finally healthy and pitching late into the season for the first time in years. The 6'4" 195-pounder has enjoyed a little bit of a revival this year combining to go 12-3 with a 2.41 ERA in 35 games (9 starts) at Akron and Buffalo this year.

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