

GEORGE (BUCK) WEAVER

1920

October 14

# CHICAGO FANS GRIEVE MOST FOR WEAVER AND STILL HOPE FOR HIM

## Buck Was Idol of South Side Rooters, Who Can't Yet Make Themselves Believe He Really Belongs Among Comiskey's Outcasts.



CHICAGO, Ill., Oct. 11.—What Buck Weaver is alleged to have done in the World's Series games of 1918 between the White Sox and Cincinnati Reds has shattered the local fans' faith in baseball as much, if not more, than anything that has developed out of the scandal. Weaver's connection—which he denies—with the affair has been a severe jolt to the fans who were not only surprised but shocked when his name was mentioned. They could hardly believe it and there are many here today who still believe he was not a party to throwing any games to the Reds.

Weaver was an idol on the South Side, not because of his personality, but because of the aggressiveness with which he played. Few more aggressive ball players ever have been in the American League. It was thought he could not lose in a ball game if he tried, because he loved to win too much. He always tried, was ever ready to take advantage of an opponent's mistake and enthused beyond compare when it fell to his lot to drive home a run or win a ball game. It was this unlimited interest, this determination and this dexterity that caused the followers of the White Sox team to place such implicit faith in his honesty.

Weaver's Name Not in Gossip. Throughout the summer there were rumors going about that the Series of

That that would have taken place is almost a cinch. Three of the players, through fear of going to jail as much as anything, lost no time in rushing to the prosecuting attorney's office to make a confession when they learned the jig was up. What would have stopped them from doing the same last winter or spring? Not a thing.

### A Poor Alibi for Comiskey.

Comiskey, I think, erred when he did not bring the matter before the annual meeting of the American League and insist that the league itself take some drastic action. He should not have permitted his unfriendliness with President Bob Johnson to stand in his way. That is a poor alibi. He had too much at stake to even think of that. He should have gone into the gathering with the bit between his teeth and said: "Gentlemen, here are the facts. Get busy. Let's have some action. Baseball is being wrecked by a lot of piker gamblers and something must be done whether it wrecks my ball team or not."

What would have been the result? I think the American League club owners would have lauded Comiskey for his stand, and baseball today would be in a position to hold up its head and defy the world.

Comiskey let the affair drag. Perhaps he was justified. Throughout the winter he denied everything relative to scandal and said he could obtain nothing that would permit him to take any action against his players. I do not question his honesty. At the same time I believe, although he probably cleared nearly half

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Maybe he figures... but the worst

never guess... a Cleveland... Cleveland Club... Weaver had... because... away, but...

...under, whose... could... up... He had... he says... but he... it's like... a says, to read... not yet realize

nd former ball... and denouncing... has dropped into... gamblers most... over he would... another chaboo... taught them... forever more... Hal Chase in

attributing blame... a of moral... the world in... out seeking... to... who... time will come... how it is to be... made to cor... as 1934 nota... without special

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1919 had been irration. <sup>INDIVIDUALY SUCCESS</sup> were made as to which of the White Sox players were guilty. Weaver's name was one that was never mentioned. Fans thought it impossible that he would figure in any such rotten affair like that. Know- ing his disposition to fight for ball games every second he was on the diamond. They refused to link his name with the scandal in any way, and therefore were surprised when his name was involved by someone who confessed their guilt.

...ever insists that he is innocent. Nothing could be more pleasing to the followers of baseball in Chicago, but Weaver declares he made the mistake of his life when he did not step up to President Comiskey after the next game was played. He had not only to be known what was going on, but it is said he did not. He should have protested the fall name of the national game and at the same time kept the center of suspicion from pointing directly at him. In addition, he could have saved his reputation, moral character and decency of the players who are now out of baseball for all time.

The only way I can figure Weaver's attitude last fall, if he knew what was on the fire, is that he did not possess the courage to go to the front and uncover the dishonest man on his team. That in my opinion, is the trouble with many ball players. They lack the guts that should have to help in collusion with certain players who are the club owners and tip it off to the club owners. Not only will they receive the strongest support from the league, but they will have the backing of the fans who admire a man for his nerve in turning up a crook.

What Others Would Have Done. The situation here is a queer one. It surely has a fellow thinking which way to jump. One can hardly deny that President Comiskey had a strong suspicion, and possibly knowledge, that something was radically wrong in the playing of the World's Series. It has come out in testimony given by President Haddler of the National League that he was told by Comiskey that the games looked bad to him. Manager Gleason also had a hunch something was wrong. He too went to Comiskey. Yet they permitted the series to finish with the players still in the game, that surely does not sound good.

I have talked to several baseball managers and managers alike and have asked them what they would have done had they been confronted with the same situation. They all replied they would have taken every man off the field out of suspicion pointed and pointed him out of the game. In my opinion, that is what should have been done. I am compelled to criticize Comiskey for not doing it and for letting these players stay on his team

a million dollars this year, that it would have been to his best interests to rid his team of players who were under suspicion. No doubt he would have had to do a lot of reconstructing the same as he does now, but the people of Chicago would have admired him the more for it.

There were ball players on the club who hated to be associated with guilty players. I see it now. When I traveled with the team at the fall end of the season I noticed that honest players kept themselves free of the men accused of throwing the World's Series to the Reds. There were two distinct factions on the team, the honest players and the crooked players. Two of the players, Eddie Collins and Ray Schalk, refused to associate with any of them, except on the diamond when it was necessary and then they did as little as possible. I do not recall having seen either one talk to any of the players mentioned in confessions made by Ciocka, Jackson and Williams.

Rough Road for Eddie Collins. Eddie Collins is on the square more ways than one. It was a rough and rugged road for him to play on that ball team all year and not throw up his hands in disgust. The same can be said for Schalk. Reports have it that Collins white Sox returned from their last Eastern trip and informed him he thought something was going on. It is believed that he had reference to something that happened in two ball games in Boston in August. I saw Collins in New York recently and asked him whether this was true. I am going to leave it to the readers to guess what he said. Collins is honorable, one of the most loyal ball players that ever put on a uniform and one who would not say a thing to injure the man who pays the salaries of the Chicago American League team.

In justice and fairness to Comiskey it must be said he has always played fair and has done everything within his power to boost the national game. He might have been poorly advised on the crookedness of the last World's Series with the Reds, which, I think, is probably the only reason he did not tear his ball club to shreds last winter and kind up a new one for this year.

The team that Gleason had under his supervision last season was one of the greatest ever formed. I believe it should have naturally walked away with the championship, why it did not, I do not care to say at this time. It was a great mistake when it was four games in front in August I anticipated over the thought that Chicago would have another championship team and could see no reason why it should not win. Then things began to happen. The White Sox did not win. They fooled the fans in Chicago with the remarkable ball they played against the New York Yankees in which they murdered Huggins' pitchers at the series.

...not a party to throwing any sides to the... Weaver was an idol on the South Side... because of his personality, but because of the circumstances with which he played. New more associates than some other... here are the facts. Get busy. Late here...