

**Use this passage to answer the next 8 questions.**

### **The World Series of 1919**

by Quincy Conrad

- (1)** In 1919, eight members of the Chicago White Sox felt as though their owner, Charles Comiskey, was not paying them enough money. Actually, a lot of other sports writers of the time felt the same way, as the White Sox were entering the 1919 World Series as the lowest-paid team in the league. This one aspect of the team was not only noticed by the sports writers, but gamblers as well.
- (2)** Arnold “Chick” Gandil was the mastermind behind the greatest scandal in sports history. He was the first baseman for Chicago who was lured by some gamblers. Gandil was not only led to what he did by greed, but also from a dislike of Charles Comiskey. Gandil was approached by some gamblers to purposely lose the World Series of 1919 for \$100,000. However, Gandil knew he couldn’t do it alone, so he recruited seven other teammates.
- (3)** Gandil convinced teammates Eddie Cicotte, Claude (Lefty) Williams, “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, Happy Felsch, Swede Risberg, Buck Weaver, and Fred McMullin to accept a bribe and fix the outcome of the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds. People became suspicious of the World Series when a flow of pre-game betting took place for Cincinnati Reds. Shortly before the first game, the once highly-favored White Sox quickly had flip-flopped to underdogs.
- (4)** When the World Series began, Chicago lost the first two games 9-1 and 4-3, respectively. To make the fix a little less obvious, Chicago cruised to victory in the third game 3-0, but lost the fourth game 2-0 and the fifth game 5-0. Normally, the Cincinnati Reds would have been World Champions at this point, but the commissioner of baseball decided to extend the series from the best-of-seven to a best-of-nine series because of the excitement surrounding the game of baseball after World War I.
- (5)** So as the games and scandal continued, Chicago squeaked out a narrow 5-4 victory in game six and won again in game seven by a margin of 4-1. However, Cincinnati seemed to dominate the last game of the series with a 10-5 rout that began with 5 runs in the first inning of play. As the Cincinnati players celebrated on the field, the Chicago players returned to their locker room quite deflated. Well, all but the eight players who participated in the scandal.
- (6)** Although rumors circulated in the off-season about the proposed scandal, the Chicago players had been able to fool the public. Even as participants in the scandal, “Shoeless” Joe Jackson still batted a solid .375 and Eddie Cicotte pitched a solid one-run game to avoid elimination in game six. However, as the following season was approaching an end and the Chicago White Sox were once

again favorites to reach the World Series, the commissioner requested a federal investigation into the matter.

- (7) During the investigation, Eddie Cicotte and “Shoeless” Joe Jackson confessed to the bribery charges. However, when all eight players were put on trial in Chicago, two signed confessions by Cicotte and Jackson somehow disappeared. During the trial, Cicotte and Jackson changed their stories and all eight went free. On the day following the trial, the commissioner went on to say, “Regardless of the verdict of juries no player that throws a ball game, no player that entertains proposals or promises to throw a game, no player that sits in a conference with a bunch of crooked players and gamblers where the ways and means of throwing games are discussed, and does not promptly tell his club about it, will ever again play professional baseball.” From that day on, those eight men from the Chicago White Sox were never allowed to play in another baseball game.

RI.7.6

**1. The author of this passage can *best* be described as —**

- A biased.
- B unbiased.
- C persuasive.
- D argumentative.

RI.7.5

**2. What internal text structure did the author *mostly* use in the passage?**

- A comparison/contrast
- B enumeration or listing
- C sequential or chronological
- D concept/definition

RI.7.6

**3. Why does the author *most* likely include paragraph 1?**

- A to introduce the conflict
- B to explain the game of baseball
- C to summarize the entire passage
- D to persuade readers to dislike Charles Comiskey