



The Indians Farmer's Almanac is a monthly feature here on TCF where we take a step back and look at how the entire system has performed over the last month. Who's hot, who's not; who's been called up, who's been sent down; who's winning, who's losing. In case you haven't noticed (and judging by the page click count, you haven't), I do a daily look at the performances throughout the system in my "Around the Farm" mini-posts on the Hitting the Fan section of TCF.

So whether it is short-term tactical analysis you're looking for or long-term strategic outlook, we've got you covered here on TCF when it comes to the Indians minor league system. Since even I don't have the attention span to sit here and read 8,000 words on Indians prospects in one sitting, we're going to break this baby up into two installments. Today, we'll look at Columbus and Akron and then tomorrow, on to Kinston and Lake County. In addition to recapping the last months' worth of action, I'll be naming my minor league pitcher and hitter of the month in tomorrow's installment, so be sure and check back.

Please note that all of the records and stats below are through the month of April only. May's stats are not included in these numbers.

Columbus Clippers (AAA)

At the end of the month of April, the Clip show sat alone in first place in the International League's West division with a 17-5 record. They've been doing it with starting pitching, timely hitting and a strong bullpen. Despite some less than stellar performances from guys who were thought to be the strength of the team prior to the season, they've used some surprising performances from players they didn't think they would need to count on to rise to the top of their division. Sound familiar?

The top two hitting prospects in the system started the season for AAA Columbus, and neither set the world on fire in April. Second baseman **Jason Kipnis** closed out the month with a .253/.367/.453 line, with 2 HR and 11 RBI. Not horrible, but when you consider that he finished 2010 at .307/.386/.492, you have to hope for improvement as the season goes on. Kipnis has a 17/14 K/BB ratio, and has stolen 4 bases without being caught. The converted OF has made 5 errors at 2B so far.

The second player in the dynamic duo is third baseman **Lonnie Chisenhall**. Chiz had a brilliant spring, hitting over .400 and causing lots of fans to clamor for his inclusion on the opening day roster. Those calls got louder when Jason Donald went down with an injury near the end of spring training. The Indians insisted that he wasn't ready, that he needed to work on his defense and get more at bats against LHP. A month into the season, it looks like the Indians were right. He's sporting a .247/.347/.395 with 2 HR and 12 RBI so far, and still struggling to hit LHP. He's 7-37 (.189) on the season against lefties. He is 4-7 lately, with two of those hits coming off Atlanta's highly regarded Mike Minor (a HR and a 2B) so he is showing signs of improvement. I expect him to be closer to his career line of .271/.342/.452 the rest of the way than to what he put up in April. He's committed two errors in the field so far.







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