

## **The Black Sox: 85 Years Later**

*The Chicago Historical Society Looks at the 1919 World Series*

Tuesday, October 5th turned out to be a historical day for the ClearBuck.com campaign. What was supposed to be solely an evening discussion, turned into a day of reflection and remembrance. Dr. Fletcher, Patricia Anderson and other campaign members traveled through time as they visited Buck Weaver's old house on Winchester Avenue, the site of his death, and his gravesite at Mount Hope Cemetery. Sharing stories of her childhood and her Uncle Buck, Patricia gave us the perfect introduction to our evening discussion of early century baseball.

Accused of conspiring with gamblers to throw the 1919 World Series, eight players were suspended, tried in court, found not guilty and then were banned from baseball. Our moderated discussion looked back on the story of the Black Sox, and featured Black Sox scholar Dr. David Fletcher, Illinois State Representative Patti Bellock (great-granddaughter of White Sox founder



and owner Charles Comiskey), Patricia Anderson (niece/surrogate daughter of banned White Sox third baseman Buck Weaver) and Tom Cannon (grandson of the lawyer who tried Shoeless Joe Jackson's 1924 Milwaukee civil trial). The panel was moderated by *Chicago Tribune* sports editor Dan McGrath.

Mr. McGrath was the glue that held our program together. Coupled with personal recollections of his father's stories of the Chicago White Sox in the early part of the century and his knowledge of the Black Sox scandal, Mr. McGrath was an exceptional moderator.

Representative Bellock gave us great insight into her great-grandfather Charles A. Comiskey and the legacy of the Chicago White Sox in the Comiskey family. She shared

stories of three generations of Comiskey White Sox owners and provided a unique perspective as a child growing up in the Comiskey family.

Dr. Fletcher shared his extensive knowledge and Black Sox research with audience members, giving us a detailed overview of the scandal and the context with which it took place. He enlightened audience members with new facts and discoveries and provided a great platform for debate.

Mr. Cannon brought a rare perspective to our discussion by sharing the contents of the 1924 Milwaukee civil trial transcripts with our audience. This trial transcript is the only evidence of testimony by key Black Sox participants taken under oath. His dialogue and analysis, from a legal perspective, was cause for great discussion and debate.

Finally the guest of honor for the evening's program was the niece and surrogate daughter of White Sox third baseman Buck Weaver, Patricia Anderson. Once again, Patricia gave us a rare glimpse into the life of a banished baseball player. She shared her uncle's disappointment in the organization of baseball and his frustrations as a wrongly accused player.



We appreciate the time each panelist gave us and thank them for their tremendous contribution. It was an interesting discussion that could easily have continued a few more hours.