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FOLLOWCAST

Volume 12 Issue 3
Spring 2011

Wellington's
Melissa Rennie

2010 Lorain County
Miss Softball

Vermilion's
Cameron Zima

2010 Lorain County
Mr. Baseball

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FORECAST

2011 Spring Preview



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ABOUT THE COVER:

Mr. Baseball

Cameron Zima carried on the great tradition of pitchers at Vermilion High School. He had the lowest era of any local hurler in 2010-0.38. He was 6 and 1 with 3 saves. Cameron also was an excellent hitter with a .423 batting average and 3 triples. He has received a full-ride academic scholarship to Wake Forest University.

Miss Softball

Melissa Rennie is the first Wellington player to be named Miss Softball. She blasted 23 home runs in her 4-year varsity career and had high batting averages each year, topped by a .428 her junior season. She was a major reason that Wellington was the state runner-up her sophomore season when she batted .398 with 6 home runs. Melissa is already excelling at the Division I collegiate level. In February of this year, she was named Big 10 co-Freshman of the Week for her impressive stats at Ohio State where she is the catcher.

**WEOL FORECAST MAGAZINE
SPRING 2011 PREVIEW**
A Publication of AM 930 WEOL

Volume 12 Issue 3

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"In our sundown perambulations of late, through the outer parts of Brooklyn, we have observed several parties of youngsters playing 'base', a form of 'ball'. Let us go forth for awhile and get better air in our lungs. Let us leave our closed rooms. The game of 'ball' is glorious."

-Walt Whitman

Great words about a great game.

Welcome to Forecast, the spring edition from AM 930 WEOL. Inside, you'll find everything you need to enjoy the game of 'ball'.

Special thanks go to the outstanding advertisers who are supporting this magazine and our outstanding broadcast schedule of high school baseball and high school softball.

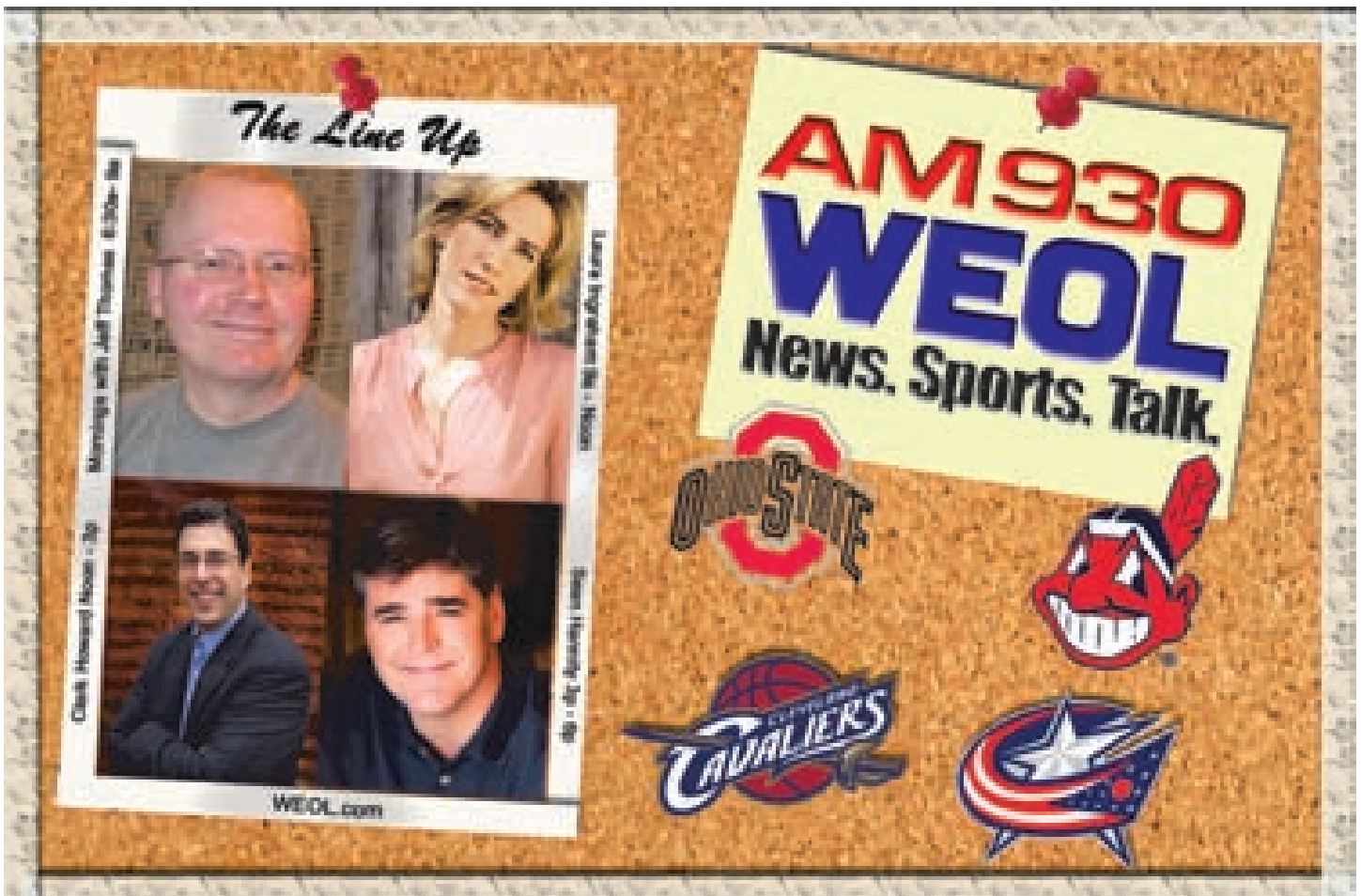
Thanks also go to the athletic directors and coaches for their support.

From the diamonds of local high schools to the fine fields of Lorain County's two minor league franchises and the Cleveland Indians, it is indeed time to, "Play Ball!"

Craig R. Adams

Operations Manager
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2011 LORAIN COUNTY SOFTBALL PREVIEW

By: Bob Daniels

Softball fans can only speculate about which teams will dominate as the 2011 high school season draws near.

But there's one thing they know for certain: this season will be much different than any in years gone by.

The reason? The pitching distance is being moved from 40 to 43 feet this spring. This conforms to the NCAA, professional and international pitching distance and it will change the high school game in several ways.

Most noticeable, Lorain County coaches say, is the new distance will result in more offense because the extra three feet will take some zip off fastballs. It will give batters more time to read pitches and create more bunting opportunities - a big part of the fastpitch game. That's because pitchers have an extra three feet to cover in fielding their position and the bunter has what amounts to a three-foot head start.

The rule will also give hitters and runners an extra second or two to advance, so there will be new emphasis on base running and stealing. And because of the increase in offense, position players will be under much

more pressure and therefore will need to have improved skills.

"I've wanted the change for a long time," said North Ridgeville's Norm Frindt, the dean of Lorain County softball coaches. "It's been proposed several times, but it was always rejected. Now the national association (National Federation of High School Associations) says the new distance has to be implemented this year."

The NFHSA, of which the Ohio High School Athletic Association is a member, mandated the change in 2009. The new rule said state associations could choose to adopt it in 2010 and that every state must be throwing from 43 feet by this season.

Many states did adopt the rule last spring. The OHSAA, at the urging of the Ohio Fastpitch Softball Coaches Association, voted to wait until this season.

"Softball is the only high school sport I can think of where the dimensions aren't the same as they are at the college level," said Keystone coach Jim Piazza, who led the Wildcats to the Division II state championship in 2006. "Football, basketball and baseball are the same as they are in college. Why not softball?"



Photo courtesy of Chuck Humel - The Chronicle-Telegram

Amherst coach Bill Matthews added that scores are going to increase.

"A few of the best pitchers will continue to dominate because they're the best pitchers," he said. "But there won't be as many of them. This will force pitchers to be better and force teams to have more pitchers. I think it will really hurt teams that don't have good pitching."

Elyria coach Ken Fenik, the only Lorain County coach to have won two state titles (2002 and 2009), agreed.

"There are going to be a lot more runs and stolen bases and the catchers will need a better arm," said Fenik. "Now pitchers can't be just pitchers, they'll have

to be good defensive players to field their position. I don't think average pitchers will have as much success as they had in the past."

As always, area high schools have the kind of talent that will adjust readily to the change.

A highly unscientific survey of people who know the game say the teams most likely to succeed this season are the same ones that been successful in the past. That translates Keystone, Elyria, Midview, Amherst and Columbia.

Division II **Keystone**, under Piazza's has a strong core of juniors that includes

See **Softball** on page 4

Nick Abraham
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SOFTBALL

from page 3

Erin Pond, Kenzie Conrad, Bee Shaw and Bri Buckley.

Division I **Elyria** would seem to be on course for a sixth straight appearance in the Sweet 16. The Pioneers welcome back senior pitcher Kristen Boros, along with juniors Darien Ward, Alyssa Barker, Alanna Williams and Taryn Harshberger.

But to return to the Sweet 16 for the sixth year in a row, Elyria has to get past two other strong Division I teams in Amherst and Midview.

The **Amherst** Comets under coach Bill Matthews have one of the area's top pitchers in junior Jen Sutton, one of the better hitters in senior Amanda Arendt and a top-shelf catcher in sophomore Katie Hoerig.

Midview, which earned its first district championship and Sweet 16 appearance last season, hopes to go back to the Clyde regional with the senior class it has been waiting for.

Middies coach Mike Ives welcomes back pitcher Sydney Mencke, infielder Delaina DiVencenzo and outfielder Grace Turner. The roster might or might not include infielder-pitcher Danielle Herwig, who said she was undecided about returning for her senior season.

And **Columbia** lost one of the area's strongest batteries in pitcher Jen Solanics and catcher Emily Nagle, who graduated.

But don't feel sorry for coach Ken Richardson and the Raiders. Returning this spring are seniors Jenny Kus and Danielle Riolo, along with junior Sarah Viccarone. And the team still has strong

pitching in sophomore Christine Lyzen and junior Kalyn Thompson.

Others to keep your eye on:

Elyria Catholic (coach Brian Daw) - The Panthers have a strong group of seniors that includes Lexi Kaczay, Jasmin Filiaggi, Emily Taylor, jr., Courtney Yun and Molly O'Malley, among others. O'Malley is expected to be their No. 1 pitcher.

Avon (coach Ken Matuszak) - The Eagles have considerable talent returning in seniors Mackenzie Brua, Mackenzie Wentz, Kelsey Matuszak and Rachel Rogers, plus junior Hailey McAleer. Of special interest is the return of junior Brittanie Fowler, who was the team's No. 1 pitcher as a freshman. She played last season but was unable to pitch because of an arm injury.

Avon Lake (coach Kevin Atkins) - Shoregals' returnees include seniors Laura Fraser, Sarah Busch, junior Caitlyn Shelar, and sophomores Allison Theberge and Anne Wennerberg.

Brookside The Cardinals

are headed in the right direction after a 15-victory season. The heart of the squad this year is expected to be catcher Salena Kauffman, a Cleveland State recruit, and outfielder Kayla Chrosniak. Both are seniors.

Clearview (coach Denny Myers) - Back for the Clippers this year are Breanna Colon, Alex Wilson, Paige Schaffer, Morgan Hemming, Alexis Renney, Lauren Kokinda, Kristen Whalen, Jenee Perry, Nikki Kent and Emily Roush.

Firelands (coach Judy Dostall) - Making up the Falcons' core this spring will be Taylor Morris, Nicole Myers, Emily Loosli, Emily Arlington and Samantha Dostall

Lake Ridge (coach Sue Bus) - Returnees include Emily Kurtz, Terra Sotto and Alexa Malinowski.

Lorain (coach Pam Jackson) - The newly reconstituted Titans can choose from among former Admiral King and Southview players who include Kelsey Drwal and Brittany Washington.

North Ridgeville (coach Norm Frindt) - The Rangers had perhaps the area's No. 1 freshman battery last season

in Kailey DeMarco and Jenna Yost. Yost returns after an off-season injury. But DeMarco might not pitch because of an injury of her own.

Oberlin (coach Josie Eiskamp) - The Phoenix lost at graduation last spring. But they still have junior shortstop Kayla Jackson, one of the best hitters and all-around players in the area.

Open Door (coach Ken Trigg) - The Patriots lack significant experience, but keep your eye on pitcher Alyssa Overs.

Vermilion (coach Roger Wright) - Returnees from last season include Amanda Wright, Madi Virgin, Sara Kovarik, Kate-Lynn Urgo, Robyn Oates and Christine Hoholski.

Wellington (coach Tim Wulfhoop) - This is Wulfhoop's first season as a varsity coach, but he has been coaching youth softball for years. The Dukes lost a ton of talent at graduation, but they also have talent returning in outfielder Jessica Davis and pitcher Olivia Wulfhoop.

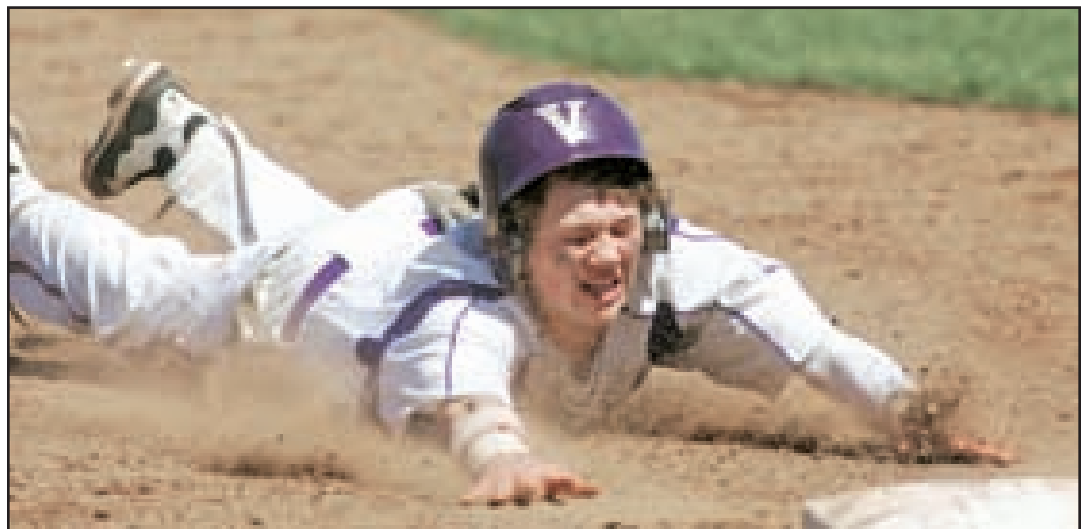


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2011 LORAIN COUNTY BASEBALL PREVIEW

By: Jim Allen

Lorain County baseball is blessed to have two players who earned first-team All-Ohio honors as juniors last year, Tyler Beck and Ian Mezlak.

Beck hit for a .500 average last spring for 16-10 **Avon Lake**, with 40 hits, including 12 doubles, and 29 rbi. Another leader coming back for the Shoremen is outfielder Mike Britt who blasted 9 doubles last season.

Mezlak had some of the best stats in the state in leading **Clearview** to an 18-8 campaign and a Pac Stripes title. Ian batted .671 with 51 hits, 11 doubles, 8 triples, 39 rbi and 10 stolen bases. On the mound, Mezlak went 6-1 with a 1.75 era and 44 strikeouts. The Clippers also have Dominic Dominguez who posted a 7-2 mark with a 2.67 era and 38 strikeouts while at the plate, R.J. Presutto drove in 29 runs.

Already bestowed a Division I scholarship to Kent State University is **Elyria** High's Jake Neuschaefer. Jake is so dedicated to baseball that he passed up his senior year



Photo courtesy of Linda Murphy - The Chronicle-Telegram

of football, another sport in which he gained acclaim as a junior. Last season, Neuschaefer batted .421 with 32 hits, 10 doubles, 3 triples, 5 home runs and 17 stolen bases. Other prominent Pioneers include Jordan McDonald who hit .426 with 43 hits and 12 stolen bases and Allen Rister who recorded 2 saves with a 1.91 era. Elyria was 14-13 in 2010.

The county's winningest team last year was **Vermilion** at 23-4. Jeff Keck, who will be inducted into the Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame this summer, guided the Sailors to the West Shore

championship. The victories at Vermilion should continue with outstanding 4-year varsity catcher Madison Montgomery who had 31 hits with 10 doubles last year. Always strong Sailor pitching will include Cory Fox who was 5-0 with a 1.71 era and 48 strikeouts while Nick Dlugosz posted a 1.93 era in his first varsity season. Mitch Novak stole 28 bases.

Keystone also enjoyed a 20 win season, 20-9, while picking up the Pac Stars championship. Junior Caleb Shillace hit .393 with 42 hits, 6 home runs, 40 rbi, 10 stolen bases and a 2.60 era on the mound. The Wildcats are deep in pitch-

ing with junior Brandyn Sittinger who had a 2.68 era and 37 K's, Mike Cordy who went 4-1 with a 1.81 era and 36 K's and Cody Dill with a 2.49 era.

Consistently good **Amherst** was 18-8 for a second straight season. Tyler Bires is an outstanding all-around player, Kyle Hagerich hit 4 home runs and drove in 23, Robbie Janscura tagged 3 triples, while Andy Dito did the job on the mound and at the plate.

Avon and **Columbia** were both 16-12 last year. The Eagles have several top returnees including pitcher

See **Baseball** on page 7

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BASEBALL

from page 6

Jordan Musser and one of the county's top hitters as a sophomore last season, Joel Yeagley.

Columbia has a couple of top hitters back in junior Zach Bican who batted .407 with 37 hits and 5 HR's along with Ryan Severo who had 30 hits, including 3 triples. On the mound, Tyler Shope fanned 33.

Two returnees for 12-10 **Wellington** are going to be teammates in college, too, as Ryan Bliss and Justin Kidd are going to continue their careers at Oberlin College. Bliss, with a .407 batting average, had 33 hits and stole 16 bases. As a pitcher, Bliss struck out 51 and had a 2.56 era. Kidd was the winningest

Wellington pitcher with a 5-1 record. He also had a .313 batting average and a team high 24 rbi. Other Duke standouts should include Austin Fullen, Clay Wright and Jaron Antill.

Firelands had a freshman sensation in 2010, Joe San Felippo, who hit 382 with 4 HR's, 29 runs and 17 stolen bases. Christian Hertrick had 30 hits with 12 stolen bases and a 3.05 era on the mound while fellow junior Kyle Smith stole 12 bases.

The first **Lorain High Titan** baseball team will be coached by former Southview mentor Brad Ternes. One of his top pitchers from last year, Chris Browning, struck out 41 while Alec Nieto also did well for the Saints as did Andrew Coon and Jeff



Photo courtesy of Steve Manheim - The Chronicle-Telegram

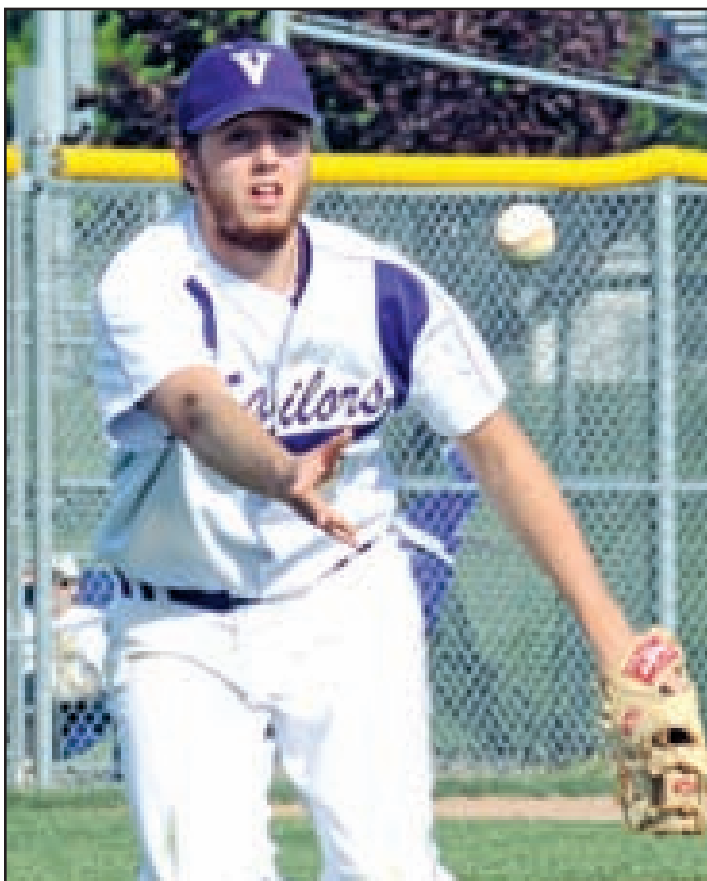


Photo courtesy of Steve Manheim - The Chronicle-Telegram

Fralely for the Admirals, Fralely fanning 33. Junior Collin Bryant brings credentials as a catcher while the Titans will have two sophomores who started varsity as freshmen last year, Nick Billingsley at Southview and Ryan Osko at Elyria Catholic.

Speaking of freshmen, **Midview's** Eric Lauer blasted 4 HR's as a ninth grader. Jake Stracensky struck out 54 and posted a 3.24 era for the Middies.

Elyria Catholic is happy to have 2-year lettermen Ryne St. Marie and Scott LaMoureaux along with Ryan Rock and Tom Strasko, who has developed well as a pitcher.

Brookside's best include man for all seasons, Luke Ackerman, a hustle player with power, and Hunter Skolnicki who

will be in his 3rd season as shortstop although just a junior.

Veteran North Ridgeville players include catcher Justin Hobart and pitcher Josh Dietz.

Oberlin returns one of the county's top hitters in Zach Walsh who fashioned a .433 average.

Open Door junior Preston Phillips had 4 triples in 2010 while Micah Stoneburner and Joey Untalasco are other prime Patriots.

Leaders at **Lake Ridge** include Matt Nathal and Jim Booth.

A reminder to all spring sports coaches to email results to jimallen@road-runner.com for use on our shows at 7:13 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. during the week and 8:00 a.m. on Saturdays.

The Lake Erie Crushers



Photo courtesy of Scott Evans

By: Tim Calderwood
Voice of the Crushers

The Lake Erie Crushers finished with 50 wins in their second season in Northeast Ohio, but there is a number that stands out more than any other to Manager John Massarelli, one. 2010 marked the first time in his tenure as a manager in the Frontier League that a team he led failed to make the postseason. Despite closing with a flourish, winning a franchise record eight straight to conclude the campaign, establishing new league records for fielding percentage and double plays turned, the Crushers finished in fourth place in the tough East Division, also establishing a league record for lowest batting average at .229.

Pitching carried Lake Erie throughout 2010 with four players landing in the league's top 10 for ERA.

Jeff Cinadr tied for second with a 2.21 mark out of the bullpen. Josh Roberts ranked fifth at 2.62, with Alberto Rolon right on his heels in six with a 2.65

and best in the league. Speedster Dom Duggan posted a team record 48 stolen bases and was caught just five times. He led the league in swipes.

did not allow a hit until a deflected infield single with two outs in the seventh. Smith also set a new team mark for strikeouts with 12.



clip. Travis Risser finished at 2.70, good for eighth in the league. Overall, Lake Erie finished with a team ERA of 3.56, tied for sec-

Starting pitcher Matt Smith hurled a one-hit complete game shutout on the season's final day, bettering Kalamazoo 8-0. He

Even though Lake Erie didn't reach the postseason, fans flocked to All Pro Freight Stadium. Attendance climbed to 159,580. The Freight was also home to a mid-summer concert featuring County Music superstars Alan Jackson and Joe Nichols. Jodan Rivera, Josh Roberts, Jeff Cinadr, Andrew Davis, and Travis Risser represented the team at the All-Star Game with Rivera and Davis comprising the starters on the left side of the infield. Davis was also a member of the 2009 All-Star team.

The team again vaulted into the national scene with a promotion aimed at

See **CRUSHERS** on page 9



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 7/28 vs Joliet Slammers (Thurs. pm)
 7/31 vs Washington Wild Things
 8/7 vs Evansville Otters
 8/21 vs Windy City Thunderbolts
 8/28 vs Kalamazoo Kings

CRUSHERS

from page 8

LeBron James. Keep L-B-J in the C-L-E night was held on the eve of NBA free agency with the Crushers donning Cavalier themed uniforms. John Massarelli

appeared on ESPN's First Take to discuss the event.

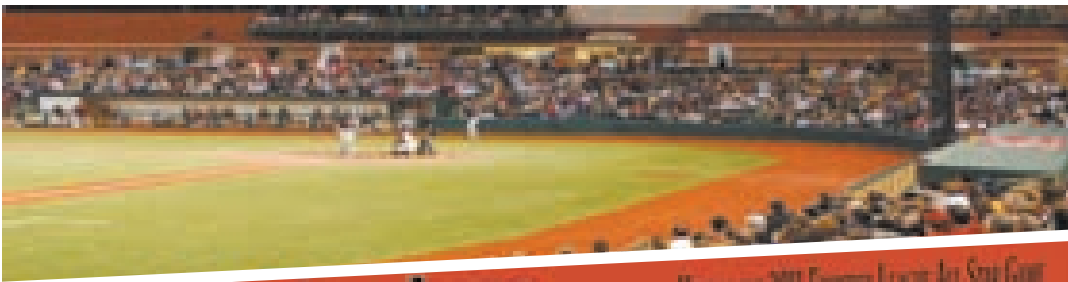
General Manager Ryan Gates was chosen as the Frontier League's Executive of the Year, leading to a promotion. Gates, the first ever employee of the Crushers, slid into the role

of General Manager for the Bowling Green Hot Rods, Class-A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays. Second Baseman Drew Saylor became the second consecutive player to be honored for his work in the community, following in the steps

of Gordie Gronkowski by earning the Frontier League's Fran Riordan Citizenship Award.

2011 promises to be full of excitement as well. The Crushers will serve as the hosts of the Frontier League's showcase with the All-Star Game. The event will begin on Monday, July 11 and culminates with the All-Star Game on July 13. A new team joins the league in the Joliet Slammers, and the league has rewritten the roster rules.

On the field, Lake Erie looks to return to the championship form of 2009. Players slated to be back with the Crushers include most of the pitching staff and the entire starting rotation. Josh Roberts tied for the team lead in wins with a 10-5 mark, and logged 137.1 innings. The Frontier League All-Star formerly of the Marlins organization started 21 games. Matt Smith also tallied 10 victories, boasting a 3.66 ERA to go with his 10-7 record. He tied for the team lead in



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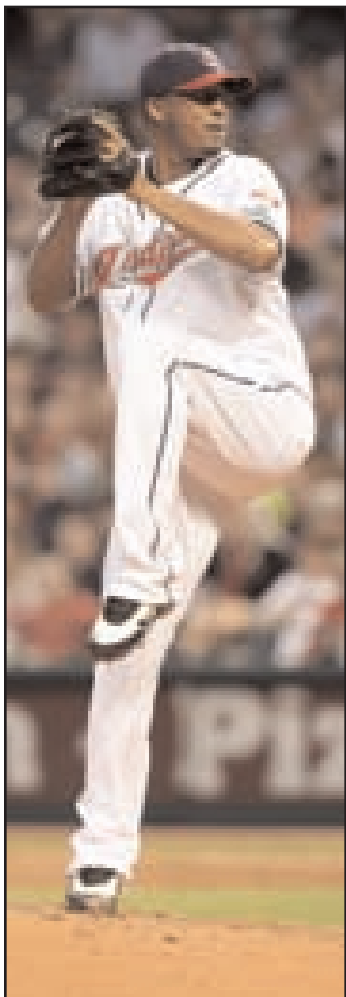
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Tribe looking for youth to be served



Jim Rosenhaus
Pregame Host/Producer

As the 2011 season begins, the Cleveland Indians are looking to make major strides back to play-off contention with the youngest roster in major league baseball. Normally that would be a daunting challenge, but due to uncommon experience for young players in 2010 and a suddenly rich farm system, the Tribe is brimming with hope as the new campaign is at hand.

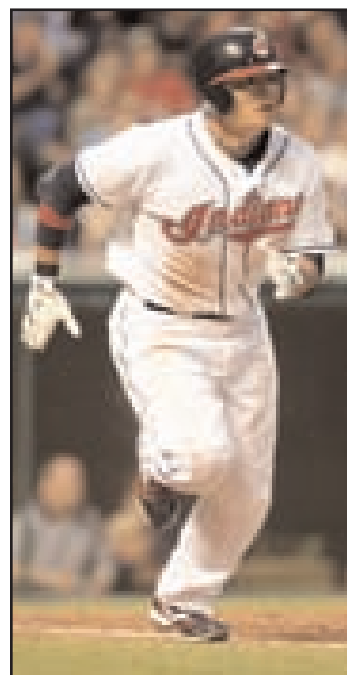
The 2011 Indians will feature most of the same names that completed 2010. During the offseason, Cleveland's front office made very little noise on the free agent market. Only outfielder Austin Kearns, infielder Orlando Cabrera and pitcher Chad Durbin were signed to major league free agent contracts, all signing just one year deals.

While that might seem like a frustration for new General Manager Chris Antonetti, he says nothing could be further from the truth.

"We feel we have a great group of talented young players on our roster and that was evident at the December Baseball Winter Meetings when several teams reached out to us and inquired about our young prospects," said Antonetti. "It's incumbent upon us to help them develop and help them achieve their potential. When discussing acquiring veteran players, we decided it has to be the right veteran that can contribute in the lineup and provide leadership in the clubhouse. We don't want to bring in an experienced player just to bring in a player. If that's the case, we are better served by giving our young players the opportunity to

perform and develop." Why the optimism over the young talent? The Indians drafts of 2009 and 2010 have been universally graded extremely high through baseball. Plus, difficult

See **INDIANS** on page 13



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FROM THE DUGOUT

presented by Roy Glitch Heating & AC

4/1 vs White Sox
4/27 vs Kansas City
5/11 vs Tampa Bay
5/24 vs Boston
6/7 vs Minnesota
6/21 vs Colorado

Interviews from the field
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7/5 vs N.Y. Yankees
7/26 vs L.A. Angels
8/10 vs Detroit
8/23 vs Seattle
9/6 vs Detroit
9/21 vs White Sox



INDIANS

from page 12

trades the past 3 seasons brought a high number of quality prospects into the system, prospects that are now beginning to fill prominent roles.

Two of the trade acquired prospects who are looking at 2011 as the breakout season in the major leagues are first baseman Matt LaPorta and outfielder Michael Brantley. Both were acquired from the Milwaukee Brewers in 2008 as part of the trade that sent CC Sabathia to the Brewers. Both have seen major league time the past two seasons with the expected ups and downs any young player faces. But this year, both entered spring training with good health and experience, a combination that could lead to solid results.

For LaPorta 2011 is a radical departure from the early season a year ago. At that time, the former 1st round draft pick was still rehabbing from two surgeries and was not 100% healthy at the start of the season. That was not the case as spring training began last month. "This year I started working out early in the off season and I feel great," said LaPorta. "It helps to pre-

pare for a season in November instead of rehab from surgery. Last year was a learning experience. In some ways it was nice to go through adversity at the big league level and learn how to handle it. That's where you find your true character and what you're made of. "

For Michael Brantley, the signs of what could be in store were on display over last season's final two months. The speedy outfielder hit .292 with 26 runs scored, 15 RBI in 46 games after a third and final call up from the minor leagues. That momentum carried through to the off season where Brantley went to work with a purpose. "I want to be in better shape and gain weight to hit with more power this season," explained Brantley, the son of former major league player and hitting coach Mickey Brantley. "Some of that comes from changes I've made to my swing and my dad has been a tremendous help in that area. He is my backbone and the heart and soul of my swing. We were constantly looking at video to find tendencies to make sure we make the right adjustments." Brantley could find himself

at the top of the Indians batting order coming out of spring training, depending on the health of outfielder Grady Sizemore, who is still on the mend after season ending, microfracture surgery in early June. Sizemore is expected to return early in the season, if not in time for Opening Day. Also coming back from knee surgery is catcher Carlos Santana. The switch hitter was one of the most highly regarded prospects in minor league baseball when 2010 began. After almost two months in the major leagues he did nothing to disappoint, hitting .260 with 6 HR and 22 RBI in just 46 games while displaying a strong throwing arm behind the plate. Add in a healthy Travis

Hafner and the Indians should improve on last season's run total of 646, which was just 12th best in the American League. Of course the mainstay of anything the Indians do offensively is outfielder Shin Soo Choo. In 2010, Choo posted his second straight season of hitting .300 while stealing 20 or bases and clubbing 20 or more home runs, the first time that's been accomplished in back to back seasons in franchise history. What does he do for an encore? "My goal is simple," says Choo. "I want to perform better than last year. I want to be better every year I play in everything I do.

See **INDIANS** on page 15

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**Rick Manning
Indians Great
& Broadcaster**

"The Indians of the 40's and 50's were the face of the city of Cleveland and Bob was the face of the Indians."

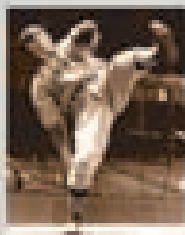
**Mike Hegan
Indians
Broadcaster**

Remembering "Rapid Robert"



"Boy he loved the Indians and we all loved him back."

**Manny Acta
Indians Manager**



"Bob was a living legend. But more importantly, a true American Patriot. Nothing was more important to Bob than his country and what it stands for."

**Tom Hamilton
"Voice of the Indians"**

"It is the ultimate American success story. Consider how a five-ounce baseball provided an Iowa farmboy the opportunity to travel the world as he became perhaps the greatest ambassador baseball has ever known."

*Bob DiBiasio
Indians VP of PR*



Bob Feller

1918 - 2010



INDIANS

from page 13

That means less strikeouts, more walks, better defensive and better throws from the outfield."

And after two 90 plus loss seasons, what does Choo think about his surrounding cast this year?

"Yes we have young players, but they got the opportunity to play every day," he explains. "This should make them better, more comfortable. I remember when I was trying to become a good major leaguer, I felt comfortable when I knew I was playing every day."

While the Tribe looks for improvement offensively, confidence is high for a pitching staff that finished strong in 2010. The Indians had the fourth lowest team ERA in the American League from the All Star Break to the end of the season last year. The bullpen settled in to become a force, keyed by the emergence of Chris Perez as one of the

premier closers in the game. The flame throwing right-hander recorded 23 saves while notching an ERA of 1.71, 2nd lowest in the American League. As he prepares for the new season he absolutely believes there can be a carryover from last season's strong finish.

"It gives you confidence when you can perform late in the year," says Perez. "It says a lot about our team, with everyone fighting for jobs and still enjoying breaking into big leagues together. The strong finish is something to build off of. It doesn't matter we are youngest team in baseball. We proved we can be successful in stretches, now we just need to make the good stretches last six months instead of two months."

If you need some perspective on what could be in store for the current edition of the Tribe, how about checking in with the manager of the great teams of the mid 90's, Mike Hargrove. Grover was hired

in the off season as a special consultant to help at spring training and bring his wealth of winning experience to the franchise that he led to a pair of World Series appearances. He was in much the same position current manager Manny Acta is in today when he became manager of the Tribe in the early 90's. He knows what's possible if this new wave of young talent is handled properly.

"The key is experience," says Hargrove. "You must give young players time to develop. Remember, Manny Ramirez and Jim Thome were not ready when we brought them up. They could hit, but defensively, settling in and being consistent, they were nowhere near what they would become. But we had the time to let them develop on their own schedule and you saw the results. You can't shortcut that process. I see similarities here. Choo got that time and he is so much better now than when I saw him in

Seattle. He had the tools back then, but experience brings it together. Give them some breathing room and see what happens. I think the process now is similar to what it was then. The fact that we have Mark Shapiro, Chris Antonetti and Manny Acta is a positive. All three are good men who make a lot of right decisions and I think it's going to work.

For Manny Acta, 2010 brought some frustrations early, but also gave him the chance to learn the organization as a new manager and give more young players than he planned extensive experience. How will this year be different?

"They know me and I know them, especially the young kids who got a break," said Acta the day before exhibition games began in Goodyear, Arizona. "Now is the time to change the mentality. Forget about payroll, forget about youth, let's just win ballgames. It's time."

CLEVELAND INDIANS 2011 SEASON SCHEDULE

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APR 7	SEA	SEA
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LORAIN COUNTY IRONMEN



The Ironmen will open their season on June 2nd, in Slippery Rock, PA. The Home Opener will be the following night, Friday June 3rd. The game will begin at 7:05 p.m. with fireworks to follow celebrating the start of their second season in Lorain County. Some highlights of the 2011 schedule include the return of Fireworks on selected dates, and Cedar Point giveaways at every Saturday home game. They will also be giving away a special VIP package from Cedar Point this year.

They are changing the Sunday start times this season to 2 p.m., to further the idea of low cost family fun. What a great way to spend a sunny, Sunday afternoon. They will also have a special start time for the Monday, June 13 game against the defending champions, the Chillicothe Paints, beginning at 11 a.m.

Teams visiting the Pipe Yard this year will include Eastern Division rivals Slippery Rock, Butler, West Virginia, Richmond, and Chillicothe. Cross divisional games will be the Ironmen hosting the Danville Dans and the Terre Haute Rex.

June

Thurs. 6/2 @ Slippery Rock Sliders Away
Fri. 6/3 Butler BlueSox 7:05pm
 Sat. 6/4 @ Richmond RiverRats Away
 Sun. 6/5 @ Richmond RiverRats Away
Tues. 6/7 West Virginia Miners 7:05pm
Wed. 6/8 West Virginia Miners 7:05pm
 Thurs. 6/9 @ Slippery Rock Sliders Away
 Fri. 6/10 @ Butler BlueSox Away
Sat. 6/11 Slippery Rock Sliders 7:05pm*
Sun. 6/12 Chillicothe Paints 2:00pm
Mon. 6/13 Chillicothe Paints 11:00am
 Wed. 6/15 @ Chillicothe Paints Away
 Thurs. 6/16 @ Chillicothe Paints Away
Fri. 6/17 Danville Dans 7:05pm
Sat. 6/18 Danville Dans 7:05pm*
 Sun. 6/19 @ Slippery Rock Sliders Away
 Mon. 6/20 @ Slippery Rock Sliders Away
 Tues. 6/21 @ Slippery Rock Sliders Away
Wed. 6/22 Slippery Rock Sliders 7:05pm
 Thurs. 6/23 @ West Virginia Miners Away
 Fri. 6/24 @ West Virginia Miners Away
 Sat. 6/25 @ West Virginia Miners Away
 Sun. 6/26 @ West Virginia Miners Away
Tues. 6/28 Butler BlueSox 7:05pm
 Wed. 6/29 @ Butler BlueSox Away
Thurs. 6/30 Richmond RiverRats 7:05pm

July

Fri. 7/1 Richmond RiverRats 7:05pm
 Sat. 7/2 @ Chillicothe Paints Away
 Sun. 7/3 @ Butler BlueSox Away
Mon. 7/4 Chillicothe Paints 7:05pm
 Wed. 7/6 @ Danville Dans Away
 Thurs. 7/7 @ Danville Dans Away
 Fri. 7/8 @ Terre Haute Rex Away
Sat. 7/9 Slippery Rock Sliders 7:05pm*
Sun. 7/10 Slippery Rock Sliders 2:00pm
Mon. 7/11 Butler BlueSox 7:05pm
Fri. 7/15 Terre Haute Rex 7:05pm
Sat. 7/16 Terre Haute Rex 7:05pm*
Sun. 7/17 Slippery Rock Sliders 2:00pm
Tues. 7/19 Richmond RiverRats 7:05pm
Wed. 7/20 Richmond RiverRats 7:05pm
 Thurs. 7/21 @DeKalb County Liners Away
 Fri. 7/22 @DeKalb County Liners Away
 Sat. 7/23 @DeKalb County Liners Away
Mon. 7/25 Butler BlueSox 7:05pm
Tues. 7/26 West Virginia Miners 7:05pm
Wed. 7/27 West Virginia Miners 7:05pm
 Thurs. 7/28 @ Richmond RiverRats Away
 Fri. 7/29 @ Chillicothe Paints Away
Sat. 7/30 Chillicothe Paints 7:05pm*
 Sun. 7/31 @ Butler BlueSox Away

August

Tues. 8/2 Butler BlueSox 7:05pm
 Wed. 8/3 @ Slippery Rock Sliders Away
Thurs. 8/4 Butler BlueSox 7:05pm
Fri. 8/5 Slippery Rock Sliders 7:05pm
 Sat. 8/6 @ Butler BlueSox Away

DID YOU KNOW?

The Lorain County Ironmen are a member of the Prospect League, an elite wood bat summer league for college players with at least one year of eligibility in college left. The league is one of the several elite summer leagues in the country and has sent over 175 players to the Major Leagues!

Home games are played at:
 The Pipe Yard
 2640 Minister Rd.
 Lorain, OH 44052





Shannon Goldsmith, DO
Mercy Medical Partners
Family Medicine



John Jonesco, DO
Mercy Medical Partners
Family Medicine



Charyse McMillion, DO
Mercy Medical Partners
Family Medicine



Khalid Akbar, MD
Mercy Medical Partners
Pediatrics



Helmut Jungschafer, MD
Mercy Medical Partners
Pediatrics



Alba Ortega-Close, MD
Mercy Medical Partners
Pediatrics



Bradley Barker, MD
Mercy Tri-City Medicine
Family Medicine



Charles Butrey, MD
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Jennifer Calabrese, MD
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Ronald Carissimi, MD
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Dennis Carson, MD
Mercy Tri-City Medicine
Family Medicine



Jack Cramer, DO
Mercy Tri-City Medicine
Family Medicine



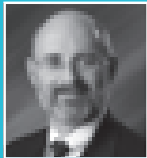
John Escolas, DO
Mercy Tri-City Medicine
Family Medicine



Frank Hiti, MD
Mercy Tri-City Medicine
Family Medicine



Nicholas Ksenich, MD
Mercy Tri-City Medicine
Family Medicine



Eric Lockhart, MD
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Family Medicine



Abraham Pedro, MD
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Family Medicine



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Our doctors are part of your community, some as long as 45 years. With one call, you can find one in your area who is a perfect fit. These local pediatricians and family medicine physicians are part of a network of doctors throughout Lorain County.

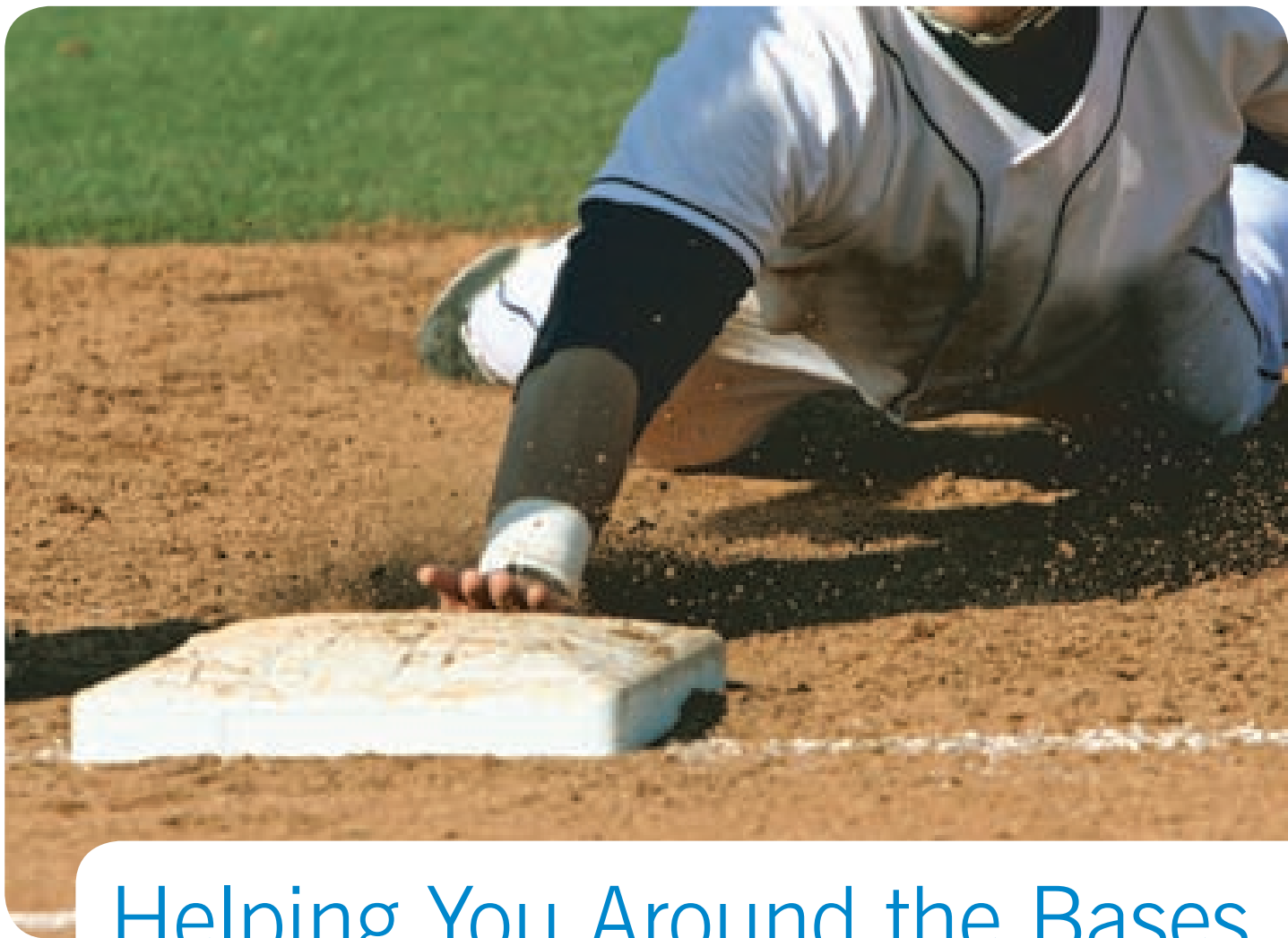
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Helping You Around the Bases

Cleveland Clinic Lorain Family Health and Surgery Center is proud to offer **Kolczun & Kolczun** Orthopaedics, providing the latest treatments in orthopaedic care. Our entire musculoskeletal team works together with area school athletes in injury treatment and prevention. We treat a full range of orthopaedic joint conditions in high school athletes and adults. If your condition requires surgery, our Outpatient Surgery Center offers advanced procedures that allow patients to return home the same day.

**To schedule an appointment,
call 440.204.7800**

Orthopaedic Offices

5800 Cooper Foster Park Rd., Lorain
3600 Kolbe Rd., Suite 100, Lorain
5275 North Abbe Rd., Elyria
303 Chestnut Commons Drive, Elyria
450 Avon Belden Rd., Avon Lake