

2010 Indians Top 50 Prospects: #25-21

Written by {ga=consigliere}

Tuesday, March 02 2010 12:00 AM - Last Updated Saturday, March 27 2010 3:09 PM

Here is the next group of prospects in the 2010 Indians Top 50 Prospect Countdown here on TheClevelandFan.com and SportsTimeOhio.com. As a reminder, these scouting reports will be linked and listed for easy access on my [site](#) .

Also, my new 2010 Cleveland Indians Top 100 Prospects & More [book is now available](#) . To order the book (which profiles over 165 players in the system and runs 214 pages in length) ... [go here for all the details](#)

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[#30-26](#)

25. Beau Mills – First Baseman

Born: 08/15/1986 – Height: 6’3” – Weight: 220 – Bats: Left – Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl
2007	20	Mahoning Vy	A-

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2007	20	Lake County	A
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2007	20	Kinston	A+
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2008	21	Kinston	A+
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2009

22

Akron

AA

Totals

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Baseball Prospect Database					Baseball Prospect Database				
Year	Age	Team	Throws	Lvl	Year	Age	Team	Throws	Lvl

2007	21	GCL Indians	R
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2007	21	Mahoning Vy	A-
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2008	22	Lake County	A
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2008	22	Kinston	A+
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2009	23	Kinston	A+
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2009

23

Akron

AA

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Josh Winder Finalists Batavia Comments page				
Year	Age	Team	Lvl	

2006	21	Batavia	A-
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2007	22	Lakewood	A
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2007	22	Clearwater	A+
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2008	23	Reading	AA
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2009	24	GCL Phillies	R
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2009	24	Lehigh Valley	AAA
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2009	24	Columbus	AAA
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History: Donald was selected by the Philadelphia Phillies in the 3rd round of the 2006 Draft out of the University of Arizona. The Indians acquired him as part of a four player package from the Phillies in exchange for Cliff Lee and Ben Francisco in a trade completed on July 29th, 2009. While 2009 was a lost year for him 2008 was very busy as he was the starting shortstop for Team USA in the All Star Futures Game at Yankee Stadium and also played for Team USA in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. He played in the Arizona Fall League as well in 2008, and was named to the All Prospect Team after hitting .407 (37-for-91) with 12 2B, 3 3B, 5 HR, and 17 RBI in 25 games.

Strengths & Opportunities: Donald is a very athletic player who has a great feel for hitting, good approach at the plate, and is fundamentally sound with his swing. He has very good power to all fields for an infielder and just pounds the ball into the gaps. He doesn't do one thing great offensively, but his offensive skill set is a lot like current Indians infielder Asdrubal Cabrera. He is only an average runner or maybe a tick above, but has excellent instincts and intelligence running the bases. He is a maximum effort player who goes all out, and is often considered an overachiever.

Donald was hampered by a torn meniscus in his left knee for a good portion of the season last year which eventually sidelined him for two months before he was traded to the Indians. His issues with his knee could help explain some of his poor numbers last year, especially in the power department. Shortly after joining the Indians, he was sidelined with a back strain after ten games for Triple-A Columbus. He came out of the Columbus lineup on August 13th and did not return the rest of the season. The injury was unfortunate as the Indians wanted to call him up to Cleveland in September to help him get acclimated to the big leagues in the hopes that he could show he would be ready for a big league bench job to start the 2010 season. The injury nixed those plans, and as a result no matter what happens this spring the Indians now are pretty much dead set on him opening the 2010 season in Triple-A Columbus to prove he is healthy and also get his swing right. They still expect him to get a significant number of at bats in Cleveland this season where if healthy he should be up with the big league team sometime before or after the All Star break.

Opinions differ on Donald on what kind of player he will be. He certainly has the offensive capabilities to be a plus offensive player anywhere in the middle of the diamond, but it is split on whether he is a second level everyday middle infielder or a utility player who has the ability to start on occasion. The problem stems from him not fitting at any one position. While he can play third base, shortstop, and second base, he is only average at best defensively at each position. He lacks the range to play everyday at shortstop and he does not have the big bat or arm to be an everyday third baseman. His best chance at an everyday gig is probably second base.

Outlook:□ Donald profiles as a very good utility player, and may be the eventual replacement in that role later this season. His ability to play anywhere in the infield has a lot of value, which will allow him to have a pretty long big league career even if he does not settle into one everyday position. While he will likely begin his big league player as a bench player or as part of a second base platoon, the Indians are not going to give up on him as an everyday option as they still think he can be an average defensive shortstop with good offensive potential or be an above average all around second baseman. He will be in the mix for a big league bench job in spring training, but he is set to open the 2010 season at Triple-A Columbus.

Photo courtesy of Ken Carr

[Jason Donald MinorLeagueBaseball.com page](#)

[Jason Donald Baseball-Reference page](#)

[Jason Donald MinorLeagueSplits.com page](#)

Jason Donald Hitting:

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22. Scott Barnes – Left-handed Pitcher

Born: 09/05/1987 – Height: 6'4" – Weight: 185 – Bats: Left – Throws: Left

Year	Age	Team	Lvl
2008	20	AZL Giants	R
2008	20	Salem-Keizer	A-

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2008	20	Augusta	A
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2009	21	San Jose	A+
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2009	21	Kinston	A+
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2009	21	Akron	AA
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Totals



History:

Barnes was an 8th round pick in the 2008 Draft out of St. John's University by the San Francisco Giants. He was actually on the verge of a well deserved callup to Double-A just before being acquired by the Indians on July 27th. In his last seven starts before being traded he was 7-0 with a 1.50 ERA (48.0 IP, 36 H, 8 ER, 58 K), and at the time of the trade he was leading the California League in wins, was 2nd in ERA, and was 9th with 99 strikeouts. The Indians decided to make a lateral move and initially assign him to High-A Kinston in order to let him get his feet wet and settled into the organization before moving him to Double-A for the first time in his career.

Strengths & Opportunities: Barnes uses his size and extreme athleticism to attack hitters with all three of his offerings. He has a deceptive fastball that sits 90-92 MPH and touches 94 MPH, a plus changeup, and a developing slurvy curveball with the makings of being a plus pitch. He gets behind his fastball so it has a little bit of extra life and is explosive at the end because he throws it with a lot of conviction and the way it comes out of his hand it is not as easy to see. While he likes to work off his fastball, the changeup is considered his best pitch. He commands all three of his pitches well, fills the zone up with strikes, and has confidence using all three of his pitches in any count. At 21-years of age and 6'4" and 185-pounds he has the body to handle the rigors as a starting pitcher, and he projects as a middle of the rotation starter in the big leagues.

Barnes is special from a confidence and competitive standpoint, and has a boxer's mentality on the mound where he takes his competitiveness to another level. He is at the top of the Indians system when it comes to mound presence and competitiveness, and has no fear and goes right after hitters. While he looks very loose and relaxed on the mound, he has an edge to him. His athleticism is a big part of his success as it allows him to repeat his delivery well, and in turn he is able to effectively change speeds on his pitches. He likes to work fast and keep a good pace to the game, and is very distinct and focused on what he is trying to do. In his short time in the organization the Indians were impressed with his maturity of taking control of what he wanted to do and how he took command of his defense around him when he was on the mound.

Having only been in professional baseball for about a year Barnes is still growing and coming into his own as a pitcher. He has shown a big improvement in his strike throwing ability since college, in large part because he has done a much better job of being more aggressive and attacking the strike zone. Last year he did a good job commanding his fastball down in the zone to both sides of the plate to both left-handed and right-handed hitters and pitched in to both. He also showed an ability when behind in the count to throw his offspeed stuff. The question now is whether or not he can continue to be deceptive with his fastball and get swings and misses as he settles into Double-A this year and then Triple-A and potentially the big leagues down the road. He also needs to continue working on his curveball, a pitch the Indians think has the potential to blossom into a plus pitch and give him the three pitch mix needed to be a solid major league starter.

Outlook: The Indians scouted Barnes in 2008 before the draft so they already had a book on him, but they were impressed with his advancement and how quickly he transitioned to the professional game and harnessed the ability to become a good, consistent strike thrower. They like his feel and arsenal of pitches, and because of his athleticism think he has the chance to be a left-handed big league starter one day. He will open the 2010 season in the Double-A Akron starting rotation.

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Photo courtesy of Ken Carr

[Scott Barnes MinorLeagueBaseball.com page](#)

[Scott Barnes Baseball-Reference page](#)

[Scott Barnes MinorLeagueSplits.com page](#)

Scott Barnes Pitching:

21. Jess Todd – Right-handed Pitcher

Born: 04/20/1986 – Height: 5'11" – Weight: 210 – Bats: Right – Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl
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2007	21	Batavia	A-
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2008	22	Palm Beach	A+
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2008	22	Springfield	AA
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2008	22	Memphis	AAA
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2009	23	St. Louis	MLB
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2009	23	Memphis	AAA
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2009	23	Columbus	AAA
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2009	23	Cleveland	MLB
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MiLB Totals

MLB Totals

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[Class Todd Pittman's Baseball Image page](#)