

Ohlone College Pitcher Joe Gardner Named in the Top 20 Most “Important Players” in the Indians Rebuilding Plan



June 3, 2010, CLEVELAND, OH - Whether the Indians want to admit it to you or not, we all know they are trying to rebuild from a team that just three seasons ago were one win away from the World Series. Long gone are the staples to that rebuilding project that started way back in 2002. Has it been that long since the Indians dealt Bartolo Colon and started a whole new wave of players to build another winner? Unfortunately the second “Blueprint for Success” wasn’t structurally sound enough to sustain winning like the John Hart and Mike Hargrove teams of the mid 1990s. This time the Indians are turning to their third ‘blueprint’, this time co- led by outgoing GM Mark Shapiro, his successor of 2011 assistant GM Chris Antonetti, and of course first year manager Manny Acta. Here are a few players the Indians will need to come through for them to make this plan a winning one, at least in the next few seasons.

Criteria in this list will be ranked on draft position and year, based on the player they were traded for and their positional value with the organization. (Year and how acquired in parenthesis).



P Joe Gardner (3rd round pick 2009)- Gardner opened a lot of eyes early in 2010, especially the Tribe brass, which is hard to do when you’re not a first round pick. Gardner in six starts a Lake County went 1-0 with 38 strikeouts and just 11 walks. He was moved up to Kinston in early May, and is 2-0 in four starts with 20 strikeouts and 12 walks. He throws in the mid to uppers 90s and has a well developed changeup. He could advance another level this season, which would help the Indians soon, using his hard fastball out the pen soon or as a top end starter.

Garner graduated in Ohlone in 2008, and earned a scholarship to UC Santa Barbara. He played for the Gauchos for one year before signing in the 3rd round with the Indians in 2009.