

DID PLAYERS SELL OUT?

Ugly Rumor that Several of White Sox Threw Games to Reds.

BY HARRY A. WILLIAMS.

Several of the Chicago White Sox players, and possibly all of them, have failed as yet to receive their money from the world series.

In 1917 the White Sox were given their money at the close of the series.

These statements in themselves are not new, although the first one has had a lot of people guessing, including the players, and are significant only as they may be related to as yet unconfirmed charges that several of the White Sox players sold out.

ARE INVESTIGATING.

The officials of the Chicago club, it is reported, are conducting an investigation which will reach into the South, out to the Coast, in fact, wherever players of the club may chance to be wintering. Naturally, many are conjecturing as to whether this reported investigation, the ugly rumors regarding the recent world series, which until the last few days were of an extremely vague nature on the Coast, and the holding up of the players' money, have any direct connection.

Some predict that if the facts are ever obtained the biggest swindle in the history of baseball will be uncovered. Those who still believe, on the other hand, that the series was played on the square, claim that the officials of the Chicago club have turned a heeding ear to groundless gossip from bettors who lost their money on the Chicago club.

CAN NAME PLAYERS.

Advices from Chicago are to the effect that when it comes to a show-down, names of players who are alleged to have entered into an agreement with a syndicate of gamblers to throw games can be produced. Thus far there have been intimations, but no names mentioned.

One story has it that the Chicago club as a whole sold out for \$100,000. Another, that four men received approximately \$40,000 each. If there is any basis for either report, the latter would seem to be more logical, as it would be practically impossible to take an entire ball club into a proposition of that kind.

WON OVER MILLION.

The winnings of the syndicate are said to have exceeded a million dollars, while several not actually in on the deal, but who received tips as to how things were to go, made heavy winnings.

If there is a "joker" in the thing it lies in the fact that the Cincinnati club really figured to win the series, and probably would have won without any of the alleged help from White Sox players, because of their great pitching. Apparently, if there was anything wrong, it was because the gamblers were not certain of the dope, and wanted to make it an absolutely sure thing. The White Sox were favorites, and those betting on Cincinnati got good prices.

RUMORS INSISTENT.

Ugly rumors have been in circulation for some time, and these seem to be becoming more insistent.

The writer would be the last to question or reflect on the honesty of any ball player. For a long time I refused to treat seriously any of these rumors, and even in the face of information which seemed on the surface to be convincing.

Just after the series closed a local follower of baseball spoke to me about a series of telegrams which he claimed to have seen. These came from an eastern man to a Los Angeles party. They were sent before each game, and with one exception called the turn on every game. The recipient of these telegrams, my informant told me, won approximately \$40,000.

HARD TO BELIEVE.

This thing of being able to pick the winner from day to day in advance seemed so improbable that I refused to give it further thought. It seemed hardly conceivable that baseball games could be framed in that manner.

Since then so many fragments of information along that line have been received as to give the thing such an ugly aspect that the interests of baseball seem to demand a searching investigation. If the intimations are groundless something should be done at once to establish them as false.

The heaviest betting by the syndicate, it is said, was done on the individual games, and not the series as a whole. This is the alleged statement of a Chicago player to a friend, who it is also reported added that he would have received \$30,000 more if one of the games hadn't "gone wrong."

ROLL OF HUNDREDS.

Another player, it is alleged, was seen in possession of a roll of currency in \$100 bills of more than \$12,000, and a couple of rolls of bills of smaller denominations.

A Chicago player when asked recently by a friend how he came to have plenty of money in view of the fact that he had not been paid by the club, declared that he had made it in a fortunate investment.

The whole thing seems destined to break very shortly unless the powers of organized baseball decide to "hush" it up, as an affair of this sort is bound to hurt the game, and such action is inconceivable. The facts can do no more harm than the rumors which are daily becoming more general. It is believed that the investigation is further advanced and of wider ramifications than is generally realized. Indications are that those under suspicion will either be cleared of the allegations or their identity made known.