



The quest to find the new face of Cleveland sports continues with another edition of the Star-Power Rankings-- a Top 25 list slightly less controversial than the BCS standings, but no less arbitrary and ridiculous. This week, despite coming off arguably the least exciting two-week period in recent Cleveland sports history, there have still been a few shake-ups on the Star Power board. Most notably, it would appear as though the PR nightmare brewing in the Browns' backfield may have already taken the Madden cover boy down a peg. But if Peyton Hillis has jumped the shark, just who the hell has done enough to jump over Hillis in the rankings?

For those that missed out on [the first week of the Cleveland Sports Power Rankings](#) , the concept is pretty simple (and oddly depressing). Ever since the so-called "King" abandoned his throne more than a year ago, the remaining characters in the Cleveland sports universe have been a tad hesitant to stake their own claims to the city's devotion. Mo Williams had his shot, and promptly fell on his sword-- eventually cast out of the city in shame. Shin-Soo Choo seemed primed for a run at it, but perhaps started his celebration a tad early. And then there was Colt McCoy-- the latest in a long line of golden boy quarterbacks to see his popularity hindered by happy feet and wounded ducks. So, how do we determine which sports figures currently rank as the Top 25 stars in Cleveland's post-apocalyptic, LeBron-less world? Well, by grading them in four made-up, completely subjective categories of recent success:

On-Field Performance (OP), Local Recognition (LR), National Recognition (NR), and Marketability (M)

. Adding together these mini ratings (on a 1-10 scale), we come up with each man's

STAR POWER RATING

, which can fluctuate depending on events both on and off the field. So, let's see how things have changed this week.

Cleveland Sports Power Rankings: October 18, 2011



#1 Josh Cribbs 32.5

Receiver, Browns | OP: 7, LR: 9, NR: 7.5, M: 9 | Previous Rank: #2

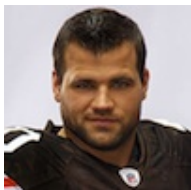
Well, it's official. We've got a new #1, but in case you haven't noticed, this picture ain't so rosy either. Coming in at a less than impressive 32.5 Star Power, Josh Cribbs only has 14 catches on the season, and his frustrations are becoming just as public as the man he leapfrogged for the top spot.



#2 Jim Thome 32.0

DH, Indians | OP: 7, LR: 6, NR: 10, M: 9 | Previous Rank: #3

It's been almost ten years since the Thomenator last reigned atop the Cleveland Sports Power Rankings. Could the embarrassing struggles of the 2011 Browns and the surprisingly aggressive forgiveness of Tribe fans make him the unlikely lord of the local scene again?



#3 Peyton Hillis 31.5

Running Back, Browns | OP: 7.5, LR: 8, NR: 9, M: 7 | Previous Rank: #1

You could blame it on the strep throat, the hamstring, or other effects of the Madden Curse, but facts are facts. Peyton Hillis has been a total nonfactor this season, and the fans don't seem to be entirely enamored with his buttery biceps anymore.



#4 Joe Haden 30.5

Cornerback, Browns | OP: 7.5, LR: 9, NR: 5, M: 8.5 | Previous Rank: #5

The best thing about Sunday's game for Joe Haden was that he didn't appear in it due to injury. As a result, he moves up to his highest ranking yet, #4, thanks as much to his wardrobe and tweets as his shutdown capabilities.



#5 Asdrubal Cabrera 29.5

Shortstop, Indians | OP: 8.5, LR: 8, NR: 7, M: 6 | Previous Rank: #6

With the Tigers eliminated from the playoffs, it becomes easier for Cleveland to avoid any acknowledgment of Jhonny Peralta's inexplicably terrific season and focus solely on the powerful emergence of his replacement.



#6 Joe Thomas 29.0

OT, Browns | OP: 8.5, LR: 9, NR: 7, M: 4.5 | Previous Rank: #9

Is Joe Thomas even having a good season? Seriously, do you know? Does it even matter? The awful running game and constant pressure on McCoy would seem to indicate otherwise, but Thomas still looks like maybe the only solid, signed, known quantity on the entire Browns roster.



#7 Colt McCoy 28.5

Quarterback, Browns | OP: 4, LR: 8.5, NR: 7, M: 9 | Previous Rank: #7

Colt hangs in at #7, despite growing whispers about his role as "The Man." Once again, the Browns are in the unenviable position of trying to judge a QB's skills when they've surrounded him with shit protection and either talentless or disgruntled weapons.



17. **Choi Seung-hwan** (1980-01-13) is a South Korean baseball player who played for the Los Angeles Dodgers in Major League Baseball. He was a first baseman and outfielder.

18. **Alex Mack** (1982-07-27) is an American professional baseball pitcher who has played for the Boston Red Sox, Cleveland Indians, and Chicago White Sox. He is a right-handed pitcher.

19. **Justin Verlander** (1983-03-11) is an American professional baseball pitcher who has played for the Detroit Tigers, Houston Astros, and Oakland Athletics. He is a right-handed pitcher.

20. **Matt Ryan** (1982-03-25) is an American professional football quarterback who has played for the Atlanta Falcons and the New York Giants. He is a right-handed quarterback.

21. **Kevin Youkilis** (1979-07-18) is an American professional baseball infielder who has played for the Boston Red Sox, Cleveland Indians, and Tampa Bay Rays. He is a left-handed batter and right-handed thrower.

22. **Manny Pacquiao** (1977-03-14) is a Filipino professional boxer and politician who has held the titles of world champion in eight different weight classes. He is a right-handed fighter.

23. **Deion Sanders** (1968-08-26) is an American professional football player and former professional baseball player who has played for the Atlanta Falcons and the New York Yankees. He is a left-handed player.

24. **Corey Seidman** (1984-03-25) is an American professional baseball pitcher who has played for the Cleveland Indians, Boston Red Sox, and Tampa Bay Rays. He is a right-handed pitcher.

25. **Justin Bieber** (1994-03-01) is a Canadian singer, songwriter, and record producer who has sold over 100 million records worldwide. He is a right-handed singer.