Indians catching prospect Wyatt Toregas is "in the zone". You know, when the ball looks like a beach ball and everything they hit is right on the screws and finds a line, a gap, or goes over the fence for a home run. Akron fans saw this happen for about a month with outfielder Trevor Crowe, and for the last three weeks it looks like the baton has been passed onto Toregas. Tony had a chance last week to talk to the sizzling hot Toregas about his success at Akron and struggles in Buffalo.

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"Yeah, this is probably the best stretch I have ever had," said Toregas this past week in Akron. "I hope it keeps going because it is fun right now. I am not a big power guy, but just lately I am getting pitches to hit and I am not missing them.

It makes it awesome.

I am having a really good time right now and got a bunch of guys in here that are fun to play with and be around.

This team is awesome.

It is fun to show up everyday and hang out and kick some [butt] during the game."

Toregas should be having fun as he is on a power and extra base hit binge that is quite uncharacteristic for him in his career. Coming into the season, Toregas had 26 career minor league home runs and a .395 slugging percentage in 341 career games.

From June 24th to July 11th, a span of 16 days and 11 games played, Toregas did not hit a single in any game, but he still hit .342 (12-for-35) as he piled up five doubles and seven home runs.

He racked up a ridiculous 1.086 slugging percentage and 1.520 OPS in those 11 games.

His streak came to an end last night when he "only" went 2-for-4 with a double and single.

"I know that I have like six home runs in the past seven days or something like that, and I feel every other hit I have has been a double and I don't think I have had any singles," recalled Toregas. "I don't know, I don't normally hit like that but things are just rolling my way right now and I am feeling pretty good at the plate."

And rolling he is. After being reassigned from Triple-A Buffalo to Double-A Akron on June 19th, Toregas has taken the demotion in stride. Instead of sulking he has come out on a mission and smacked the ball over the place.

In 18 games at Akron, Toregas is hitting .333 (20-for-60) with 15 of those 20 hits for extra bases.

He also has eight home runs and 25 RBI in those 18 games, and combined with the two home runs he hit in Buffalo earlier in the year his home run total of ten on the year is a career high with two months of the season still left.

His efforts last week won him Eastern League Player of the Week honors for the week ending July 6th.

His success at the plate is a far cry from where he was at in Buffalo. In 50 games (219 at bats), Toregas only hit .219 with two home runs, 25 RBI and a .610 OPS.

He was performing so bad, the Indians actually passed him up for a promotion to Cleveland when Victor Martinez went on the disabled list a month ago because Toregas was just not ready.

Toregas knows he blew an opportunity to reach his big league dream, and is determined to not let that happen again. As for his issues in Buffalo, for various reasons he just could never get his season going and never really felt comfortable in the box while he was up there.

He is certainly disappointed with his performance there, but acknowledges that it is an experience he can learn from.

"I don't know [what happened in Buffalo]," said Toregas. "I haven't really changed much [here in Akron].

There is a little bit of a difference from level to level, but not to the point where my numbers should change as much as they have.

I just think I hit a rough road there and I am coming out of it now.

I feel a lot better where I am going now compared to where I was then.

It is a little harder to play early in the year, and it is starting to heat up now and I am starting to feel better.

It's tough when you go home and you think about two months of your life, is it going to determine your career?

Well, no, but baseball is such a "what can you do for me now" sport.

I just wasn't getting the job done earlier, whereas now I am feeling better.

Yeah, I am disappointed, but I mean it is a full season and you gotta play the whole thing and see how it all looks in the end.

I am trying to finish strong, and hopefully the .220 or whatever I hit the first two months can be countered by the .300 I hope I can hit the rest of the way out.

I just gotta keep working hard and hope that at the end of the year everything is where it is supposed to be."

It is quite possible the pressure of landing on the Indians 40-man roster in the offseason may have had some affect on his play. To some, it was a surprise that Toregas was rostered in the offseason. Toregas himself was even somewhat surprised (and of course happy about it). The Indians ended up leaving outfielder Brian Barton unprotected, and he was promptly picked up by St. Louis in the Rule 5 Draft as a result and is still playing with the big league team to date hitting .246 with two home runs and 11 RBI in 122 at bats (63 games).

There was a lot of negative talk among fans about the Indians decision to roster Toregas over Barton, but with a roster already overstuffed with outfielders it was the right call to roster Toregas. For those angry with that decision, what the Indians actually

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