

We move along with Tony's list today and now really start to get into all of the impact talent the Indians have on the horizon. The Indians are bursting at the seams with some very good young talent, so much so that a lot of these guys ranked #11-15 could be in the Top 7-8 for most other organizations. The headliner of today's list is outfielder Michael Brantley, the player to be named later in the C.C. Sabathia trade and a player the Indians and the rest of baseball are just salivating over. And don't forget to check out Tony and Paul's show Smoke Signals tonight on The Cleveland Fan Live!



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.

For those that missed it, I was on the program All Bets Are Off on the Indians cable network SportsTime Ohio last Friday March 6th. I DVRed the show and made a recording of the DVR playback with my digital video camera and uploaded it to You Tube. So, if you are interested in seeing it, [click here](#). We talked for about 35 minutes covering two segments and

touched on a myriad of prospects.

We continue today with #15-11 in the Indians Top 100 Prospect Countdown. 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)
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)

## 2009 Indians Top Prospects: #15-11

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Wednesday, March 11 2009 7:00 PM -

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75. Nate Recknagel (C/1B)
74. Karexon Sanchez (INF)
73. Roman Pena (OF)
72. Kyle Landis (RHP)
71. John Drennen (OF)
70. Todd Martin (1B)
69. Santo Frias (RHP)
68. Michael Finocchi (RHP)
67. Kevin Rucker (OF)
66. Matt Meyer (LHP)
65. Bo Greenwell (OF)
64. Paolo Espino (RHP)
63. Jonathan Holt (RHP)
62. Vinnie Pestano (RHP)
61. Kevin Dixon (RHP)
60. Randy Newsom (RHP)
59. Chris Nash (1B)
58. Carlton Smith (RHP)
57. Lucas Montero (OF)
56. Steven Wright (RHP)
55. Michael Aubrey (1B)
54. Delvi Cid (OF)
53. Clayton Cook (RHP)
52. T.J. McFarland (LHP)
51. Wyatt Toregas (C)
50. Chris Jones (LHP)
49. Chen-Chang Lee (RHP)
48. Matt Brown (OF)
47. Ryan Edell (LHP)
46. Neil Wagner (RHP)

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Wednesday, March 11 2009 7:00 PM -

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45. Danny Salazar (RHP)
44. Jared Goedert (2B/3B)
43. Josh Judy (RHP)
42. Jeremie Tice (3B)
41. Joey Mahalic (RHP)
40. Erik Stiller (RHP)
39. Ryan Morris (LHP)
38. Mike Pontius (RHP)
37. Ryan Miller (LHP)
36. Frank Herrmann (RHP)
35. Bryce Stowell (RHP)
34. Stephen Head (1B/OF)
33. Chuck Lofgren (LHP)
32. Trey Haley (RHP)
31. Rob Bryson (RHP)
30. Tim Fedroff (OF)
29. Matt McBride (C)
28. Eric Berger (LHP)
27. Alexander Perez (RHP)
26. Cord Phelps (2B)
25. Jeanmar Gomez (RHP)
24. Josh Rodriguez (SS/2B)
23. Zach Putnam (RHP)
22. Josh Tomlin (RHP)
21. Trevor Crowe (OF)
20. Jordan Brown (1B)
19. T.J. House (LHP)
18. Chris Gimenez (C)
17. Luis Valbuena (2B)
16. Tony Sipp (LHP)

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 Wednesday, March 11 2009 7:00 PM -

## 15. Abner Abreu - Third Baseman

**Born: 10/24/1989 - Height: 6'3" - Weight: 170 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right**

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	G
2007	17	DSL Indians	R	56
2008	18	GCL Indians	R	51
		Career		107



**History:** Abreu was signed as an undrafted free agent in October 2006 out of the Dominican Republic. When the Indians worked him out they loved his power potential and quickly signed him for \$75,000. As a 17-year old in the Dominican Summer League in 2007 he opened some eyes after he piled up 24 extra base hits in 228 at bats, and he did not disappoint in an encore this past season in the Gulf Coast League (GCL) where he finished with 31 extra base hits and lead the league in doubles (16), home runs (11), total bases (107) and slugging percentage (.538), and was second in RBI (37).

**Strengths & Opportunities:** Abreu probably has some of the best raw power in the entire organization, and as he grows into his big frame has the potential to add much more strength with the chance to have well above average power at the major league level. His build and look is a lot like Alfonso Soriano in that he is tall and skinny with very long arms and legs, but even with his wiry frame he has some awesome raw power and the ball just explodes off his bat. He has strong hands and a natural whip in his swing that is hard to teach, and showcases a very quick bat on inside pitches that allows him to drive the ball pull side. He generates excellent bat speed and has the ability to hit the ball out to any part of the ballpark. A lot of the Gulf Coast teams play in the big league spring training parks, so it is something when you see an

18-year old hitting the ball out of a major league ballpark to the opposite field.

While he is tall and very skinny, he has a body that will allow him to gain weight and grow into it more the next few seasons. He is an average runner, but as he fills out he could see a spike in his speed to a fringe above average. He is a very aggressive hitter at the plate so he will likely always be prone to high strikeout totals as demonstrated by his 52 strikeouts and just 9 walks in 199 at bats in the Gulf Coast League last year. The key going forward is not to significantly reduce the strikeouts, but to better improve his plate discipline where he can work counts a little more by being a little more patient to wait for his pitch and draw more walks.

While he is very young and strong, Abreu is also relatively versatile. He came in as a shortstop, but was moved to third base last year and displayed some real soft hands and good range at the position. The Indians are not sure whether he is going to be an infielder or an outfielder, and he profiles as an average defender really anywhere, but they plan to exhaust every opportunity to keep him at a premium position in the infield at this point. It still looks like at some point down the road because of his athleticism, cannon for an arm and of course his bat that he could be destined for a move to the outfield.

**Outlook:** The Indians are very high on Abreu and were very impressed with his power showing in the GCL where over a 500 at bat season he was on pace to hit almost 30 home runs as an 18-year old. He definitely has a lot of room for growth physically and as a player, but he already looks like he could be a star in the making. He should open the 2009 season at Single-A Lake County.

## 14. Jon Meloan - Right-handed Pitcher

**Born: 07/11/1984 - Height: 6'3" - Weight: 230 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right**

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2005	20	Ogden	R	0
2006	21	Columbus	A	1
	21	Vero Beach	A+	1
	21	Jacksonville	AA	1
2007	22	Jacksonville	AA	5
	22	Las Vegas	AAA	2
	22	Los Angeles	MLB	0
2008	23	Las Vegas	AAA	0
	23	Buffalo	AAA	0
	23	Cleveland	MLB	0
		Career (minors)		15

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Wednesday, March 11 2009 7:00 PM -



### 13. Scott Lewis - Left-handed Pitcher

**Born: 09/26/1983 - Height: 6'0" - Weight: 195 - Bats: Switch - Throws: Left**

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2004	20	Mahoning Vv	A-	0
2005	21	Mahoning Vv	A-	0
2006	22	Kinston	A+	3
2007	23	Akron	AA	7
2008	24	Akron	AA	6
	24	Buffalo	AAA	2
	24	Cleveland	MLB	4
		Career (minors)		18

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Wednesday, March 11 2009 7:00 PM -

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### **12. Michael Brantley - Outfielder**

**Born: 05/15/1987 - Height: 6'2" - Weight: 195 - Bats: Left -  
Throws: Left**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Lvl</b>	<b>G</b>
2005	18	AZ Brewers	DR	44
	18	Helena	DR	10
2006	19	West Virginia	A	108
2007	20	West Virginia	A	56
	20	Huntsville	AA	58
2008	21	Huntsville	AA	106
		Career		383

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Wednesday, March 11 2009 7:00 PM -

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### **11. Carlos Rivero - Shortstop**

**Born: 05/20/1988 - Height: 6'3" - Weight: 210 - Bats: Right -  
Throws: Right**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Lvl</b>	<b>G</b>
2005	17	DSL Indians	R	66
2006	18	GCL Indians Burlington	RRR	37 16
2007	19	Lake County	A	115
2008	20	Kinston	A+	108
		Career		342

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