*Quasar- a very energetic and distant active galactic nucleus. A quasar is extremely luminous and is a compact region in the center of a massive galaxy surrounding its central supermassive black hole*

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*The energetic radiation of the quasar makes*
*dark galaxies*
*glow, helping astronomers to understand the obscure early stages of galaxy formation.....*

On June 27, 2002 Cleveland's own quasar was acquired from the Montreal Expos in the signature trade of the post-90's Indians. Grady Sizemore was a relative unknown in the deal that sent Bartolo Colon and Tim Drew to Montreal in the unpopular trade that signaled the towel being thrown in on the Glory Years Tribe, but for an all too brief period of time Sizemore was the star in that deal that shone brightest.

Sizemore was acquired along with Cliff Lee, Brandon Phillips and Lee Stevens in June of 2002 but he spent a couple of years in the Indians' farm system developing his wide range of talents. He made his Major League debut in July of 2004 and then exploded on the scene in the 2005 season, helping to make some dark galaxies glow and becoming the key to the Indians ball club from that moment on.

The last few years have erased Sizemore's impact from what it actually was. We see him now as a guy that can't stay on the field and a guy that, if you believe the whispers and the internet/twitter rumors, may never get back into a Major League lineup again. Multiple surgeries, a couple of which are debilitating and serious for the weekend warrior, much less an elite athlete, have limited Sizemore to just 210 games in the last four years. The list is meaningless in the grand scheme of things but we're not talking having a knee cleaned out here or breaking a thumb there.

Since 2009 Sizemore has undergone two hernia surgeries, had his left elbow surgically repaired, had micro fracture surgery on his left knee in 2010, had his right knee operated on a year later and capped it all off with micro discectomy surgery on his back this past March. Sizemore actually strained his back in February while rehabbing the right knee injury and never even made it healthy to spring training after he had signed a one year, $5million deal with the Indians in the offseason that could have paid him $9million had he reached certain incentives.

Those incentives aren't going to be reached. Not this year. And Tribe fans should likely stop looking toward potentially getting a healthy, if not impactful, Sizemore back in the lineup.

It's another kick in the face to the Indians and a fan base that had every right to believe they were witnessing the career of a transcendent player when he burst on the scene in 2005. Injuries were the farthest thing from the fans' mind, especially considering Sizemore played 158 games in '05 and 157 in '08. Those years sandwiched the 2006and 2007 seasons when *Sizemore played in all 162 games*
during those two seasons.

And when he was healthy he was ridiculously productive:

Year

Average

Hits

HR

RBI

SB

OBP

SLG

OPS

OPS+

2005

.289

185

22

81

22

.348

.484

.832

123

2006

.290

190

28

76

22

.375

.533

.907

133

2007

.277

174

24

78

33

.390

.462

.852

123

2008

.268

170

33

90

38

.374

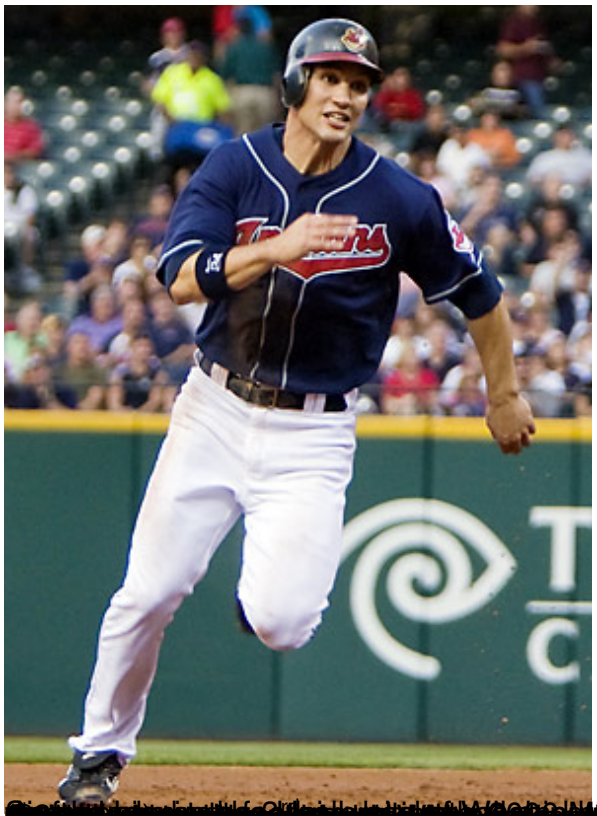
.502

.876

133

Grady Sizemore was one of the top ten or twenty players in all of baseball during that four year span and there was nothing whatsoever to indicate he wasn't going to be exactly that for the next ten years. In 2008 Sizemore was 25 years old and was a 3-time All-Star, a two-time Gold Glove winner, a Silver Slugger award winner and he had finished in the top 23 in AL MVP voting in each of his first four full seasons in Cleveland, including top 12 finishes in '06, '07 and '08. He was a terrific offensive player (albeit one who did strike out a lot) and he was a gazelle in CF who could not only run down balls in the alley or over his head but also a player who would not hesitate for a split second to lay out, dive and give up his body in the pursuit of either the baseball or the next base. He played the game hard and played it with a grace and passion that made you think this was a ridiculous athlete with a football-first mentality.

And he was.



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