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BIG RED ROCKERS : Index No. 00101
 : Date: August 14, 2004
 Petitioner, : League Type: NL/Auction/Keeper
 : Dispute: Trade
 - against - : Judge: Marc Edelman
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 THE BIG CITY BOMBERS and : **DISPUTED TRADE IS UPHELD**
 CLEVELAND INDIAN :
 Respondents :
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Petitioner BIG RED ROCKERS brings this claim in the Court of Fantasy Baseball, General Division, seeking to overturn the Big City Bombers' trade of pitcher Roger Clemens to the Cleveland Indian for pitcher Jason Marquis. BIG RED ROCKERS challenge this trade on the grounds that the traded players are not of equal ability, and that the first-place Cleveland Indian has colluded with the last-place Big City Bombers.

BIG CITY BOMBERS deny colluding and ask this court to uphold the trade on the grounds that in their league, each team may keep up to five players for the following season at their previous season's salary plus \$5. Therefore, while Roger Clemens is indeed having a better season than Jason Marquis, the prospect of keeping Marquis for a \$7 salary in 2005 is more desirable to the Big City Bombers than keeping Clemens for \$24. BIG CITY BOMBERS has submitted a copy of both the league constitution and the league standings to support its argument.

CLEVELAND INDIAN also denies colluding and asks this court to uphold the trade. No further grounds are stated.

Upon reviewing all of the relevant evidence, this court UPHOLDS THE TRADE OF CLEMENS FOR MARQUIS. While Roger Clemens' 2004 statistics are clearly better than Jason Marquis' statistics, nothing in the league constitution states that players traded must be of equal playing ability. Therefore, the standard of review is simply whether the trade adequately benefits both teams.

Because Big City Bombers is clearly out of contention this season, the Big City Bombers adequately benefit from obtaining the better keeper option for 2005 in Jason Marquis. Not only is Marquis a more affordable option, but also Clemens has publicly stated that he plans to retire after this season. Moreover, even if Clemens does not retire, because Clemens is free-agent eligible after 2004, it is possible he would sign with an American League team and therefore no longer be an "eligible player" according to league rules.