Rather than checking up on which mediocre, undrafted fantasy players are currently the top names in Cleveland sports (welcome to the party, Derek Lowe), this week's Star Power Rankings will instead turn the clock back a bit—to the fall of 2007—for a little perspective on just how far we've fallen.

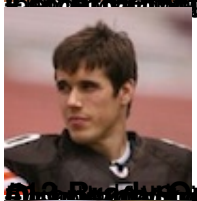
Yeah, a lot can happen in four years. You can earn a college degree; lose all your hair; meet, date, marry, and divorce a gal. Or, if you're a Cleveland sports fan, you can say your farewells to virtually every star player the Browns, Cavs, and Indians had managed to produce in the late Aughts. This isn't sour grapes, mind you. This is just an intriguing study in rapid personnel turnover.

As we begin the month of November, 2011, with a dormant basketball team and an essentially dormant football club, it's worth remembering that this seemingly endless parade of mediocrity is actually a more recent phenomenon than it may seem. Just four years ago, as you packed away your Halloween costume for another year, things were looking mighty promising in the Cleveland sports universe . The Cavaliers, coming off their first ever Eastern Conference Championship, were getting ready to begin a new season with a championship-or-bust mentality. The Indians, despite a disappointing collapse against Boston in the ALCS, looked primed to be a contender for years to come as the hot stove heated up. And on the lakefront, the upstart Brownies were on a surprising roll of their own, showing some offensive firepower behind the unlikeliest of gunslingers.

All things considered, it should come as no surprise that the Cleveland Sports Power Rankings were far more pleasant to look at back then, as well (had they existed), as the standout players on the city's three winning teams battled one another for talk radio acclaim and holiday-season jersey sales. If you're having trouble seeing through the fog of frustration to this fairly recent era of pre-recession optimism, allow me to bring things into focus. Here is a special Cleveland Sports Power Rankings Rewind: *the top 25 men vying for local sports supremacy on November 2, 2007* . To reiterate, a lot can change in four years…

Key: OP = On-field Performance, LR = Local Recognition, NR = National Recognition, M = Marketability

## Cleveland Sports Power Rankings: November 2, 2007

**#1 LeBron James 40.0**
Forward, Cavaliers | OP: 10, LR: 10, NR: 10, M: 10 | Current Rank: --
A few months removed from the franchise's first NBA Finals appearance, the 2007-08 Cavaliers started a new season with unfinished business on their minds. LBJ had failed to get his ring against San Antonio, but he had long since reached a perfect 40.0 Star Power Rating— giving him an icon status only rivaled locally by the likes of Feller and Brown.

**#2 CC Sabathia 37.0**
Starting Pitcher, Indians | OP: 9, LR: 10, NR: 9, M: 9 | Current Rank: --
Seven seasons into his career, Carsten Charles had finally learned to pitch as well as he could throw, and the Tribe ace reached new heights with a 19-win season and a Cy Young Award. His failures in the 2007 ALCS against Boston, however, left some work to be done.