

Where Is Pete and Felipe? Top Talents Flee the Cow Herds of Franksville for the Beach Herds of Jersey.

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Spinks Taylor

As Wisconsin's semi-pro summer leagues start ramping up, the Franksville Krauts are preparing for their season opener without the services of sluggers Pete Kielbasa and Felipe Patata. Locals around here are remembering the last time two local legends left under mysterious circumstances. They recall the spring of '67, when Pete and Joe, mannequins set up in a row boat for an ice breaking contest, managed to disappear in thin air only to wind up months later hoisted to the ceiling of the local tavern, the Cabbage Head. Now, locals seriously want to know where Pete and Felipe have vanished. Speculation runs amok as the Krauts prepare to open their season without their pair of mashers.

Pete Kielbasa and Felipe Patata have been reportedly spotted on the BeastCoast boardwalk, near the palatial grounds of Brushbacks GM Chris Longo. Vacationing Krauts Fans in Beast Coast, New Jersey sent polaroids to the *Milwaukee Daily Press* showing the ballplayers enjoying the vistas and beaches in the company of GM Longo and some reputedly shady characters. This reporter was assigned to dig into the rumored disappearance of the two young phenoms. and managed to locate the pair after two weeks of sun and surf. However, this story only gets more bizarre. Did I mention that Milwaukee Road GM Matayc is involved?

I found Pete and Joe at the Bally's Park Place in Atlantic City, dropping nickels in the slots. GM Chris Longo wanted to vet me in a public setting before heading out to his palatial villa near Ocean City. GM Longo greeted me at the craps table and his associates, Vito, Mutz, and Knuckles patted me down for grins. "Gotta make sure you play by the rules, you reporters always get the stories wrong, plus wanna make sure yer not a benny," GM Longo explained. "Let's go for a ride." I took a back seat facing the driver and Mutz sat next to me. This reporter found sitting in a limo with Longo to be quite hair-raising as Vito did a Jersey slide crossing four lanes to exit the freeway.

As we drove up to the villa, I asked GM Longo about his connection with the disappearance of the two Krauts players. Longo began a long soliloquy about vacationing in the Upper Peninsula this past spring and finding an old sports page article about a semi-pro player on the Franksville Krauts, a

kid with the name of Felipe Patata, who had Ruthian power and a Ruthian pitching arm. Curious, Longo took a short detour from his vacation and along with Vito, Mutz, and Knuckles watched a few workouts and was satisfied. GM Longo got Felipe to sign a summer league contract with the Jersey Shore JugHandles and in a two for one, persuaded Felipe to bring along his friend, Pete Kielbasa, who did not hesitate to sign. GM Longo mentioned that Pete was still upset with how GM Matayc characterized him. GM Longo said rumors about Patata's 100 mph fastball and prodigious power are just that, rumors. However, Longo did not rule out using a first rounder in next year's draft on Patata and some speculate that Longo's long play is to stash these two talents so no one else can grab them.

Matayc, when asked about "Two-way" Patata replied, "Listen, I have only seen the guy play once or twice, but we're two generations away from developing that kind of super player, that's what I call them, 'Super Players', like Superman, only on steroids. But that is not the issue here. Why is Longo stashing players that are familiar with the Road baseball program, which is the best program? How is it that the basement dwelling Brushbacks can come into Milwaukee, put Kielbasa in the centerfield bleachers with powerful binoculars and a two-way radio, and then, their team hits the daylights out of my beautiful pitching staff? They win all the games. How is that? Let me tell you, Longo is up to no goodo. The league needs to investigate that gangster. I might just build a casino on his boardwalk and not let him in."

When queried about his attempts to build a new stadium coupled with a threat to build a casino in New Jersey, this reporter asked Matayc where he might have the financial backing for such costly projects. "I got investors. They like me. I know how to close a deal. Now get out of my face."