The Indians Top 100 Prospect Countdown continues onward with a look at prospects #65-61 on Tony's big list. Included in this quintet are some intriguing names. Bo Greenwell, the son of former Boston Red Sox outfielder Mike Greenwell. Vinnie Pestano, who was on Paul and Tony's radio show on Thursday night. And Kevin Dixon and Jonathon Holt, both right hand pitchers and both Indians 5th round picks, in the '05 and '07 draft respectively.

The Indians Top 100 Prospect Countdown commences today with #65-61. As a reminder, my 2009 Cleveland Indians Top 100 Prospects & More book is now available. Click on the hyperlink for all the details, and to order it just go to my website
and click on the form to the top right to complete the order with a check or credit card. If you wish to send a check or money order by US Mail, please contact me at
tlastoria@indiansprospectinsider.com
and I will verify the order and provide my full mailing address for you so send payment.

Here are the earlier rankings:

100. Brian Juhl (C)
99. Brad Hinkle (RHP)
98. Mark Thompson (SS)
97. Adam Davis (C/INF)
96. Adam White (OF)
95. Jerad Head (INF/OF)
94. Brock Simpson (1B/OF)
93. Ryan Blair (OF)
92. Dustin Realini (INF/OF)
91. Shawn Nottingham (LHP)
90. Cirilo Cumberbatch (OF)
89. Michael McGuire (RHP)

88. Sung-Wei Tseng (RHP)
87. David Roberts (RHP)
86. Jason Smit (INF)
85. Marty Popham (RHP)
84. Jose Constanza (OF)
83. Adam Abraham (INF)
82. Isaias Velasquez (2INF)
81. Gary Campfield (RHP)
80. Heath Taylor (LHP)
79. Rich Rundles (LHP)
78. Dallas Cawiezell (RHP)
77. Robbie Alcombrack (C)
76. Carlos Moncrief (RHP)
75. Nate Recknagel (C/1B)
74. Karexon Sanchez (INF)
73. Roman Pena (OF)
72. Kyle Landis (RHP)
71. John Drennen (OF)
70. Todd Martin (1B)
69. Santo Frias (RHP)
68. Michael Finocchi (RHP)
67. Kevin Rucker (OF)
66. Matt Meyer (LHP)

65. Bo Greenwell - Outfielder

Born: 10/15/1988 - Height: 6'0" - Weight: 185 - Bats: Left - Throws: Left

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	G
2007	18	GCL Indians	R	37
2008	19	GCL Indians	R	46
		Career		83

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64. Paolo Espino - Right-handed Pitcher

Born: 01/10/1987 - Height: 5'10" - Weight: 190 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2007	20	Lake County	A	4
2008	21	Lake County	A	2
		Kinston	A+	0
		Career		6

History: Espino was a 10th round pick in the 2006 Draft out of Pendleton High School (FL).

Strengths & Opportunities: The Panamanian righty showcases a fastball that usually sits at 90 MPH and tops out at 92 MPH, and he complements it with a good curveball and changeup. His best pitch is his plus curveball and is a pitch he has the most confidence in. His fastball and changeup grade out as at least average with the chance to be above average pitches. While he is lacking in size, there is absolutely no lack of heart as he goes right after hitters and works hard.

After such a good showing in his professional debut in 2007 at Single-A Lake County, he was a big disappointment last year at advanced Single-A Kinston where he battled a shoulder injury and inconsistency throughout the first half of the season, and eventually found his way back at Lake County where he did a good job pitching out of the bullpen. He is young, so he needs to continue to work on refining his control and command to effectively pitch to contact so hitters get themselves out. He needs more work with keeping his fastball down in the zone more, which because of his smallish size has been tough to get the ball on a good downward plane. Also, because of his small size, durability is a concern with him.

Outlook: Espino should be in line for a bullpen job at advanced Single-A Kinston to start the 2009 season.

63. Jonathan Holt - Right-handed Pitcher

Born: 03/10/1986 - Height: 6"2" - Weight: 210 - Bats: Left - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2007	21	Mahoning Vy	A-	2
2008	22	Lake County	A	4
		Career		6

History: Holt was a 5th round pick in the 2007 Draft out of the University of Tampa.

Strengths & Opportunities: Holt primarily throws a three pitch mix of a fastball, slider, and changeup, and his fastball consistently sits around 88-91 MPH and has good arm side run and sink. His breaking ball is more of a modified slider - commonly called a slurve - because it lacks the velocity to be a true slider and has more break to it. His changeup has come a long way in the short time he has been with the Indians. He lacked a feel for it coming out of college, but throughout last season started to become more confident in it and has developed a feel for it and it has improved enough to where it now has the potential to be a good pitch against left-handers.

He came into the 2007 Draft as a reputed strike thrower after he put up an incredible 20:1 strikeout to walk ratio over 66 innings his junior season at Tampa (79 K, 4 BB), and has lived up to that billing so far during his time with the Indians the last two years with just 11 walks in 109.1 career innings while striking out 95 batters. He does a great job disrupting timing, he throws all three pitches in any count, and he uses his fastball well. At times when he needs to he goes out of the zone with his fastball to keep guys off the plate. His innate ability to pound the strike zone with quality strikes at such a high rate is certainly a strength, but now he needs to learn how to attack and finish hitters off. He needs to refine his fastball and learn to keep it down in the lower half of the zone, and he needs to continue to learn how to back off and sort of deprogram himself some and throw purpose balls to keep hitters more honest. He needs to keep up with his mechanics and continue working on developing his changeup.

Outlook: The bottom line with Holt is he does not have the best pure stuff, but it plays up because of his ability to throw strikes and throw any pitch in any count. His durability and ability to keep hitters off balance is certainly an asset to the Indians organization. He has a chance to move fast through the system from here on out, and projects as a good major league middle reliever. He should open the 2009 season in the advanced Single-A Kinston bullpen.

62. Vinnie Pestano - Right-handed Pitcher

Born: 02/20/1985 - Height: 6'0" - Weight: 205 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2007	22	Mahoning Vy	A-	1
2008	23	Lake County	A	1
	23	Kinston	A+	1
		Career		3

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61. Kevin Dixon - Right-handed Pitcher

Born: 12/16/1983 - Height: 6'3" - Weight: 225 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2005	21	Mahoning Vy	A-	3
2006	22	Lake County	A	2
		Kinston	A+	6
2007	23	Kinston	A+	10
2008	24	Akron	AA	9
		Career		30

History: Dixon was a 5th round pick in the 2005 Draft out of Minnesota State University. He actually was a more successful hitter than a pitcher in college, but was drafted as a pitcher.

Strengths & Opportunities: The 6'3" 225-pound Dixon is big and strong showcasing good stuff on the mound with a sinking fastball that sits around 90-92 MPH and tops out at 93 MPH. The fastball is actually two pitches in that he throws a sinker and four-seam fastball, and he has shown the ability to attack hitters with the fastball in the zone and not be afraid of the results. He complements the fastball with a changeup, slider and split-finger with good command of all his pitches. The slider is a potential plus pitch and the changeup grades out as average. One of the big things that has helped Dixon grow as a pitcher last year is the addition of the split-finger that was added to his arsenal during Instructional League in 2007. After toying around with the pitch, he came to spring training last year and continued to work on it and it now has become a serviceable pitch for him and one he relies on to finish hitters off for strikeouts. If he can maintain a feel for the splitter it is the out pitch he has been missing in his repertoire.

While Dixon's year-to-year numbers are not exactly eye-popping, his ability to be consistent start to start to where he can be relied on to give six to seven quality innings each outing is invaluable. In addition to refining his split-finger, he has also been working on repeating his delivery and ironing out some flaws in his mechanics. He gets in trouble at times where he will fall off to the side and land on the outside of his foot which causes everything to drag. Going forward, he needs to continue to focus on getting out in front of his pitches, which will really help improve his command. It is just a matter of him solidifying his delivery and trusting his delivery to allow him to throw the ball like he is capable of throwing it and commanding it.

Outlook: Dixon has the potential to one day crack a major league roster because of his durability and penchant for being an innings-eater. Due to the depth of pitching expected to be at Double-A Akron and Triple-A Columbus in 2009, it is not known where Dixon will fit this coming season. With so many big league ready arms likely in the Triple-A Columbus rotation, Dixon is probably destined for a bullpen role as a swing guy or remains in the starting rotation in Akron to start the season.

All photos courtesy of Ken Carr

Up Next: #60-56