Tony checks in today with an abbreviated edition of Minor Happenings. Indians Farm Director this week had a lot to say about a plethora of players up and down the organization. Also, many of the Indians top decision makers were on hand in Lake County this week to see the debut of right-hander Jason Knapp as an Indian, as well as left-hander Nick Hagadone's second appearance in the organization. When the likes of Antonetti, Mirabelli, and Grant are all on hand to watch and evaluate your performance, you must be pretty special. Tony provides the details 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.

A lot of material to share again this week, this time from Indians Farm Director Ross Atkins and several coaches in the system at various levels as well as all the other usual news and notes. With that in mind, today is an abbreviated version of
Happenings
focusing solely on several comments from Atkins in the past week on players up and down the system.

Tomorrow, I will rundown some of the comments from other coaches and provide all the other news and notes.

As a quick note, several players feature pieces will continue to post over the coming days and

weeks. In the past week, pieces on Clayton Cook , Jerad Head , and Scott Barnes have posted, and in the upcoming week I plan to post pieces on Lonnie Chisenhall, Jason Knapp, and Eric Berger.

Also last night Paul Cousineau celebrated our one year birthday for our on-line radio show Smoke Signals
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Thanks to all the listeners out there for the support in our first year, and we have many more excited things planned for year two.

Onto the *Happenings*...

Indians Minor League Player Of The Week
(for games from August 6 through August 12)

Clayton Cook (Right-handed Pitcher - Mahoning Valley)
2-0, 2 games, 0.90 ERA, 10.1 IP, 8 H, 1 R, 3 BB, 8 K

When you look at stats in the minors, sometimes they don't tell the whole story as a player may be old for the league and dominating or on the flipside may be very young and struggling with the numbers but still holding their own. In other cases there

are some things beyond the box score, especially with pitchers, which can affect numbers. It is all about development, and sometimes numbers take a backseat for a pitcher as they learn a new delivery, work on a new pitch, or get the feel to some changes to their mechanics.

In the case of short-season Single-A right-handed starter Clayton Cook, he is one of the rare cases where a young player for the league is dominating and putting up great numbers while still learning and adjusting to life as a professional baseball player. Cook was only 18-years old when play opened up in June this year for Mahoning Valley in the NY-Penn League, a league often filled mostly with college draft picks from the recent draft.

While he has since turned 19-years old about three weeks ago, he has fared well to date against players mostly three years older than him.

In 11 starts he is now 4-2 with a 2.06 ERA and in 56.2 innings has allowed 43 hits, 20 walks and has 52 strikeouts.

His season so far is a nice follow up to his outstanding 2008 season with the rookie-level Gulf Coast League Indians where mostly at 17-years of age in 11 games he was 1-2 with a 2.52 ERA. I wrote about him earlier this week in a feature piece , and with every start he is looking like one of the best sleeper picks from the 2008 Draft with the potential to blossom into a very good prospect and have a long career as a professional baseball player.

Honorable Mentions:

Matt LaPorta (OF/1B - Columbus): .364 AVG (8-for-22), 3 R, 0 2B, 0 3B, 1 HR, 8 RBI, 3 BB, 3 K
Lou Marson (C - Columbus): .400 AVG (8-for-20), 2 R, 1 2B, 0 3B, 0 HR, 2 RBI, 1 BB, 2 K
Carlos Santana (C - Akron): .429 AVG (9-for-21), 5 R, 3 2B, 1 3B, 1 HR, 6 RBI, 3 BB, 5K
Russell Young (LHP - Kinston): 1-0, 2 games, 0.82 ERA, 11.1 IP, 9 H, 1 R, 3 BB, 3 K
Cord Phelps (2B - Kinston): .450 AVG (9-for-20), 4 R, 0 2B, 1 3B, 0 HR, 2 RBI, 6 BB, 5 K
Bo Greenwell (OF - Lake County): .381 AVG (8-for-21), 3 R, 3 2B, 0 3B, 0 HR, 5 RBI, 3 BB, 1K
Mike Rayl (LHP - AZL Indians): 0-0, 2 games, 0.00 ERA, 8.0 IP, 4 H, 0 ER, 0 BB, 10 K
Argenis Martinez (2B - AZL Indians): .522 AVG (12-for-23), 10 R, 2 2B, 1 3B, 0 HR, 6 RBI, 2 BB, 1 K
Chris Kersten (1B - AZL Indians): .310 AVG (9-for-29), 3 R, 4 2B, 1 3B, 1 HR, 11 RBI, 1 BB, 7 K

Previous Winners:

07/30 to 08/05: Tim Fedroff (OF - Kinston)
07/23 to 07/29: Carlos Santana (C - Akron)
07/16 to 07/22: Nate Recknagel (1B - Lake County)

07/09 to 07/15: Matt McBride (OF - Akron)
07/02 to 07/08: Marty Popham (RHP - Mahoning Valley)
06/25 to 07/01: Andy Marte (3B - Columbus)
06/18 to 06/24: Nick Weglarz (OF - Akron)
06/11 to 06/17: Trey Haley (RHP - (Lake County)
06/04 to 06/10: Michael Brantley (OF - Columbus)
05/28 to 06/03: Donnie Webb (OF - Lake County)
05/21 to 05/27: Jordan Brown (1B/OF - Columbus)
05/14 to 05/20: Paolo Espino (RHP - Kinston)
05/07 to 05/13: Lonnie Chisenhall (3B - Kinston)
04/30 to 05/06: Nick Weglarz (OF - Akron)
04/23 to 04/29: Matt McBride (1B - Kinston)
04/16 to 04/22: Eric Berger (LHP - Kinston)
04/08 to 04/15: Kelvin De La Cruz (LHP - Kinston)

Director's Cuts

A lot to share this week from Indians Farm Director Ross Atkins on a potpourri of players in the system. Ross touched on a few of the Triple-A guys the Indians received in their recent trades, but mostly talked about the arms in Single-A at Lake County and Kinston. One thing of note, a lot of the Indians top brass were in Lake Coutny this past week to see the organizational debut of right-hander Jason Knapp on Tuesday and the second appearance of left-hander Nick Hagadone on Wednesday. Assistant GM Chris Antonetti, Director of Scouting John Mirabelli, Director of Amateur Scouting Brad Grant, as well as some other Indians officials were in attendance for the two games.

On Nick Hagadone: "He has a really impressive arm. Every scout that sees him, every person you talk to be it a Red Sox

official or a scout for a different organization the first thing that jumps out is he is left-handed and throws 99 MPH. The more you talk to people the more you find out about Nick, and the more you talk to Nick you realize that all those things that are very important that you don't really know until you start digging in on an individual. His intangibles are

off the charts. From the Boston Red Sox to our scouts to our own assessment, everyone talks about him as being someone who sets the standard, sets the benchmark very high for work ethic, discipline, and passion for baseball.

Those are things that are always a nice bonus to a guy who throws 99 MPH, is left-handed, and strikes guys out regularly."

On Hagadone's Tommy John surgery: "We had all of the information and we are equipped to handle [his recent Tommy John surgery]. There are many pitchers in the game who have gone through that process before.

It certainly increases the risk somewhat, but when you know them and feel like you are prepared to handle them, and then you factor in what the reward is, it is worth taking that risk.

We are following a plan that was put together by doctors and rehab therapists.

We are sticking with a plan that was put in place months ago based on the Red Sox opinion and now our opinion. All the things we want to see we see, all the things he is saying is what we want to hear.

He is also very realistic about it.

He is feeling things that are normal to feel when you come off Tommy John.

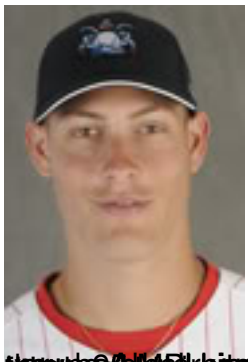
He has some stiffness and tightness that he is working through.

But he is still overpowering hitters, he is still showing the velocity he showed before, and he is getting back to commanding his pitches at the rate he was before that.

Really impressive to see him, and he really stands out on the field.

He is just a big, physical, strong, left hander who puts the ball over the plate and has some presence about him."

On Jason Knapp: We are extremely excited. All the names and all the arms, they are all very exciting. You look at those



[illegible] Ryan Miller has just [illegible] Apaches