

Minor Happenings: Akron Closes In On Championship

Written by {ga=consigliere}
Thursday, September 17 2009 7:00 PM -

The 2009 minor league season is just about over. The single-A Mahoning Valley Scrappers fell just short of a championship. And the AA Akron Aeros are just one win away from an Eastern League Championship. Tony hits on the playoff exploits of those teams, chats with Akron pitching coach Ruben Niebla, hits on the injury to Jason Knapp, and wraps up the minor league season in this, his second to last Minor Happenings column of 2009. Look for Tony's popular season ending "Tony Awards" piece coming in the next couple weeks as well.



"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.

Some last minute house cleaning this week as the minor league season comes to a close. Next week I will have a very short *Happenings* piece before we put a close on the 2009 season with my Tony Awards the following week.

Last night, Paul and I had a chance to speak with Triple-A first baseman/outfielder Jordan Brown for about 25 minutes [on our Smoke Signals radio show](#) about his non-call to Cleveland and how he is handling it.

I also [wrot](#)

[e a second piece](#)

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on the situation earlier in the week.

Two other player profiles this week were posted on

[Bo Greenwell](#)

and

[Steve Smith](#)

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Onto the *Happenings*...

Director's Cuts

Indians Farm Director Ross Atkins this week talked about a plethora of players up and down the Indians system, including several players not often talked about:

On Lonnie Chisenhall: "He really is [the real deal]. Defensively he makes plays I think everyone in the organization takes a step back and says 'we don't have a lot of guys who can make those plays'.

He is just really comfortable, very athletic, and has a lot of confidence in his ability defensively.

Offensively the numbers speak for themselves.

He has a very pure swing, he is gifted, has discipline, power and projection as he is only 21 years old.

We are as excited as we can possibly be about Lonnie."

On Kyle Bellows: "He really did [impress this year]. Travis Fryman speaks of him in the same light as Lonnie Chisenhall.

He is athletic, has power, and an ease to his game.

He makes all the routine plays and can make the exceptional one.

He has some bat-to-ball and has some power, so it was a really impressive start to his professional career."

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