



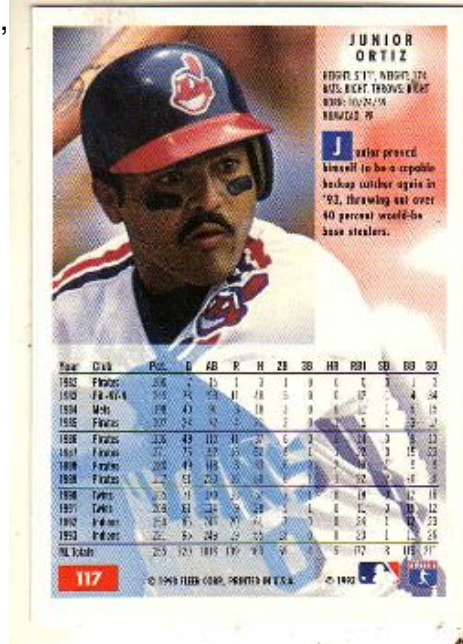
This is one installment in a team effort by The Cleveland Fan, highlighting the top local sports figures by jersey number. Please weigh in with your thoughts, [in the Boards on this site](#) . As David Letterman would say, "For entertainment purposes only; please, no wagering."

Doesn't 00 have to be Otto Orf?

Admittedly, there isn't a huge field from which to choose. Fortunately, what the zeroes lack in quantity, they make up for in quality... Er, in national notoriety... OK, in local interest.

Junior Ortiz is one of the notable Cleveland Indians players who donned the 0. He'd chosen the number to match the 'O' of his name. Ortiz joined the Tribe in 1992, after winning the 1991 World Series with the Minnesota Twins. Cleveland was ramping up their own World Series era, and acquiring the battle-tested Ortiz was heralded by some as a wise move by Tribe GM John Hart.

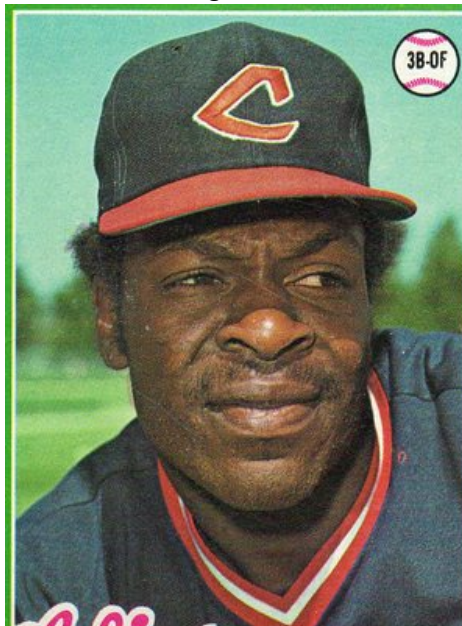
Ortiz was a backup catcher in 1992 and 1993, behind the young Sandy Alomar, Jr. Alomar was injured for much of those seasons, so Ortiz actually played in more games during that time (181) than did Alomar (153). He hit .250 and .221,



respectively. He didn't have much pop, but neither did he strike out much. His value as a catcher was behind the plate.

A fun fact on Ortiz is that he named his son Junior, as well. Junior, Jr.

After not playing much with the California Angels in 1975 and 1976 (he was stuck in the minor leagues), Paul Dade chose to



sign a free agent contract with the Indians. Most Tribe fans know Wayne Garland was the first big name free agent when the Tribe acquired him in 1977; Dade was signed that same

off-season. Free agency then was actually referred to as the “free agent draft”. (Teams could select negotiation rights to players; players could be selected by more than one team.)

Dade’s leaving the Angels was considered an act of defiance. Not that he signed for nearly as much as the top-tier players (his three year deal was for \$100,000). He said he’d chosen number 00 with the Tribe (his Angels number was 29) because of the low level of interest he’d generated in the “draft”. “I figured nothing for nothing equals two zeroes”. In May of ’77, manager Frank Robinson commented after Dade was thrown out at third, with one out in a tied game: “I don’t know why he wears that number, but when he took off, I said ‘oh-oh’.” After leading the Pacific Coast League in hitting in 1976, the third baseman/outfielder hit .291 with 3 home runs and 45 RBI in for the Tribe in 1977.

Dade was dealt in June of 1979, in a great trade for the Indians. They received Mike Hargrove in return. Various rankings by local experts put that trade on a level with those that acquired Omar Vizquel, Jose Mesa, and Andre Thornton.

It does appear to be Otto Orf, doesn’t it?



The Cleveland Cavaliers have had some zeroes on their roster over the years. And some players who sported the number zero, as well. Jeff McInnis was a veteran point guard during the early LeBron James era. It seemed like in the '03-'04 season, he was hitting his shots and playing defense. A year later, he was doing neither. Some felt he was envious of James. Some maintained his attitude soured. He was known to curse out reporters and purposely wear his practice jersey backwards.

Nationally, McInnis is known for two things: getting into a fight with Charles Oakley over a girl while playing with the Los



Angeles Clippers, and being ejected in his first game with the Charlotte Bobcats. The team had not officially submitted the correct paperwork to verify his presence on the roster.

Darnell Jackson was acquired through a draft day trade with the Miami Heat in 2008. His Kansas Jayhawks teammate, Sasha Kaun, was drafted by Seattle and also picked up by Cleveland. Jackson played in 11 games with Cleveland from 2008 through 2010, starting two. He had the proverbial “cup of coffee” with the Cavaliers when Shaquille O’Neal went down with an injury in 2010.



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Sources: Baseball-reference.com; SI Vault; Wikipedia; Cleveland Indians encyclopedia,