



With the news that St. Louis Cardinals shortstop Rafael Furcal will miss the 2013 season recovering from Tommy John surgery, the Asdrubal Cabrera to St. Louis rumors are about to pop up again. The Indians and Cardinals [discussed Cabrera](#) at the Winter Meetings. Discussions presumably ended shortly after the Winter Meetings, as the Indians became buyers in the free agent market and made big strides to improve the team. With Furcal's injury and a need for pitching, should the Indians pull the trigger on a Cabrera deal now?

The consensus opinion will probably be "No". The Indians are built to contend now, having improved their offense and outfield defense in hopes of covering up their questionable starting rotation. Trading Cabrera would weaken the team's offense, as the step down from Asdrubal Cabrera to Mike Aviles is fairly sizable. Against left handed pitching, Aviles can be an everyday player. Against right handed pitching, Aviles is below league average. Cabrera, by virtue of being a switch hitter, is above average against both. Aviles is a defensive upgrade to Cabrera, but not enough to offset the drop in offensive production.

The Indians would be wise to check and see what St. Louis has to offer. Names that may have been off the table in November may now be back on the table as a panic move. The Cardinals are very rich in pitching prospects. In any Cabrera deal, as has been the case all along, the Indians would target starting pitching. According to Baseball America's list of the top Cardinals prospects, written by long-time Cardinals beat writer Derrick Goold, five quality right handed pitchers make the top 10 list.



[Baseball pitcher Miller, number 26, in a white uniform, captured in a dynamic pose on the pitcher's mound.](#)



[Baseball pitcher in a grey St. Louis Cardinals uniform, captured in a dynamic pose on the pitcher's mound.](#)



[Baseball pitcher in a grey St. Louis Cardinals uniform, captured in a dynamic pose on the pitcher's mound.](#)



[Baseball pitcher in a maroon Texas Longhorns uniform, captured in a dynamic pose on the pitcher's mound.](#)