Have things ever been collectively better for Cleveland sports? Paul Cousineau says they haven't, and backs up his stance with evidence in his latest column for us. Cavs coming off a NBA Finals appearance. The Indians are headed to the playoffs. And the Browns are finally giving fans a glimmer of hope. Paul says we shouldn't take playoff appearances for granted. Because history shows they've been hard to come by in this town.

Watching the Browns run their record to 2-2 with their second AFC North win, and then switching over to watch the Tribe win their 96th game (7th highest total in club history) amidst Cavaliers season ticket commercials, I realized that it's happening.

The Cleveland sports teams are all cresting (forgive me for being overly optimistic about a 2-2 Browns record), and...has this ever happened before?

Everyone knows that no Cleveland team has won a professional championship since 1964; but, beyond that, how long (and how far-reaching) has the drought been for coincidental success by the Cleveland teams?

While a team making the playoffs has to be considered a success, a better gauge of success would be the success in those playoffs. Using that barometer, when have our three beloved franchises won at least one playoff series or game (in the case of the Browns) in their history?

Prepare yourself, the numbers are ugly, considering that we're talking about over 100 years:

Indians

1998
ALDS: Indians over Boston (3-1)

1997
ALDS: Indians over Yankees (3-2)
ALCS: Indians over Orioles (4-2)

1995
ALDS: Indians over Red Sox (3-0)
ALCS: Indians over Mariners (4-2)

1948
World Series: Indians over Braves (4-2)

1920
World Series: Indians over Robins (5-2)

Cavaliers

2007
Eastern Conference 1st Round: Cavaliers over Wizards (4-0)
Eastern Conference Semifinals: Cavaliers over Nets (4-2)
Eastern Conference Finals: Cavaliers over Pistons (4-2)

2006
Eastern Conference 1st Round: Cavaliers over Wizards (4-2)

1993
Eastern Conference 1st Round: Cavaliers over Nets (3-2)

1992
Eastern Conference 1st Round: Cavaliers over Nets (3-1)
Eastern Conference Semifinals: Cavaliers over Celtics (4-3)

1976
Eastern Conference Semifinals: Cavaliers over Bullets (4-3)

Browns

1994
AFC Wild Card Game: Browns over Patriots (20-13)

1989
AFC Divisional Playoff: Browns over Bills (34-30)

1987
AFC Divisional Playoff: Browns over Colts (38-21)

1986
AFC Divisional Playoff: Browns over Jets (23-20)

1969
NFL Divisional Playoff: Browns over Cowboys (38-14)

1968
NFL Divisional Playoff: Browns over Cowboys (38-20)

1964
NFL Championship: Browns over Colts (27-0)

1955
NFL Championship: Browns over Rams (38-14)

1954
NFL Championship: Browns over Lions (56-10)

1950
NFL Divisional Playoff: Browns over Giants (8-3)
NFL Championship: Browns over Rams (30-28)

That's it.

11 playoff victories for the Browns, 9 playoff series wins for the Cavs, and 7 playoff series wins for the Indians.

Now look again at all of the years for a coinciding year.

Not there, is it?

There has NEVER been a year that two Cleveland pro sports franchises have both WON a playoff series or game in the same calendar year.

NEVER!

How absurd is that?!?

Of course, with the Cavaliers going to the NBA Finals and the Tribe facing off against the Yankees, the possibility is out there that 2007 could be the year. Once that ridiculous precedent has finally been set, the Tribe can eradicate the old "last championship in 1964" mantle from the city.

Things are turning around for our once-moribund franchises.

But, first things first, let's take the Yankees down and make Cleveland sports history.