Today we're going to look at prospects #31-40 in the Indians system. There's a nice combination of upside and established guys in this range, and we see fourplayers with 3B experience. One of those four is unlikely to be a 3B in the majors, but the other three project to be plus defenders at the MLB level. We also get to take a closer look at one of my personal favorite kids in the system (hint: he's an OF) as well as a couple of starting pitching prospects born in the 1990's. If you missed Monday's introduction and prospects #41-50, here's the link to check out part one of the series.

40. Clayton Cook, RHP

DOB: 7/23/1990

Height/Weight: 6-3/175

Bats/Throws: R/R

Acquired: 9th round pick in 2008

2010 Stats: 6-7, 3.35 ERA, 83 K and 37 BB in 118 1/3 IP for low A Lake County

Scouting report: Cook is a tall, somewhat lanky pitcher that still has quite a bit of projection in him. Drafted out of high school, he's still just 19 years old and is coming off of a solid season at low A when most kids his age are either in short season leagues or college. His four seam fastball sits between 89-92 MPH, which is an improvement from where he was at in 2009. It's a solid offering with decent movement, but needs more velocity before it can become a major league pitch. He commands it well and can keep hitters off balance by attacking both sides of the plate. He added a two-seamer to his repertoire last year, and it is a tick slower than the four-seamer but with better movement. Like most pitchers his age, he throws a curveball and is developing a changeup that is his 3rd best pitch right now. He keeps the ball down, gets plenty of groundball outs and keeps the ball in the ballpark (11 HR given up in 211 career IP).

Cook is still very young and should fill out into his frame as his career progresses. He'll likely pick up a couple of MPH on his fastball, but still never really be an overpowering strikeout guy. If he can continue to command his fastball and get plenty of groundball outs, he won't need to rack up prodigious strikeout numbers. The key to him remaining in the starting rotation will be the continued development of the changeup. He can be effective against hitters in the low minors with the two fastballs and the curveball, but to be able to work against hitters from both sides of the plate at the higher levels, he'll need a third reliable pitch.

Cook will likely fight it out with Kyle Blair to see who gets to go to Kinston and who opens at Lake County. Even if he starts back in Lake County, he'll likely be in Kinston by the end of the year. He won't be able to legally buy alcohol until the end of July, so there's really no reason to rush him beyond Kinston at this point in his career.

Glass half-full: He could become a solid back of the rotation guy if he the changeup progresses

Glass half-empty: A bullpen role where his stuff can play up in shorter appearances.

39. Juan Romero, 3B

DOB: 06/16/1993

Height/Weight: 6-1/175

Bats/Throws: R/R

Acquired: International FA in 2010

2010 Stats: .241/.321/.483 with 7/14 in 145 AB's for rookie level AZL Indians

Scouting report: Romero is a lottery ticket at this point in his very young career. He won't turn 18 until this June, and has 145 at bats under his belt here in the states. Instead of playing this year as a high school senior, he'll be starting his 2nd year of professional baseball. So his placement even this high on the list is pretty much all about projection at this point.

Romero has some pop in his bat, as he tied for the AZL lead with his 7 HR's. He slugged .483 and posted a solid .804 OPS. For the season, 19 of his 35 hits went for extra bases. Romero's issue at this point is his approach, and in that he is no different than most teenagers signed from the Caribbean or Latin America. Romero struck out 67 times and walked just 16 in his stateside debut, a ratio that is obviously going to have to improve if he wants to find any kind of sustained success in professional baseball. But the raw talent is there, and if you add pitch recognition/selection skills that the Indians will teach him to the power he has already shown, look out.

In addition to his success with the bat, the Indians were very happy with Romero's athleticism in the field. He has a strong arm, but was charged with 9 errors in 28 games at 3B in AZ. I will admit that I have never seen Romero play in the field, so anything I say about his defense

would be pure speculation at this point. He's a guy I'm really excited to get my eyes on this spring in Goodyear.

Romero will likely stay in Goodyear for extended spring training, as 3B is a very crowded position in the organization and he is still just 17. But expect him to take the torch from Gio Urshela in Mahoning Valley as the next Latin 3B prospect to keep an eye on in the organization once the short season leagues start up in June. This is admittedly an agressive ranking for a guy with Romero's experience, but his upside is pretty significant, even though he is quite a ways from realizing his potential.

Glass half-full: He finds success in Mahoning Valley this year. Too early for any other sort of prediction.

Glass half-empty: He's back in the Dominican Republic in a few years

38. Kyle Bellows, 3B

DOB: 08/19/1988

Height/Weight: 6-3/210

Bats/Throws: R/R

Acquired: 4th round pick in 2009

2010 Stats: .253/.318/.385 with 10/66 for high A Kinston

Scouting report: Bellows is an outstanding defensive third baseman, one of the best in minor league baseball. He moves very well laterally, does a great job charging bunts and slow rollers, and has a cannon for an arm. In the Kinston games I saw last year, Bellows made several outstanding defensive plays, including one that brought the opposing fans at visiting Potomac to their feet. There is no doubt in the Indians front office that Bellows has the potential to be a plus defender at the hot corner in the major leagues. He was a shortstop in college who was moved to 3B once he was drafted, and has taken very well to the move (sound familiar?)

Bellows problem so far is his offense. He was a solid but not spectacular hitter in college, and he's had a little trouble adjusting to the wood bats in the pros. He has solid bat to ball ability, and above-average raw power but has had some trouble having that power translate to games. He's listed at 210 lbs, but I had a chance to talk to him at the end of last season and he looked skinnier than that. His frame will allow him to put on some more muscle, and hopefully that will help turn some of those doubles and flyouts into HR's. Bellows did skip low-A and go straight to Kinston from Mahoning Valley in his 2nd professional season, and he hardly embarrassed himself at the plate in the pitcher-friendly Carolina League. But he didn't do enough to put himself higher on the prospect map.

Third base is probably the Indians deepest position in the minors, and if Chisenhall starts the season in Columbus as expected, Bellows should be right behind him in Akron. With his first full professional season in the books, look for Bellows to be a breakout candidate in Akron. He's in a more hitter friendly park and has a full season under his belt so he knows what to expect with the bus rides, has picked out a bat he feels comfortable with, etc. He's low on this list now, but is a guy who could be 10-20 spots higher next year.

Glass half-full: A gold glove caliber 3B who hits 20 HR a year with a batting average around .265.

Glass half-empty: Same thing, only in Columbus instead of Cleveland.

37. Jess Todd, RHP

DOB: 4/20/1986

Height/Weight: 5-11/210

Bats/Throws: R/R

Acquired: PTBNL in the DeRosa trade; 2nd round pick in 2007 for St. Louis

2010 Stats: 4-2, 4 S, 3.31 ERA 53 K and 18 BB in 49 IP in Columbus; 7.50 ERA, 9 K and 3 BB in 6 IP in Cleveland

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[redacted] 2010. He was coming

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