



The Cleveland Indians have built, in my opinion, one of the deepest minor league systems in baseball. The top six or seven guys have a great chance to make all star teams, although none of them compares to last year's #1 player in the system, catcher Carlos Santana. Santana's upside is unmatched in the organization, and was a top-10 player in all of the minor leagues going into 2010. So the lack of a "Santana" type player is an issue for most organizations around baseball, not just Cleveland's.

What the Indians do have is an extraordinarily deep system that should crank out a large number of major league baseball players. There are legitimately 40 or more guys in this system right now that could play in the major leagues someday. Not many systems in baseball can make that claim. As I indicated a few weeks ago in my piece about the future of the major league bullpen, having a plethora of internal replacements around the diamond provides three invaluable services for the big league team. One, it allows for cheap replacement options if the players in Cleveland falter or are injured. Two, it helps preclude the need to trade valuable prospect chips under club control for replacement-level veterans. And three, it provides trade ammo for the team if they do feel like they are close enough that one or two players will make the difference between a playoff and non-playoff season.

With such a deep system comes a real challenge in ranking players. I have been moving guys around as recently as yesterday, and the list I had before I started writing up the scouting reports is pretty different than the list I finished up with. There isn't a huge difference between the #25 and #50 guys on this list, and that is not a slight at the guys in the 20's. It's a testament to the guys down in the 40's and 50's, many of whom will at least get a cup of coffee in the majors if not more. Very, very few organizations in baseball can say that. I'm going to keep saying it because it's impossible to stress this point enough...the Indians have the deepest system in baseball right now. It lacks the star power of a system like Kansas City's, but will undoubtedly produce more major league players than the Royals will.

I have seen most, but not all of these players in person, some more than others. These rankings are my own, but I heavily considered the input of three people in particular when

putting them together. First, Tony Lastoria over at IPI, who probably knows more about the Indians system than anyone outside of the organization. Second, BaseballProspectus.com minor league guru Kevin Goldstein, whose opinions I value very much. Third, ESPN.com insider Keith Law, who is snarky and sarcastic but really knows talent when he sees (or doesn't see) it. I of course don't always agree with everything they all say, but I consider their info and opinions when forming my own rankings. This list would be radically different without the writings of those three, and for that I thank them.

Before we get to players 41-50 in the Indians system, here's a look at some of the best individual tools that the Indians' farm teams have to offer:

**Best hit tool:** Lonnie Chisenhall

**Best raw power:** Nick Weglarz

**Best athlete:** LeVon Washington

**Fastest runner:** LeVon Washington

**Best infield defender:** Kyle Bellows

**Best outfield defender:** Jordan Henry

**Best defensive catcher:** Roberto Perez

**Best fastball:** Jason Knapp/Bryce Stowell

**Best secondary offering:** Alex White (splitter)/Drew Pomeranz (curveball)

**Strength of the system:** Power bullpen arms

**Weakness of the system:** Power bats at CI and OF

So now let's start the countdown. To be eligible for this list, players have to have fewer than 130 major league at bats and fewer than 50 major league innings pitched. We'll be counting down from #50 to #1 all this week here at TCF, with the top 5 announced next Tuesday. So check back every day for each installment. I hope you all have as much fun reading this list as I had putting it together.



**41. Bo Greenwell, OF**

**DOB:** 10/15/1988

**Height/Weight:** 6-0/185

**Bats/Throws:** L/L

**Acquired:** 6<sup>th</sup> round pick in 2007

**2010 Stats:** .301/.380/.395 with 6/57 and 25 SB between low A Lake County and high A Kinston

**Scouting report:** The son of former major leaguer Mike Greenwell, Bo had a solid 2010 campaign in the OF between two A levels. He started out very hot for Lake County, putting up a .823 OPS and hitting 4 of his 6 HR in his 248 at bats in low A. He was quickly moved up to Kinston, where he struggled initially, but rebounded to finish out his high-A campaign with a .727 OPS. He's a plus runner who takes good routes to balls in the OF, and has good instincts on the bases. He swiped 25 bags last year while being caught 11 times, and you can expect that ratio to improve over time.

Greenwell doesn't have a lot of pop, but does a good job of putting the ball in play and using his speed on the bases. He has a short, compact stroke from the left side and does a pretty good job of squaring up the baseball. He'll never be a middle of the order hitter, but has enough doubles power, speed and OBP skills that he could be a solid 2-hole guy. He's wiry strong and has worked to add some bulk to his frame, but he's still not a big guy.

Drafted straight out of high school, Greenwell was actually split between pursuing a path in baseball or football until an injury prior to his senior year pushed him more towards baseball. The Indians were able to sign him away from a full ride to "The U" where he would have played baseball. So 2010 was really only his 3<sup>rd</sup> season focusing primarily on baseball. While he has good baseball instincts and was obviously around the game a lot as a kid, he still has some growing to do with fundamentals. He has an average arm, and throws more sidearm than over the top and can sometimes struggle with his accuracy. He's not quite good enough defensively to project as an everyday CF at this point in his career, but his bat profiles much better there than as a corner OF.

Greenwell spent a half-season in Kinston in 2010, and the smart money is for him to open there again in what could be a crowded OF.

**Glass half-full:** An average defensive CF with decent speed who gets on base.

**Glass half-empty:** A good defensive LF that never hits enough to be an everyday player. Trevor Crowe, without the 1<sup>st</sup> round pedigree.

#### 42. Alexander Perez, RHP

**DOB:** 07/24/1989

**Height/Weight:** 6-2/156

**Bats/Throws:** R/R

**Acquired:** International FA in 2007

**2010 Stats:** 0-1, 2.70 ERA, 8 K and 2 BB in 6 2/3 IP for high A

**Scouting report:** Perez is a young, skinny right-hander out of the Dominican Republic. His fastball sits in the high-80s to low-90s, but once he adds some weight and strength in his lower half that number should increase. His best pitch is his curveball, which he commands well and is tight and fast enough to be more of a slurve. In addition to the fastball and curveball, he throws a changeup but that pitch still has a ways to go before it becomes a consistent offering. He has above-average command, and has posted a 3.56 K/BB rate in 221 career innings as a professional.

Perez tried to fight through a bout of elbow tendinitis in early 2010, but eventually succumbed to the injury and underwent Tommy John surgery in May of 2010. He will likely be back on the mound at some point in 2011, but his assignment will depend on how his rehab goes.

Best-case scenario, Perez gets to pitch some meaningful innings for Kinston down the stretch. Worst-case, he comes back a little more slowly and pitches in Arizona. Either way, he's just 21 years old, so even with the season lost to injury he's not behind the developmental curve. He's a projectable arm, as he's proven to be able to get hitters out without elite stuff, so if he comes back from TJ surgery with a couple added MPH on his fastball, he could easily jump 20 spots on next year's list.

**Glass half-full:** Perez gets healthy, adds a few MPH to his fastball and becomes a middle of the rotation option down the road

**Glass half-empty:** His velocity has peaked, injury issues continue to plague him and he never pitches above Akron.

#### 43. T.J McFarland, LHP



