



Feeling some unsettling optimism brewing for the imminent NBA Draft and the Cavaliers' pair of top five picks? No worries. There's a cure for that. With the Cavs, Browns, and Indians reaching the playoffs just eight times out of a combined 33 seasons this century, the only thing more common than early first round draft picks in Cleveland are the eventual regrets surrounding them. Need a reminder of the misery? Of course you don't. But here it is anyway—the Top 10 Most Disastrous First Round Selections by Cleveland teams since the year 2000... with rare pictures!

Pre-Draft Warm-Up

So, dredging up some horrible Cleveland draft picks—sounds like shooting fish in a barrel, right? Well, not if you consider that I had to narrow the substantial list of candidates down to a mere Top 10.

From 2000-2010, the Cleveland Indians, Browns, and Cavaliers selected a total of 31 players in the first rounds of the MLB, NFL, and NBA drafts, respectively (supplemental drafts not included). Today, just SIX of those men (19%) are playing in Cleveland-- and that's only if you count Alex White, who's currently making his impact on the 60-day disabled list. (The others are J.J. Hickson, Christian Eyenga, Joe Thomas, Alex Mack, and Joe Haden).

To take it further, only 17 of those 31 Cleveland first-rounders are currently on *any* MLB, NFL,

or NBA roster-- a sustained success rate of 55%.

Just how bad is that exactly? Well, for comparison purposes, I randomly looked at a few other relatively downtrodden sports towns to see how their baseball, basketball, and football teams have fared with first round picks over the same time period.

MLB, NFL & NBA First Round Picks: 2000-2010

City.....	Total Picks.....	On 2011 Roster.....	Still Active (Any Team)*
Atlanta	29	13 (45%)	25 (86%)
Minneapolis	34.....	15 (44%)	23 (68%)
Detroit	36.....	15 (42%)	24 (67%)
Washington**	32.....	11 (34%)	18 (56%)
Cleveland	31.....	6 (19%)	17 (55%)

*does not count players on a minor league or European team, etc.

**Washington Nationals picks include several made as the Expos

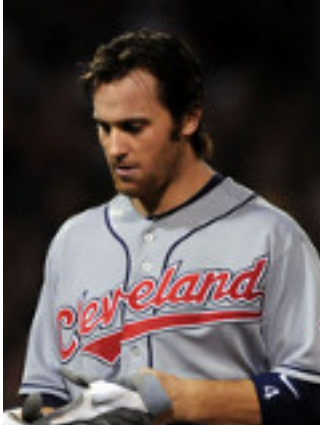
Yes, even up against cities where infamous draft day punchlines like the Lions and Timberwolves do their business, Cleveland's ineptitude manages to stand out. Of course, it should be noted that draft picks in baseball obviously take considerably longer to gestate, so first-rounders like Drew Pomeranz and Lonnie Chisenhall may yet help Cleveland catch up with the competition a bit. But in the meantime, there's no getting around the fact that the Indians, Browns, and Cavaliers rang up some monumentally shitty drafts in the Aughts, and whether due to bad judgment or bad luck-- these drafts have played a major role in the clubs' ongoing struggles.

So, now that you're feeling appropriately glum, let's take that walk down Draft Day memory lane with a Top Ten "Worst of the Firsts," selected in order from "ugh" to "noooooo!"

ps. If you're expecting Braylon Edwards and Kellen Winslow to make the list, you will be disappointed. Unfortunately, there's just no room for active, fairly productive starters in this

draft-- even if they are enormous assholes.□

No. 10



With the tenth worst selection by a Cleveland team in the first round of a 21st century draft, the Cleveland Indians pick... **Trevor Crowe, outfielder, University of Arizona**. The Cleveland Cavaliers are now on the clock.

Taken as the 14th overall pick in the 2005 draft, the switch-hitting Crowe was heavily hyped for his speed and athleticism—projecting as an ideal leadoff man. In his second year of pro ball, he stole 45 bases in just 99 games between Kinston and Akron, while hitting .287. Baseball America ranked him their #64 prospect heading into 2007. Hard to call that a bad pick, really. But by the time Trevor finally found his way to the Bigs in 2009, his limitations had become evident. Though scrappy as advertised, his decent speed was complemented by virtually zero pop. In 2010, he racked up 442 at-bats during a sometimes uncomfortable “assessment period” in Cleveland, but his .251 average, .634 OPS, and 73 strikeouts to 29 walks ended most discussion of Crowe as a viable everyday player. This year, shoulder surgery has likely shelved Trevor for the season, and his future looks hazier than ever.

Players Passed Over for Crowe: Jacoby Ellsbury, Matt Garza, Colby Rasmus, Clay Buchholz

No. 9



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