

SPORTS

The Columbus Dispatch
THURSDAY
JULY 30, 2009

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Coming Friday
HEARD THE LATEST?
It's in Rumbblings

Cy Young sayonara

As they did with Sabathia last year, Indians trade Lee for prospects

By Paul Hoynes
THE PLAIN DEALER

ANAHEIM, Calif. — This will be remembered as the Indians trip where only the club's luggage made it home.

In the span of a nine-game, nine-day swing through Toronto, Seattle and Anaheim, the Cleveland Indians have traded four players off their big-league roster.

The fire sale culminated yesterday as Cliff Lee, last year's Cy Young winner and the team's first 20-game winner since 1972, was sent to the Philadelphia Phillies, along with outfielder Ben Francisco, for four prospects.

The biggest surprise of the trip has been that catcher Victor Martinez has made it this far. There's still a chance, however, that he could be traded by Friday's 4 p.m. nonwaiver deadline. Boston, Detroit and Tampa Bay are among the clubs looking for a proven hitter.

The Indians waited 33 years for a Cy Young winner after Gaylord Perry won the award in 1972. CC Sabathia ended the wait in 2007. Lee gave the franchise its second straight Cy Young Award in 2008. Now they're gone for eight prospects, none of whom will join the Indians.

The trading started in Toronto with right-hander Rafael Betancourt being dealt to Colorado on July 23 for right-hander Connor Graham. On Monday night, they sent designated hitter/first baseman Ryan Garko to San Francisco for left-hander Scott Barnes.

The Lee-Francisco trade was first reported yesterday morning, before the Indians lost to the Angels 9-3. The Indians didn't make it official until after the game when manager Eric Wedge told Lee and Francisco what they already knew.

The Phillies sent the Indians right-hander Carlos Carrasco, middle infielder Jason Donald, right-hander Jason Knapp and catcher Lou Marson. Carrasco, Donald and Marson will report to the Clippers. Knapp, currently on the disabled list because of biceps tendinitis in his right arm, will report to class-A Lake County.

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>> To Philadelphia

LHP Cliff Lee

► 7-9 record, 3.14 ERA, 22 starts

OF Ben Francisco

► .250 batting average, 10 home runs, 33 RBI

>> To Cleveland

RHP Carlos Carrasco

► Lehigh Valley (triple-A): 6-9, 5.18, 20 starts

INF Jason Donald

► Lehigh Valley (triple-A): .236 batting average; 1 home run, 16 RBI

C Lou Marson

► Lehigh Valley (triple-A): .294, 1 home run, 24 RBI

RHP Jason Knapp

► Lakewood (class-A): 111 strikeouts, 85% innings

CLIFF LEE'S STATISTICS

SEASON	W	L	ERA	G	ER	HR	BB	SO
2008	22	3	2.54	31	63	12	34	170
2009	7	9	3.14	22	53	10	33	107
CAREER	83	48	4.01	182	498	127	322	826

COMMENTARY

This trade is unpleasantly familiar



ROB OLLER

In the reality of early 1970s Cleveland baseball, it was not uncommon to know the beer vendors by name, because many nights it was just them and you. Amazon villages have larger populations than what passed for crowds in Cleveland Stadium.

The baseball diamond was desert-

ed, too. Oh, there were reports of actual Cleveland players scoring runs, but having seldom witnessed it, I count it as rumor.

Those days were cruel, if not completely void of charm. And it is exactly those memories of emptiness — both in the stands and in the Cleveland

talent pool — that makes the trade of Cy Young winner Cliff Lee (and outfielder Ben Francisco) to Philadelphia for four minor leaguers so jarring to the sensibilities.

It was mid- to late-1970s Indians

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Web sites link recruits, colleges

Social networking, matchmaking technology help players, coaches find each other

By Zach Swartz
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

On a weekday evening in 2007, Nick Spadafore's phone rang.

A representative from Concordia University-St. Paul was on the other end, asking whether Spadafore, then a place-kicker for Gahanna, would be interested in Concordia's football program.

It was one of the last places Spadafore would have considered on his own. But he had help.

He had used College Bound Athletic Connection, a local nonprofit organization that connects athletes in high school and junior college with college coaches.

After graduation, Spadafore was set with a half-scholarship and an acceptance letter to the Division II school in Minnesota.

"It's like a middleman," Spadafore said of College Bound. "Middleman sounds not important, but

here, it is. They help you get from point A to point B without all the junk in the middle. They help you filter it out."

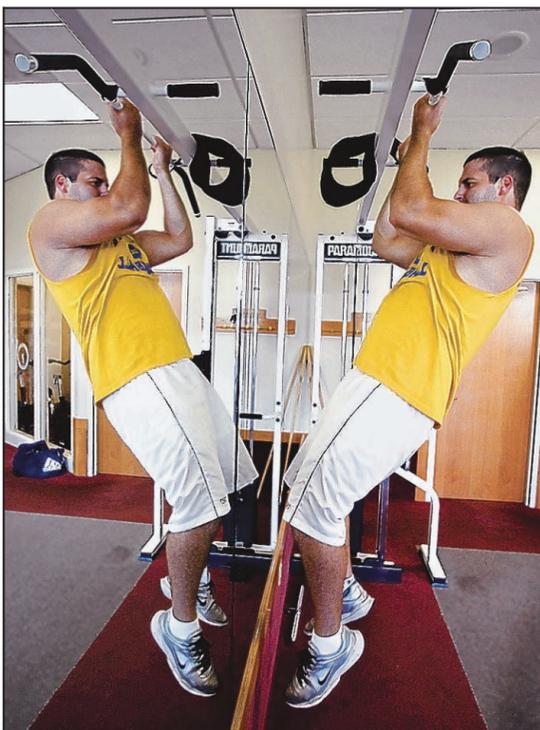
The group's Web site, collegebound.org, was pioneering. The idea was fashioned by Randy Emrich in 1999, well before the social networking that inspired newer recruiting sites became popular.

For a flat fee, athletes submit statistics and personal information that is compiled, posted and provided to college coaches. Interested colleges then contact the player's high school coach and begin recruiting.

"It's all about exposure," Emrich said.

Over the past five to 10 years, dozens of similar forums across the country have turned to the Internet to help athletes get

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JEFF HINCKLEY | DISPATCH

Former Gahanna place-kicker Nick Spadafore used a local nonprofit group's Web site to get a half-scholarship in Division II.

GOLF | NATIONWIDE TOUR

PGA Tour just one win away for two players

By Bob Baptist
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

When Michael Sim shared the third-round lead of a Nationwide Tour event last week, an official asked if he'd play the Buick Open on the PGA Tour this week if he won the next day.

Before Sim teed off in the final round, a few more people reminded him that if he won his third Nationwide event of the year, he'd earn a "battlefield promotion" to the big tour.

"I was like, 'I'm not thinking about it,'" Sim said. "But I didn't really put it aside, and it probably distracted me more than anything."

Sim had four bogeys in his final round, twice as many as in his first three rounds combined, and finished

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