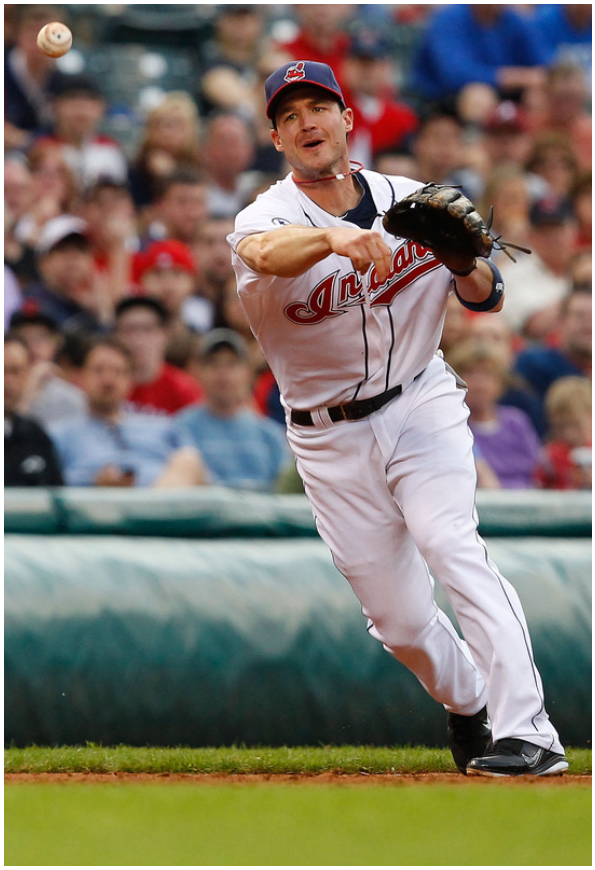

Hopefully you caught part one of the End of the Year Feathers. If not, go ahead and catch yourself up. If you did, here are the rest of the (second) best in the AL Central. Three (average) all the way down to one (yukky bad). Plus the end of the season awards to two special players.

Michael Brantley - .266/.318, 63 R, 7 HR, 46 RBI, 13 SB

Last Year: 2

It is hard to not give Michael Brantely a little more love, but I'd say he rounded out at about average. It wasn't above average, and it certainly was not below expectations. I'd say with a

little more, Brantley can easily top this area. He plays good defense, now pretty much the guy in center, and this year he showed he can be the leadoff guy. There is one area that I'm a little disappointed in and it is with the speed. Not sure if it's the buggy injuries that are holding him back, but the stolen bases are not what you expect from someone who piled them up at the minor league level. Not to mention, he stole 10 a year ago in significantly less games. Brantley needs to get moving a little more because for him, any steal is like adding on to his total of double. Doesn't 50 doubles look a lot better than 37?

Ezequiel Carrera - .243/.301, 27 R, 0 HR, 14 RBI, 10 SB

Last Year: NF

Pip-Zeke! Who would have thought this kid would have had a part in a few wins this year? His debut pretty much sparked a win and from there on out he showed he could play. Will he ever hit a home run at the major league level? Maybe, but that matters none. When Trevor Crowe went down with the injury that claimed most of his season, the possibility came up for Zeke to get a shot at some point. He did and he did not waste it. That eventually led to him being a player when Sizemore and Choo both went down and even Brantley was battling some injuries. He's definitely going to be in the mix next year for something and with his nice speed/defense combo, I'd say he's got the inside track to be the fourth outfielder.

Kosuke Fukudome - .249/.300, 26 R, 5 HR, 22 RBI, 2 SB

Last Year: NF

Fukudomeeeee! I looked at these numbers and was like.. Wait a minute. It seems he was a lot more productive than that. And that really is because he was. I mean those numbers are far from flashy, but after the Indians acquired him, Fukudome was reliable. He hit a lot better than most of us thought he would. He played solid outfield at any of the spots Acta put him at. It was just a perfect fit and it would be cool to see him back in Cleveland next year. He's a good ball player and he really added some consistency and durability to the team in the second half.

Jack Hannahan - .250/.331, 38 R, 8 HR, 40 RBI, 2 SB

Last Year: NF

At the risk of sounding silly (I've already done it with the past two players), SUPER MANNAHAN!!!!!!!! This guy. This guy. I mean. Eight unsuspecting home runs and 40 RBI aside, this guy plays defense. And does he play it well or what? It's scary to think what would have happened if there was some black hole named Luis Valbuena starting at third base for this team. Justin Masterson may have been demoralized to the point of not having a good year, Josh Tomlin may have never made it past five innings in most starts, and who knows what other good thing may have not happened. Am I exaggerating a little bit? Sure, why not. But thank this man for his year. He was a splendid joy to watch at the hot corner, a huge contrast to the eyesore (collectively?) that was there in 2010

Lou Marson - .230/.300, 26 R, 1 HR, 19 RBI, 4 SB

Last Year: 1

Someone who hit .230 is getting an average grade? Yeah and you know why? Because last year, he hit like dirt. Marson does so much though, it's hard to ignore his talent behind the dish. When this guy is back there, it seems like the pitching is always better. He's got a laser of an arm (Laser Lou, right?) and can really guard the plate. He's the total package as a catcher, so really, all he doesn't have to do is not suck hitting. That's what we said last year, but he sucked. He was horrible. This year, he carried his own weight. He gets on base at a reasonable rate (the hits helped) so really, that's what I'd care most about.

Lou was able to initially play mostly against the left-handers, which he hits really well. Overall this year he hit .297 against the left-handers, which is far and away better than the .191 average he has. Point-blank, he needs to play mostly against lefties to be most effective.

Shelley Duncan - .260/.324, 29 R, 11 HR, 47 RBI

Last Year: 3

Cawwwww! Hawk Blood! Winning! All That! Shelley Duncan is the man. In fact, I would prefer to just use this entire paragraph to talk about Shelley Duncan in regards to how awesome he is rather than how good of a year he had. Look, Duncan is what he is. He's a great bat off the bench and some solid veteran leadership. He did more than you could have asked for in September when he just started to light it up. The fact that he was sent down to Columbus for a bit saddened me. He deserves and should be on this roster. You need payers like him, in my opinion at least, if you want to make a postseason run. He's someone everyone likes and that's invaluable. Not to mention, who else are you going to use as your pinch hitter? Who betta than Shelley?

Carlos Carrasco - 8-9, 124 IP, 4.62/1.36, 85 K

Last Year: 3

Boy I don't know what to say here. Carlos was good. There was a point in the season after he had come off the disabled list, that Carrasco was the team's best pitcher. It was looking scary good that the Indians had a one-two punch like Carrasco and Masterson, then a guy like Tomlin. Then it started to come unglued and now Carlos Carrasco is gone for 2012 as he recovers from Tommy John surgery.

But give some serious credit to what Carlos was able to do before the injury. He did go on the disabled list with some minor issues earlier in the year, but nothing he didn't overcome. The elbow was a new injury and it really bites that his progress and growth is being put on hold for him to rehab from this.

David Huff - 2-5, 50 IP, 4.09/1.42, 36 K

Last Year: 1

I spoke about David Huff in the Columbus recap, so I won't spend a whole lot of time, but David Huff really showed something. The guy came back this year and got himself out of Manny Acta's doghouse, which says a lot about his character. I'm still not sure if he'll be an Indian (or Clipper or whatever) next season. But it's good to know David has matured into someone with some real strong character.

Chris Antonetti - Signed 3B Jack Hannahan, SS Adam Everett, OF Austin Kearns, OF Travis Buck, 2B Orlando Cabrera, RP Chad Durbin; Traded SP Aaron Laffey for 2B Matt Lawson, OF Abner Abreu and RP Carlton Smith for OF Kosuke Fukudome, 2B Orlando Cabrera for OF Thomas Neal, SP Drew Pomeranz, SP Alex White, SP Joe Gardner and 1B Matt McBride for SP Ubaldo Jimenez, Cash for DH Jim Thome

Last Year: NF

Some people will look at that last one and just say, Jim Thome, thanks for that, A+. Most will look at the Ubaldo Jimenez deal and automatically grade Antonetti. I'd say all in all though, it was a pretty wild first year at the helm for Antonetti. You cannot overlook some of his better signings though. The half-season addition of Orlando Cabrera stabilized that middle infield people. It let the Indians not have to worry about third by placing Jason Donald there, of course we all knew how that ended up though with Hannahan taking over. And Hannahan was Antonetti's doing, he signed him. So give credit where credit is due, those two moves alone impacted so much. The defense let players like Masterson thrive, and they even contributed offensively.

I'd give him a win on the Fukudome deal, of course it remains to be seen how Abner Abreu pans out, but the Indians got what they wanted and shouldn't miss either piece. Then of course, you have Ubaldo Jimenez. You can't grade that, you just can't right now. If it would have pushed the Indians into the postseason, I'd have given Antonetti five feathers. But it didn't. It also did not push the Indians out of the postseason either. So that's why I sit him at the average scale. I loved what he did in the first offseason and season in his control and can't wait for his encore, especially since it's already started off pretty well.

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