

An Awkward Glance Ahead: Opening the Window

Written by {ga=motherscratcher}

Monday, April 11 2011 9:30 AM - Last Updated Monday, April 11 2011 10:15 AM



How great is this? Last week I started off the glance by declaring my optimism regarding the Indians, despite the thorough butt-kicking administered to them on opening day. I talked about how Carmona didn't look too bad to me despite the ridiculous amount of runs he gave up. I mentioned the offense scoring a boatload of runs and Travis Hafner looking more like Pronk than he has in a long time.

I was encouraged. Hopeful even.

Did I actually believe it? Of course I didn't. You would have never gotten me to admit it, but no way. After all, I'm not an idiot.*

**shut up*

I didn't think that the Indians would have another 90 loss season. I really didn't. But, I didn't think they actually had much of a chance either.

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Yet, here we are. The Indians are 7-2 and coming off their 2nd consecutive series sweep. And don't give me any baloney about how it doesn't count if you sweep the Mariners. It does too. Especially on the road.* And the first sweep certainly counts. I don't care how slow of a start the Red Sox are having. They're the freakin' Red Sox. And boy, doesn't it feel great to sweep the Red Sox?

Even if we did miss King Felix in the series. It still counts.*

***It does too.*

What I'm trying to say is this: Maybe I was actually right. I'd be lying if I said that I believed all of that mularky I was shoveling last week. I hoped*, but I don't think I actually believed. I always hope. Of course I do. I'm from Cleveland. But, I rarely believe.

**We are merchants of hope, remember?*

I believe now. That was fast. The Indians haven't lost a game since then. They are 7-2 and atop the AL Central. They have the 2nd best record in MLB (behind the Rangers who, btw, played in the World Series last year) and are doing in by playing good, exciting baseball.

This is not smoke and mirrors. The starters are doing well, but they aren't out-pitching their talent level. At least not by much. The bullpen looks great. Tony Sipp is unhittable right now and Chris Perez, although a little more exciting than I'd prefer, has 4 saves already. The offense is scoring runs in every conceivable fashion and everyone is contributing. Even Matt LaPorta.

Now, guys like that pederast Hannahan (who already has 2 home runs) probably aren't going to OPS .891 for the season, but we don't need him to. If Supermanahan falters, Jason Donald will be back from his injury, ready to step in.

Oh, and Lonnie Chisenhall is a month away from fulfilling his service time obligation...err...his

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AAA assignment to make sure he isn't rushed. And don't forget about Kipnis, unless you think Cord Phelps who hit a couple home runs yesterday should get the first shot.

And Drew Pomeranz started his professional career by striking out 9 batters in just over 5 innings yesterday.

This organization is young, but they are deep, and they are talented. And it's exciting as hell. I haven't been this excited about the Indians since I sat in right field on October 16, 2007 and watched as Paul Byrd was somehow able to stymie the Red Sox in game 4 of the ALCS.

It may not be for another year. This may be 1994 again. But that's how I feel about this team. They are fun to watch, and I'm going to be doing a lot of that this summer.

Like I said, I'm not an idiot*. I understand MLB, what it takes to compete, and the inherent difficulties that an unfair system thrusts upon an team that plays in a market like Cleveland. Like Paul Cousineau wrote yesterday, we are probably already watching the rapid descent of the Tampa Bay Rays and it feels like their ascent just began.

Unless you are one of a small handful of lucky organizations, MLB is a game of windows. Occasionally they open for you, but when they are open they immediately begin to shut again. If you are a good organization, and are run by smart men who don't panic, your windows may open slightly more often. I'm in the minority around here, but I believe that the Indians are one such organization.

And that sound you just heard...that was a window opening.

**shut up*

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