



In the aftermath of several Indians fire sales and the excommunication of a King, the Cleveland Sports Universe was left battered and hero-less, desperate for new stars to shine down on their fair city like in the days of old. And so, a great quest was undertaken to find these new stars-- the Browns, Indians, and Cavaliers with the talent, drive, and charisma required to inspire a beleaguered fan base. They called this quest The Cleveland Sports Power Rankings.

This week, the Top 25 gets a major jolt of new blood, led of course by the Cleveland Browns' pair of first round draft selections, Trent Richardson and Brandon Weeden. Now, in some towns, totally unproven rookies would need to play half a season or so to earn their stripes amongst their more established peers. Not in Cleveland! Nope, with our dangerously short supply of recognizable sports figures, any marginally exciting new additions can bolt to the top of the heap in no time flat. So how high do Richardson and Weeden rank in their Power Rankings debuts? Only one way to find out....

... By scrolling slightly further down the page.

But first, let us review how this highly scientific process of rating people from three different sports is handled. Every athlete below is ranked on **STAR POWER**-- a metric of success and popularity that breaks down into four subsections:

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

. For each one of these sub-categories, the player in question gets a 1-10 ranking, and the

combination of the four scores is his

### **STAR POWER RATING**

(with 40.0 being the highest possible SPR, reserved for the likes of Bob Feller, Jim Brown, and a pre-balding LeBron James). Now, let's see where the chips have fallen this week.

## **Cleveland Sports Star Power Rankings: May 7, 2012**



### **#1 Kyrie Irving** ▯ **35.0**

PG, Cavaliers | OP: 9, LR: 9, NR: 8.5, M: 8.5 | *Twitter Followers: 163,381* | Previous Rank: #1  
So far, so good in the post-apocalypse for the Cavaliers. As the first building block for the franchise's next era, they managed to net themselves the NBA's Rookie of the Year and-- with Derrick Rose questionable for the start of next season-- arguably the best active point guard in the Eastern Conference heading into a huge offseason.



### **#2 Asdrubal Cabrera** ▯ **31.0**

SS, Indians | OP: 8.5, LR: 8.5, NR: 7.5, M: 6.5 | *Twitter: --* | Previous Rank: #2  
After mourning his departed grandpa for an entire week in Venezuela, Droobs finally returned to the Tribe line-up and commenced crushing the ball in the same fashion he did much of last season. With Shin-Soo Choo still struggling to find his old form and Jason Kipnis still a bit young to be annointed, Cabrera is the clear centerpiece of the first place Tribe's offense.



### **#3 Trent Richardson** ▯ **30.5**

RB, Browns | OP: 4, LR: 9, NR: 9, M: 8.5 | *Twitter: --* | Previous Rank: --  
Much like Kyrie Irving a year ago, T-Rich (or T-Rex, if you prefer) has crashed the Cleveland Power Rankings Top Ten months before we'll actually see him on the field. This is partially a consequence of being the #3 overall pick in the NFL draft and an Adrian Peterson level prospect. It also has a lot to do with being the new face of a Browns franchise DESPERATE for

something-- anything-- to generate excitement.



**#4 Jason Kipnis** □ 30.5

2B, Indians | OP: 8, LR: 7.5, NR: 6, M: 9 | *Twitter: 25,624* | Previous Rank: #13

Our biggest jump in this edition of the Power Rankings is the JK Kid, who has already skipped the cult hero phase and established himself as the Indians' inevitable new posterboy. The marketability factor was never in doubt. It was just a matter of when his skills would complement his charisma. And .300/5/18 out of the gate indicates that could be NOW.



**#5 Joe Haden** □ 30.0

CB, Browns | OP: 6, LR: 8.5, NR: 6.5, M: 9 | *Twitter: 84,149* | Previous Rank: #3

As beloved as Jason Kipnis is, though, he's still got a long way to go to rope in as many Twitter followers as Cleveland's reigning, omnipresent sports ambassador, Joe Haden. Now, with the Browns recreating their offense, Haden will be depended on to bounce back from an up-and-down sophomore season to be a veteran leader on defense.



**#6 Joe Thomas** □ 29.0

OT, Browns | OP: 8.5, LR: 8, NR: 7, M: 5.5 | *Twitter: --* | Previous Rank: #6

If they cancel the Pro Bowl this year, Joe Thomas is basically the only Cleveland Brown who might be disappointed. He's had the annual vacation to Hawaii on his calendar for a few years now. On the bright side, the drafting of tackle Mitchell Schwartz might give Joe some much appreciated assistance in protecting the quarterback.





