

# Crisis: 1919 Black Sox Scandal



## JACKRABBIT MUN VI

L.B. POLY - MAY 25th, 2024

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# CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

Dear Delegates,

I am Max Beranek, and I am ecstatic to be your co-chair for the Jackrabbit MUN VI Black Sox committee. I am a Junior at Long Beach Poly High School, and this is my third year taking part in Model UN. During all my time in MUN, my speaking, research, and writing skills have improved exponentially, and it has been an absolute blast. Outside of MUN, I play tennis, violin, and am also an avid sports fan (Go 49ers!). I am also part of the Speech and Debate and Creative Writing Clubs at Poly, and I volunteer at the Long Beach Historical Society.

I am very excited to assist you in your debate in this Black Sox room. This truly is a turning point for the world of baseball and I can't wait to hear your solutions! I'm sure this committee will be thoughtful, wacky, intense, and everything else that makes a good crisis room, and it's all because of the fantastic delegates that do the debating. I'm so excited to see your arcs play out and how you all can save baseball, good luck and I'll see you all in committee!

Sincerely,

Max Beranek

1919 Black Sox Committee | Co-Head Chair

[m45beranek@gmail.com](mailto:m45beranek@gmail.com)



# CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

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Dear Delegates,

My name is Henry Otey, I am one of your co-chairs for Jackrabbit MUN VI, and I am beyond excited. I am a junior this year at Poly, and this is my second year of MUN. Model UN is an incredibly fun and productive activity, and over the past few years, I have marginally improved my skills in research and communication. Away from MUN, I love to play the French Horn, build tank models, and play video games.

In our room, Black Sox Crisis, I am eager to listen to and facilitate debate, and I am sure your solutions will be both helpful and creative. I am confident that this room will be an emotional roller-coaster, with backstabbing, secret planning, and friendships being created (as every good crisis room has!) I cannot wait to see how this plays out and best of luck delegates!

Sincerely,

Henry Otey

1919 Black Sox Committee | Co-Head Chair

[jhenryotey@gmail.com](mailto:jhenryotey@gmail.com)



# POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

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- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on **Sunday, May 19th**.
- Delegates **must** submit position papers to be eligible for **research AND committee awards**.
- Position Papers can be submitted through the committee email:
  - **BlackSoxCrisis2024@gmail.com**.
- At the top of each paper, include your character/country name, first and last name, school name, and appropriate committee.
  - Eddie Cicotte
  - First Last
  - School Name
  - 1919 Black Sox
- Papers should be emailed as a PDF file
  - Paper content should also be copied and pasted into the body of the email so it can still be graded in the event of any technical difficulties
  - Please name the file and subject line of the email [Committee\_Country]
    - Ex. **BlackSox\_Eddie Cicotte**
- Papers should be 1-2 pages in length with an additional Works Cited page in MLA format
- Papers should be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include no pictures or graphics
- Please include the following sections for each committee topic:
  - Background
  - Position of your Character
  - Possible Solutions

If you have any questions or concerns, please email one of your chairs.



# COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

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The date is September 27, 1920, and an article by James Isaminger in the *Philadelphia North American* has spread around the country and stunned the baseball-loving public. Gambler and former player Billy Mahrag's shocking accusation that the White Sox threw the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds has been published in papers around the country, exposing the alleged fix to the wider public for the first time. Suspicions run rampant as the public hungers for more clarification on the fix, which allegedly extends far beyond the White Sox players, even including whispers of potential connections to the criminal underworld due to the alleged amount of capital involved. This scandal has the potential to completely unravel professional baseball and shatter the public's perception of the game as honest and the greatest representation of American values. The owners' massive investments in clubs



are tied to the game's popularity, and dropping attendance from disillusioned fans would spell disaster for their bottom line. Tensions between owners and players also threaten to boil over, as players continue to feel dissatisfied with their meager compensation and lack of agency compared to their perceived tyrannical owners. This is

baseball's darkest hour, and delegates must find a way to reform its structure, keep its credibility, and bring justice, if necessary, to the true perpetrators if they wish America's pastime not to become a relic of the past.



# TOPIC SYNOPSIS

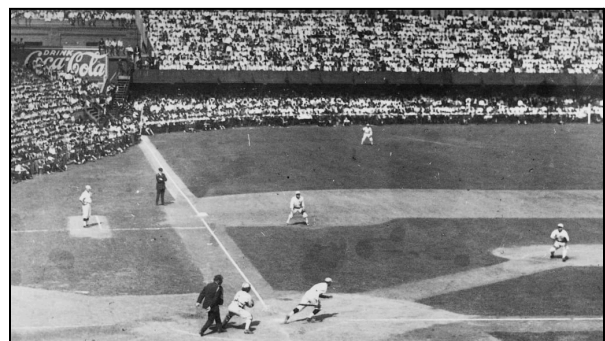
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The 1919 Major League Baseball season was one that started with much hope for the game. Now that peace had fallen upon Europe with American soldiers returning from the Great War, and the worst of the Influenza Pandemic had passed, the game of professional baseball reflected a larger mood of prosperity in the United States.

With the first pitch of opening day on Saturday, April 19, a new season had begun, with the 1918 world champion Boston Red Sox looking to defend their crown, icons of the game such as Ty Cobb and Walter Johnson taking the field to wow great crowd of admirers, and Charles Comiskey's Chicago White Sox looking to bounce back from a disappointing 1918, after winning it all in 1917.

With the highest payroll in the American League, a roster full of stars, and the baseball-obsessed media market of Chicago on their side, the White Sox came back with a vengeance and took back the American League Pennant, edging out the Cleveland Indians by 3.5 games. With so much postwar excitement towards the 1919 World Series between the Chicago White Sox and Cincinnati Reds, the owners decided to hold a 9-game series, as opposed to the traditional 7 games, to draw more ticket sales.

From the first game of the series in Cincinnati, the American public was shocked to see their Reds, heavy underdogs in the series, throttle the uncharacteristically sloppy White Sox on



numerous occasions, taking a 4-1 series lead on October 5th, one game away from the world title. However, the White Sox were not done yet, and rolled back, taking 2 games



in a row to bring the series to 4-3, but it was too little too late, and a blow-up (terrible) start by Lefty Williams doomed the White Sox in Game 8, and the Reds were crowned world champions.

Not even before the confetti was swept away in Cincinnati, some in the industry smelled foul play in the greatest spectacle in American sports. Journalist Hugh Fullerton committed to investigating this series and determining if any integrity was compromised. According to his article in the *New York World*, it was highly possible the World Series was indeed fixed.

However, the suspicions initially gained little traction, and the new baseball season of 1920 began without a hitch, until late September, when rumblings of foul play again began to percolate through the baseball world. A White Sox losing streak early in the season, which played host to the same kind of suspiciously sloppy play of the 1919 World Series, along with a host of game-fixing scandals in the National and Pacific Leagues led some journalists to dig deeper into the rabbit hole of baseball misdeeds. On September 27, 1920, the lid was blown off and the baseball world was sent into shock, when James Isaminger published the testimony of Billy Mahrag, a former player with connections to organized crime, who accused the White Sox of throwing the 1919 World Series.



# BACKGROUND

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## Gambling in Baseball

The year is 1869, and professional baseball teams have just been established. Seen by many adults as a mere “boy’s game,” baseball had little to no relevance in the eyes of the American public. As baseball gradually grew in popularity, so did the attention to the product, notably in the form of box scores. Box scores are tabulated results from sporting events, in this case a baseball game, where various statistics from the game are reported for each player and team. These new scores were perfect for gamblers, who could use them to inform their odds and make bets. In baseball’s infancy, bets were quite simple, often just wagers on the winner and loser of the game. But with detailed statistics being tracked, betting became more complex, with people beginning to bet on specific events like strikeouts or stolen bases. Baseball’s newfound relationship with gambling led to a new, financially invested audience. As a result, the sport grew tremendously, with player wages quintupling in as little as 30 years.

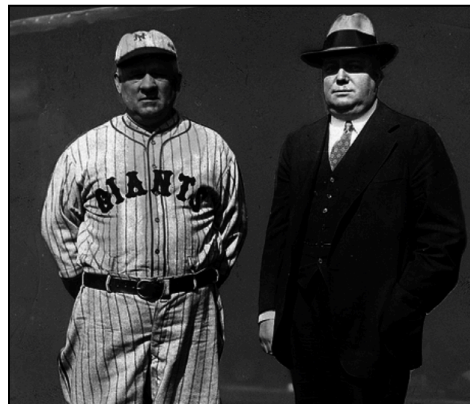


In the first few decades of professional baseball, players often bet money in favor of their team for fans and friends to make a little bit of money on the side, while motivating them to play better. Even large-scale public gambling didn’t impact the major league until around the mid 1880s. One of the first instances of gambling influencing the game was in 1887. In this year, the Louisville Grays were caught throwing regular season games for money. Because of this, some of the first bans were dished out. Four players; Bill Craver, Jim Devlin, George Hall, and Al Nichols were all



permanently banned from baseball. However, not all scandals centered on players. In 1908, umpire Bill Klem was approached by bookies, or people who facilitate gambling at sporting events, who asked him to fix a playoff game through crooked officiating in favor of the New York City Giants. Klem refused the bribes, and after the game, the news became public. No penalties were placed, but it awakened the public to the fact that the only thing keeping the game fair was the integrity of those participating in it. Even the outcomes of some World Series were suspected of foul play due to factors such as player rebellions against an unpopular manager, in the case of the 1914 World Series, or gambling, in the case of the 1917 and 1918 World Series (extremely questionable plays, especially by New York Giants third baseman Heinie Zimmerman, raised suspicions of many fans). Although there was no definitive evidence of game fixing, because of previous scandals like that of the Grays, and the 1908 fixing attempt, the public was acutely aware of the possibility of a manipulated game.

### **Player-Owner Relationships**



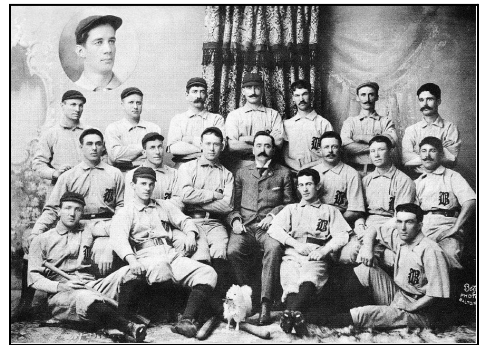
At the dawn of professional baseball in the 1870s the players held large amounts of sway over their wages and where they were willing to play. In fact, the first professional baseball league, the National Association, was player-run with little input from the owners. This era was defined by extreme competition for wages, with players benefiting immensely from this arms race for the best stars. However, in the winter of 1878-1879, the owners met and came to a secret agreement where they all promised to not raid each other's rosters and to keep player



movement to a minimum. In that meeting, the much-hated reserve clause was born. The reserve clause is a system in which a player is bound to a team for the entirety of their career, and all decisions regarding them moving teams are between the owners. Even though the reserve clause was challenged in court by Charles Bennet in 1882 and the court sided with the players, it has been a staple of baseball business for decades.

This policy created a seismic shift in the baseball market in terms of player wages, as the artificial dampening of competition for players made salaries stagnate. Also, players' livelihoods were constantly under threat, as any contract deal lasting more than one year was very uncommon, making any dip in performance a valid reason, in the owners' eyes, to release the player without any financial security. The owners' stranglehold over wages also prevented any form of collective bargaining from truly catching on, and any strike from bringing sweeping change, as few players would risk being blackballed from their primary source of income to advocate for change.

There have been numerous efforts on behalf of the players to obtain greater power in negotiation and their own finances. Many leagues had emerged to challenge the National League in the late 1800s. The Union League and the Players National League were some of the first, the latter coming out of the first great strike of players in 1890, led by player John M. Ward. The first player's union, the Brotherhood of Baseball Players, was also created out of the 1890 strike. All of these efforts, however, folded soon after and no tangible change was achieved. The first breakthrough of collective bargaining truly came with the creation of the baseball Players' Fraternity in 1912. This proper union of baseball players, with organized leadership and a clear idea of their goals, had 17



demands for the baseball owners. Among them were that all players be provided with copies of their contracts and two uniforms maintained by the team, and that players with 10 years of service time be allowed to freely negotiate with any team if their former club does not renew their contract. This union saw some short-lived success, with the “Cincinnati Agreement” granting many of their demands. However, a fatal misstep was taken when the leaders of the fraternity attempted to join the American Federation of Labor (AFL), provoking outrage in the National League and compelling them to cut off all negotiations with the fraternity. Also, when the leader of the AFL, Samuel Gompers, changed his stance and decided to not back the fraternity, the organization collapsed soon after.

In terms of the players’ financials, baseball players were paid quite well in the context of their time. The average major league player made \$3235 per year, around \$60,000 in today’s money. This would put a baseball player in the 65th percentile of earners in 1919, with 14% of nationwide tax returns falling in that range. Also, White Sox players were paid especially well, in fact, the best in the American League. The average player on the White Sox made \$3713 per year, \$69,000 in today’s money, and the team payroll was \$1000 greater than the second greatest payroll in the American league, at \$11,369. For players not in the all-white major leagues, however, the salaries were dismal to say the least, with the average salary being \$304 in the Negro Leagues, less than half the wages of the average manufacturing job at the time. Even for the players paid least handsomely in the Majors, they received a livable wage, and salary was not the main motivator in labor struggle between owners and players.

However, with the collapse of all organized labor in baseball by 1919, the players of Major League Baseball lost all bargaining power and many of their other complaints remained a fact of life. Chief among these issues was the loathed reserve clause



smothering player freedom, which, even after being defeated in court multiple times, stayed a de facto policy due to owner collusion. Also, deception on the part of the owners pertaining to bonuses caused much resentment among the players. It was a tradition that 60% of the profits from ticket sales would be distributed among the winning and losing teams during the World Series, but during the World Series of 1918, where attendance was unexpectedly low, the owners changed the players' share of the sales without the players' knowledge or consent. Finally, amenities were sometimes lacking in baseball clubs, with the White Sox acquiring the nickname "Black Sox" from their constantly dirty uniforms, stemming from their owner, Charles Comiskey, refusing to clean them out of his own pocket. All of these grievances and more were the basis of the Fraternity of Baseball Players' platform, but after the union's collapse, these complaints are once again at the front of baseball players' minds.

### **Baseball in the Public Eye**

After the victory of the United States in the Great War and its emergence as one of the great powers of the world, American nationalism was on the rise and the game



of baseball took on a role central to the American identity. Baseball was seen as a game which rewarded the American values of good morals and honesty, with the biggest stars crafting their public images to be as wholesome as possible. Also, many baseball players had very poor backgrounds, with a college

education being a rarity among big leaguers, further solidifying the rags-to-riches mythology also used to describe the "Captains of Industry" of the Gilded Age.



In the sports world, baseball reigned supreme. Around 30,000 people would fill the stadiums per game, which is a feat in itself, and tickets would normally range between 50 cents to three dollars which was not cheap for the times. Baseball fans had limited free time as it was normal for people to work well over 50 hours a week, making each game even more of an occasion. However, it was impossible for many fans to catch every game of their favorite team, and with new radio broadcasts few and far between, many resorted to going downtown and gathering in front of the offices of the local newspaper, where they eagerly awaited the latest scores. When the newspaper received the latest scores from a telegrapher at the ballpark, a newsboy would write the information on a bulletin board, updating it every inning. Some newspapers also had someone with a megaphone calling out the updates as they were received. In either case, the fans would cheer whenever the news was good, or express their disappointment when it wasn't. Even so, for some this wasn't enough. Many loved the sport with so much passion that they became amateur reporters, and by buying telegraphs for themselves and sharing the information, these citizen journalists



sparked new discourse and intrigue around the game.

What further pushed baseball into the limelight were new trends among newspapers. In the year 1883 American papers began to include a sports section, (the first being The New York Herald) but the section really began to rise to prominence with the recent explosion of baseball. Even with the

war raging, the White Sox's victory in the 1917 World Series still dominated the papers,



showing the profound impact that baseball was beginning to have on the American consciousness.

What further kept the public captivated was the rise of household names like Pete Alexander, Ty Cobb, Joe Jackson, Walter Johnson, Tris Speaker, Eddie Collins, and a young Babe Ruth. Many baseball players would become icons, propelling the growth of recreational baseball for the young boys who idolized them, and further engraving baseball as a staple of American life and culture as it became more than just a simple sporting event. These young boys would religiously read about their idols in newspapers and sports magazines and buy their baseball cards which were included with many brands of bubble gum and cigarettes, creating a dedicated fan base for baseball to grow on. Outside of the individual players, many teams had die hard fan bases, and the most popular teams tended to reside in the largest cities with bustling media markets, such as the Cincinnati Reds, Boston Red Sox, New York Giants, and Chicago White Sox. Whether in the stands of a great ballpark, in the city streets, or in the pages of their favorite magazine, Americans had ample ways to feed their fascination with America's Pastime.



# COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

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This committee will begin on September 27, 1920. As delegates, you will receive various crisis updates throughout committee, where our dais or crisis staff will deliver new information pertinent to the events of committee. Time jumps may occur. **Since this committee begins on September 27, 1920, we understand that critical events within several character's lives may not yet have occurred, and some information has not yet been revealed to the public. Nonetheless, please abide by your character's original historical timeline.** We recommend making a basic timeline for your character that you can refer to during debate.

When it comes to directives, we allow group (also known as joint private), personal, and committee directives, as well as communiques and press releases. These directives will be collected by a Google Form, and responses will be conveyed through a virtual crisis notebook, allowing ease of both submission and response and a faster flow of committee.

In addition, on the day of the conference you will be given a folder with a portfolio power. These portfolio powers are secret—only you will know what your portfolio power is—and include two major things: plots and powers. Plots are secret objectives a delegate is trying to accomplish or secret information that only one delegate or a group of delegates would be privy to. For instance, an example of a plot is how in our Red Scare room last year, multiple delegates were Communists and plotted with each other to overthrow the United States. Powers are special actions that delegates can take. These can range from the ability to “OBJECT!” to another delegate’s speech to a secret task force of spies and analysts that a delegate can command to



gather intelligence on their adversaries to the ability to call a general strike and cripple key infrastructure.

Please be advised that at JackrabbitMUN we have a policy of not killing your fellow delegates. Therefore, please do not submit directives attempting to assassinate one another. We also will not entertain directives that involve genocide or nuclear weapons. Thank you so much for signing up and we look forward to meeting you on the 25th!



# CHARACTER BIOGRAPHIES

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## **Eddie Cicotte**

- Or his nickname “Knuckles” is a father of 3 and a Detroit native. Knuckles started his pitching career with the The Detroit Tigers, then had stints with the Boston Red Sox and Chicago White Sox, with his salary being \$6,000 in 1919, higher than any other player. Possessing a dizzying array of pitches, from a knuckleball and spitball to a screwball, Cicotte cemented his place as one of the American League’s most elite pitchers by 1919. His multiple blow-up starts in the World Series has made some question his baseball integrity, especially considering his first pitch of the series hitting the batter.

## **Eddie Collins**

- Or his nickname “Cocky,” is a New York native, who attended Columbia University, making him one of few professional players who attended college. His baseball career officially began in September of 1906, when he signed up for the Philadelphia Athletics, at the time he was still attending Columbia, so he played under the name Sullivan, to protect his Collegiate Status. He is well known for his slick defense in the middle infield and his speed on the base paths. During the world series, he was spotted frequently in the lobby of the Ansonia Hotel the night before multiple games.

## **Charles Comiskey**

- A Chicago native, co-founder of the American League, and later owner of the Chicago White Sox in 1901, played baseball during his younger years at St. Mary’s College and several other professional teams in Chicago. He has always been a pusher of boundaries in the game, taking part in the players’ rebellion of 1890, partnering with Ban Johnson to found the American League, and building a lavish new ballpark for his White Sox to play in in 1910. He is a man of great power in the American League and is speculated to desire a role with influence beyond his one ballclub.



## Happy Felsch

- Or his real name Oscar, is a Wisconsin native. Happy dropped out of 6th grade to play baseball on the Milwaukee Sandlots, his official baseball career began in 1913 when he joined the Wisconsin-Illinois League, and in the Summer of 1914 he agreed to join the White Sox, then become the center fielder. Felsch developed into a star of the White Sox lineup, renowned for his power at the plate and rocket arm in the outfield. He also has been of great intrigue to people who follow the economics of the game, with his contracts often sporting irregularities giving him exorbitant salaries.

## Hugh Fullerton

- An Ohio native, who was an American Sportswriter, Hugh is well-known for his detailed sports journalism, even correctly predicting the “Hitless Wonders” White Sox of 1906 to beat their rivals, the Chicago Cubs, in the World Series when very few believed the White Sox had any shot. He also was the first to print an accusation of foul play in the 1919 World Series, publishing an article in the *New York World* in December 1919. He has been seen hard at work in recent months, likely trying to find new details in this potential scandal.

## Chick Gandil

- Or his real name Charles, is a Minnesota native, and left high school two years in to travel to Texas and play with a local Semi Pro Team. He then went on to Arizona and did the same, and in late 1909 was sold to the Chicago White Sox, later shipped off to Washington D.C. and Cleveland until he was sold back to the White Sox in 1917. Gandil has always been a fan favorite due to his work ethic and excellent play on the field. He also has grown popular among the working class, due to his public sightings at labor rallies in the Chicago area.

## John J Garrity

- A Chicago native born in 1869, Mr. Garrity was appointed to the post of General Superintendent of Police for the Chicago police department, becoming the 42nd man to



hold that post. It was not with unanimous approval, as some believe rumors that he is connected to seedy institutions in Chicago, so Garrity has much to prove in dealing with this crisis, which could greatly raise his profile.

### **Kid Gleason**

- Or his real name William, is a New Jersey native and got the nickname “Kid” through his short stature, his quite energetic, youthful nature. He had a productive playing career from the 1890s to the first decade of the 1900s, transitioning from a pitcher to second base, and being one of the better middle infielders of his time. Kid later became the Manager of the Chicago White Sox on December 31, 1918 and led them to the World Series in his first year managing. He has been awfully quiet in the fallout, and many want to know how much he knew about this alleged fix.

### **Samuel Gompers**

- A chief architect of mass labor movements and the strategies they would employ, Samuel Gompers was born in 1850, and after emigrating to New York City in 1863, he became highly involved with organized labor through his job as a cigar-maker. After rising through the ranks of his cigar-maker union, he was elected to the presidency of the American Federation of Labor, among the most influential labor unions of its time, and worked to grow the power and influence of labor unions through political relationships. He has previously considered working with baseball players in the ill-fated baseball Players’ Fraternity, and he may have interest in reigniting that partnership.

### **August Herrmann**

- A Ohio native of German Descent, his career in baseball began when he was appointed President of the Cincinnati Reds in 1902, as well as President of the National baseball Commission in 1903. August is a husband and a father of one daughter. He also previously served on various public boards for the city of Cincinnati, including in the

city waterworks. He still has plenty of friends in public service, making him somewhat unique among the crowd of businessmen in baseball's upper echelon.

### **John Heydler**

- A New York native, in John's younger years he became a Printer's Apprentice and would eventually work at the US Government Printing Office. In baseball he was an Umpire from 1895-1898 and served as various supporting positions to the National League president until the death of NL President Harry Pulliam, in which he became the next NL President in 1918. It seems a storm may be coming for Major League Baseball, and Heydler likely wishes to shelter his NL from this potential scandal in the AL.

### **James Isaminger**

- An Ohio native, James used to write papers at the Cincinnati Times-Star from 1895-1905, and in 1905 he became the *Philadelphia North American's* sportswriter. He is a veteran of the sportswriting industry and, as seen with his bombshell article which broke this potential scandal to the world, gets results where few others dare to step. He has been seen hard at work recently, likely working towards a follow-up to his shocking piece that digs even deeper into baseball's possible misdeeds.

### **Shoeless Joe Jackson**

- Or his most famous nickname "Shoeless Joe" is a South Carolina native, who when he was 10, almost died of measles. In 1908 participated in his Hometown's Minor League Team, but it's not until 1915 when he was traded to the Chicago White Sox. Two years later, they won the American League Pennant and the World Series, where Shoeless Joe hit a .307 as the White Sox defeated the New York Giants. Shoeless Joe didn't participate in the 1918 world series because of WW1, but came back for 1919 as the White Sox's star player, leading them to a pennant-winning campaign. Among the many stories to come out as the series progressed, Kid Gleason was quoted as being frustrated with Jackson's lateness for games, seeming to be attending to other business.



## **Ban Johnson**

- An Ohio native, Johnson is a devoted proponent of wholesome and family friendly baseball, and took issue with the rowdy atmosphere of the National League in the 1890s. Due to urgings from former Boston manager Charles Comiskey, Johnson took over the Western league and turned it into the American League. Due in large part to his efforts to clean up the game, the quality of play improved and attendances soared in his American League, until it was officially recognized as the National League's equal in 1903. He now has the task of guiding the American League through its possible greatest crisis, and to somehow maintain the game's credibility.

## **Kenesaw Mountain Landis**

- Born in Ohio and educated at University of Cincinnati, Landis soon made a name for himself in the world of law when he was appointed District Judge for Northern Illinois and made his fearlessness in the face of large corporations known, when he fined Standard Oil \$29 million for granting unlawful freight rebates. Landis has also had experience with baseball, as he oversaw a lawsuit by the Federal League against the National and American Leagues. A strong legal presence may be necessary, and Landis has shown interest in laying down the law to save the game of baseball.

## **Billy Maharg**

- Born in 1881 Philadelphia, little is known about Maharg's early life, but we do know that in his young adult years he became a somewhat notable boxer in fight clubs around Philadelphia, posting a 45-11-18 record and forming connections with the gambling underground, giving his testimony in the *Philadelphia North American* some credibility. He also had experience as an occasional baseball player, seeing the field twice between 1912 and 1916 and working as an Assistant Trainer for the Boston Braves. Newspapers all over the country are scrambling to get more information out of him, and he seems open to collaboration.



## **Christy Matthewson**

- One of the greatest pitchers of the first 20 years of the 20th century, Matthewson, or the “Gentleman’s Hurler” -- a Pennsylvania native -- recorded 373 wins in his storied career and was an icon to the game. After his playing days were over, he took over managing the Reds and had mediocre results before being sent off to France to fight in The Great War. After being hospitalized for Influenza and exposure to mustard gas, he returned to Cincinnati to see his job taken by Pat Moran, and in response took an assistant position with the Giants. He was then hired by *The New York Times* to cover the 1919 World Series as a Journalist after the Giants were knocked out of contention. Especially since his return to the states, he has been quite outspoken in writing about the struggle of the American working man in *The New York Times* when he is not writing about baseball.

## **Fred McMullun**

- Growing up in Southern California, McMullun played for many semi-pro teams in the Los Angeles area in his adolescence, and eventually made a name for himself with the Los Angeles Angels of the Pacific League. After being introduced to the starting lineup midway through the 1917 season at shortstop, Mac, as he was known, was a defensive stalwart for the eventual world champion White Sox. As in the 1917 season, 1919 saw Mac on the bench to start the year, but his introduction gave the White Sox a spark which helped them comfortably win the pennant in 1919. He made very few appearances during the World Series, and was often seen alone at the bar before games.

## **Pat Moran**

- Born in 1876 Massachusetts, Moran took to baseball at a young age and excelled as a catcher, playing for many major league teams in the first decade of the 20th century. He was appointed the Philadelphia Phillies’ manager in 1914, and transformed the team who finished with a mediocre record in 1914 into a pennant winner in 1915. Moran then took the job in Cincinnati to be the Red’s manager in 1919, taking a mediocre team to



the World Series in 1919, beating the White Sox to win the Red's first world title. A very popular figure around the National League, many NL managers are looking to him to speak for them as the NL guides itself through this potential crisis.

### **Edward Prindiville**

- Mr. Prindiville is the Assistant State's Attorney of Illinois, handling cases in the Chicago and Cook County area. His standing in the local judicial system makes him a logical choice to represent a defendant in any trial regarding the alleged trial. A clever orator in court, Prindiville is renowned in his ability to seamlessly cross-examine suspects, giving him great persuasive power in the courtroom.

### **Swede Risberg**

- Born and raised as a California native, Risberg had very little education growing up, dropping out of the 3rd grade. In 1914, Swede hit a .366 in the class D union association and was acquired by the Venice Tigers of the Pacific Coast League. He was the utility infielder in 1915-16 and gained acclaim for his defensive skills, and in early 1917, was bought by the American League's Chicago White Sox. He has also been seen sporting a new, luxury watch after the World Series, the players must have gotten a great World Series bonus!

### **Arnold Rothstein**

- Nicknamed "The Brain," was a New York native in Manhattan, at a young age Arnold was known to be a difficult child, and in 1910, he moved to Tenderloin, another part of Manhattan, where he established an important Casino, he also invested in a Horse Racing Track in Maryland, in which he was reputed to have fixed many of the races he won. Rothstein has a wide network of informants, in very deep pockets from some of his father's Banking associates, and his willingness to pay a premium for good information, all of his successes made him Arnold the Millionaire. There has been no substantial link between him and the alleged fix, but many suspect that he or one of his associates were involved due to the amount of money that is alleged to be in play.



## **Edd Roush**

- As an Indiana native, where he worked on a dairy farm with his brothers, Roush was naturally left handed, but changed to being a righty when he learned to throw, and batted right handed in his early career. In 1909, received the opportunity to play with the local semi-pro Oakland City Walkovers after their regular outfielders failed to appear, and after collecting two hits, was now a starting outfielder. When he learned his pay was \$5 he moved to the Princeton, Indiana team, then the Evansville, Indiana team in the Kentucky-Illinois-Tennessee League. There he performed well on the team and hit a .284 in 1912 and .300 in 1913 when his contract was bought by the Chicago White Sox. After being sent down to the minors, he was picked up by the New York Giants in 1916, later traded to the Cincinnati Reds, where he was a star player in their 1919 world championship-winning team. After the celebratory festivities in Cincinnati, Roush returned to Chicago for reasons unknown, maybe an offseason in the city was beneficial for him.

## **Billy Sunday**

- An Iowa native, at the age of 10 his Widowed mother sent him and his older brother to an orphanage in Glenwood, Iowa, at the Orphanage, Mr. Sunday gained orderly habits, a decent primary education, and the realization that he was a good athlete. In 1880, Sunday, because of his athleticism, was recruited by the Fire Brigade Team, competing in the tournaments and playing for the town baseball team. He later converted to Evangelical Christianity in the 1880s. By August of 1890, his team, the Pittsburgh Alleghenys, sold Sunday to the Philadelphia Phillies, and in 1891, Sunday requested and granted a release of his contract with the team in order to pursue preaching. He gained a reputation as a fiery preacher through his travels across the country, holding revivals which were built around his fundamentalist Christian ideology.



### **Bill Veeck Sr.**

- Mr. Veeck was an American Sportswriter and is currently a baseball executive, as the President of the Chicago Cubs. Veeck's is married to one Grace Greenwood DeForest in 1900, in which together they had 3 children with one dying at age 8. The newspapers have been reporting recently that he has been a busy man, often seen in the offices of the most recognizable brands in Chicago.

### **Buck Weaver**

- Mr. Weaver is a Pennsylvania native, his official baseball career began on April 11th 1912, as a shortstop for the Chicago White Sox, Weaver then switched to third base in 1917 after Swede Risberg joined the team. Mr. Weaver was an excellent fielder, and he was known as the only third baseman in the league against whom Ty Cobb would not bunt. He could also swing the bat when his team needed it, as he led the majors in sacrifice hits in 1915 and 1916. Weaver has been busy with the White Sox's pennant race, but this potential bombshell may draw the player's attention away from the game.

### **Lefty Williams**

- Mr. Williams, a Missouri native, began his major league career on September 17, 1913, with the Detroit Tigers. In 1915, while with the Salt Lake City Bees of the Pacific Coast League, he pitched 418.2 innings, leading the league in wins and strikeouts, while featuring mostly his mid-90s fastball and swooping curve. His Contract was then purchased by the Chicago White Sox, and they were with the team where Williams settled into the starting rotation and helped the team win the pennant in 1917, going 17-8. After spending 1918 working in Navy shipyards, he came back strong in 1919. In the pivotal Game 8 however, Lefty was very off his game, and that performance has been one of the main points alleged by believers in a fix of the 1919 World Series.



## Grace Wilson

- Born in 1880, Ms. Wilson made history in 1918 when the Chicago Police Department by being the first black woman to be a Chicago police officer. As a new recruit, she is very dedicated to upholding the law and advancing her career in the force, seeing this potential case as an opportunity for that. She has been busy since this story broke, often seen digging through the police archives and interviewing colleagues on her break time.



# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

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1. How can a swift, discrete, and harsh punishment be given to those involved in the fix, if there is one?
2. How can the players improve their condition and benefits while seizing greater freedom for their careers?
3. How can the owners maintain the public image of the sport and themselves in the aftermath of this scandal, if it does exist?
4. How can structures be created to prevent corruption and gambling in baseball?
5. Will reorganizing be necessary to ensure a secure future for baseball?



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