



Well...are you? This week along saw another dominant performance from the Big U, a walk-off single from Matt Carson, Nick Swisher hitting (.313/.400/.578 with 5 HR in September), and the ups and downs of scoreboard watching around the league, I can safely say that I've enjoyed watching competitive September baseball. This has been a rough week for me schedule-wise, so I'm apologizing in advance for the brevity of this week's Lazy one. Between work, house hunting, and family stuff, I'm finding myself away from a computer and unable to put any thoughts to "paper" from Friday night until you're reading this here on Sunday morning.

As far as a late-season retrospective on the wild ride it has been with this year's Indians, [there's really very little that I can add to this piece other than to simply say that Castro gonna Castro.](#) One of the biggest free agent losses in recent years has been Anthony Castroviche's departure from the Indians beat, and that's no disrespect to Jordan Bastain who is excellent in his own right. As he is wont to do, Castro stepped up and knocked one out of the part this week with his look back/forward at how the 2013 Indians got to where they are today and what we can reasonably expect from them over the next seven games. The thesis is simple enough for a campaign slogan (It's the rotation, stupid), but the prose is evocative of so much more. If you haven't already, please go read it. His description of the starting pitching is as long ("better than any ordinary human being could have realistically envisioned") as his description of the offense ("complicated") is short, and there is so much more there to enjoy.

I'll confess to rarely reading the New York Times, [but this is the first time that I can remember](#)

[a random, positive article about the Cleveland Indians appearing in that publication](#)

. In it, Times reporter Tyler Kepner discusses the positive impact that Tito Francona has had on the 2013 Indians, and touches on how the relationship between Francona and the front office made the hire a slam-dunk decision for both sides this offseason. There's not a whole lot in there that Indians fans will find new, but I did enjoy this little tidbit:

*After his introductory news conference in Cleveland last fall, Francona flew to Arizona with Antonetti, who has a home in Goodyear, where the Indians train. Francona stayed over and fit right in.*

*"I feel so comfortable, I'm walking around his house in my underwear," Francona said. "There's just no barriers. I can tell him anything — and I have — and I know that when he leaves my office, he's got my back."*

For some reason, I'm picturing Tito and Antonetti heading to the fridge for a late night snack at the same time and running into each other with Tito in his underwear, Antonetti in khakis and a polo shirt. If that image doesn't at least bring a smile to your face...well, I don't know what to tell you.

We discussed Ubaldo Jimenez in this space last week, and then he went out and threw another 7 innings of one-run ball this past Thursday, striking out 9 without walking a batter in what became an extra-innings Indians victory over the Astros. [Yahoo.com's Jeff Passan basically cobbled together a couple of older articles on Jimenez to produce this piece earlier in the week,](#) but did manage to offer one original piece of info. Passan agrees with me that Ubaldo will decline the \$8 million mutual option and head to free agency this offseason, but he guesses that Jimenez will make "at least 10 times" that much on the open market. I'm bad at math, but Passan is predicting (conservatively) an \$80 million deal this winter, which seems a tad aggressive. But if the Indians make the postseason and Jimenez pitches them deep into said postseason, all bets are off. Ubaldo's numbers since May 27 are startling; he's gone 13-8 with a 2.45 ERA, striking out 127 and walking 54 in 125 IP. For comparison's sake, Clayton Kershaw, who is probably the best pitcher on the planet, has gone 11-10 with a 2.22 ERA, 142 K and 32 BB in 149 2/3 IP over that same timeframe. And that's playing in a pitchers park in the National League. Kershaw's numbers are better, but he's Clayton Kershaw. So, like we were all predicting heading into the 2013 season, Ubaldo Jimenez will probably garner a few stray Cy Young votes during this winter's award voting.

