Could embracing Louis Sockalexis, the game’s first Native pro, help heal one of its deepest racial rifts? Watch the Chicago Cubs and Cleveland Indians wrestle with their respective loser legacies—the Cubs hope to exorcise the Curse of the Billy Goat that's supposedly barred them from the World Series since 1945 and denied them championship rings since 1908. As the players concentrate on winning, on just

Using a critical theory approach, this paper examines how perceptions of historical accuracy impact on the legitimation of the Cleveland Indians' claim that the Native imagery used in the promotion of the franchise was chosen to honor the first Native American to play in the major leagues, Louis Francis Sockalexis. An analysis was conducted of data gathered from Cleveland’s own account of the naming of the franchise along with past and present renderings and antecedents of the story as they appear in a variety of publications and media sources over a 100-year time period beginning in 1897 and ending in 1997. In light of the findings, Cleveland’s professed organizational intent to honor Sockalexis was tested and found to be based on faulty information. The implications of this discovery are addressed.

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playing the darned game, they see the cloudy spirit of Louis Sockalexis hovering about. His story blurs fact and fiction just as the Cleveland team’s very name and offensive caricature of a logo is mired in the muddle of America’s torturous, ambiguous relationship with our Native Americans. Louis S... Indian Summer: The Tragic Story of Louis Francis Sockalexis, the McDonald (2003-03-19). 4.3 out of 5 stars 12. Hardcover. If you have ever heard of the to discover the real story. A must read for those interested in 19th Century baseball. I their first Indian, they could dump Chief Wahoo and award scholarships to promising Sockalexis Stadium! Read more. “Sockalexis, a member of the Penobscot tribe, is bel McQuarrie writes in his second paragraph. And he concludes with something similar Indians from the Naps in 1915, the Civil Rights Act was still 49 years from reality. Women could not vote, and racism against all minorities raged across America. “In all versions of the story, Sockalexis had to deal with horrendous racism, terrible taunts, whoops from the crowd, and so on,” Posnanski wrote on his blog. Among those who cling to the feel-good story, “nobody ever mentions that Sockalexis may have ruined his career by jumping from the second-story window of a whorehouse. Or the