



**Mr. Andrew B. MacPhail**

Chicago Cubs  
Wrigley Field  
1060 West Addison St.  
Chicago, IL 60613-4397

**Mr. Jerry Reinsdorf**

Chicago White Sox  
U.S. Cellular Field  
333 W. 35th St.  
Chicago, IL 60616

March 28, 2006

Mr. John Cruickshank  
Publisher  
Chicago Sun-Times  
350 N. Orleans  
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear Mr. Cruickshank:

On March 23, 2006, your sports columnist, Jay Mariotti wrote a column filled with invective which criticizes Commissioner Bud Selig for Baseball's handling of the issue of steroids. As is not uncommon with Mr. Mariotti, he has made no effort to be the least bit informed on this important subject. Any observer who has followed the subject knows that Baseball, under Commissioner Selig's leadership, has made tremendous strides on the issue of steroids despite substantial opposition by the MLBPA.

As you may know, Commissioner Selig directed the negotiating efforts of the Clubs in 1994 as Chairman of the Executive Council. At that point, neither Mr. Mariotti -- nor virtually any other writer in America -- had expressed awareness that steroids were an issue in Baseball. Even though there was no perception that steroids were a problem, Commissioner Selig had the foresight to encourage the Clubs to make a comprehensive drug testing proposal that included steroids. Unfortunately, that proposal was rejected by the MLBPA.

In 1998, when the androstenedione was discovered in Mark McGwire's locker, few in Baseball, including we suspect Mr. Mariotti, knew what the substance was. The Commissioner, along with the MLBPA, funded a study to determine whether androstenedione was truly an anabolic agent. The study was done at Harvard and was an important impetus for the federal regulation of andro and other steroid precursors.

In the wake of the androstenedione study, Commissioner Selig began to assemble a group of medical experts to deal with the broader issue of steroids. His efforts in this

area started to bear fruit in 2001 when the Commissioner implemented a tough new policy on performance enhancing substances for the minor leagues. The Commissioner could act unilaterally and impose drug-testing in the minor leagues, but not in the Major Leagues where drug-testing is a matter of collective bargaining and must be negotiated with the Players Association.

It has been well-documented that this minor league policy has dramatically reduced the usage of steroids in the minor leagues. Even more important, the Commissioner has amended the policy to address new developments in the area of performance enhancing substances and has expanded its scope to cover all of professional baseball including the Dominican and Venezuelan summer leagues.

In the next round of collective bargaining in 2002, Commissioner Selig again made drug-testing for steroids a bargaining priority. Over heavy union opposition, he succeeded in achieving the first random drug-testing policy ever in the Major Leagues. Since then, the Commissioner has spearheaded two re-negotiations of the drug policy, culminating in the current policy – 50 days suspension for a first offense, 100 days for a second, and a lifetime ban for a third – which is the toughest drug-testing program in professional sports.

On the political front, Commissioner Selig lobbied aggressively to support federal legislation of steroid precursors that was eventually passed as the Steroid Control Act of 2004. Major League Baseball also provides financial support for steroid education through the Taylor Hooton Foundation and has partnered with the Partnership for a Drug-Free America in its anti-steroids efforts.

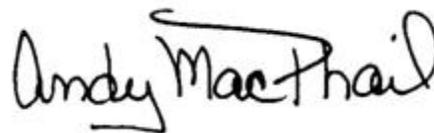
Commissioner Selig continues to press for improvements in dealing with the steroids issue. Just recently, Major League Baseball funded a three-year project aimed at developing a urine test for Human Growth Hormone.

As you can see, Commissioner Selig has not ignored the steroids issue. In fact, he has pursued it vigorously. If Mariotti would ever trouble himself to make a phone call, maybe he would get the story right.

Sincerely yours,



Jerry Reinsdorf  
Chairman  
Chicago White Sox



Andy MacPhail  
President  
Chicago Cubs