Yesterday we kicked off our annual Indians prospect countdown on this site with #100-96, and today we continue with #95-91. We'll be counting down the Indians Top 100 Prospects, five at a time, throughout the course of the next month. And we should conclude the countdown just as we get into spring training. In addition to the latest five, Tony gives us some updates on his prospect book, and also Terry Pluto joining he and Paul on "Smoke Signals" last night here on the site. Don't forget to subscribe to our podcast feed on iTunes!

Yesterday we kicked off our annual Indians prospect countdown on this site with #100-96 , and today we continue with #95-91. But, before we continue the countdown, just a couple of quick notes:

Last night, Paul Cousineau and I had the pleasure of speaking with legendary Cleveland sports journalist Terry Pluto for close to 40 minutes on our on-line radio show Smoke Signals . Terry brought up many fantastic points as usual, and we really covered the entire team from the starting rotation, bullpen, infield to the outfield. Click on the link provided to listen to the show podcast, and thanks again to Terry for coming on our show. Right-handed pitcher Frank Herrmann is scheduled to be our guest for next week's show on Thursday January 22nd, and I am chasing down potential interviews for future shows. Some names that may be appearing soon on the show include Matt McBride, Vinnie Pestano, Nick Weglarz, Stephen Head and more.

Also, my prospect book is nearing completion and it looks like by this time next week if all goes well I will be sending it to be printed. If anyone is interested in buying a copy, feel free to let me know by emailing me at tlastoria@indiansprospectinsider.com .

And with that, back to the countdown:

95. Jerad Head - Infielder/Outfielder

Born: 11/15/1982 - Height: 6'1" - Weight: 205 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	G
2006	23	Burlington	R	59
	23	Lake County	A	1
2007	24	Kinston	A+	83
2008	25	Kinston	A+	92
	25	Akron	AA	2
	25	Buffalo	AAA	3
		Career		240

History: Head was signed as a non-drafted free agent in August 2005 out of Washburn University (KS). Head originally signed on to play baseball at Kansas State University, but he eventually made the decision to go back to his hometown in Topeka to play baseball and basketball for the local University.

Strengths & Opportunities: Since joining the Indians, Head's athleticism and versatility has been put on display from day one as he has been a jack-of-all-trades who can play at just about any position on the field. He came in as an infielder in 2006, was moved to the outfield in 2007, and last year in spring training worked exclusively as a catcher although he did not get in any games at the position during the 2008 season. As a hitter, he has good pop, but he has struggled some with the plate discipline which is something he is still working on. He needs to be more consistent at the plate and learn to swing at better pitches as well as work on drawing more walks.

Outlook: Head is a super utility player in the making in the upper levels of the system. He should open the 2009 season at Double-A Akron.

94. Brock Simpson - First Baseman/Outfielder

Born: 11/15/1985 Height: 6'3" Weight: 210 Bats: Right Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	G
2008	22	Mahoning Vy	A-	60

	Career	60

History: Simpson was a 46th round pick in the 2007 Draft out of the University of Kansas. He did not play professionally until the 2008 season because he did not sign until August 13, 2007 and was still recovering from a broken hand he had injured during summer ball.

Strengths and Opportunities: Simpson was never much of a hitter in college, hitting just .270 (128-for-474) in his three year 158-game Kansas career. He is very much a long shot and may be more of an organizational player in the coming years, but the Indians definitely saw something with the bat even though the numbers said otherwise. He has good size, and his versatility allows him to play infield or outfield which is a plus.

Simpson was drafted as an outfielder, but upon joining the Indians organization he has been moved to first base. It has been a challenging position change going from the outfield to first base, but Simpson worked hard in Instructional League in 2007 and continued to work hard on the position change throughout 2008. Short-season Single-A Mahoning Valley manager Travis Fryman worked a lot with Simpson during the spring, which really paid off for him as he really had a good handle of first base when short-season play at Mahoning Valley started. He is still very raw at the position and rough around the edges, and in time he will need to make a lot of the smaller adjustments to playing first base to smooth those edges out.

Outlook: Simpson should open the 2009 season at Single-A Lake County, although could be a bubble guy to remain with the organization through this coming spring.

93. Ryan Blair - Outfielder

Born: 04/06/1986 - Height: 6'2" - Weight: 185 - Bats: Left - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	G
2008	22	Cal St Sac	C	57
2008	22	Mahoning Vy	A-	66

92. Dustin Realini - First Baseman

Born: 05/14/1984 - Height: 6'2" - Weight: 200 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	G
2006	22	Mahoning Vy	A-	63
2007	23	Mahoning Vy	A-	15
	23	Lake County	A	24
	23	Kinston	A+	8
2008	24	Mahoning Vy	A-	4
	24	Lake County	A	70
		Career		184

History: Realini was a 28th round pick in the 2006 Draft out of Santa Clara University.

Strengths & Opportunities: Finally given an opportunity to play a little more, Realini put up a solid season at Single-A Lake County in 2008. By playing everyday it gave him a chance to get in the groove timing-wise at the plate and see pitching daily. At 6'2" and 200 pounds, he has good size, some pop in his bat, and exhibits a great team attitude. He is starting to grasp the ability to be patient at the plate and look for a certain pitch in a certain zone and swinging at that pitch and not going away from that early in the count.

Going into last season, the Indians challenged him with improving his on-base percentage and he did just that. Going into the season he had a career batting average of .243 and had drawn only 34 walks while striking out 92 times in 374 combined at bats (110 games) between Mahoning Valley, Lake County and Kinston. For the season he put up numbers which far surpassed his career totals coming in, but the notable stat that stood out the most was his 63-45 strikeout to walk rate which was a big improvement over his career numbers not only in K:BB ratio but also in BB/AB ratio. One of Realini's biggest assets is his ability to play multiple positions at first base, third base, and even left field. He also has played some second base during his time in the Indians system, but he has mostly split time at first and third base.

Outlook: Realini's versatility will likely earn him a spot on the roster at advanced Single-A Kinston to open the 2009 season.

91. Shawn Nottingham - Left-handed Pitcher

Born: 01/22/1985 - Height: 6'1" - Weight: 190 - Bats: Left - Throws: Left

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2003	18	AZ Mariners	R	1
2004	19	Everett	A-	8
	19	Tacoma	AAA	0
2005	20	AZ Mariners	R	0
	20	Wisconsin	A	0
	20	Inland Emp	A+	4
2006	21	Inland Emp	A+	5
	21	Kinston	A+	0
2007	22	Akron	AA	9
2008	23	Kinston	A+	3
	23	Akron	AA	0
		Career		30

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