

# WISHED SOMEONE WOULD SHOOT HIM, SAYS CICOTTE

## Pitcher Says He Hit Rath, First Man Up, While Trying to Walk Him In Opener, But Tried His Best Thereafter

CHICAGO, July 26—The defense in the baseball trial will send at least four of the ex-White Sox players, charged with conspiracy to throw the 1919 World's Series to Cincinnati, to the witness stand to testify in their own behalf. It was announced tonight as the State entered the last half of the ninth inning in its presentation of evidence.

Chick Gandill, named by State witnesses as one of the organizers of the alleged \$100,000 sell-out; Buck Weaver, third baseman; Swede Risberg, shortstop, and Happy Felsch, center fielder, are the men, it was announced positively would testify.

Eddie Cicotte, Joe Jackson and Claude Williams, the three players who confessed to the grand jury last Fall that they were paid to throw games, also may take the stand in their own defense.

The State will finish its case tomorrow.

### Confessions Read to Jury

The defense announcement came after the confessions of Cicotte, Williams and Jackson had been read to the jury today.

Previously, it had been understood that the defense would depend on trying to disprove various details of the testimony of Bill Burns and other State witnesses, on statements from Chicago and Cincinnati players that they saw nothing wrong with the 1919 World Series, and on the contention that even if there was a conspiracy to throw games, it never was carried out and if it was it was not illegal.

Most of the White Sox team have been called as witnesses and today "Dutch" Ruether, now with Brooklyn, but who pitched the first game of the 1919 series for Cincinnati, was subpoenaed by the defense.

Court adjourned today while the attorneys went over the grand jury confessions, editing them for presentation at the afternoon session.

The actual transcripts of the confessions varied but little from the frequently published reports of them.

Cicotte confirmed some of the Bill

Burns' testimony, mentioning the meetings Burns said took place in New York, Cincinnati and Chicago, although mention of Burns himself or of other players said to have been present was stricken out.

### Hit First Man, Then Tried Hard

The ex-pitcher told of hitting Rath, the first man up in the first game, while trying to walk him, but said he played his best after that.

"I pitched my best afterward," said Cicotte. "I didn't care what happened. They could have had my heart and soul if I could have gotten out of the deal. I guess that was the trouble; I tried too hard and played poorly as a result."

Speaking of another game Cicotte said that while playing he "wished some one would come out and shoot him."

The confessions of Jackson and Williams told how they were given \$5,000 each after the fourth game, being promised \$20,000 each. Both denied making intentional errors, but said they "might have tried harder."

When court convenes tomorrow the State will announce either that it has finished its case or will put Bill Mahary of Philadelphia on the stand to give testimony designed to corroborate the testimony of Bill Burns.

The defense plans to move tomorrow that the case against Carl Zork of St. Louis and Ben and Louis Levi of Kokomo, Ind. be dismissed on the grounds of insufficient evidence.

## ROTHSTEIN DENIES HE BOUGHT CONFESSIONS

NEW YORK, July 26—Charges made by Ban Johnson, president of the American League, yesterday that Arnold Rothstein of this city had paid \$10,000 for the stolen confessions of the indicted White Sox players were denied today by Rothstein. He reiterated denials of connection with the 1919 World Series scandal.

William J. Fallon, an attorney, also took exception to Johnson's statements. He said the minutes of Grand Jury proceedings at Chicago in the baseball case had not been stolen, but that he had received copies through his Chicago correspondent, Henry J. Berger. He denied that he had advised Abe Attell to flee to Canada.