Consider two scenarios: Behind door number one you have an Ivy League education and a job lined up out of college to make over $100,000 a year. Behind door number two, you have a longshot professional baseball career as an undrafted free agent where you make what amounts to peanuts and endure long, uncomfortable bus rides from city to city. So, given those two scenarios, you would most likely opt for door number one right? Not Kinston right-handed pitcher Frank Herrmann. Our Tony Lastoria had a chance to catch up with the Indians prospect.

Consider two scenarios:

Behind door number one you have an Ivy League education with a degree in economics, and a job lined up out of college to make over $100,000 a year. Behind door number two, you have a longshot professional baseball career as an undrafted free agent where you make what amounts to peanuts, live in small apartments with several other players, eat bad food daily, and endure long, uncomfortable bus rides from city to city.

So, given those two scenarios, you would most likely opt for door number one right?

Not Kinston right-handed pitcher Frank Herrmann. Herrmann is a Harvard graduate with a degree in economics where he had several well-paying jobs lined up for him upon graduation.

In lieu of a business career that is now in a holding pattern, Herrmann opted for the dream of a baseball career and now is one of the more promising young pitchers in the Indians system.

"For me it is a no-brainer," said Herrmann. "I have roommates who are working in New York City doing investment banking making over $100,000.

And, I have other guys who are taking two years off and traveling around Europe.

I think I kind of got the in-between where I am getting to do something and pursue a dream and

at the same time still have fun and travel around.

First and foremost I am in this to try and make it to the major leagues, absolutely.

I mean, if you can do that why wouldn't you?

I think it is the best job in the world.

I am only 23 right now, and I won't be 24 until May 30th next year so I have plenty of time to sit in a cubicle or do whatever they want so I am not in a rush.

I'll play as long as they will let me."

Maybe Herrmann made the right choice, as he put up a solid season in Kinston this year going 11-5 with a 4.01 ERA in 26 starts, logging 146 innings and allowing 163 hits and 28 walks while striking out 88. The solid season in Kinston piggybacks a good debut season for him in Lake County last year when he went 4-6 with a 3.90 ERA in 26 starts, logging 122.1 innings and allowing 122 hits and 47 walks while striking out 89. Looking back on his season, Herrmann feels he put forth a good effort.

"You know, it [went] well," said Herrmann. "I was happy to be here and be a starter at the beginning of the season, and I just wanted to throw as many innings as I can and I've reached new heights with that. I made the all-star team which was good.

I had an up and down second half where I had some of my best games and worst games.

I [tried] to finish up strong and be as consistent as I can and get deep into games."

Herrmann was actually more heavily recruited coming out of high school to play football. He played quarterback and free safety in football, and schools like Cincinnati, Rutgers, and a couple of the Ivy League and Patriot League schools like Lehigh recruited him.

At Harvard, Herrmann was supposed to play both football and baseball, but ended up just playing baseball because of the demands academically.

Even though Herrmann was not heavily scouted in college, at times he found himself wondering "what could be" and if he would have a chance to play professionally. After a stretch of dominant performances in the middle of his junior season the possibility of taking his craft to another level and succeeding started to seem more and more like a possibility.

"My junior year I had a stretch where I had a perfect game through the sixth inning and I ended up throwing a one hitter against Cornell, and the next week I threw a two-hit shutout against Yale," said Herrmann. "So I kind of got rolling and I started wondering 'what if I was at a different school, what if I got a chance at working on pitching all the time without the hitting and the school work?' I was intrigued by the

possibility, but it was never something like 'this is going to happen.'"

When the 2005 First Year Player Draft came and went, Herrmann did not receive a phone call from anyone. However, later that summer Herrmann ended up signing with the Indians as an undrafted free agent. Playing at an Ivy League school, you do not get much recognition from scouts, so Herrmann never really thought he would be considered for the draft, but still often dreamed of being picked up by a major league team.

After going out on a whim to play in the Hawaii Summer League, an Indians scout (Don Lyle) noticed him and signed Herrmann shortly after.

"At Harvard we didn't have many scouts there as it wasn't a baseball factory," recalled Herrmann. "It wasn't as if I went to LSU or some school on the West Coast where guys get talked about all the time. There is a different focus at Harvard, so it wasn't necessarily something that was at the forefront of all of my discussions.

So, I wasn't disappointed, I thought I maybe had a shot, but I was hurt a little bit my junior year as I had some bicep tendonitis.

I was shutdown when we went down to Florida to play, which was an opportunity I maybe would have been seen."

"Our Ivy League season is really short where we play two doubleheaders on Saturday and Sunday, so it is a shorter season, so you only get like ten starts and I only threw something like 65-70 innings. I was going to do an investment banking job in Charlotte actually, and I found out about this Hawaii Summer League and our assistant coach was signing guys, so I said I would love to go live out in Hawaii for six weeks for free. I mean who wouldn't?

And I started pitching and felt strong over there, throwing harder and pitching well, and I think it helped being away from school and having baseball as the focus.

There was an Indians scout there, West Coast scout Don Lyle, who signed about four other guys in the locker room.

He signed me, and worked out the school deal.

The sticking point was to allow me to go back to school two consecutive falls rather than Instructional League [so I could finish my degree].

So I did that, and I just wanted to play baseball as I didn't mind not being captain my senior year or missing my season."

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