

Rothstein The Life Times And Murder Of Criminal Genius Who Fixed 1919 World Series David Pietrusza

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includes pictures includes a bibliography for further reading in the early 20th century one of the most integral members of the criminal underworld was arnold rothstein the archetype of the old school mobster he was intelligent charming well spoken grotesquely wealthy and a sharp dresser often pictured with a patterned bowtie and a flat top fedora snugly fit over his receding hairline and yet he was nothing like the stereotypical mobster arnold was not a drinker or smoker and he was not one to be tempted by illicit substances he was a notorious high roller with pockets holding wads of 100 bills but to the casual eye he was just another dapper well mannered gentleman who frequented the tracks and casinos after a long day at the office today rothstein is remembered for his murky association with the most notorious event in the history of american sports the fixing of the 1919 world series by the chicago white sox the white sox were favored 5 1 to beat the cincinnati reds and for the first time since 1903 the series would be a best of nine format however at a time when players were treated as second class some sought a payday beyond what they made in the leagues and the white sox players were some of the most poorly paid in the league the owner of the team charles a comiskey was one of the cheapest owners in the game too cheap to pay to have the team's uniforms laundered after games around two weeks before the world series was set to begin chicago first baseman chick gandil met with a gambler in his boston hotel room during that meeting gandil told joseph sullivan that for 100 000 he and other members of the white sox were willing to take a dive and make sure that the reds won the world series gandil was able to convince the team's top two pitchers to go along with the plan as well as five other players and gamblers

came up with the money including rothstein with that the plan to throw the world series was put in motion and rumors began to spread around the country prior to the start of the series as gamblers wagered large sums of money on the reds the sox lost game 1 by a score of 9 1 but even after the gamblers refused to pay the players after the first game the players faithfully took a dive again the next day losing 4 2 gandil now demanded 40 000 from the gamblers payment for losing two games but when he only received 10 000 the players revolted winning the third game 3 0 once the gamblers came up with money the white sox lost the next two games by scores of 2 0 and 5 0 it seemed that the series was over but when 20 000 promised to the players was not received the players decided they would abandon the plan to lose chicago won the game 6 and game 7 against cincinnati but rothstein who had bet on the series and now felt the need to secure his investment sent a thug to threaten lefty williams the white sox player scheduled to pitch the 8th game the thug threatened that if williams was still on the mound after the first inning something would happen to him and to his wife fearing bodily injury or worse lefty gave up three runs in the first inning and though the white sox manager pulled him from the game the damage was already done chicago was unable to come back and the reds took the series in the 8th game by a score of 10 5 the press had a field day calling for justice in a series that was clearly fixed and 8 players would be charged eddie cicotte oscar happy felsch arnold chick gandil shoeless joe jackson fred mcmullin charles swede risberg george buck weaver and claude lefty williams though they were all acquitted in court the players were banned from baseball for life and the black sox scandal has continued to be well known nearly a century later giving rise to all sorts of legends

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