Today we crack open the top half of Tony's Top 100 Indians prospects as we showcase the #50-46 ranked prospects in the organization. Included in today's listing is international free agent signing Chen-Chang Lee out of Taiwan, as well as lefty pitchers Ryan Edell and Chris Jones, outfielder Matt Brown, and right-handed flamethrower Neil Wagner. As a reminder, Tony's book is also available and he has all the details are inside!

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.

We continue today with #50-46 in the Indians Top 100 Prospect Countdown. 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 (RHP)
59. Chris Nash (1B)
58. Carlton Smith (RHP)
57. Lucas Montero (OF)
56. Steven Wright (RHP)
55. Michael Aubrey (1B)
54. Delvi Cid (OF)
53. Clayton Cook (RHP)
52. T.J. McFarland (LHP)
51. Wyatt Toregas (C)

50. Chris Jones - Left-handed Pitcher

Born: 09/19/1988 - Height: 6'2" - Weight: 165 - Bats: Left - Throws: Left

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2007	18	GCL Indians	R	0
2008	19	GCL Indians	R	3
		Career		3

49. Chen-Chang Lee - Right-handed Pitcher

Born: 10/21/1986 - Height: 5'11" - Weight: 176 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2008	21	Taiwan	I	3

* These stats are a combination of his outings throughout 2008 in the Olympics, Spring League Tourney, Honkball Haarlem Tourney, and FISU World University Baseball Championships

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48. Matt Brown - Outfielder

Born: 02/21/1985 - Height: 6'1" - Weight: 183 - Bats: Left - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	G
2007	22	Mahoning Vy	A-	63
2008	23	Lake County	A	122
		Career		185

History: Brown was a 13th round pick by the Indians in the 2007 Draft out of Wichita State.

Strengths & Opportunities: Brown is an intriguing outfielder who offers a great package of overall tools with good bat speed, raw power, plus arm strength, and average speed. He makes consistent contact, swings hard, and is very aggressive in the outfield. He could develop into a prototype right fielder if his bat starts to show more thunder down the road as he already is very good defensively and has a gifted arm. He was an outstanding pitcher in high school and threw 92 MPH, and that arm strength has translated well to the outfield. He has excellent makeup, and his focus is a rarity for a player at this stage of their development cycle. Because of this, he has a head start over most of the players his age or at his level because of the routine he has developed. He is mentally prepared for the ups and downs of the game as well as with what he needs to do to improve as a player.

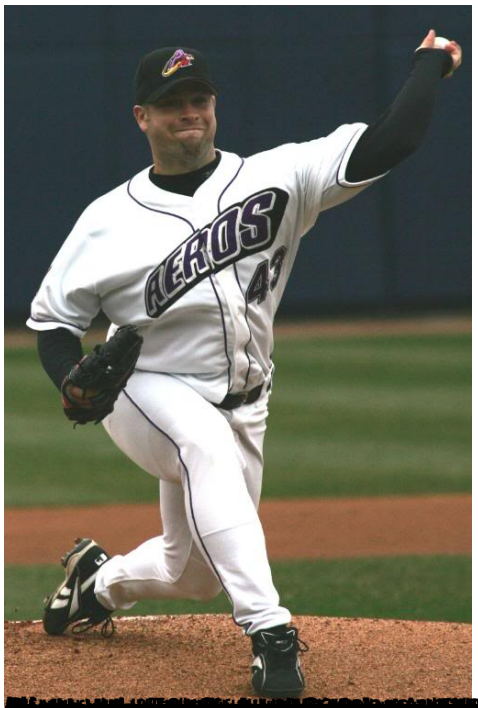
Coming out of college Brown's biggest challenge was developing better plate discipline and he did an excellent job last season of implementing a new plan and preparation routine with his at bats that the Indians worked with him on during the 2007 offseason and in spring training. His revised plan is more just him simplifying his approach, looking for a good pitch to hit, looking to hit the ball in the middle of the field, and staying within the strike zone with his swing. His new plan was the catalyst to his very good season and the adjustments he made helped his approach and overall plate discipline as he only struck out once every seven at bats whereas in 2007 he was striking out about once every five at bats. Also, his long, maximum-effort swing was shortened which has helped him create a more consistent bat path to square up the ball and make good contact more often. He is an all-out player which is good in the field, but can take a toll on his body and at the plate some times. He hurt his left wrist diving for a ball in the outfield near the middle of the season, so missed a few weeks. He is that type of fiery player where the Indians will continue to work on getting him to learn to pull it back a little and stay on more of an even keel throughout the game.

Outlook: Brown had a very good season last year, and was one of the few players in Single-A Lake County to do so. He was close to the league average as far as age goes, so it will be interesting to see how he handles the more advanced pitching in the Carolina League next year. He will open the 2009 season in the advanced Single-A Kinston outfield.

47. Ryan Edell - Left-handed Pitcher

Born: 07/06/1983 - Height: 6'1" - Weight: 195 - Bats: Left - Throws: Left

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2005	21	Mahoning Vy	A-	3
2006	22	Lake County	A-	0
2007	23	Kinston	A+	11
2008	24	Akron	AA	7
		Career		21



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46. Neil Wagner - Right-handed Pitcher

Born: 01/01/1984 - Height: 6'0" - Weight: 195 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl	W
2006	22	Mahoning Vy	A-	0
2007	23	Lake County	A	1
	23	Kinston	A+	0
2008	24	Kinston	A+	3
	24	Akron	AA	0
		Career		4

History: Wagner was a 21st round pick in the 2005 Draft out of North Dakota State University.

He signed late in 2005, so he did not make his professional debut until 2006 at Mahoning Valley where he racked up 17 saves and posted a 1.39 ERA while holding opposing hitters to a .143 average striking out 50 hitters in 32 innings. After starting last year at advanced Single-A Kinston and putting up an 8.73 ERA in nine April appearances, he settled in the rest of the way to put up a 3.44 ERA in 32 appearances from May until mid-August when he was called up to Double-A Akron. At Akron he was sensational in limited time going 2-2 with a 2.75 ERA in 11 combined appearances in the regular season and playoffs. He also went out the Arizona Fall League and pitched well (0-1, 5.59 ERA, 13 games, 19.1 IP, 18 H, 12 BB, 9 K).

Strengths & Opportunities: Outside of Adam Miller, Wagner arguably has the most explosive fastball in the system that sits at 93-95 MPH and touches 98 MPH. He shows good control (career 2.6 BB/9 rate) and the ability to put hitters away with his dominating fastball (career 10.9 K/9). Wagner closed in college, so he has the experience handling late inning pressure situations and is mentally tough. His late season progress was a byproduct of him sticking to his plan as well as some tinkering with his delivery where he lowered his arm slot a little bit and started throwing exclusively from the stretch which improved his velocity and allowed him to be more consistent with his release point.

While Wagner controls his fastball well and can blow it by hitters, the key to him becoming a bona fide relief prospect will be the development of at least one secondary pitch which he has struggled with at times. He throws a slider and changeup, and is working on throwing them both for strikes to better set up his fastball and keep hitters off balance. The results with the slider have been mixed to date, but the changeup showed some consistent improvement over the course of last season and by the end of the season it was a reliable pitch for him where he was throwing it for strikes and able to use it in any count. It is more of a split-changeup because it has the drop of a splitter although is not a true splitter.

Outlook: If Wagner were a few years younger, he might rank a little higher on this list; however, now that he is 25 years old he is close to his ceiling as a pitcher. He just needs an opportunity to prove himself at Double-A and Triple-A, and will get that chance this year as he will open the season in the bullpen at Double-A Akron.

All photos courtesy of Ken Carr except Chen-Chang Lee is courtesy of TaiwanBaseball.com

Up Next: #45-41