We continue today with #60-56 in the Indians Top 100 Prospect Countdown, which includes a name familar to many Indians fans: Randy Newsom. Fans know Newsom for several reasons. He's a submarine-style pitcher, was the player to be named later in the Coco Crisp deal, and made headlines by selling shares of stock himself before Major League Baseball shut it down. Tony profiles Newsom and four other prospects in today's installment.

We continue today with #60-56 in the Indians Top 100 Prospect Countdown. 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 (OF)
64. Paolo Espino (RHP)
63. Jonathan Holt (RHP)
62. Vinnie Pestano (RHP)
61. Kevin Dixon (RHP)

60. Randy Newsom - Right-handed Pitcher

Born: 05/06/1982 - Height: 6'2" - Weight: 200 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right

(due to a formatting issue, Newsom's stats are at the bottom of this page)

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59. Chris Nash - First Baseman

Born: 02/22/1987 - Height: 6'4" - Weight: 230 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	G
2007	20	GCL Indians	R	47
	20	Mahoning Vy	A-	16
2008	21	GCL Indians	R	2
		Lake County	A	74
		Career		139

History: The Indians selected Nash in the 24th round of the 2006 Draft out of Johnson County Community College (KS).

Strengths & Opportunities: Nash is a huge first baseman who is still maturing and filling out. His big frame, strength, and size at 6'5" 230 at 22 years of age make him very projectable as a power hitter. The power is there and may be on the verge of emerging once he matures and becomes more accustomed to the feel of wood bats and can maintain good health. He is a very intelligent player who handles himself really well and is a hard worker. He was actually recruited in high school by Division-1 colleges as a tight end. Even with his enormous size, he is very athletic and moves very well around the bag at first base. He has made a lot of progress defensively since coming into the organization and has become a solid defender at the position.

Nash was unable to build off of a great year in 2007 both in performance and development. Since signing in 2006, there are some durability concerns since he was hurt when he signed and did not play in 2006 and while he went through the 2007 season unscathed he had a lat-shoulder problem which caused him to miss significant time during the 2008 season and affected his play. His problems started right away in spring training where he was sidelined for several days with a sore shoulder from a new throwing motion from sidearm to over-the-top the Indians implemented. Apparently the Indians felt the throwing motion correction was necessary because of the problems Nash had with his sidearm throwing angle where his ball was tailing a little bit when he was throwing to second base. He struggled with the change and ended up straining a lat muscle, and the injury ended up lingering all season and spread into other muscles in the shoulder area deep in his rotator cuff to his triceps area. He missed almost two months because of the complications.

The Indians believe he can be a power hitter, but they will let it come naturally and not force him into being one. One problem he has is that he has a problem getting good leverage with his legs or using his lower half really correctly. He worked last season on widening his base to try and get a little more leverage with his front foot. Once he learns how to use his lower half and get better leverage with his front side and not come off the ball, a power explosion could result. He is also still working on staying on breaking balls and using the whole field since he still likes to pull the ball. There is no doubt Nash is a very good fastball hitter, but until he can show the ability to either hit the curveball or lay off pitches low and away he will continue to rack up the strikeouts. The good thing is Nash has a great attitude and understands what he has to do.

Outlook: Coming into last season, Nash was one of the Indians best young hitting prospects because of his size and raw abilities at the plate. While he still is very much a prospect to watch, the disappointing season he had because of an annoying shoulder injury caused him to tumble some in this year's prospect ranking. After a disappointing year, Nash will look to put things back together and should get that chance where he likely opens the 2009 season at Single-A Lake County or advanced Single-A Kinston.

58. Carlton Smith - Right-handed Pitcher

Born: 01/23/1986 - Height: 6'2" - Weight: 205 - Bats: Left - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2005	19	Burlington	R	0
2006	20	Lake County	A	3
2007	21	Lake County	A	11
2008	22	Kinston	A+	12
		Career		26

57. Lucas Montero - Outfielder

Born: 10/18/1984 - Height: 5'11" - Weight: 180 - Bats: Switch - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	G
2005	20	DSL Indians	R	60
2006	21	GCL Indians	R	45
	21	Mahoning Vy	A-	6
2007	22	Mahoning Vy	A-	34
	22	Lake County	A	3
2008	23	Lake County	A	83
	23	Kinston	A+	32
		Career		263

History: Montero was signed in January 2004 as an undrafted free agent out of the Dominican Republic.

Strengths & Opportunities: After a disappointing season in 2007 where he only played in 37 combined games at Single-A Lake County and Mahoning Valley because of various injuries, Montero bounced back last year with a very good season. He is very athletic, but is very raw still as a baseball player since he did not start playing baseball until he was 15-years old. He is a versatile outfielder who can play all three outfield positions, and has a nice speed/power combo at the plate and on the bases. He is really strong for his size, and has a lot of pop off his bat and can drive the ball. He has an aggressive approach at the plate, and is at his best once he gets on base where his plus speed is a nuisance to pitchers where his skills and tools as a runner shine.

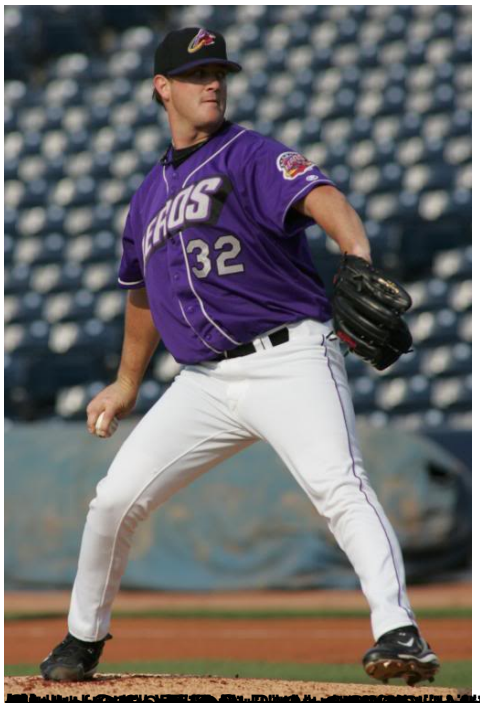
Montero needs to do a little better job of slowing things down at the plate so he can work on getting on-base more consistently. He also has a tendency to lose control of his swing and swing wildly at balls out of the zone. The Indians would also like to see him improve his defense as his speed covers up a lot of mistakes, but he has to become better at his route running to balls and getting better jumps. He made some good strides in this area late last season, and he also began to show a much stronger throwing arm than in previous seasons.

Outlook: Montero projects as a fourth outfielder down the road, and would fit that role well with his awesome speed, versatility, pop in his bat, and his ability to switch hit. He should open the 2009 season as one of the starting outfielders at advanced Single-A Kinston, but given his age and some experience in Kinston last year has a decent shot of opening the season at Double-A Akron.

56. Steven Wright - Right-handed Pitcher

Born: 09/30/1984 - Height: 6'2" - Weight: 210 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2007	22	Lake County	A	4
	22	Kinston	A+	3
2008	23	Kinston	A+	2
	23	Akron	AA	4
		Career		13



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Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2004	22	GCL Red Sox	R	2
2005	23	Lowell	A-	0
	23	Greenville	A	1
	23	Wilmington	A+	0
2006	24	Greenville	A	1
	24	Wilmington	A+	1
	24	Lake County	A	0
	24	Kinston	A+	2
2007	25	Kinston	A+	0
	25	Akron	AA	4
2008	26	Akron	AA	5
	26	Buffalo	AAA	0
		Career		16