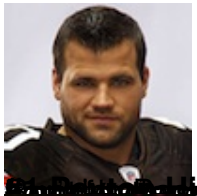
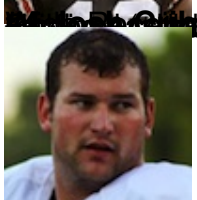
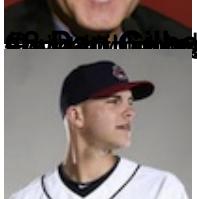
Wouldn't it be more optimistic to *raise* the ball on New Year's Eve? I've never understood intentionally starting a year out on a downward trajectory (despite the Browns' fondness for it). In any case, with the calendar flipped and football finished, it seems a fitting time to revist our ongoing search for the new face of Cleveland sports. It's the first 2012 edition of the Cleveland Sports Power Rankings!

If you'll recall, these Power Rankings work pretty much like the ones scattered about every major internet sports site, in which pompous writers who never played or coached at any level see fit to decree the quality of every team or player, arranging them in descending order based on a complex but essentially random mathematical formula. In our case, we're ranking current members of the Cavs, Browns, and Indians-- with players, coaches, and front office people rated on their individual "Star Power"-- a metric of success and popularity that breaks down into four subsections: **On-Field Performance (OP), Local Recognition (LR), National Recognition (NR), and Marketability (M)** . For each one of these sub-categories, the player in question gets a 1-10 ranking, and the combination of the four scores is his **STAR POWER RATING** (with 40.0 being the highest possible SPR, reserved for the likes of Bob Feller, Jim Brown, and a pre-balding LeBron James). So, on to the latest results.

Cleveland Sports Power Rankings: January 2, 2012







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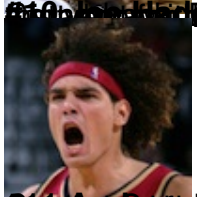

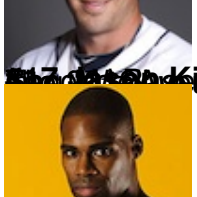

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