

# Reinstate Buck Weaver to Major League Baseball

ClearBuck.com Update

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Issue 3

## ClearBuck.com's Letter to Commissioner Selig November 4, 2003

Dear Commissioner Selig,

This package comes to you from fans, friends, family and people sympathetic to the story of the late George 'Buck' Weaver. Our campaign, ClearBuck.com seeks to restore Buck Weaver's honor and reputation and reinstate him to Major League Baseball. I know you are aware of the scandal surrounding the 1919 Black Sox so I will spare you the history and focus on the present.

In just over three months, the ClearBuck.com campaign has gathered close to 10,000 signatures of support, generated endorsement and encouragement from MLB Hall of Famers, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, and conveyed the tragic story of Buck Weaver to a national audience. Our crusade has just begun.

Buck Weaver's two nieces, 89-year-old Marjorie Follett and 77-year-old Patricia Anderson were instrumental to the success of the launch of our campaign. Sadly, Marjorie passed away a few weeks ago. She was denied the gratification of seeing her uncle cleared and was never given the opportunity to tell you her story.

Your last correspondence with me regarding Buck Weaver's situation stated, "this is all under review and we will be very thorough in reviewing a very long history of the 1919 World Series."

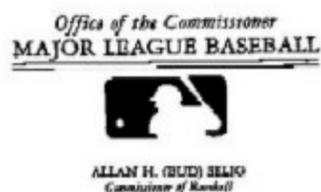
While I recognize the value of the research conducted by members of your organization and your attempt at due diligence, I don't think Major League Baseball should make a decision on the matter until representatives from our organization have a chance to share our own research and story. I have spent countless hours on the matter, conducting interviews with historians and authors, accessed privileged information and perhaps most important, I speak with members of Buck Weaver's family on a daily basis.

I understand your time is valuable. I respectfully request a meeting to share our research and knowledge and I regard this off-season as the perfect opportunity. I look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

David J. Fletcher, MD MPH, FACEOM

## Commissioner Selig's Response



NOV 24 2003  
R.C.

November 14, 2003

Dr. David J. Fletcher  
1806 N. Market Street  
Champaign, IL 61822

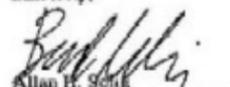
Dear Dr. Fletcher:

Thank you for your letter of November 4, 2003 and the messages from people sympathetic to the story of the late George "Buck" Weaver.

I certainly understand your passion in this matter and, as I have said to you previously, it is a matter that is under review.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending me all the information.

Sincerely,

  
Allan H. Selig  
Commissioner of Baseball

AHS:ar

## Pete Rose Reinstatement

Do you think  
Pete Rose  
will be  
reinstated to  
MLB?

Yes

No

[See Results]

## You Can Help

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Petition](#)

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## **Chicago Inn of Court 2003 Mock Trial of Buck Weaver and Joe Jackson**

“All rise. The Honorable Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis presiding.”

The words resonated off the walls of the courtroom in the Richard J. Daley Center - Circuit Court of Cook County, as the Chicago American Lincoln Inn of Court – a group of lawyers and jurists who meet periodically to discuss issues of import to their profession - staged an updated version of the 1992 Mock Trial of Buck Weaver and Joe Jackson. Present at the trial were various heavy hitters of Chicago’s legal scene, Irving Stein, author of The Ginger Kid and his wife Lois, famed Negro League star, 101-year-old Double Duty Ted Radcliffe and members of the ClearBuck.com campaign.



The evening opened with the entrance of Judge Landis (Lester Munson, Esq.) wearing a Chicago Cubs baseball cap. His monologue, used to set the tone for the trial, talked of Pete Rose’s possible reinstatement, Steve Bartman’s fan interference during Game 6 of the Cubs/Marlins NLCS game and some history of the Daley Center courtroom where a prior judge was set up for accepting bribes.

Buck Weaver’s attorney Clarence Darrow (Joel Daly, Esq. - WLS-TV news anchor) began with an umpire’s count of the facts and fictions of the case against Buck Weaver. The count ended 0 strikes – 4 balls, further proclaiming Buck Weaver’s innocence.

The highlight of the trial for ClearBuck.com fans was Darrow’s final impassioned plea for Weaver’s reinstatement. Mr. Darrow did a “striptease-style” revelation to the audience that exposed (underneath his collared shirt and tie) one of the fluorescent-green ClearBuck.com t-shirts. He urged the audience to visit ClearBuck.com and sign the online petition to reinstate Buck Weaver. ClearBuck.com will have Joel Daly’s stirring performance posted to our website in the media page soon.



The script for the 1992 mock trial, which was the same script used for this year’s retrial, was written by Illinois attorney Louis Hegeman. Set in the year 1922, the script was an offshoot of a presentation Hegeman gave at the 1992 Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) Convention on the case of Joe Jackson. Former Boston Red Sox player Ted Williams underwrote the production.

Unfortunately, there was no jury vote in the 2003 retrial. The audience retired to Petterino’s restaurant after the trial and discussed their beliefs on the case within their own circles. Mr. Hegeman left early and it appears his interest in the subject matter has waned. Attempts to interview him about his involvement in this project have been unsuccessful.

**1991 petition submitted on behalf of Buck Weaver**

In addition to the trial in 1992, the Chicago American Lincoln Inn of Court filed a petition on behalf of Buck Weaver in October 1991 that “respectfully request[ed]” a hearing of the Commissioner of Major League Baseball. The petition seeks to “amend the appellation ‘Eight Men Out’ to ‘Seven Men Out’.”

The Lincoln Inn tenders this document in the belief that restoring a man’s name and reputation, even if [he is] deceased, is a significant and worthy act, consistent with the high standards and integrity of our National Game, and of no less import than [adjusting batting or pitching records for accuracy].

Attached to the petition were a number of key exhibits: two pages of Joe Jackson in the Grand Jury seat, the charges, the Jury Instructions, several pages of handwritten notes from Buck’s lawyer Thomas Nash, an explanation, for the players, of the indictment, a copy of the 1921 jury’s verdict finding Buck not guilty and signed by all twelve jurors, and two handwritten pages authored by Buck Weaver and addressed to Commissioner Fisk, asking for reinstatement. It was 1953, and Buck was near the end. (Frick also refused to listen to others pleading Buck’s case such as Hugo Friend, the judge in the 1921 trial.)

It is a well-crafted document and a nice summary that might have swayed a different Commissioner to allow a real hearing. As posted elsewhere in this newsletter, Commissioner Bud Selig has stated a thorough review of the 1919 World Series is in progress. ClearBuck.com is confident that this will open a crack for Major League Baseball to host a real hearing to address the evidence concerning Buck Weaver and Joe Jackson.

The Wall Street Journal, on January 17, 1992, reported on Louis Hegeman’s petition to MLB: “Amnesty for Black Sox Third Baseman?” You can find this article posted in the news page of ClearBuck.com. The WSJ reported that Major League Baseball has responded negatively to Hegeman’s plea.

Stephen Greenberg, deputy commissioner, in a letter dated December 12, 1991:

He and Fay Vincent “believe that matters such as this are best left to historical analysis and debate and that no present-day hearing could recreate past events in sufficient depth and detail to permit the overturning of past decisions.”

To which Louis Hegeman replied:

“Nonsense.”

After all, did Mr. Vincent not just erase the asterisk beside Maris’ 61, overturning the ruling of F\*rd Fr\*ck?

### **Get Your Neon Green Today!**

Just a reminder that the neon green ClearBuck.com t-shirts are now for sale on our website. Click on this [link](#) to be directed to our company store or visit [www.clearbuck.com](http://www.clearbuck.com) today. Looking for a great holiday gift? Stuff a stocking or wrap it up for that special Chicago White Sox fan in your life. \* Orders made by December 23<sup>rd</sup> guarantee Christmas delivery.

*\*Additional charges may apply for rush order*

### **Winter Meetings**

The ClearBuck.com campaign is heading to the baseball winter meetings in New Orleans this weekend. Ambassadors will promote the campaign through general grassroots awareness efforts, media and merchandise. Special Christmas ‘sox’ings will be handed out and filled with items like Clearbuck.com memo pads, Christmas postcards addressed to Commissioner Selig, stickers, pens and candy. Look for us at the [Hilton Riverside](#) if you’re in the New Orleans area from December 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> and help us promote our campaign.



Dear Commissioner Selig,

As a supporter of the ClearBuck.com campaign, I feel George 'Buck' Weaver was unjustly banned from baseball. Though Buck passed away in 1956, he continues to serve a life sentence.

This season offers a perfect opportunity to teach the spirit of joy and giving. I hope you will consider the meaning of the holidays and reinstate Buck Weaver to the ranks of Major League Baseball.

Sincerely,

Allan H. (Bud) Selig  
Commissioner of Baseball  
777 E. Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53202



## An Interview with Irving Stein

ClearBuck.com owes a great debt of gratitude to Irving Stein and his book The Ginger Kid: The Buck Weaver Story (Brown and Benchmark 1992). I first read this book in 1994 and have since reread it four times. It has sat on my coffee table and Irv's picture has stared at me for nearly a decade. I now feel that I know him personally, particularly due to our common love for the Buck Weaver story.

On November 8, 2003 ClearBuck.com was able to interview Irving Stein at his home in Skokie, Illinois and talk with him about his interest in Buck Weaver.



Irv and his wife Lois were very gracious. Their home reminds me of my own home; decorations and memorabilia adorn the walls throughout his house illustrating his love for the Chicago White Sox.

Ironically, Irv was a 9-year-old Cubs fan that was disappointed by "The Called Shot" in the 1932 World Series when the Yankees swept the Cubs in four games. The young Irv Stein quickly switched his allegiance to the cross-town rivals, the Chicago White Sox, who were stuck in the middle of a four-decade-long slump following the dismantling of the famed 1919 squad.

Irving served in WWII as a writer for the 57<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group of the 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force in Italy and Corsica. Shortly after the war ended, he graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in journalism in 1948. He went on to earn a master's degree at DePaul University in 1953. Irv taught history and journalism at Taft High School in Chicago for 27 years and retired in 1985, freeing up enough time to allow him to work on his book.

His interest in Buck Weaver peaked when he reread Eight Men Out in the mid 70's. This fueled his ambition to highlight an underdog and bring the story of Buck Weaver to print. Irv traveled to Stowe, Pennsylvania and began to interview people connected to Weaver's birthplace and his baseball beginnings.

In 1983 Irv met Buck's niece Bette Scanlon, former reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times. Bette (who died in 2001) was Patricia Anderson's sister. After their own father died, Buck took the two young girls into his home in 1931 and became their surrogate father. Bette's help with the book is illustrated through various photographs she donated of Buck Weaver and his days in baseball.

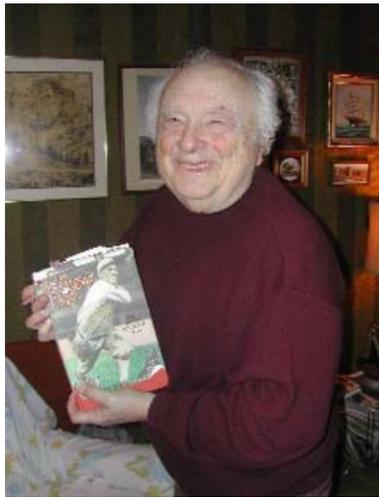
"Every time I would mention Buck's name to niece Bette she would cry," revealed Irv.

My own experiences with Patricia Anderson mirror the experience Irv had with her sister Bette Scanlon. During the launch of the ClearBuck.com campaign, Patricia endured numerous media interviews and countless moments of overwhelming emotion.

The manuscript took 13 years to complete. In 1985 Irv wrote baseball historian Harold Seymour asking for advice on how to find a publisher. He caught a break

when the widow of Harold Seymour finally responded in 1990 with a tip that Brown and Benchmark wanted more baseball-oriented books to publish.

His incessant persistence persuaded Jack Brickhouse to write a forward to the book, appropriate because Jack's autobiography Thanks for Listening devotes a couple of pages to Buck Weaver. These pages include information about Jack's interview with Buck in August 1947 on WGN-AM and his desire to help clear Buck Weaver's name.



At age 68 and after 25 rejection slips, The Ginger Kid was finally published and aggressively marketed around Chicago. Only one printing of the book was made with about 6000 copies printed. Irv owns the rights and hopes to put out a second printing in the future.

In 1988 he heard that Eight Men Out was going to be made into a movie and that a relatively unknown Evanston actor name John Cusak was starring as Buck Weaver. Irv called the Cusak's and invited the young actor to his home to help prepare for the role. Cusak wanted to take Irv's unpublished manuscript home to help prepare for his role but Stein would not part with his only copy. So Cusak stayed longer at the Stein's to review the manuscript.

Ironically, Irv could have beat Eliot Asinof and interviewed Buck Weaver in 1953 when he was doing his master's thesis at DePaul University. He seriously considered doing a scholarly look at the Black Sox scandal, which would have been interesting considering Irv's credentials as a lifelong White Sox fan and knowledge of the story of the Black Sox.

Irv is still optimistic about Weaver's reinstatement. In 1992 Irv was quoted as saying, "if Rose is granted reinstatement, Weaver has a better case." It's going to take a man with greater courage than we have now [Fay Vincent] to rescind the past. He wrote Bud Selig who responded saying the issue of Joe Jackson had to be decided first before MLB could turn its attention to Buck Weaver.

Irv is encouraged by the launch of the ClearBuck.com campaign. Look for Irv and Lois at the ClearBuck.com booth at SoxFest on January 30, 2004.

### **Visit Us @ SoxFest 2004!**

The ClearBuck.com campaign will have a booth at this year's SoxFest. Visit with Dr. Fletcher, founder of ClearBuck.com, Patricia Anderson, niece of Buck Weaver, Irv Stein, author of The Ginger Kid and his wife Lois and fellow ClearBuck.com supporters. Sign the petition, purchase t-shirts and browse through an incredible collection of Black Sox memorabilia.

The following information was taken directly from the Chicago White Sox Community Programs website.

#### **January 30 - February 1**

#### **SoxFest 2004 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago**

Kick off the 2004 White Sox Baseball season at SoxFest -- the team's annual fan festival -- taking place January 30 through February 1 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Join new White Sox manager **Ozzie Guillen**, along with current players, including **Joe Crede, Jon Garland, Willie Harris, Esteban Loaiza, Miguel Olivo** and **Aaron Rowand**.

SoxFest features autograph sessions with current White Sox players and stars of the past, as well as White Sox Training Academy clinics, Q-and-A seminars, memorabilia exhibits and more!

Book one- or two-night hotel accommodations at special White Sox discounted rates and receive free tickets to SoxFest! Stay one night for only \$137 or enjoy a two-night stay for just \$236. Make your reservation today by calling the Hyatt Regency Chicago at 312-565-0769.

Daily and weekend passes for SoxFest are on sale now! Click [here](#), visit any Chicagoland Ticketmaster outlet including Coconuts and Carson Pirie Scott locations

or call 866-SOX-GAME.

## **How Can I Help?**

There are a number of ways you can help the ClearBuck.com campaign. If you haven't already done so, visit our website to sign the online petition or forward the link to everyone in your address book. Other ways you can help:

1. [Download the petition](#) available on our website and take it to:
  - a. Local legislators
  - b. Schools
  - c. Community groups
  - d. Special events taking place in your area

Please return all signed petitions to:

Amber Buchanan  
Serafin & Associates, Inc.  
409 W. Huron St., Ste. 600  
Chicago, IL 60610  
(312) 943-1955

2. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper.
3. Download the [media fact sheet](#) from our website and email it or take it to your local television or radio station.
4. Write a letter to Commissioner Allan H. 'Bud' Selig letting him know your thoughts about Major League Baseball's injustice to Buck Weaver. Send your letters to:

The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball  
Allan H. (Bud) Selig, Commissioner  
245 Park Avenue, 31st Floor  
New York, NY 10167  
Phone: (212) 931-7800

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