



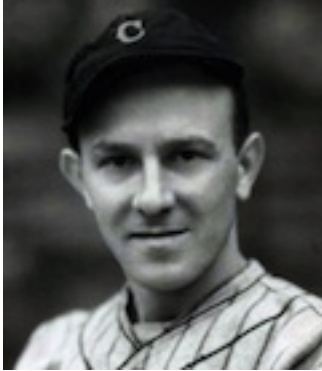
For those still bemoaning a Jason Kipnis-less Midsummer Classic this year, it's important to remember that for every All-Star snub in Indians history, there have also been plenty of "All-Star scrubs"—guys who had no real business being there, but got in anyway. They may have been the beneficiaries of ballot-box stuffing, a coach's bias, or the "Every Team Sends Somebody" rule, but no matter their paths to the game, these lucky bastards will always inspire the same question for future generations: "Wait, that guy was an All-Star?" Followed shortly by, "Are you sure about that?"

Travis Hafner and Shin-Soo Choo have never made an All-Star team. Brook Jacoby made it twice. Jason Kipnis couldn't beat out his fellow AL second basemen this year, but Ronnie Belliard once did. Just a quick glance up and down the Cleveland Indians' all-time All-Star squad reveals just how arbitrary these sorts of accolades can often be—even if sportswriters continue to use them as key considerations in a player's career resume. I mean, yes, Sandy Alomar gave us a great All-Star Game moment in 1997, but when you really look at it, four of Sandy's six career All-Star nods actually came in some of his worst, injury-riddled seasons. You just can't trust this stuff.

Of course, we're not suggesting that Jorge Orta should be forced to remove the 1980 All-Star jersey from his mantle (he didn't appear in the game), or that 77 year-old Jack Kralick should be ashamed for thinking back fondly on his lone ASG invite in 1964 (he didn't appear in the game, either). These guys had very solid Major League careers, and even if they didn't necessarily belong alongside the legends of their eras, it doesn't mean they didn't deserve their respective moments in the sun.

So maybe the term “scrub” is a bit harsh, and maybe I only chose it because it rhymes with “snub” and worked as a cheap literary device. If that is indeed Matt Lawton’s name I see lingering below, however, I am prepared to stick with this premise and carry it to its conclusion.

### **The Cleveland Indians’ “All-Star Scrubs” Hall of Fame**



**Oral Hildebrand (SP) - 1933**

With a name like Oral Hildebrand, you might think the Indians’ first ever All-Star scrub was born in 1907 or something. And you would be right. A surprise addition to the inaugural AL-NL All-Star Game in 1933, the 26 year-old righty never actually got a chance to pitch in the game, as a pair of lefties (literally, Lefty Gomez and Lefty Grove) led the American League to a 4-2 win at Comiskey Park. Oral may have felt a bit out of place in a dugout with the likes of Ruth, Gehrig, and Foxx, but he was also fresh off an 11-5 first half record with a league best five shutouts, so the kid had some confidence brewing. Fact was, though, that Hildebrand just didn’t have very special stuff. He would never make another All-Star Game, nor approach the 16 wins he tallied for the ’33 Tribe. He’d retire in 1940 with an 83-78 career record and 4.35 ERA.



**Ray Mack (2B) - 1940**

A graduate of John Adams High School in Cleveland, Mack served as the Tribe's pesky second baseman for the majority of the World War II era. He hit just .232 across eight years with a .631 OPS, but in his first full season—as a wide-eyed 23 year-old—he suited up with Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, and teammate Lou Boudreau on the 1940 All-Star team. Young Ray was hitting .318 at the time, and had shown some power, too, with 7 homers. In the game, he pinch-hit for Joe Gordon in the bottom of the eighth inning and went down on strikes against the Cubs' Larry French. The NL took the contest 4-0, and Ray Mack began his gradual descent into permanent mediocrity.



**Dick Stigman (SP) - 1960**

He pitched for only six seasons, posting a 46-54 record, a 4.03 ERA, and nary a single transcendent accomplishment—save for an all-important selection to one All-Star Game, of course. Richard Lewis Stigman-- a native son of Nimrod, Minnesota—was actually off to a relatively inauspicious beginning to his rookie season (4-4, 3.80 ERA) when his manager Al Lopez (also manager of the AL All-Stars) decided to drop him into a pool of hurlers that included Whitey Ford and Early Wynn. They actually played two All-Star Games in that summer of 1960 (July 11 in Kansas City and July 13 in New York), but Dick Stigman didn't end up pitching in either of them. He'd end that season just 5-11 for the Indians, and played out his so-so career mostly with his hometown Twins, never sniffing All-Star status again.





2013-2014 season, however, Cleveland Indians of the 2016 All-Star game.