

**" I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A BETTER SITUATION  
THAN I HAVE HERE IN INDIANAPOLIS "**

— DEAN TREANOR, INDIANS ANNUAL HOT STOVE LUNCHEON; JANUARY 31, 2013

Indians manager Dean Treaanor, now in his third year leading the Tribe, is a guy who knows baseball.

After playing college baseball at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, Treaanor, a pitcher, was signed by the Cincinnati Reds in 1971. He climbed his way to the Double-A level before retiring due to a shoulder injury.

He's also a guy who knows the law,

having served as a police officer and undercover narcotics agent for 18 years in his home state of California following his brief Minor League baseball career. Law enforcement, Treaanor said, had always interested him and he followed through on that interest partly because of the frustration he felt after his baseball playing days were over.





BY JOHN C. ADAMS

# “TREANING” DAY

INDIANS MANAGER **DEAN TREANOR**

BLEEDS BASEBALL



**DEAN TREANOR**  
**MANAGERIAL/COACHING CAREER**

Since taking over as manager prior to the 2011 season, Dean Treanor has helped lead the Indianapolis Indians from a team that finished below .500 for four consecutive seasons (2007-2010) to the most wins in Minor League Baseball.

After serving as pitching coach for Indianapolis during the 2010 season, Treanor was named the 59th field manager in Indians history prior to the start of the 2011 campaign.

On May 7, 2011 after the team's first 30 games, the Indians found themselves with the second-worst record in all of baseball at 9-21. However, beginning on May 8 the Indians went on to compile an International League best 67-47 record the rest of the way, finishing just games out of the playoff picture.

Building from this momentum, Treanor led the 2012 Indians to one of the best seasons in franchise history with a Minor League baseball best 89 wins and the club's first West Division since the 2000 season. The 89 wins were also the most by an Indians' team in nearly 25 years, with the 1988 championship team the last Tribe squad to post at least 89 victories.

Overall in two seasons at the helm of the Indians, Treanor has put together a 165-123 record. His 165 wins are the most for a Tribe manager in their first two seasons since Hall-of-Famer Al Lopez earned 192 combine victories during the 1948 and 1949 seasons. All-time among Indians' managers with at least 100 career victories, Treanor's .572 winning percentage already ranks as the fifth best.

Treanor returns to Indianapolis in 2013 looking to lead the Tribe to their first back-to-back playoff appearances since the 1994-95 seasons. He also needs only 83 wins to move into the top 10 all-time in career wins among Indianapolis Indians managers. Few Tribe managers have accomplished so much so quickly.

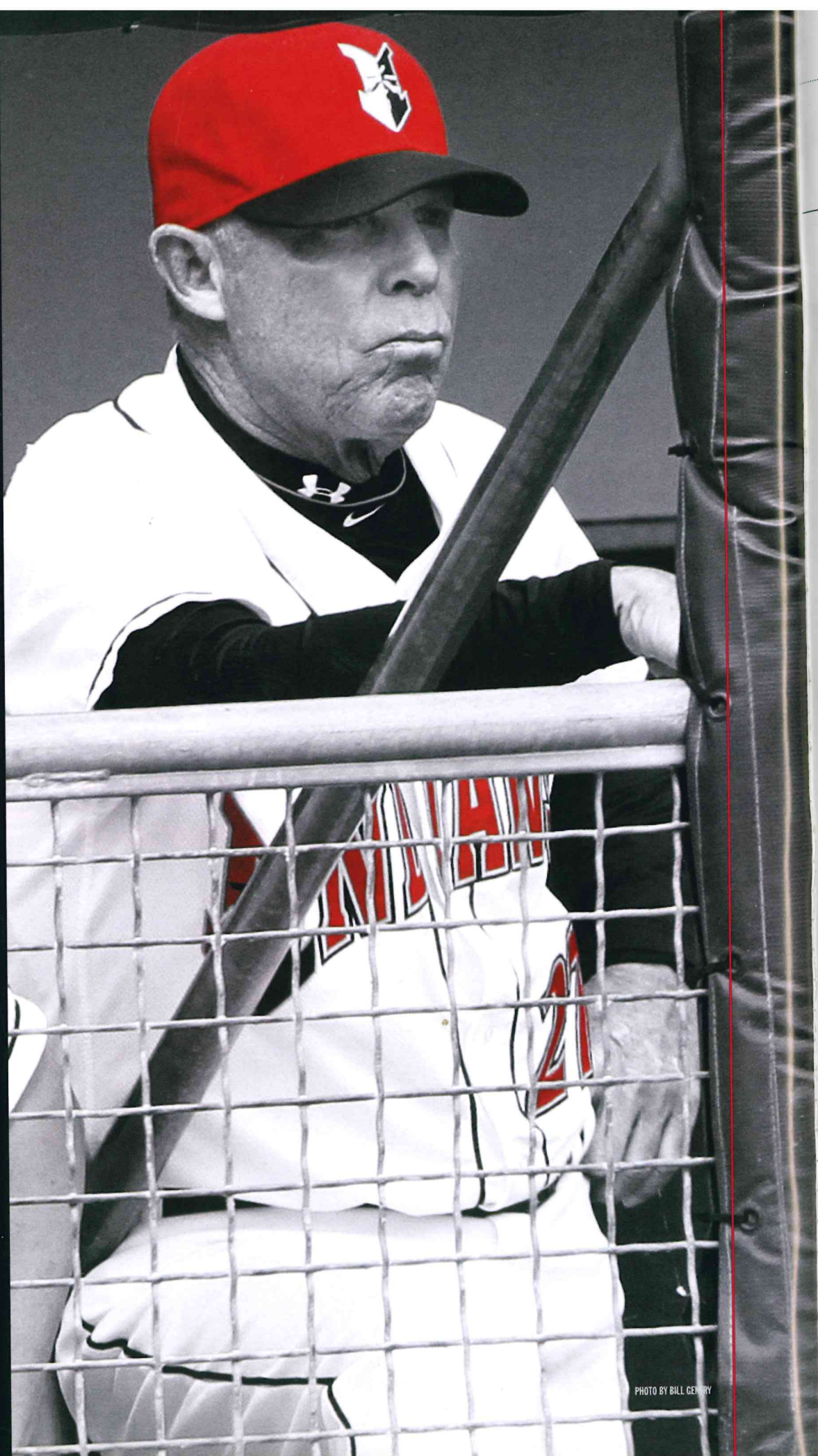


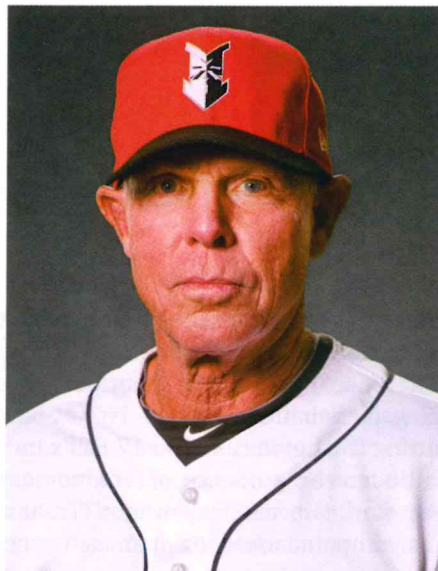
PHOTO BY BILL GENTRY



## "TREANOR" DAY

**D**rawn back into the game because, as he says, "it's in your blood" and that felt like the right time, Treanor benefited from some phone calls made on his behalf and found his way back into professional baseball in 1988 as the manager of the A level Fresno Suns in the California League.

After one season in Fresno, Treanor moved on to Winter Haven of the Gulf Coast League where he was a coach in 1989 before becoming its manager the following season. He then spent the next decade coaching in the San Diego Padres, Montreal Expos and Los Angeles Dodgers organizations until he landed his next managerial job. In 2002 he took over the helm for



the Florida Marlins' Triple-A affiliate Calgary Canons of the Pacific Coast League.

The following season, Treanor moved on to manage the Albuquerque Isotopes, also of the PCL. Different city, but still the top Minor League club in the Marlins organization. In five seasons guiding the Isotopes,

Treanor's team earned a first-place finish in his first year with the club and followed up with three second-places finishes during his tenure.

He then joined the Pirates organization, spending a season as the pitching coach at Double-A Altoona before coming to Indianapolis. In 2010, Treanor served as pitching coach for the Tribe under manager Frank Kremblas, who was an infielder for the team in the mid-1990's. He took over for Kremblas in 2011 and led the team to a second-place finish, just a prelude of what was about to take place at Victory Field the next season.

The Indians success on the field last year, Treanor believes, goes back to the

# Sports injury? *We'll fix it.*

Official Team Physician  
of the Indianapolis Indians

[OrthoIndy.com](http://OrthoIndy.com)

**ORTHOINDY**  
Bone, Joint, Spine & Muscle Care





## "TREANING" DAY

2011 season, one in which he described as "a real tough start." Two years ago the Tribe stumbled coming out of spring training but caught fire early and wound up with an inspiring second-place finish in the International League with a 76-68 record.

"We really took off in May (of 2011) and played well the rest of the way. I think that carried over into last season, and I think last season will carry over into this season," Treanor said. "We'll have some of the same guys here, but we'll also see some new guys. I think the guys that come back this year will want it to finish a little bit differently than it finished last year."

Following an Intenational League-leading – and Minor League-leading – 89 wins and a .618 winning percentage last year, the Indians again made the post-season but lost to the Charlotte Knights 3-1 in the first round. Overall attendance at Victory Field jumped to 595,000, up 15,000 from 2011, and fans watched as several Indians players made their way to the Major League Pittsburgh Pirates in 2012.

Former Tribe stars such as Starling Marte and Gorkys Hernandez departed via call-up and trade, so reinforcements are needed at the Minor League level this season.

"With (Marte and Gorkys) in the outfield, they made our pitching better. Not many people see that," Treanor said. "No balls hit the ground out there, so we hope we'll have some outfielders close to that this year because Victory Field is a big ballpark. It plays big and you need that defense in the outfield with guys who are able to get to the ball."

Marte, a speedster from the Dominican Republic, went into last season with big expectations and he delivered on the big stage, both at the Minor League and big league levels. A top-rated prospect, he was an International League all-star, and at mid-season last year *Baseball America* named Marte as the IL's "Most Exciting

Player," "Best Batting Prospect" and "Best Defensive Outfielder." After being called up to Pittsburgh, he appeared in 47 games, batting .257 in 167 at-bats, hitting five home runs and 17 RBI's.

Under the guidance of Treanor and his staff, Hernandez, whom Treanor has either coached or managed since

possibilities of both. Whether or not the Tribe is made up of guys who fly on the base paths and in the outfield, or sluggers who can give you a three-run lead at one swing of the bat is out of his hands from the outset.

"We really won't know until we put the team together. It really comes down

**"PITTSBURGH HAS A LOT OF YOUNG TALENT.  
WE'RE GOING TO SEE A LOT OF GOOD ARMS COME THROUGH INDY."**

— DEAN TREANOR, INDIANS ANNUAL HOT STOVE LUNCHEON; JANUARY 31, 2013

2009 in Altoona, got his first taste of big league baseball last year when he was called up to the Pirates. Regarded as one of the best outfield defenders in the Minors, Hernandez was traded to Miami during the season as part of the deal that brought infielder Gaby Sanchez to the Pirates.

This season, pitchers Gerrit Cole and Jameson Taillon are on the Indians radar as prospects who could see time in Indianapolis.

"(Cole) went right through the organization last year," Treanor said. "I know the Pirates wanted to get him here to see how he would handle things. What he did last year and what he does in Spring Training (this year) will determine where he starts but he's got a big arm. And I suspect to see Taillon here at some point this season."

Self-described as an old-school manager, Treanor is now in his 26th year as a Minor League instructor and insists that his players play the game the way it's supposed to be played - the "right way." Timely hitting, good defense, smart base running and solid baseball on both sides of the pitcher's mound is Treanor's mantra.

Long ball or speed, every year is different. It depends on the makeup of the team and Treanor knows the

to what decisions they make in the big leagues, who stays in Pittsburgh, and then we'll put together what we have here," Treanor said.

It makes for an interesting equation and one that Treanor solves from year to year. He doesn't complain, though, about the depletion of last year's late-season roster due to the Pirate's success or the hand he's dealt coming out of Spring Training each season.

"We're here for the Pirates. Whatever they need, whenever they need it. No frustration," Treanor said. "Sometimes the players will feel a little bit of that - not being able to get it done last year was frustrating for the players but we were in almost every game. It's whatever Clint (Hurdle, the Pirates manager) needs, whatever they need up there.

"Managing at the Minor League level, you're still in the development phase," he said. "It's the growing pains, being able to compete against veteran players. Winning is developing and you have to (grow) that aspect. The difference is that here, you're getting guys into certain situations in a game."

Treanor explained that it's not necessarily essential to win every game in the league but to put each player on the roster into a position that will most likely help them to succeed at the Major League level.

"You make certain decisions in a game



## "TREANING" DAY

that's designed to develop the player. It's not necessarily you're doing something to win the game that night," Treanor said. "You always want to go out and win each game but there are things you have to keep in mind for the development of the player. There are times when a certain player won't be in the lineup but I'll get him in (in) a pinch-hitting situation because that's what they're going to do in the big leagues."

Managing at the Triple-A level is a tightrope of coaching, strategy and nurturing of young players, and to walk that line and Treanor's ability to do it has not gone unnoticed.

"He (Treanor) has a unique and difficult task of talking players off the ledge," Hurdle said about Treanor this past winter. "He is excellent at what he does."

The Indians skipper reciprocates his appreciation with the manager of Major League club as well.

"It's a great relationship," Treanor said. "It's the best relationship when you have a big league manager who communicates. He needs to know if guys are ready and what guys need to work on and what he needs to see."

"There are times we talk every week, which I've found not to be the norm - my history has been that (Major League managers) talk to you once in a while, or as needed, but we talk every week and there are times we talk every day. There are times we talk multiple times a day.

He wants to know what the guys are doing. It's the best relationship I've ever had. Unbelievable."

Hurdle, incidentally, has also spent time in a Tribe uniform. He played in 88 games for the Indians in 1982, hit twelve home runs and helped the team to a four games to two series victory over Omaha to win that years' American Association league title.

Summer isn't the only time you'll see Dean Treanor in uniform managing baseball players. He's also had a successful track record as a Winter Leagues manager in

the Dominican Republic. In 2011, his Toros del Este club won the Caribbean Series after winning only their second-ever Dominican

Republic title.

Treanor enjoys his off-time going home to California to spend time with his two kids and four grandsons but acknowledges the time is short. Spring Training, a long regular season, Fall and Winter League ball don't allow for much time off for baseball junkies.

"There are times when you may have a week or two (free) but then you're back at it," he said.

Entering his third year managing in Indianapolis (fourth, overall), Treanor said that he appreciates the fan support, the quality of the playing field, as well as Victory Field itself.

"It's great to be back here and part of the city of Indianapolis," he said. "This is the best situation I've been in, and that speaks about the people here." □



Manager Dean Treanor (middle) with his Major League counterpart, Clint Hurdle (left), manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates, at the Indians annual Hot Stove Luncheon. Also pictured with the skippers is Indianapolis Indians Chairman and President, Max Schumacher (right).