

Well, the Indians are pretty much out of postseason contention, but that doesn't mean we don't have playoff baseball in the organization! Both the



AAA Columbus Clippers and High A Kinston Indians advanced in their respective playoffs this past week. Columbus will play for Governor's Cup 2nd straight year, and Kinston will be making an appearance in the Carolina League championship series and play for the Mills Cup. For Kinston, it would be a great sendoff for the city, as the K-Tribe are moving to Zebulon next year to play as the Carolina Mudcats, and this will be the final season of minor league baseball in Kinston for the foreseeable future.

Columbus dispatched the Durham Bulls (Tampa Bay AAA affiliate) in three games, sweeping them right out of the International League playoffs. In game one of the series, Zach McAllister outdueled Durham starter Matt Moore, probably the best pitching prospect in all of baseball. Moore allowed 3 runs on 9 hits with 3 strikeouts, which doesn't sound all that bad until you

consider that he put up a 1.37 ERA with 79 K in 52 2/3 AAA innings this year. Meanwhile, McAllister turned in 6 shutout innings before turning things over to the bullpen in a 3-0 victory. OF Chad Huffman went 2-4 with a 2B and a big 2-run HR, and Beau Mills, Travis Buck and Nick Johnson also collected a pair of hits apiece.

Game two wasn't as close, as the Clippers jumped ahead with 3 runs in the 1st inning and coasted to an 8-3 victory. Mitch Talbot got the start and the win, throwing 7 innings while giving up 2 ER on 7 hits, striking out 5 and walking a pair. Akron closer Cory Burns came on to get the final out of the game, although it wasn't a save situation. Chad Huffman was again the offensive star, going 3-5 with a HR, 2 RBI, a 2B and 2 runs scored. Beau Mills and Travis Buck again had two hits each, as well as Akron SS Juan Diaz who was called up for the playoffs. Every Columbus starter reached base at least once with the exception of Jared Goedert, who went 0-5. The Clipper hitters beat up Durham starting pitcher Chris Archer, who was one of the pitchers the Indians gave up in the Mark DeRosa deal prior to the 2008 season.

The clincher was another well-pitched game, as the Clip Show jumped out to a 3-1 lead in the 3rd inning and held on to win 5-2. Joe Martinez started for Columbus, and went 8 innings, giving up 2 ER on 9 hits with 4 strikeouts. Zach Putnam came on in the 9th for his 2nd save of the series, having also nailed down the game 1 victory. Chad Huffman was held homerless, but did walk and score a run. Nick Johnson went 3-4 with 2 2B, 2 RBI and a run scored. Jerad Head returned to the Columbus lineup and went 2-4 with a 2B.

The Clippers will take on the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs (Philadelphia AAA affiliate) in the International League Championship Series, beginning Tuesday the 13th. The first two games of

the series are at Huntington Park in Columbus.

Meanwhile in the Carolina League, Kinston beat Myrtle Beach three games to one to win the Southern Division and clinch a spot in the Carolina League Championship Series. Kinston dropped game one, then ran off three straight victories to move themselves one step closer to the Mills Cup (not named for Beau Mills). Clayton Cook got the start for the K-Tribe in game one, and allowed 2 ER in 5 innings of work, but the Kinston offense went stagnant in a 4-1 loss. Tyler Holt was the only player with more than one hit, as he went 2-3 with a walk, 2 SB and a run scored, but it wasn't enough to spark the rest of the K-Tribe hitters. Bo Greenwell had the lone XBH, a double to lead off the 6th, but he was stranded on 3rd after a walk and a sac bunt.



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