



The arbitrarily assigned August 15 signing deadline has come and gone, and we can finally close the book on the June Rule 4 Draft. The long, drawn out process was made longer and more drawn out by MLB's ridiculous insistence that teams wait on announcing over-slot bonuses till the last possible second, so at about 11:45pm on the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> there were still 22 or so unsigned 1

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round picks. In the end, all but one of the 1

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round picks signed, and bonuses were high yet again, so the entire process by MLB was basically a joke.

Unless hard slotting is implemented (which I'm not in favor of), teams will continue to ignore the Commissioner's office recommended slot for picks in favor of signing elite talent. And they absolutely should continue to do so, because despite bonuses in the multi-million dollar range, the draft remains the most cost-effective way for small market teams to add elite talent. The Indians spent about \$8.2 million on the draft this year, roughly equivalent to Grady Sizemore's 2012 club option. Do the math...if even two players from the draft pan out to be above-average major league players, that's 12+ years of club control for what the club might pay for one season of an injured Sizemore.





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