And then there was one. With Mahoning Valley and Lake County finishing up their seasons this past weekend, the only Indians affiliate still playing is Akron who is still alive in the Eastern League playoffs. In the latest edition of Happenings, Tony gets us caught up on the playoff results for the Indians affiliates and highlights some of his recent discussions with many of the Indians top prospects. Also, don't forget, Tony's radio show airs tonight from 9:30-10:30. More details are inside.

"Minor Happenings" covers the important developments and news in the Indians farm system. While most of the information in this report is from my own research and through interviews I have conducted with organizational personnel, some information in this report is collected and summarized from the various news outlets that cover each team.

And then there was one. With Mahoning Valley and Lake County finishing up their seasons this past weekend, the only Indians affiliate still playing is Akron who is still alive in the Eastern League playoffs (more on this below).

I was able to make my final visits this past week to Mahoning Valley, Lake County, and Akron. Next week
Happenings
will cover my visit to Mahoning Valley last Thursday where I had a chance to speak to Cord Phelps, Trey Haley, Tim Fedroff, Heath Taylor and hitting coach Anthony Medrano.

On Friday I finally had a chance to talk to Josh Judy in Lake County and will have a feature on him later this month.

And last night I was in Akron for Game 2 of the Eastern League Championship Series and was able to talk to Frank Herrmann and Neil Wagner, both of which will be featured before the end of the month as well.

In addition to all that, I still have pieces on Chris Jones, Jonathan Holt, Brian Juhl, and Kevin Dixon to get out. It is going to be a busy final three weeks! And in case you missed them this

past week, I posted player features on
Bo Greenwell
and
Stephen Head
.

Also, as a reminder, tonight is episode #5 of my radio show. The hour long show can be heard live from 9:30-10:30 PM (EST), but can be downloaded at anytime after the show since it is archived. We'll still focus a lot on the major league side of things with the Indians, but we will also talk about Scott Lewis and his incredible debut last night in Baltimore as well as feature Jeff Stevens the final ten minutes of the show with an audio interview and discussion about him.

We are still working on things and it is a work in progress, but would appreciate a few phone calls.

Indians Minor League Player Of The Month
(for August)

Carlos Santana (Catcher - Kinston)
.362 AVG (34-94), 33 R, 4 2B, 0 3B, 7 HR, 20 RBI, 20 BB, 21 K, 3 SB, 1.088 OPS

What else is there to really say about Santana? I've run out of superlatives to describe his play and his unlimited potential as a future major leaguer.

Santana was a prospect on the rise coming into the season and took the California League by storm

hitting .323 with 14 HR, 96 RBI, and a .993 OPS in just 99 games before being traded to the Indians on July 26th for Casey Blake. Santana did not skip a beat moving to a new organization and league as in 31 games at Kinston and Akron he hit .336 with 7 HR, 21 RBI, and a 1.063 OPS. His overall numbers on the season: .326 AVG, 125 runs, 39 2B, 5 3B, 21 HR, 117 RBI, 89 BB, 10 stolen bases, and a .999 OPS.

Wow.

In addition to the high batting average and the eye-popping run producing numbers he put up this year, one of the things that really caught my eye is how many runs he has scored and also his stolen base total. Santana may be a catcher, but he is built a Greek god and is very

athletic. Unlike most first basemen and catchers, he has a good motor and can steal a base from time to time and is not a liability on the basepaths.

To score 33 runs in a month and 125 runs overall in a five month season is ridiculous.

I'll say it right now: Santana is the Indians #1 prospect. That statement is subject to change this offseason once I start ranking the players in the system and talk to various people around baseball, but right now, today, I believe there is not question about it.

He is the #1 guy.

He may not have the light tower power outfielder Matt LaPorta has (but has good power nonetheless), but he plays a premium position and is better at everything else than LaPorta from bat-to-ball ability, plate discipline, clutch hitting, speed, defense....you name it.

Santana will be rostered this offseason, and looks like he will make his major league debut sometime late next year most likely as a September callup. He is an impact bat that is about a year away, and is an acquisition that is going to rank right next to the Bartolo Colon trade as GM Mark Shapiro's signature move.

Honorable Mentions:

Carlos Rivero (SS - Kinston): .356 (37-104), 15 R, 8 2B, 1 3B, 4 HR, 21 RBI, .981 OPS
Scott Lewis (LHP - Akron): 3-2, 1.69 ERA, 6 starts, 37.1 IP, 24 H, 7 ER, 6 BB, 36 K
Jeanmar Gomez (RHP - Kinston): 2-1, 1.74 ERA, 6 starts, 31 IP, 27 H, 6 ER, 4 BB, 21 K
Lonnie Chisenhall (SS - Mahoning Valley): .341 (31-91), 13 R, 10 2B, 1 3B, 2 HR, 20 RBI, .938 OPS
Beau Mills (1B - Kinston): .329 (27-82), 14 R, 6 2B, 1 3B, 4 HR, 17 RBI, .982 OPS
Matt Brown (OF - Lake County): .372 (35-94), 17 R, 6 2B, 1 HR, 11 RBI, .884 OPS
Ron Rivas (SS - Lake County): .370 (30-81), 10 R, 4 2B, 3 3B, 0 HR, 9 RBI, .914 OPS
Cord Phelps (2B - Mahoning Valley): .347 (35-101), 18 R, 9 2B, 2 3B, 0 HR, 15 RBI, .888 OPS
Darling Read (OF - DSL Indians): .359 (23-64), 15 R, 8 2B, 3 3B, 6 HR, 18 RBI, 7 SB, 1.268 OPS

Previous Winners:

July: Wyatt Toregas (C - Akron)
June: Trevor Crowe (OF - Akron)
May: Kelvin De La Cruz (LHP - Lake County)
April: Ryan Miller (LHP - Lake County)

Director's Cuts

Indians Farm Director had some comments this week about a myriad of Indians minor leaguers:

[redacted]