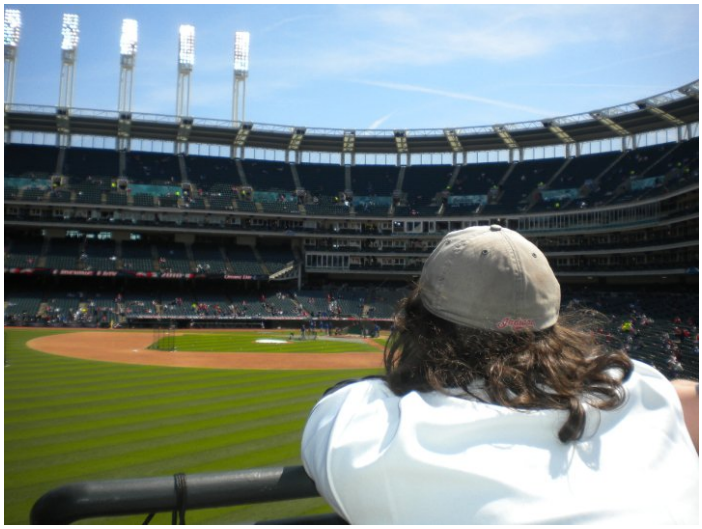

Before I dive in to this week's View from the Porch, I have to amend something I discussed in last week's column. I basically gave Jon Garland the fifth spot in the rotation, assuming that his mandatory pre-contract physical was not going to be a stumbling block for the team. To paraphrase what they say about assuming, well, it certainly made a donkey out of me and for that, I apologize. The fifth starter battle continues onward without Jon Garland between Kevin Slowey, David Huff, Zach McAllister, Jeanmar Gomez, and possibly TCF's own Al Ciammaichella's favorite fifth starter candidate Scott Barnes.

It was reported this week that Garland simply was not in good enough physical condition to pass the required exam, and furthermore, compete for a job. With so much smoke and a couple burning embers regarding Garland, there's still a chance that the Indians' interest blossoms into another contract offer closer to the start of the regular season or during the season if and when he is healthy. Teams can never have enough starting pitching depth and Garland would be under no pressure to hurry back. He could build up his arm at extended Spring Training at the Indians' Goodyear, AZ complex and possibly be an option later in the season. So, I apologize for making an assumption about Garland and his future with the Indians.

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