

## Integrity in Leadership: George “Bucky” Weaver

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While contemplating the qualities that make a great leader and specific leaders in general, several people began to come to mind. Many of the great leaders of all time were not necessarily “positive leaders.” Some were famous; others were infamous. Leaders come in all shapes in sizes: Some are loud and aggressive; others say very little and let their actions be their example. Although level of fame does not necessarily dictate the effectiveness of a leader, it does help in making them more universal—thus having the greatest impact on the masses. The lesser known leaders have to make their impact on a much smaller, but no less important scale. Some leaders we know through history’s recollections; others we may have known personally. George “Buck” Weaver is not a household word and may never get the credit he truly deserves, yet nonetheless exhibited some of the most important qualities of leadership.

Now unless you are an avid baseball fan, with an appreciation for the history of the game, you may not know who Buck Weaver is. And if you do know who he is, you might be wondering why on earth someone would be writing about the qualities of leadership about this particular person—especially in regard to how he is remembered in history. Buck Weaver played third base for the Chicago White Sox. That fact alone does not mean much too many people since there have been countless numbers of White Sox third basemen over the years. But the fact that Buck Weaver was the third basemen for the 1919 White Sox (or Black Sox as they were called) might ring a bell.

Eight players from the 1919 White Sox were banned for life from baseball for throwing the 1919 World Series. The starting third baseman for the Chicago White Sox,

George Weaver, was one of eight players accused of this crime. As rumors of the scandal had been going on during and months after the series ended, on September 27, 1920 the 1919 World Series scandal was fully exposed. The following day, White Sox pitcher Eddie Cicotte admitted his involvement to attorneys representing the White Sox owner, Charles Comiskey. One hour later, “Shoeless” Joe Jackson stepped forward, followed by Lefty Williams. At the end of the day on September 28, 1920, these three along with Arnold “Chick” Gandil, Charles “Swede” Risberg, Fred McMullin, Oscar “Hap” Felsch, and George “Buck” Weaver were notified of their suspension from owner Charles Comiskey.

The eight men were tried before a jury of their peers in a criminal court and were acquitted of all charges in the 1921 Cook County “Black Sox” trial. Although acquitted by a jury, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, baseball’s first commissioner, ignored the court’s ruling and banned all eight players from baseball for life. This ironical twist could be compared to the modern day OJ Simpson trial: Simpson was found not guilty in a criminal court but found guilty for the same accused crime in a civil court (and the court of public opinion).

Immediately following the 1919 Black Sox Scandal the owners decided to appoint a commission made up entirely of non-baseball men to restore public faith in the sport. The owners selected Landis as their commissioner to help “clean up” baseball after the Black Sox scandal. But Landis threw the owners a curve ball when he said that he did not want to serve as chair but rather as the sole commissioner with absolute power. He felt that the commissioner needed unlimited authority (some would say dictatorial) to bring back the public trust in baseball. Landis would serve as an “arbitrator” and his decisions

would be final and could be appealed only to Landis himself. The owners, who were afraid their business would take a hit at the ticket booth ultimately agreed. To say that Landis was an objective bystander in the case would be grossly inaccurate. He was a federal judge and a baseball fan but usually fell on the side of the owners rather than the players.

After the scandal came to light and the players were banned from baseball, all eight players were looked upon by the baseball-loving public as traitors or criminals. This general view remained until around 1963 when Eliot Asinof wrote a book, *Eight Men Out*. In his book, Asinof researched all the events leading up to the scandal and the games themselves and presented the situation in a more realistic/understandable light. Asinof basically described each of the eight players' individual roles in the scandal and explained the specific level of involvement of each of the eight players in specific detail. Decades after the scandal, the public perception was that all of the men had an equal part of the same conspiracy—probably due to the Landis ruling. As the facts of the scandal were revealed, it became readily apparent through Asinof's research that “equity of involvement among the accused” was definitely not the case.

Professional baseball in 1919 was nothing close to the modern era in regard to salary and benefits. Players made very little money playing the game and had no insurance or compensation in case of injury. In some cases, if a player received a career-ending injury on an away game, the owner may not even pay for the train ticket for the player to return home (*Eight Men Out*). Players also had to take a second or third job outside of baseball just to make ends meet. Buck Weaver also worked as a mechanic in the Fairbanks-Morse manufacturing plant and made more money as a mechanic than he

did as a ballplayer. When he requested a raise from the Chicago White Sox, he was denied.

Regardless of how unfairly the players may have been treated, there is still no excuse for them to conspire to throw the World Series simply because they felt “mistreated.” But to see some of the details that Asinof discovered in his research helps to better understand (not excuse) why they did what they did. For example, if a person is caught stealing food, he is charged with the crime of stealing. But if we look at the man’s situation as a whole and find out he cannot find work and has children at home and the food is for his starving children, we understand and sympathize at least why he did it.

The White Sox were actually called the “Black Sox” long before the World Series scandal. Charles Comiskey actually started charging the players to wash their team uniforms. When the players rebelled and refused to pay to have their soiled uniforms washed, fans and sportswriters started referring to them as the “Black Sox,” because of the stains and dirt (*Baseball*). By the time the 1919 season rolled around, many of the players had had enough of this treatment. Make no mistake, it was not just the White Sox who had a “cheap” owner; most all of the teams were in the same situation. The problem was that the owners were making money hand over fist and not giving a fair share to the guys with the talent who the fans were paying to see.

John Sayles’s movie *Eight Men Out* illustrates some of the things wrong with the relationship between the greedy owners and the exploited players. One example is when Sox pitcher Eddie Cicotte had a clause in his contract that if he won 30 games during the season he would receive a substantial monetary bonus. After Cicotte won his 29th game, Comiskey had the coach (Kid Gleason) bench Cicotte for two weeks at the end of the

season so he would not receive his bonus. Another source of hard feelings on the part of the players was that Comiskey promised them a bonus at the end of the season if they won the pennant. All of the players were expecting a monetary bonus of some kind only to find out that after they won the flag, Comiskey “treated” the team to flat champagne. When they questioned their bonus, they were told that the flat champagne was their “bonus.” These examples along with many others planted the seeds of discontent with the players and the gamblers saw that the time was right for approaching a few of the disgruntled players.

Although the origin of who actually approached whom is debatable, most agree that the idea of throwing the 1919 World Series for monetary purposes started with some gamblers and Sox first baseman, Arnold “Chick” Gandil along with short stop, Charles “Swede” Risberg. Joseph “Sport” Sullivan was a friend of Gandil’s and professional gambler. He used New York gangster Arnold Rothstein to supply the money for the players through one of his employees, Abe Attell. Sleepy Bill Burns and Billy Maharg were also involved in the scandal and acted as go betweens from the players to the “money men.” While the Gandil and Risberg contemplated their next move in the equation, utility player/bench warmer, Fred McMullin, overheard their conversation and demanded to be “let in.” Fearing that McMullin would “spill the beans” if he were not allowed in, they reluctantly agreed.

Gandil knew that in order to secure the fix, they would need some of the White Sox best pitching so he approached starting pitcher Eddie Cicotte about getting in on the plan; Cicotte ultimately agreed to participate. Now that Gandil and Risberg had a starting pitcher, they used this as leverage to recruit more players to insure their monetary

success. Gandil and Risberg informed Lefty Williams about their plans. Initially Williams refused to be a part of it but after finding out that Cicotte was in, he reluctantly agreed.

Now there were five men involved: two of them were starting pitchers and pitching is very important in determining the outcome of a game. With two of the best pitchers in on the fix, it would be virtually impossible for the Sox to take the series. During a few meetings before the series, Gandil and Risberg approached some of the other players about getting in on the fix. They probably used the fact of having the pitchers in it to influence centerfielder, Oscar "Hap" Felsch and left fielder, "Shoeless" Joe Jackson in joining the cause. More than likely Felsch and Jackson went along because they figured without two of their best pitchers, the Sox would lose anyway and if they were going to lose anyway, why should they not see some of the money? Their rationale probably was, "We could either lose the series and make no money, or lose the series and make some money. Either way we are going to lose the series; so why not at least get the money?" Most believe that Jackson and Felsch only agreed to be involved with the fix for this reason. They felt their team would lose either way and they thought it would make little sense to not at least get paid for their losses.

"Shoeless" Joe Jackson is considered to be one of the greatest players of all time. He is the only rookie to have batted over .400; he hit .408 for Cleveland in 1911. His .356 career batting average is the third highest in history, after Ty Cobb and Rogers Hornsby respectively. Jackson's statistics in the 1919 World Series reveal nothing that would warrant suspicion of throwing a game. During the series, Jackson had 12 hits and batted .375, and had the only homerun in the series. Jackson committed no errors and

actually threw out a runner at the plate from left field. Both Jackson's accomplishments (12 hits and .375 batting average) were the highest of any player in the series for both the White Sox and the Cincinnati Reds. At the time, Jackson's 12 hits were a World Series record.

Gandil and the gamblers now had seven players who had agreed to participate; the eighth member associated with this notorious crew was third basemen Buck Weaver. George Daniel "Buck" Weaver was born August 18, 1890 in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, and began his major league career on April 11, 1912 as a shortstop for the White Sox. Weaver switched to third base in 1917 after Swede Risberg joined the team. Weaver was considered to be an excellent fielder, and was known as the only third baseman in the league that Ty Cobb would not bunt against. Although Weaver was close friends with his teammates, when he was approached by them to participate, he turned them down. Weaver was known for his honesty and integrity, but was also very competitive. He hated that his teammates and friends made this decision, but also had enough loyalty to not report them to the owner.

In 1919 the World Series was the best of nine games. The series was determined in eight games. Cincinnati won games 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8; the Sox won games 3, 6, and 7. Aside from a few suspicious errors and subpar pitching by Williams and Cicotte, the win loss ratio was pretty even: five games to three. Even Cicotte won one of the three games he pitched. It was only after the series that some of the rumors of the fix that had been circulating during the series made their way to the newspapers.

Well-known kingpin of organized crime Arnold Rothstein was allegedly responsible for bankrolling the series. By most accounts the players were promised

80,000 to 100,000 dollars (divided among them) to throw the series. However, none of the players were compensated in accordance with the initial agreement. The debate still exists on exactly how much money each ended up with, but for the most part, Gandil, Risberg, and Cicotte probably received more than the others. On most accounts, the gamblers double-crossed the players, but the debate still exists on how much the gamblers stiffed the players versus how much Gandil kept for himself and just told the other players that the gamblers double crossed them. Most of the other players only received around 5,000 dollars each—which ironically was about the amount they would have received as their bonus had they won the series anyway. Buck Weaver was the only one of the eight, who refused any money and did not agree to participate in any way (*Eight Men Out*).

Shoeless Joe Jackson, who had agreed to go along with the fix, and who was paid 5,000 dollars to participate, seemed to have a change of heart when it came time to “not” perform. Most feel that Jackson took the money but continued to play baseball to the best of his abilities. Jackson’s statistics were remarkable. The only way he was implicated with the other players was through their testimonies and his own admission through a signed confession. Weaver also had an incredible series. He batted .324 with 11 hits and also played errorless ball in the World Series (*Baseball Almanac*).

About a year after the series, the word got out and all eight men were charged with conspiracy and sent to trial for their actions. Buck requested a separate trial from the other seven players, but was denied. He was forced to sit with his Black Sox teammates in the conspiracy trial—even though he had nothing to do with the fix. The judge of the trial, Hugo Friend, all but declared Buck innocent by saying he “wouldn’t

allow a conviction to stand against Buck Weaver even if the jury ruled that way” (Fletcher).

On August 21, 1921, the jury returned after only about three hours of deliberation to return a verdict of not guilty for all players accused. The excitement was short-lived however because the following day, the newly sworn in baseball commissioner, Kenesaw Mountain Landis, released the following statement: “Regardless of the verdicts of juries, no player who entertains proposals or promises to throw a game, no player who sits in conference with a bunch of crooked players and gamblers where the ways and means of throwing games are discussed and does not promptly tell the club about it will ever play professional baseball” (Burns 144). The last sentence of the Landis’s ruling (“...no player who sits in conference with a bunch of crooked players and gamblers where the ways and means of throwing games are discussed and does not promptly tell the club about it will ever play professional baseball.”) seemed to be specifically aimed at Weaver, but somehow did not apply the other members of the Sox (not included in the original indictment) who were aware of the fix. Both second baseman Eddie Collins and catcher Ray Schalk knew about or strongly suspected the fix and did not participate, yet were not banned from the game.

Weaver himself stated to Judge Landis that he did not know exactly who was in on it and who received money. He wasn’t even sure if the guys had officially decided to go along with it. After he refused to participate, he was officially out of the loop. Weaver stated that nobody talked about it. And nobody wanted to talk about it so in this regard Weaver was no different than any of the other people associated with the Sox (Asinof 279-280).

For example, Coach Kid Gleason strongly suspected the fix, yet was not banned. Untold amounts of other teammates, coaches, and personnel (not to mention the owner himself) knew or suspected the fix but did not suffer the same fate as Weaver. Regardless of this glaring oversight, Buck Weaver would never play professional baseball again; not to mention his reputation, honesty, and integrity was always in question by the general public for the rest of his life.

Essentially Weaver was guilty by association. He received the same punishment as those who actively took part and were paid. Although his integrity and honesty kept him from participating and getting money, it did not help him from getting banned from the game he so loved. Since Weaver did not immediately and directly report the conspiracy to team officials, Commissioner Landis also banned him for life from Major League Baseball stating, “Men associating with gamblers and crooks could expect no leniency” (Asinof 280).

Landis lumping all of the players together equally (while completely disregarding of the level of participation or involvement of each player) with a terminal punishment that went against the court ruling is one of the grossest miscarriages of justice ever perpetuated in professional sports. Moving this situation from sports into a different setting such as a bank robbery (and murder case resulting from a bank robbery attempt), the following scenario could better illustrate just exactly how Landis would have mishandled the situation had he been the judge of the case in a criminal court instead of the baseball commissioner.

Instead of throwing the series, let's say that Gandil and Risburg were thinking about planning a bank robbery with other criminals. They decided to invite several of

their Sox teammates to participate. McMullin was not invited but heard about it and threatened to report them to the cops if he were not included; so they let him participate. Weaver refused the offer thus ending his knowledge of any specific details of the plan—or even if they had officially decided to follow through with it. The rest agreed to go along with it although some participated more than others. Joe Jackson participated the least of the men involved. Although he did not want to go along with it, peer pressure got the better of him—since the guys told him they were going to do it with or without him and he would be a fool to not take a cut of the money. Jackson and McMullin served as “lookouts” outside the bank and were given a share of the money even though they did not actively participate in the robbing of the bank. Williams and Cicotti helped carry the money out of the bank and though they had guns on them, they did not use them and did not even brandish them, so the pedestrians could see they had them. Hap Felsch drove the getaway car. Gandil and Risburg were the ones who charged in the bank with guns drawn, demanding money. Unfortunately during the robbery, a security guard pulled his gun forcing Gandil and Risburg to open fire on him, thus killing the guard. They got the money and fled from the bank.

When the police finally caught up with the robbers and the investigation began to reveal what happened, all eight men were arrested and brought to trial (including Weaver, who turned down the proposition). After the prosecuting attorney presented all of the evidence previously mentioned, Judge Landis sentenced all eight men to the electric chair for the murder of the security guard, even though only Gandil and Risburg did the shooting.

If this had happened in real life, all the players would have immediately appealed the decision and most would have won their appeals thus receiving an appropriate sentence for their part in the robbery. Perhaps then only Gandil and Risburg would receive the electric chair since they were in fact the ones who did the shooting. Felsch, Williams, and Cicotti might have received 20 years each for their roles, Jackson and McMullin could have received five years each as minor accomplices and Buck Weaver probably would have received probation (or even complete exoneration) for not turning in his friends. Probation is an infinitely lighter sentence than death by electricity. But because Landis as commissioner had absolute power and no appeal process could exist as per Landis's own request, the "death" sentence would be carried out along with a grave miscarriage of justice.

This aforementioned allegory brings to light how Landis's ruling was not only unfair by lumping all of the players together (and not researching the involvement of each) it was inaccurate by most accounts in that the punishment did not universally fit the crime. Banning all of the players from baseball for life was the equivalent of the electric chair sentence for all in the bank robbery allegory. They did not all participate at the same level therefore they should not have been sentenced at the same level.

Why did Landis not take the time to review the evidence and testimonies of each player? Why weren't some banned for less time than "life"? Even if Landis wanted to make an example of them, he could have at least banned some of those less involved for 10 years. This may have eliminated them from playing the game due to their age when the punishment expired, but it would have allowed them to manage later on or be eligible for induction in the Hall of Fame (as in Jackson's case since he still has the third highest

lifetime batting average of all time). At the very least it would have possibly cleared their names in eyes of public opinion.

Landis's record reveals that he was not always for "doing the right thing." He maintained until his death that black players did not belong in the major league. When he was a judge, before he became commissioner, he had a reputation as a grandstanding judge, making rulings that would grab a newspaper headline, but then would be overturned in an appeals court (*Baseball*). Unfortunately, his ruling on the eight players did not fall under the checks and balance court system, nor did it fall under any kind of due process requirement. In fact his stern and abrupt banishment of all eight came only one day after the courts ruled in favor of the eight ball players. Landis exercised absolute no due process in his decision.

Landis was consistently inconsistent with his rulings both as a judge and a commissioner. For examples a few years after the Black Sox ruling, Ban Johnson criticized Landis's decision to give Ty Cobb and Tris Speaker a second chance after it surfaced they had bet on a fixed game in 1919, yet did not give Weaver a second chance. Landis's argument to Weaver was always that he [Weaver] should have reported the information to the league. Why then were others who knew or strongly suspected a fix not banned when they did not report the information either before or during the series? Some came forward afterward but that was only to claim the reward money Comiskey was offering. Most feel that numerous players on the Sox besides the eight condemned players knew about it including Ray Schalk and Eddie Collins, not to mention coach Kid Gleason, but they were never punished. Weaver at the very least should fall into their classification. Weaver himself admitted that after he turned down the offer, he did not

know for sure if they decided to go forward with the plan or not. “Nobody ever talked about it,” he maintained to Landis in one of his meetings with the commissioner. If someone were investigating the players based on their play in the World Series, Eddie Collins would definitely be a suspect. Collins only batted .226 while Gandil, the ring leader in the conspiracy batted .233. Even benchwarmer Fred McMullin who only batted twice in the series went one for two (*Baseball Almanac*).

Asinof noted the difficulty to get any of the players to talk about the series during research for his book. Obviously it was something of a great embarrassment for both the guilty and the innocent players. Shortly after the series, Hugh Fullerton wrote an article in the *Chicago Herald and Examiner* on October 10th that predicted seven players would not return to the White Sox in 1920. Although he did not list names, another publication, *Collyer's Eye*, included suspected names but Weaver's name was not mentioned. In White Sox catcher Ray Schalk's interview with *Collyer's Eye* on December 12, 1919 he named seven players involved in the fix, not eight leaving Buck Weaver out (qtd. in Fletcher).

After the Landis decision, most of the other players continued to play semipro baseball, some under assumed names, but not Weaver. He said that he would abide by the commissioner's decision until he was officially and legally reinstated (Asinof 282). Weaver knew he did nothing wrong and fully expected to be reinstated at some point. His honesty and integrity prevented him from going against the commissioner's ruling like some of his Sox teammates did. Weaver hoped that truth would eventually win out. He formerly applied for reinstatement in writing to the commissioner's office numerous

times until his death from a heart attack on January 31, 1956. All of his appeals were denied (*Eight Men Out*).

In the 1980's a new generation was exposed to the Black Sox scandal with movies such as *The Natural*, *Field of Dreams*, and *Eight Men Out* (the movie based on Asinof's book). *The Natural* (book and later movie) was loosely based on Shoeless Joe Jackson although the book and movie differed in their respective endings. The book ends with the main character Roy Hobbs (partially based on Jackson), one of the great players of all time, taking money to throw a game and getting caught—like the way it happened to Jackson. The book even alluded to the alleged comments a young fan made to Jackson at during the trial: “Say it ain't so Joe...” except in *The Natural*, the youngster said, “Say it true Roy” (Malamud 185). Apparently the movie version did not want to stick with the sad but true ending, so the filmmakers had Hobbs return the money and refuse the bribe—and later hit a majestic light-crashing, game-winning homerun. I guess we want our heroes always to do the right thing and not be tainted.

*The Natural* is not the only movie that glorified the great Shoeless Joe Jackson. In 1982 W.P. Kinsella, wrote a fictional novel called *Shoeless Joe* based on Jackson. In 1988, the novel was made into a movie entitled, *Field of Dreams*, starring Kevin Costner. The movie went to great lengths to clear Jackson's name and to show him as a good guy, but sadly, Buck Weaver is hardly mentioned in *Field of Dreams* and once again he is lumped in with all of the “crooked players” including Jackson—who admittedly took the money from the gamblers but continued to play well. This bit of “questionable integrity” of Jackson also could be suspect. Jackson openly agreed to go along with the fix (as stated in his written confession), took the money but did not adjust his play. In essence

Jackson's integrity, even about something dishonest, was not consistent. At least the other six players, who took money to not play well, followed through on their promise (except for McMullin who played very little). Some could argue that Jackson was even more unethical and had the least integrity of all eight players indicted simply because he took money to throw the series yet did not live up to his promise, but benefitted from the money paid to him. Weaver declined the money (knowing they would probably lose anyway without the pitchers and other players in on the fix) and continued to play well regardless of the outcome. Also Bucky did not turn in his friends for the reward money—which would have given both the money and more than likely allowed him continue to play baseball.

Finally in 1988 the movie *Eight Men Out* was released and helped bring to light the subtle details of the scandal. The movie reveals the players being mistreated by the owner and misunderstood by the general public, thus inadvertently becoming martyrs after their exile—consequently acting as the catalyst for reform toward better treatment and pay scale for professional athletes. The owners ultimately realized players must receive more shares of the profits so that they would not be tempted to throw games for money. For example, look at Babe Ruth's salary a few years later after the scandal. The movie also shows Weaver's connection to the community especially the children who looked up to the players. When a couple of kids questioned the scandal Weaver replied, "Try to not be so hard on the guys [referring to the other players]. Things get complicated sometimes when you grow up."

One kid asked, "You didn't do anything wrong did you Buck?"

Weaver replied, "I guess I never grew up."

The movie also shows the conflict in Weaver's decision to not turn his friends over to the authorities. Weaver says, "A guy's got to stick up for his friends."

A youngster argues, "Even when they play like a bunch of stiffs?"

Weaver replies, "Especially then! If a guy doesn't stick up for his friends well then there's not much you can say for him."

It has been over 90 years since Buck Weaver was banned from baseball, but there is a movement to get him reinstated and have his name cleared. Dr. David Fletcher started the "Clear Buck" campaign a few years ago with the help of Weaver's niece and surrogate daughter, Patricia Anderson, who was raised by her uncle for 16 years. Anderson said that "Weaver was an inspiration to everyone around him—family, friends, teammates and fans. Because regardless of the frustration and sadness that enveloped Weaver over his banishment, he remained optimistic and dedicated to restoring his name." Right now there are over 12,000 signatures on the petition to have the current baseball commissioner, Bud Selig, reinstate Buck Weaver.

I was able to speak (through email and by phone) to some of the main organizers in the "Clear Buck" campaign, Dr. David Fletcher and Amber Buchanan. Buchanan said, "Are we expecting it [reinstatement]? Probably not, though we don't like to admit it. Commissioner Selig rules over MLB like an ostrich with its head in the sand. He refuses to take any decisive action for fear of hurting the owners, similar to the practices in the early 1900's."

Most people understand why Landis had to come down so hard on the players involved in the scandal. If had been lenient then baseball could have become like professional wrestling—with the outcome decided before the match. Landis did what he

thought was best for baseball at the time, but was it fair to all parties? Did he take the time to assign different levels of punishment so that the punishment fit the crime for each involved? Was it consistent with his ruling with others such as Cobb and Speaker who allegedly profited from it? Was it consistent with his racist views toward black players—a decision that was reversed immediately after his death?

Commissioner Selig has the power to put right a wrong initiated 90 years ago. Convicted prisoners are set free from prison almost every day when irrefutable evidence such as DNA is presented on their behalf. Courts, juries, and judges make mistakes and rulings are overturned when necessary. Of all of the players, Bucky Weaver's lifetime suspension from baseball should be overturned; he should have never even received it. Weaver refused to go along with the others; he took no money and played to the best of his ability. Whatever he did wrong for his role in not reporting the possibility of a fix, his name, reputation, and family have paid for 100 times over. If Landis wanted to be firm, fair, and consistent with his decision of banishment for life for all involved directly or indirectly, then he should have banned EVERYONE who knew or suspected a fix for life along with Weaver. No doubt, Landis was firm, but he was seldom fair and consistent. As in the bank robbery allegory I presented earlier, Weaver was sentenced to the electric chair along with the others for doing nothing more than not going to the police about the possibility of a potential bank robbery that he wasn't quite sure his teammates would follow through with anyway. Commissioner Selig needs do the right things and set the official record straight once and for all. Look at the facts and reverse Landis's decision in regard to Buck Weaver. Selig owes it to Weaver and his family, and he owes it to

baseball. He does not even have to admit Landis did anything wrong; he can just focus on for Weaver's extremely limited role in the scandal, a 90-year punishment is sufficient.

As far as a leader, Weaver exhibited three of the most important qualities: honesty integrity, and loyalty. Although these things also got him kicked out baseball, he stood true to what believed. He was not afraid to go against the crowd (his friends/peers) to do what was right, even though it cost him both money, winning the series, and ultimately lifetime banishment from baseball. The only thing he was guilty of is not turning in his friends, or perhaps being too loyal, which is still a great quality to have as a leader—a person who is committed to doing the right thing to preserve loyalty, honest, and integrity--regardless of the consequences.

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