



Spring Training is just around the corner, which is a warm and welcoming thought since six inches of snow fell outside my house Thursday night. The baseball offseason, which is usually seems long, has felt even longer this season, in large part because of the personnel moves that the Indians made and my eagerness to see what the new on-field product will look like.

With the only Indians news from this week being a couple of minor signings and a former player signing with the Evil Empire, I have a good opportunity to finish what I started last week. In [last week's View from the Porch](#), I put together a 13-man roster of the top position players born in the state of Ohio. It's an article I had a lot of fun with and one that I hope you enjoyed.

The history of baseball is important to me. I had just turned 15 when my grandfather passed away, and I never met my grandfather on my father's side. Even though I already enjoyed history in school, and used it as a second major in college, I never sat down with my grandfather, a life-long Cleveland resident, to ask about his time in World War II or about Cleveland baseball history. As I look back, it's one of my biggest regrets. With what's left of the greatest generation growing smaller and smaller by the day, having the opportunity to research and write about Ohio's rich baseball tradition (and having somebody read it!) is an honor.

I learned a lot last week writing about the position players. I never knew the story of Ed Delahanty. Without that research, I never would have learned of deaf baseball player William "Dummy" Hoy. The news that Ty Cobb could have played in Cleveland had Naps' management agreed to trade Elmer Flick was something I was unaware of.

As talented and successful as last week's lineup and bench players were, it's the pitching that is the backbone of any team. Here is my list of the all-Ohio pitching staff:



**#1 Starter** – Cy Young – Perhaps the best pitcher in the history of the game, Denton “Cy” Young is the ace of the all-Ohio starting rotation. Born in Gilmore, a small community in Tuscarawas County, about 35 minutes south of New Philadelphia, Young was found by a minor league team that played in Canton in 1889. The following year, Young made his Major League debut with the Cleveland Spiders of the National League, pitching a three-hit shutout. In his career, Young pitched for the Cleveland Spiders, St. Louis Perfectos, St. Louis Cardinals, Boston Americans, Boston Red Sox, Cleveland Naps, and Boston Rustlers.

It's hard to find a pitcher with a better resume than Young. During his 22-year career, Young pitched 7,356 innings, won 511 games, and posted a 2.63 career ERA. Young led the league in wins five times, WHIP (walks + hits per innings pitched) seven times, ERA twice, and threw a complete game in 749 of his 815 starts. Young was worth 160.8 wins above replacement player in his career, which ranks second all-time behind Babe Ruth.

The Baseball Writers' Association of America voted Young into the Hall of Fame in 1937, with 76.1 percent of the vote.



**#2 Starter** – Roger Clemens – Despite the performance-enhancing drug controversy after the end of his career, William Roger Clemens still belongs on this team. The Dayton native was one of the game’s greats, winning 354 games and posting a career ERA of 3.12. Clemens was the 1986 American League Most Valuable Player, won seven Cy Young awards, led the league in wins four times, in ERA seven times, and strikeouts five times. Clemens pitched for the Boston Red Sox, Toronto Blue Jays, New York Yankees, and Houston Astros. He was an 11-time All-Star. His 4,672 strikeouts rank third all-time and he is ninth in wins with 354.

In terms of pitchers, Clemens ranks third in WAR, behind Young and Walter Johnson. Obviously, in recent years, Clemens’s career has been tarnished by PED scandals, specifically, a perjury trial that alleged that he lied when testifying before Congress on PEDs in baseball. Clemens was eligible for the Hall of Fame for the first time in 2013 and received 37.6 percent of the vote.





