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AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

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Published on Sunday, Aug 08, 2010

CLEVELAND: Kenny Lofton got another day in Cleveland. The former Indians outfielder was inducted into the Indians Hall of Fame before Saturday's game, along with former Tribe General Manager and longtime scout Cy Slapnicka.

After unveiling his plaque in the Heritage Park area beyond the center-field wall, Lofton took a slow stroll out to the mound area, where other famous presenters were seated. He was showered with a loud standing ovation along the way.

Lofton, the 36th player inducted, was with the Indians during three stints (1992-96, 1998-2002 and 2007) and is the team's franchise leader in stolen bases (452). He also ranks third in club history in runs with 975 and is 10th in hits with 1,512.

So taken by the applause and support he has always received in Cleveland, Lofton told the pre-game crowd, "You guys in Cleveland will win a championship, I guarantee you."
"It's like that theme park song, It's A Small World." Indians manager Manny Acta said of Lofton. "Twenty years ago, I was his teammate in A-ball. . . . Then my first year managing here happens to be the year he's inducted into the [Indians] Hall of Fame."

Acta had many Lofton memories, but it was Lofton's natural ability that often left him in awe. "What stuck out when he played, even in the minor leagues, was that he was the fastest guy you've ever seen," Acta said. "He seemed like he could get on base at will back then. He could bunt a ball and be down the line in 3.4 [seconds]. He looked raw because he was a basketball player. He had a lot of energy, energy he spread around our whole ballclub."

Turn back the clock

The Indians and Minnesota Twins paid homage to the Negro Leagues Saturday, with the Tribe wearing the 1946 Cleveland Buckeyes uniforms and the Twins donning the 1909 St. Paul Gophers uniforms.

Members from the Josh Gibson Foundation and Negro League Hall of Fame were also on hand to display Negro League artifacts, and former Indian Jim "Mudcat" Grant was there to educate fans on Negro League history.