



Locker Room

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NEWS TRENDS BUSINESS FASHION GOSSIP STATS GAMES

Edited by David Scott

City Slackers

Cleveland Heads the List of The Championship-Challenged

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO REVEAL COULD MAKE AN ENTIRE CITY cranky, make the natives grossly ill and perhaps even cause warts, for all we know. But we have to do it. We're here to serve and protect, and if we can help just one person, then we've done our job. Cleveland has been found hazardous to its sports fans' health. And

with the rebirth of the Browns, things may just get worse. Get out now, good folks of Cleveland, before you lose the shred of self-esteem you still have.

Rick Climan and Eric Reifschneider, two brave, honorable California lawyers (stop smirking), developed a Futility Ratings Index (FRI), which serves to gauge the extent of a city's sports ineptness. The results—which factor in not only length of time between championships, but also the number of pro teams in the city and the number of franchises in the leagues that the teams compete against—show that Cleveland fans have suffered most. It's been 35 years since the Browns beat Don Shula's

Colts, 27-0, in the 1964 NFL championship game, the city's last title. Informed that Cleveland was found to be the nation's MFSC (Most Futile Sports City), Dennis Roche, the general manager of the Greater Cleveland Growth Association, was less than jubilant.

"Oh, wonderful," says Roche, who oversees the country's largest chamber of commerce. "No, I don't think we'll put this in our annual report as our proudest achievement. But we're not rolling up the carpet either. The Indians have the whole community energized, and the taste of almost being there means there's a chance we can really do this. There is still a real optimism in Cleveland."

Adding further to Cleveland's title-challenged existence are the Cavaliers, who have never won an NBA championship, and the Indians, who have smelled the peanuts at the World Series but haven't cracked the shell since 1948. The Cleveland Barons of the NHL lasted from only 1976 to '78.



Despite its impressive bark, the Dawg Pound has never been thrown a bone

THE 10 SADDEST SPORTS CITIES

	AMS	TITLE YEARS	FRI
1.	Browns, Indian Chargers	1964, Browns	1
2.	Chargers, Padres, Rockets (NBA), Clippers (NB)	1963, Chargers	36
3.	BUFFALO Bills, Sabres, Ravens (NBA)	1963, Bills	21.69
4.	Dodgers, Angels, Lakers, Clippers, Rams, Raiders, Kings, Mighty Ducks	1988, Lakers - and Dodgers	11
5.	PHILADELPHIA Phillies, Eagles, 76ers, Flyers	1983, 76ers	25
6.	Sonics, Seahawks, Mariners	1979, Sonics	25
7.	Suns, Cardinals, Coyotes	1989, Suns	31
	Red Sox, Bruins, Celtics, Patriots	1986, Celtics	13
	Pacers, Colts	1983, Pacers	12
10.	Cardinals (MLB), Cardinals (NFL), Blues, Rams	1982, Cards (MLB)	17

*The FRI (Futility Ratings Index) is a composite of factors including length of time between titles, number of titles won, and number of teams in a given league (which affects probability of winning a championship). Calculations are through 1998.

FROM LEFT: RICH KANE/SPORTSCHROME, RICK STEWART/SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, FROM LEFT: JOHN ATASHIAN/ESP, TRANSWORLD INT'L, PHOTODISC

Number of pounds, in millions, of potato chips eaten by Americans watching last year's Super Bowl

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