

Tony's been out in Goodyear for the last two weeks, and today, wraps out his time out there with one final Goodyear Notebook. In it, he talks about Matt McBride's position change, Rob Bryson's rehab, Matt Meyer's camp to forget, the weather out in Arizona, and players that have been released. Tony also lays out the projected final rosters for Columbus, Akron, Lake County, and Kinston.

McBride Shuffles Positions



At this time last year, Matt McBride was in the home stretch from surgery on his right labrum. Fast forward a year, and while McBride is healthy these days, his position seems to change by the day.

When the 2008 season ended, the Indians sent McBride to the Instructional League to get much needed at bats he missed since he was on the shelf for the first half of the season rehabbing his shoulder. It was in Instructional League where the Indians introduced him to the outfield and informed him that he would be moving out from behind the plate and to the outfield in 2009.

He even went out and played in the outfield in the Hawaii Winter League to get some experience, and adapted well to the new position.

So here we are at the end of spring training, and now McBride is playing first base.

"I did not know [about another position change] until I got out here," said McBride during camp this past week. "Basically in my one-on-one when I got here they told me to catch the first two weeks. Then they said to do two weeks just strictly in the outfield and I did that. Then they said near the end of spring I would start working with the first basemen a little bit, and that is where they have decided to go with me."

So now I have really been hitting first base hard and doing extra drills and trying to learn as much as I can while I am down here.

I am picking up little things from the guys who have been playing there for awhile, but it has been going well."

The bulk of McBride's playing time this season will come at first base, though he was told not to rule out playing in the outfield from time to time. As for catching, that is likely a thing of the past in order to preserve his shoulder and he should not play there unless the team is strapped for some reason at catcher for a game.

McBride has taken to his crash course at first base well in spring training, though he is still trying to get a handle on a lot of the footwork at the position, fielding groundballs, getting to balls in the hole, etc.

"I think I am just trying to pick up all the little things like footwork, groundballs, where I should be for cuts, relays and other positioning," said McBride. "Bunt plays I have always been at it from the catching point of view, so that is different now."

Through catching I am able to sort of know where I need to be, but now it is from a different perspective so I need to learn it at first base.

The biggest thing is just getting acclimated to first base, like balls in the hole that I should let the second baseman get so I don't come off too far."

McBride's right shoulder is the reason he has been bounced around the field the past few months. The Indians love his bat and want to keep him in the lineup, but his lack of arm

strength in his shoulder even after his surgery was concerning enough for them to make the move to the outfield and then to first base. McBride says his shoulder is pain free, and that it continues to get stronger everyday.

"It feels great," said McBride. "Throwing-wise, my arm strength is much better. I was throwing fine before, but my arm strength wasn't there, but now I can hold my own and it is feeling good.

There is no pain involved with throwing, even when I was throwing down to second when I first came down here for spring training.

I am really happy with the shoulder at this point from where it was last year at this time."

With the shoulder injury past him, and the positional changes about worked out, McBride is just happy to get his career back on track after a lost 2008 campaign.

"I am feeling good and am anxious for the season to start," said McBride.

Bryson's Rehab Right On Schedule

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Lake County:

Rotation: T.J. House (LHP), Alexander Perez (RHP), T.J. McFarland (LHP), Joey Mahalic

(RHP), Ryan Miller (LHP)

Bullpen: Santo Frias (RHP), Matt Langwell (RHP), Russell Young (LHP), Steve Smith (RHP), Michael McGuire (RHP), Dave Roberts (RHP), Paolo Espino (RHP), Kyle Landis (RHP)

Position: Michael Valadez (C), Adam Abraham (C), Mark Thompson (SS), Jeremie Tice (3B), Walter Diaz (INF), Nate Recknagel (C/1B), Karexon Sanchez (2B), Chris Nash (1B), Adam White (OF), Donnie Webb (OF), Abner Abreu (OF), Ryan Blair (OF)

Kinston:

Rotation: Jeanmar Gomez (RHP), Ryan Morris (LHP), Eric Berger (LHP), Zach Putnam (RHP), Kelvin De La Cruz (LHP)

Bullpen: Josh Judy (RHP), Matt Meyer (LHP), Chen-Chang Lee (RHP), Gary Campfield (RHP), Dallas Cawiezell (RHP), Heath Taylor (LHP), Jonathan Holt (RHP)

Position: Alex Castillo (C), Richard Martinez (C), Cristo Arnal (INF), Lonnie Chisenhall (3B), Adam Davis (INF/C), Cord Phelps (2B), Matt McBride (1B), Ronald Rivas (SS), Matt Brown (OF), Jason Denham (OF), Tim Fedroff (OF), Lucas Montero (OF), Roman Pena (OF)

Projected Akron & Columbus Rosters

Okay, while the Lake County and Kinston rosters are official, the Akron and Buffalo rosters are not official yet. The only thing official is the pitching staff at Akron, and the starting rotation at Columbus.

The reason the rosters are not official yet is because of a few players still with the Indians who

may factor into the Columbus roster such as Wilson Valdez, Matt Herges, Andy Marte, Damaso Espino, and Tony Graffanino, so the final roster for Columbus (and even Akron) is subject to change. Akron could be affected by a trickle down effect with their bench, plus infielder Josh Rodriguez is banged up and still recovering from an intercostal strain which has sidelined him for about ten days of camp. He is supposed to be okay, but may open in extended spring training for a few days to be sure he is 100%.

All that said, the Akron roster should be pretty much what it is as well as the Columbus roster. The only changes would be to a bullpen guy or two in Columbus and some of the bench guys at both affiliates.

Akron:

Rotation: Chuck Lofgren (LHP), Frank Herrmann (RHP), Josh Tomlin (RHP), Hector Rondon (RHP), Steven Wright (RHP)

Bullpen: Erik Stiller (RHP), Randy Newsom (RHP), Scott Roehl (RHP), Neil Wagner (RHP), Carlton Smith (RHP), Michael Finocchi (RHP), Ryan Edell (LHP), Vinnie Pestano (RHP)

Position: Carlos Santana (C), Armando Camacaro (C), Beau Mills (1B), Jared Goedert (3B), Jerad Head (INF/OF), Carlos Rivero (SS), Niuman Romero (INF), Josh Rodriguez (2B), John Drennen (OF), Nick Weglarz (OF), Jose Constanza (OF), Michael Hall (OF)

Columbus:

Rotation: David Huff (LHP), Jeremy Sowers (LHP), Aaron Laffey (LHP), Kirk Saarloos (RHP), Jack Cassel (RHP)

Bullpen: John Meloan (RHP), Tony Sipp (LHP), Rich Rundles (LHP), Vinnie Chulk (RHP), Juan Salas (RHP), Greg Aquino (RHP), Jose Rodriguez (RHP)

Position: Chris Gimenez (C/1B), Wyatt Toregas (C), Jordan Brown (1B), Michael Aubrey (1B), Andy Cannizaro (SS), Wes Hodges (3B), Juan Merchan (INF), Luis Valbuena (2B), Michael Brantley (OF), Stephen Head (OF), Matt LaPorta (OF), George Lombard (OF)

Notebook

Desert Wind: Wow, what a day it was on Friday at the complex as the winds were flat out crazy. Wind gusts had to be around 50 MPH at times, and because everything around the complex is not developed and nothing but endless fields of dirt, sand, rock and flat ground for miles, the wind really blows through there and when it does it creates a pretty nasty dust storm. The winds were so strong, the fence behind home plate on Field #2 was actually blowing into the field, and eventually the game on Field #1 was called in the 6th inning because of the frequent stoppage of play because of the dust blowing across the field.

Shapiro Talks 2009 Draft: Check out this Q&A that Indians GM Mark Shapiro did on the upcoming 2009 Draft. Shapiro gives his typical diplomatic spin on everything, but there is some insight to be learned here if you look closely.

Check it out

[here](#)

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More Releases: I failed to report two other releases earlier in the week, as the Indians released outfielders Juan Valdes and Angel Rodriguez. As I mentioned the other day, the releases should be pretty much done, though there is still a player or two I did not list the other day that have been released.

The Indians are done releasing players it seems, though I still think a catcher or two may be let go now that camp is over (a catcher may have been one of the guys not initially listed).

Extended Spring Training: Today, extended spring training officially started. I will have an article in the coming week about what extended spring training is, which will also include lots of quotes from manager Ted Kubiak who moreorless will be running things out there.

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Prospect Videos: Check out the videos I shot the last two days of camp on the following players: [Chris Jones](#) , [Lonnie Chisenhall vs. The Wind](#) , [Adam Abraham](#) , [Nate Recknagel](#) ,
, [Kelvin De La Cruz](#) ,
, [Trey Haley](#) ,
, [Tony Sipp](#) ,
, [Nick Weglarz](#) ,
, [Carlos Santana](#) ,
, [Beau Mills](#) ,
, [Jordan Brown](#) ,
, [Jose Constanza](#) ,
, and [Hector Rondon](#) .

Photos & Emails: I will be in touch with everyone sometime in the coming week who I promised photos to. I need to sort through the 3000 photos I took (I'm not joking), and once I organize them all I will be forwarding as requested. Also, I have a ton of emails to respond to, so if you sent me an email in the past week and have yet to get a response I apologize as I have just been slammed. I will reply soon!

And That's A Wrap: This concludes the coverage of the Indians 2009 minor league spring training. What a fabulous ten days it was out here, and many thanks to the players, coaches, coordinators and rest of the Indians staff for their help and patience with me. The season starts this week, and I will have previews for each of the four full season affiliates up throughout the week.

Also, I have a nice article I did with Ross Atkins explaining how they infuse new talent into the organization which will post on Monday while I am in transit back to Cleveland.

As for me, I am off to Sin City on Sunday morning for a much needed break before I head back Monday morning.

See you all soon and thanks for reading!