

## 2009 Indians Top Prospects: #70-66

Written by {ga=consigliere}  
Monday, February 02 2009 7:00 PM -

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The Indians Top 100 Prospect Countdown here on TheClevelandFan.com is starting to get closer to the halfway mark, and we're getting to the point where many casual observers of the farm system will start to notice more names they may be familiar with. Today, we continue to sift through the depth in the lower half of the Top 100 listing with #70-66. Also, all the latest details on Tony's prospect book is inside this piece as well.



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As a sidenote, my [2009 Cleveland Indians Top 100 Prospects & More book](#) is now available. Click on the hyperlink for all the details, and to order it just go to [my website](#)

and click on the form to the top right to complete the order with a check or credit card. If you wish to send a check or money order by US Mail, please contact me at [tlastoria@indiansprospectinsider.com](mailto:tlastoria@indiansprospectinsider.com) and I will verify the order and provide my full mailing address for you so send payment.

Here are the earlier rankings:

- 100. Brian Juhl (C)
- 99. Brad Hinkle (RHP)
- 98. Mark Thompson (SS)
- 97. Adam Davis (C/INF)
- 96. Adam White (OF)
- 95. Jerad Head (INF/OF)
- 94. Brock Simpson (1B/OF)
- 93. Ryan Blair (OF)
- 92. Dustin Realini (INF/OF)

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91. Shawn Nottingham (LHP)
90. Cirilo Cumberbatch (OF)
89. Michael McGuire (RHP)
88. Sung-Wei Tseng (RHP)
87. David Roberts (RHP)
86. Jason Smit (INF)
85. Marty Popham (RHP)
84. Jose Constanza (OF)
83. Adam Abraham (INF)
82. Isaias Velasquez (2INF)
81. Gary Campfield (RHP)
80. Heath Taylor (LHP)
79. Rich Rundles (LHP)
78. Dallas Cawiezell (RHP)
77. Robbie Alcombrack (C)
76. Carlos Moncrief (RHP)
75. Nate Recknagel (C/1B)
74. Karexon Sanchez (INF)
73. Roman Pena (OF)
72. Kyle Landis (RHP)
71. John Drennen (OF)

## 70. Todd Martin - First Baseman

**Born: 06/25/1983 - Height: 6'3" - Weight: 230 - Bats: Left - Throws: Left**

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	G
2006	23	Gary	IND	5
2006	23	GCL Indians	R	11
2007	24	Mahoning Vy	A-	54
2008	25	GCL Indians	R	5
	25	Lake County	A	10
	25	Kinston	A+	21
		Career		106

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### **69. Santo Frias - Right-handed Pitcher**

**Born: 12/08/1987 - Height: 6'3" - Weight: 189 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Lvl</b>	<b>W</b>
2006	18	DSL Indians	R	4
2007	19	GCL Indians	R	2
	19	Lake County	A-	0
2008	20	Lake County	A-	1
		Career		7

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### **68. Michael Finocchi - Right-handed Pitcher**

**Born: 04/28/1985 - Height: 6'0" - Weight: 195 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Lvl</b>	<b>W</b>
2005	20	Burlington	R	0
2006	21	Lake County	A	4
	21	Kinston	A+	1
2007	22	Kinston	A+	3
	22	Akron	AA	2
2008		Kinston	A+	1
		Career		11

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### **67. Kevin Rucker - Outfielder**

**Born: 09/14/1989 - Height: 6'1" - Weight: 185 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right**

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	G
2007	17	GCL Indians	R	11
2008	18	GCL Indians	R	39
		Career		50



**History:** Rucker was a 47th round pick in the 2007 Draft out of a Pioneer Valley High School in

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Santa Maria, CA. He signed late and had an injury, so he played very little with the Indians in 2007.

**Strengths & Opportunities:** Rucker was one of the more intriguing players on the GCL roster last year, and at 6'1" 185-pounds is a player with a lot of talent who is also very rough around the edges and raw for a prospect, but the Indians are excited about his potential. He is very inconsistent at the plate, but has good raw power and the skills to hit the ball way out of the ballpark when he makes contact. Last year was his first full season in the organization, and at 18-years of age he was mostly learning to live on his own and also get acquainted with everyday life as a professional baseball player. His arm strength and speed are above average, and he can go get the ball in the outfield.

Rucker sort of went unnoticed coming into the draft because he spent a lot of time playing football in high school as a full-time defensive player at the free safety position. His prowess as a free safety in football certainly translates to his excellent ability to track down balls as an outfielder, and it is his most developed tool. His instincts in the outfield are getting a lot better, and the adjustment from center field to right field has gone well. The Indians are really working with him on being a more consistent hitter and putting up more quality at bats by staying with a steadier approach, sticking to a plan at the plate, and trying not to swing at balls out of the zone. They feel this will come as he matures, and he has a bright future as a potential everyday player in the big leagues.

**Outlook:** While the projection is long, Rucker reminds some in the Indians organization of Andre Dawson. He has a good shot to open the 2009 season in the Single-A Lake County outfield, but may need to open the season in extended spring training for more instruction before moving onto Lake County later in the year.

### **66. Matt Meyer - Left-handed Pitcher**

**Born: 01/17/1985 - Height: 6'4" - Weight: 220 - Bats: Left - Throws: Left**

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2006	21	Mahoning Vy	A-	2
2007	21	Lake County	A	0
		Kinston	A+	3
2008		Kinston	A+	4
		Career		9

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