Another minor league season has come and gone, and by now, I hope you know that you'll find no better coverage on the Indians farm system than right here. Tony Lastoria continues to do excellent work for us, providing information that is simply unavailable amywhere else, on the web or in print. Today, Tony unveils his final edition of "Minor Happenings" of the season, handing out his "Tony Awards" to the best and brightest of the Tribe minor league system.

Well, another minor league season has come and gone here at TheClevelandFan.com and SportsTimeOhio.com. With that, it is time to put the wraps on the season with the second annual Minor League Tony Awards. While this is the final edition of *Minor Happenings* for this season, look for intermittent editions between now and spring to recap all the developments and news over the course of the offseason.

Offensive Player of the Year

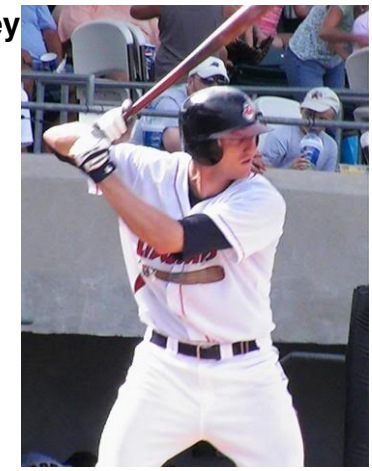
The Nominees: Ben Francisco (Buffalo), Jordan Brown (Akron), Asdrubal Cabrera (Akron/Buffalo), Matt Whitney (Lake County/Kinston), Nick Weglarz (Lake County)

The Skinny: Ben Francisco won the International League batting title and hit .318 with 12 HR, 51 RBI, 22 stolen bases and an .878 OPS. Jordan Brown won the Eastern League batting title and was also named Eastern League MVP hitting .333 with 11 HR, 76 RBI, 11 stolen bases, and a .906 OPS. Prior to being called up to Buffalo and then to Cleveland in August, Asdrubal Cabrera arguably was the Eastern League MVP and hit .310 with 8 HR, 57 RBI, 25 stolen bases and an .828 OPS in combined time at Akron and Buffalo.

Whitney enjoyed a renaissance this season, and splitting the season in Lake County and Kinston hit .299 with 32 HR, 113 RBI and a .909 OPS.

Nick Weglarz established himself as a young up-and-coming legit power hitting prospect, hitting .274 with 24 HR, 83 RBI and an .891 OPS.

And the Tony Award goes to: **Matt Whitney**



While the batting title for Ben Francisco was impressive, he also spent roughly a third of the season in Cleveland, and the same goes for Asdrubal Cabrera. Weglarz had a great year as a 19-year old in his first full season by belting 24 home runs and drawing 83 walks (.393 OBP), and Jordan Brown won the Eastern League MVP and batting title.

But, the clear winner here is Whitney.

He just had an unbelievable season and led the entire Indians system in home runs and RBI, and also was in the top five in all the minors in home runs.

Whitney was finally healthy this year, and his numbers were greatly helped by a strikeout rate that improved from one every 2.6 at bats last year to one every 4.2 at bats this year.

Pitcher of the Year

The Nominees: Aaron Laffey (Akron/Buffalo), Jim Deters (Kinston), Josh Tomlin (Lake County/Kinston), Reid Santos (Akron), Jensen Lewis (Akron/Buffalo)

The Skinny: Aaron Laffey pitched at Akron and Buffalo and combined to go 13-4 with a 2.88 ERA, 99 strikeouts and a 1.13 WHIP in 131.1 innings pitched. Jim Deters won the Carolina League ERA title, going 12-4 with a 2.24 ERA, 66 strikeouts and a 1.09 WHIP in 112.1 innings pitched. Josh Tomlin split time in Lake County and Kinston and went 11-4 with a 3.36 ERA, 109 strikeouts and a 1.21 WHIP in 131.1 innings pitched.

Reid Santos split the season in the bullpen and starting rotation at Akron and Buffalo going 8-3 with a 2.72 ERA, 85 strikeouts and a 1.15 WHIP in 96 innings pitched.

Jensen Lewis flew through the upper levels of the system, and went 3-0 with a 1.73 ERA, 61 strikeouts and a 0.94 WHIP in 52 innings pitched.

And the Tony Award goes to: **Aaron Laffey**

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Minor Happenings: Covering the important developments in the Indians farm system only at www.theclevelandfan.com.