Here is the next group of prospects in the 2010 Indians Top 50 Prospect Countdown here on TheClevelandFan.com and SportsTimeOhio.com. As a reminder, these scouting reports will be linked and listed for easy access on my site http://www.indiansprospectinsider.com/ .

Also, my new 2010 Cleveland Indians Top 100 Prospects & More book is now available . To order the book (which profiles over 165 players in the system and runs 214 pages in length) ... go here for all the details
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#50-46
#45-41
#40-36

35. Frank Herrmann - Right-handed Pitcher
Born: 05/30/1984 - Height: 6'4" - Weight: 220 - Bats: Left - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl
2006	22	Lake County	A

2007	23	Kinston	A+
2008	24	Kinston	A+
2008	24	Buffalo	AAA

2008	24	Akron	AA
2009	25	Akron	AA
2009	25	Columbus	AAA
		Totals	

History: Herrmann was undrafted out of Harvard University, and ended up signing with the Indians as an undrafted free agent in August of 2005. While at Harvard he was an economics major. He was also heavily recruited as a football player coming out of high school as teams wanted him to play quarterback or safety. At Harvard he was supposed to play both football and baseball, but ended up just playing baseball because of the demands academically.

Strengths & Opportunities: Herrmann is a physically imposing pitcher, armed with a power sinking fastball that sits at 91-92 MPH and tops out at 94 MPH. He also throws a slider that was recently reworked from more of a finesse-loopy slurve to a hard, power slider where it sits down in the zone at 83-84 MPH. He also has a decent changeup that has good movement, and last season he added a splitter to the mix as a put away pitch. He is a consistent strike thrower who may not have the best stuff, but he has always shown an ability to eat innings and get stronger

late in the season or in games. The Indians love his exceptional strength, athleticism and durability on the mound, and like his ability to control his fastball to both sides of the plate. He really locates his fastball just about as good as anybody the Indians have, especially down and away or opposite arm side.

Herrmann's biggest need - be it as a starter or reliever - is that strikeout pitch. The ability to put hitters away is what has always kept him out consideration as a high level prospect, but the recent development of a split-finger may help change that. His sinker is a hard fastball, so it is not a pitch that will strike out a lot of people, but he gets a lot of groundballs with it. The splitter is more of a pitch he can throw 0-2 and 1-2 as a strikeout pitch. He had never thrown a split-finger before picking it up midseason last year, and the development of the pitch went well.

When Herrmann first signed with the Indians they had to break him down by completely re-developing his delivery as he was more a collapse, drop and drive guy when he came into the organization, but the refined delivery has gotten him to stay taller. He is extremely intelligent, and his aptitude is off the charts. He has a bulldog mentality and good intelligence in coming up with a good game plan to attack hitters. He is really not intimidated by the bat as he attacks guys and comes after them with his fastball. He very rarely beats himself, and has proven to be a guy a manager can trust with the game on the line.

The Indians moved Herrmann to the bullpen last season. He was always a starting pitcher in the system as prior to the 2009 season he had made 78 appearances (all starts) in his three year career, but after five starts at the beginning of last season in a return trip to Double-A Akron he was promoted to Columbus and moved to the bullpen. The move greatly increased his value to the organization as he showed he could handle the new role and be very effective coming out of the bullpen. Pitching out of the bullpen his fastball played up some, and his ability to work quick by pitching to contact and piling up groundball outs with his sinker translated well.

Going forward, Herrmann needs to continue to develop more consistency with his secondary pitches and also develop his new splitter. At times he can be too quick to the plate which can lead to him leaving the ball up in the zone. He also needs to continue working on his delivery and his plan of attack on how he goes after hitters. While he is comfortable throwing his changeup to lefties, he needs more work on throwing it to right-handers to keep them off the plate.

Outlook: Herrmann came into the organization very raw and with little understanding of how to "pitch", and in just four seasons he has adjusted well to the professional game and has made huge strides in learning the intricacies of pitching. He really is a guy who has already exceeded expectations and is someone who the Indians feel will continue to do that. He really grinded it out in the lower levels of the system as a starter, and he has put himself on the map by being durable, consistent, and slowly his secondary pitches have come as he has always had good fastball ability. The move to the bullpen could ultimately be what opens the big league door to him as he is considered a big league bullpen depth option and could potentially make his major league debut sometime this upcoming season. He will open the season in the bullpen at Triple-A Columbus.

Photo courtesy of Tony Lastoria

Frank Herrmann MinorLeagueBaseball.com page

Frank Herrmann Baseball-Reference page

Frank Herrmann MinorLeagueSplits.com page

Frank Herrmann Pitching:

34. Chen-Chang Lee - Right-handed Pitcher
Born: 10/21/1986 - Height: 5'11" - Weight: 175 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl
2009	22	Kinston	A+

Totals

History: Lee was signed by the Indians as an international free agent in September of 2008 for a reported $400,000. He attended Taipei Physical Education College and pitched for the Taiwanese National team in the 2006 and 2008 World University Baseball Championships. He also pitched in the Asian Games and Intercontinental Cup for Taiwan in 2006, and in the

summer of 2007 he pitched in the United States for the Anchorage Bucs of the Alaskan Baseball League. He was one of the top amateur college prospects from Taiwan, and was just one of three amateurs on the Chinese Taipei (Taiwan) team that competed in Beijing, China during the 2008 Olympics. The Indians had been scouting him since he was 16-years old and had he been in the 2008 Draft they felt he had the value and projection to be a fourth or fifth round pick.

Strengths & Opportunities: Lee throws from a sidearm slot and features a four pitch mix of a fastball, sinker, slider and split changeup. He has an advanced pitching approach and gets good movement on all his pitches and has shown a good ability to command the strike zone with all of them. His fastball consistently sits at 91-92 MPH and has topped out as high as 95 MPH and has good sinking action down in the zone. His slider is his best secondary offering and is very tough on right-handers showing good tilt and late bite. His split-changeup has shown progress and is a good groundball pitch for him. He also started mixing the pitch in a little more to both left and right-handed hitters last year and found some success with it.

Lee is a very experienced pitcher who has achieved success at every stop imaginable on the international circuit and in his first year of pro ball stateside. It was an adjustment for him last year coming stateside and playing professionally in the United States for the first time, but he adapted well and exceeded all expectations in his first pro season. The Indians rewarded him for his efforts last year buy having him take part of Double-A Akron's playoff run. While he did not dress for games or was ever active on the playoff roster, he was in Akron participating in pre-game workouts and hung around the clubhouse and with the team for the playoffs.

This biggest thing the Indians worked on with Lee last year was solidifying his arm slot. If he can be more consistent with a new low three-quarter arm slot, the Indians feel he could develop into a very good relief prospect. By getting him to change from his side-arm slot to the low three quarter slot, they feel it will help him stay on top of the baseball better. He has such a power arm that when he flies open his elbow will drop and he gets underneath the ball and everything kind of works uphill and he does not create much angle. He is not a real tall guy, so if he loses that arm slot and gets low it gets even lower. His breaking ball is also going to benefit from having a better arm slot. There has been some resilience from him in learning to adapt to the new slot, but in the long run they believe the change will be for the better. In addition to the arm slot, the Indians also want him to work on getting stronger to handle the much longer season in the United States and to also continue to work on his offspeed pitches and the command of his fastball. He lacks size, so durability issues could come into play down the road.

Outlook: Lee had over three times as many strikeouts than walks and averaged more than a strikeout an inning last year at High-A Kinston. He is ready to move up another level this coming season and could move fast this year depending on his development and the Indians' need. He is one of the Indians best relief pitching prospects in the system, and he should open the 2010 season in the Double-A Akron bullpen.

Photo courtesy of Tony Lastoria

Chen-Chang Lee MinorLeagueBaseball.com

Chen-Chang Lee Baseball-Reference page

Chen-Chang Lee MinorLeagueSplits.com page

Chen-Chang Lee Pitching:

33. Danny Salazar - Right-handed Pitcher
Born: 01/11/1990 - Height: 6'0" - Weight: 180 - Bats: Right - Throws: Right

Year	Age	Team	Lvl
2007	17	DSL Indians	R
2008	18	GCL Indians	R

2009	19	Lake County	A

Totals

[redacted]

Year	Age	Team	Lvl
2008	18	GCL Indians	R

2008	18	Mahoning Vy	A-
2009	19	Lake County	A
		Totals	

[redacted]

Year	Age	Team	Lvl
2006	21	Mahoning Vy	A-

2007	22	Lake County	A
2007	22	Akron	AA
2008	23	GCL Indians	R
2008	23	Kinston	A+

2008	23	Lake County	A
2009	24	Kinston	A+
2009	24	Akron	AA

Totals

History: McBride was selected by the Indians in the 2nd round of the 2006 Draft out of Lehigh University. He corrected a lingering shoulder issue that had plagued him since he was drafted with offseason surgery to his right labrum between the 2007 and 2008 seasons, and the recovery forced him to miss more than half of the 2008 season. He had an unbelievable

performance in the Arizona Fall League last fall where in 22 games he hit .378 with 4 HR, 18 RBI, and a 1.159 OPS.

Strengths & Opportunities: McBride is a big strong athletic catcher who has good power, and has a very good eye and bat-to-ball ability. During his rehab from surgery to his labrum he added a lot of strength and improved his physical makeup, and it showed last year as he piled up a lot of doubles and home runs. He has proven to be a tough out for pitchers and consistently put the bat on the ball, as demonstrated by his career 8.3 at bat to strikeout ratio. He has a lot of bat ability pull side as he can drive the ball into left field and the left center gap as well as anybody.

When healthy, McBride provides a rare combination of defense and offense at the catching position. Before his shoulder surgery almost two years ago he was always viewed as one of the top catching prospects in the game. His strengths as a catcher are his catch-and-throw skills, especially his plus arm. His throws to second base consistently time at 1.85 which is considered above average. He also has a very cerebral approach behind the plate, and has shown good leadership qualities. While he is a big and strong catcher, he is also athletic and runs very well for a catcher. He is a gamer who has excellent work ethic, and is sort of a throwback that hustles on every play and does not showboat.

Last offseason the Indians moved McBride out of the catching position and had him workout at first base and left field in order to preserve his throwing arm. Since his surgery he had experienced some strength loss and pain in his arm, so in order to keep him healthy and his bat in the lineup he split time in 2009 at first base and the outfield. He put a lot of work in during spring training getting a handle of the footwork needed at first base and the outfield, and proved to be adequate at both positions. Near the end of the season his shoulder was pain free and was a lot stronger, so the Indians sent him out to the Arizona Fall League last fall to test out the arm at catcher and he did well. He held his own behind the plate, and there was no pain involved with his throwing, so it looks like going into 2010 that his primary defensive position will be at catcher though he still may get some work in at first base and the outfield.

Getting McBride out from behind the plate last year to protect his ailing shoulder may have been the best decision the Indians could have made for him. His success at the plate last season was a combination of good health and a simple approach where he just tried to be productive every at bat and stick to his plan. The Indians have always known he could hit, so if he can prove he can catch again his value will increase substantially since it is a position of need because below Carlos Santana at Triple-A there is not much catching depth at all in the system. Worst case, if he can't catch everyday, his ability to catch and play first base and left field is an asset to the Indians because it provides a lot of versatility for him.

McBride is often categorized as a dead-pull hitter as he has a tendency to want to pull everything and has trouble laying off inside pitches, so the Indians would like to him use the whole field better by working on hitting the ball more up the middle and driving the ball gap to gap. To improve on this aspect they have had him work on letting the ball get a little bit deep on him and to work on staying back and driving the ball through the middle. Also, while he has shown very good ability to make consistent contact, he needs to be a little more patient at the plate to draw more walks (101 BB in 1255 career AB). On the defensive side, he has some issues with controlling a running game. While he has a good arm, he is not fundamentally sound with his throws as he tends to be slow with his release and stands straight on his throws.

It all comes down to his arm and if it is strong enough to handle the everyday rigors of throwing at the catching position.

Outlook: McBride had an outstanding comeback season last year. He got off to a hot start at High-A Kinston and used that momentum he built there to finish the season with a solid showing at Double-A Akron. The big concern going forward is whether or not he has a true position and if he can stick at catcher this coming season. Also, there are some concerns that he just had a hot six week stretch in Kinston last year, and that the more ordinary numbers in Akron were more indicative of what kind of player he is. In any case, he his ability to play catcher, first base and left field provides some much needed versatility in the upper levels of the Indians system. He should open the 2010 season as the starting catcher at Double-A Akron.

Photo courtesy of Tony Lastoria

Matt McBride MinorLeagueBaseball.com page

Matt McBride Baseball-Reference page

Matt McBride MinorLeagueSplits.com page

Matt McBride Hitting: