



While the dust has long since settled on “The Decision” and the literal fires left in its wake, a resigned and resilient Cleveland fan base is still searching for a new identity and a successor to its departed king. For many of us, a question that once required zero contemplation now comes across more like a riddle: *Who is the face of Cleveland sports?* In other words, who truly stands out among the men currently representing the Browns, Indians, and Cavaliers? It’s got to be somebody your kid admires and your papa respects. A player all the diehards love and the novices have actually heard of—a local hero and national ambassador. ...Not such an easy call is it? In fact, based on what we’ve seen lately, the best answer could easily change from one week to the next. That’s why I’ve decided to actually track this quest for a new icon in the form of a regular, gimmicky segment called the “Cleveland Sports Power Rankings.”

Yeah, it’s pretty much like your standard, wholly subjective power rankings format, except instead of teams, I’m ranking current Cleveland sports figures. And instead of looking at statistics, I’m using an extremely unscientific formula built around four key categories: **On-Field Performance (OP)**, **Local Recognition (LR)**, **National Recognition (NR)**, and **Marketability (M)**

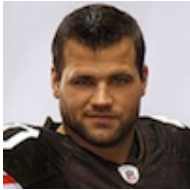
Graded on your basic 1-10 system (10 being best, obviously, for god’s sake), we can then come up with a composite

**STAR POWER RATING**

for each individual-- a rating which can easily fluctuate from week to week.

Make sense? No? I don't care. Let's just check out the official Star Power board and figure out who Cleveland is counting as its heroes at the moment.

### Cleveland Sports Power Rankings: October 4, 2011



#### **#1 Peyton Hillis 33.0**

Running Back, Browns | OP: 7.5, LR: 9, NR: 9, M: 7.5

A breakout 2010 and an unlikely Madden cover have made him the most visible Cleveland athlete of the moment, but contract questions and limited playing time already have Peyton's position atop these rankings looking veeeeery precarious.



#### **#2 Josh Cribbs 32.5**

Receiver, Browns | OP: 7, LR: 9, NR: 7.5, M: 9

Electric as Cribbs has been over the past six years, it's still kind of a sad testament to the weakness of the current Cleveland sports climate that a special teams guy with a pretty minimal role in his team's overall playbook is still the second most celebrated player in town.





