

15 Things We've Learned About the Indians As They Circle the Drain

Written by {ga=jonathanknight}

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Like many of you, I'm enjoying this new 2011 Indians season a smidge less than the old one.

Their toe-tapping start has hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic, their seven-game lead in the division has been splintered into a thousand pieces, and they are now well on their way to becoming the lifeless, uninspiring, completely forgettable team we expected them to be back in March.

As the season has slowly transformed from fairy tale to torture porn, we find ourselves emotionally bruised and battered, but smarter. Over the past seven weeks, the Indians have handed down a few chestnuts of wisdom that we'll keep with us through this season and well into the future.

Here's a quick rundown of what we've learned from our beloved ballclub as it gradually dies like a crippled fly on the windowsill of an abandoned warehouse in the Flats:

1. If the other team scores, the Indians lose.

In a way, this is refreshing, because it saves you the trouble of investing three hours in an enterprise that will end in drunken frustration and/or rage. You can now safely turn off the television the moment an opponent crosses the plate because you know you won't miss anything from that point on. Besides even more opponents crossing the plate, that is.

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The more positive thinkers among us (and aren't they just cute as a button?) may hang in there until a second run is scored, since there's always that chance that an opposing outfielder will slip into another dimension while settling under a Jack Hannahan pop fly, allowing it to become a triple and giving Lou Marson a chance to drive in a run with one of his trademark Twinkie choppers to short.

The Tribe has turned scoring a run into a complex military operation on par with the killing of Osama bin Laden or the Normandy invasion. Scoring a run requires months of work, careful research, and crackerjack intelligence-gathering. And it still may not work if the weather patterns aren't pristine or if Shelley Duncan comes to bat.

2. Against all mathematical reality, losing Shin-Soo Choo for six weeks actually hurts.

Ordinarily, when a team loses a player who's hitting .244 with a .353 slugging percentage, fans breathe a sigh of relief that it wasn't one of the key players that went down.

In the case of this offensively handicapped ballclub, those numbers belong to its heart and soul, leaving fans panicking over how they'll ever be able to replace Choo's torrid pace of five home runs in three months along with a Hack Wilson-esque 28 RBI.

3. Austin Kearns is legally dead.

Such a declaration is typically made when a person has been missing for an extended period of time without any evidence that the person is still alive.

4. High school girls who play junior varsity softball with facemasks and puffy stickers of baby penguins on their batting helmets can hit better than the

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