

*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, on [the Boards](#). As David Letterman would say, "For entertainment purposes only; please, no wagering."*



It's tough to pass over a Hall of Fame pitcher who won 300 games and was a mainstay of one of baseball's greatest pitching staffs when you set out to select the best player to wear #24 in a Cleveland uniform. But that's what happened to Early Wynn, the right-hander who spent ten seasons in Cleveland, and picked up more than half of those 300 wins with the Tribe.

This series has already recognized several players from that "other era" of baseball success on Lake Erie...recognizing as this town's best, names like Avila, Averill, Boudreau and Feller among others, from the 40's and 50's teams that we've only read about. But some of those guys didn't have competition like [Manny Ramirez](#) .

If you try to recall the players drafted and developed by the Indians in the last few decades who turned out to be bonafide "stars" - if only for a while - it's a pretty short list: Belle, Thome, Sabathia...and Manny Ramirez. In that respect, the kid from Santo Domingo, via New York City, was homegrown. He was all ours...till he wasn't anymore.

Manny's immense talent as a hitter exploded right before our eyes, in front of five straight seasons of nothing but sellout crowds. His career in Cleveland coincided with the most successful era of Indians baseball in our memory. Even as he was surrounded by other stars on the Indians teams of the 90's, it was obvious from the start that he was a special player. That's why Manny Ramirez is an easy choice at #24.



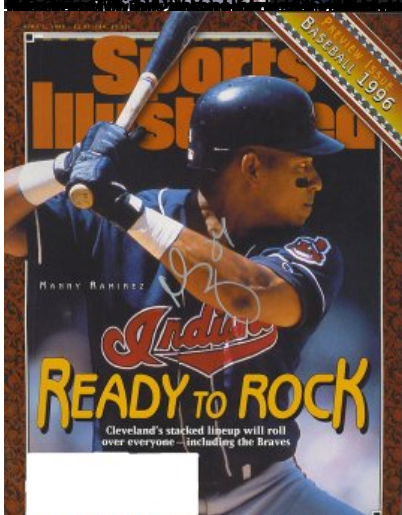
[Manny Ramirez](#)



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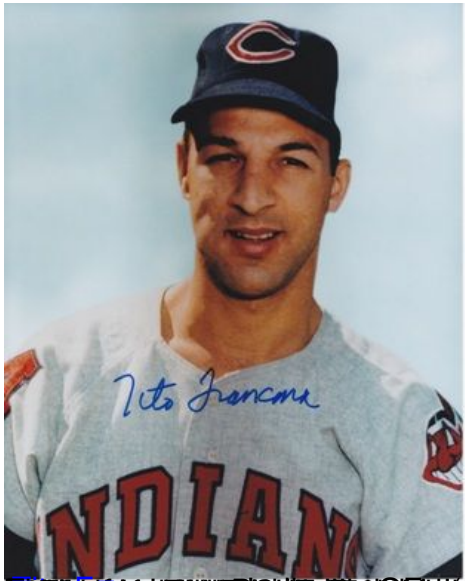
Early Wynn



Frank Sinatra



Early Wynn, Frank Sinatra, and Cleveland



[Tito Francona](#) @dwismar