



Cleveland Indians should keep the Chief

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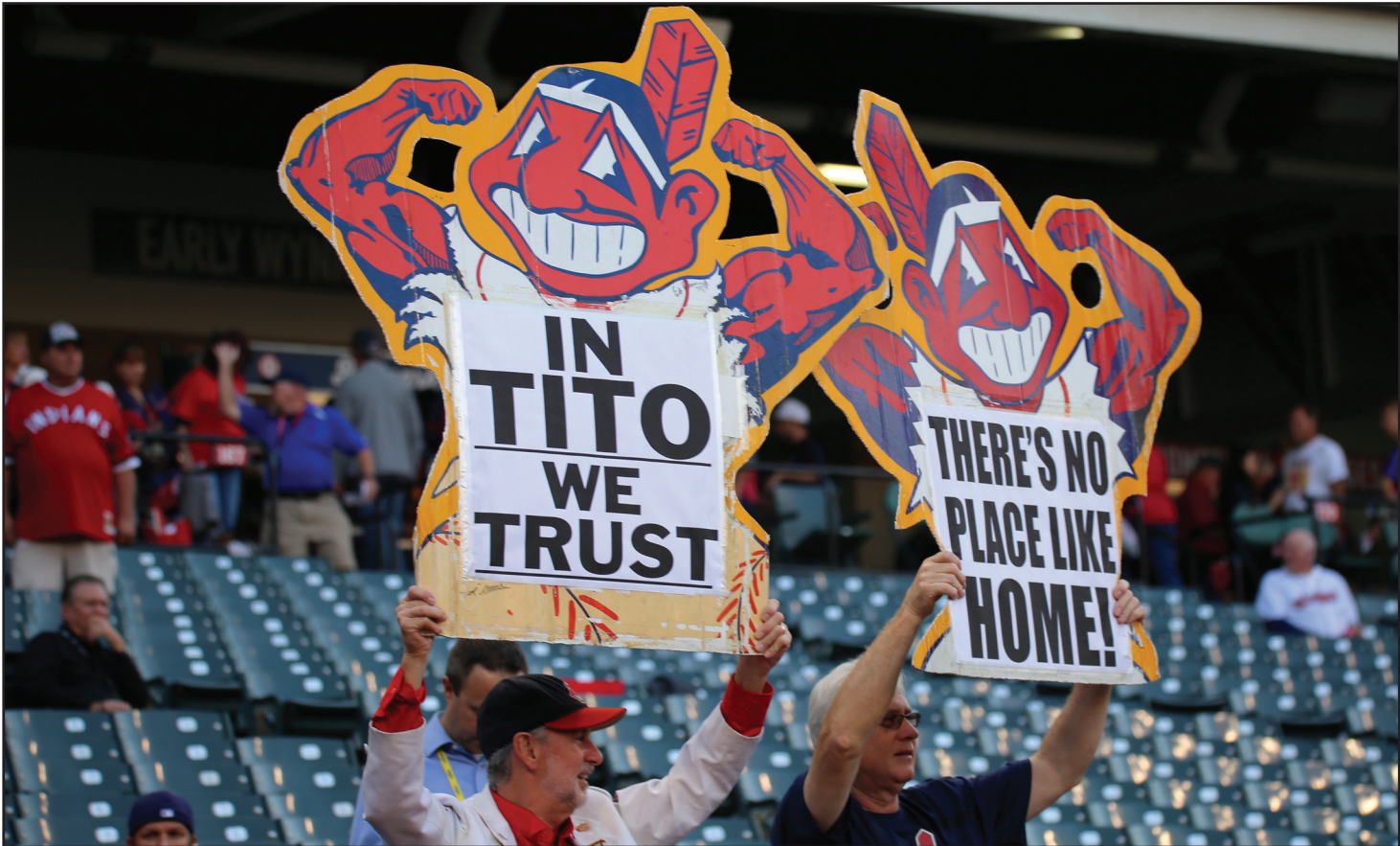
I went to my very first Indians game when I was around six years old. The stadium was still called ‘Jacob’s Field’, the hot dogs were \$1 and the fireworks were beautiful. That day, my mom bought me my first Indians shirt. It was red with the word Indians written in blue cursive lettering with Chief Wahoo standing next to it. Everything about that day set the first stepping stone into my obsession with the Indians, and when I say obsession, it is an obsession.

So you can imagine my frustration as thoughts/feelings when I got the At Bat news update on my phone that the club announced they were removing him from their uniforms starting in the 2019 season.

Before I get into why it frustrated me, let me first say that I understand why it was removed but my question is, where do we draw the line?

Taking away Chief Wahoo does not take away from the fact that the team will still be called the Cleveland Indians, which can also be looked at as offensive and racist.

On the other hand, if you are going to start poking at the Indians, why not poke at other offensive teams like the Washington Redskins. Their team name and logo are both looked at as offensive as well. The name itself is a slang word for describing a Native American in a negative manor. Their logo is of a simplified, or common perception, of a Native American Indian head inside a yellow circle with two feathers tucked into it. Take that logo and compare it to the picture of Chief Wahoo. The original Chief logo, that was the image of the team from 1947-1950, was that



ARTURO PARDAVILA III

The Cleveland Indians announced in January that they will no longer sport the Chief Wahoo logo on their uniforms starting in the 2019 season.

of a yellow headed Indian with a prominent nose, a small pony tail and a feather. The idea behind the drawing is to encourage joy and enthusiasm with the smiling face and colors. Today’s current Chief, that was recreated in 1951, is an all red face with a feather. Which logo seems more offensive? In that question you might say both because one is depicted to look like an actual Native American and the other a redskin. I personally am more angry about the old Chief logo and the Redskins logo, compared to the current Chief.

The idea of having Chief Wahoo on uniforms and hats has been around since the late 1950s and stuck ever since then. The Chief is the face of the team and the first

thing that fans notice and remember. The idea of taking away something, that I personally grew up on, is heartbreaking. I understand it but again I raise the question, where does the line get drawn?

If the Chief is in question, then I would like to see the Redskins and the Atlanta Braves also be in question. The Redskins have been in hot water but nothing is being done in attempts to move forward with removing it. To go even further, the Notre-Dame Fighting Irish and the Boston Celtics. If the use of an Indian is grounds for a controversy, then why isn’t the use of an Irish man or a leprechaun controversy? It is the same thought, right? It is a judgment against a race of peoples.

My frustrations toward this situation strictly comes from the basis of he has been around for over 50 years. Yes it might have been controversial this whole time but it does not help that in 2018, politics and race are becoming more and more big hot button issues. The idea of bringing politics into sports, which is already in my mind not necessary, is just another thing that people have to complain about.

Again, I understand why people think it is racist and why it is an issue but on the other hand when will it stop. I see the issue of having a team called the Indians and having fans that dress up in face paint and headdresses. That part to me is offensive. Whether it has

anything to do with racism or the fact that the Cleveland Indians are hosting the 2019 All-Star game, either one, is beyond me.

As you have gathered, I do not agree and I am allowed to have those feelings as a lifelong fan.

I have had people say that I am not a fan because I do not support this move.

Me supporting the logo removal or not, does not make me any less of a fan that I already was. Logo or not, it is still the same Cleveland team that I have grown to love and become obsessed with.

And whether Chief Wahoo is on the uniforms or not, I will still wear my jerseys and hats with him on it to all games I attend.

Go Tribe!

Getting rid of Chief Wahoo is a good thing

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I know that for a lot of people, Chief Wahoo is a nostalgic thing. It is their childhood.

So when the Cleveland Indians announced that they would be removing the logo from the uniforms come 2019, it caused a bit of an uproar.

And honestly, I do not get it. Chief Wahoo is a racist logo made over 70 years ago in very racist times in America.

While people may claim that the logo was never meant to be racist, which I just do not believe is true, just because something has no malicious intent does not mean it is not

racist.

I mean his name is Chief Wahoo. The logo was created in the year 1947.

To put things into perspective that was 71 years ago, about seven years before the civil rights movement even took place.

Back then, being any kind of person of color, including Native American, was difficult.

According to the Library of Congress, Native Americans could not vote in all 50 states until 1962. That was 15 years after Chief Wahoo was created. For 15 years we had a logo of people who did not even have the right to vote. It was obviously racist from the start.

A huge argument for the pro

Chief Wahoo side that I have seen is the logo was apparently created in honor of a Native American player.

While the team itself was named the Cleveland Indians for Native American player Louis Sockalexis, it is said that Chief Wahoo was created in honor of the Native American player Allie Reynolds.

However, Reynolds was traded to the New York Yankees the year the logo was created, so the argument is kind of irrelevant.

Why would they make an entire logo and mascot for a man who they had just traded to another team?

Even if it is true, it does not give them the right to make an entire

group of people into a logo.

This entire debate has been going on between Indians fans for years now, but in the last few weeks it has just been intensified.

Some fans are worried that what has started with removing a logo will eventually spiral into changing the name of the team. For whatever reason the idea of changing the name of the Cleveland Indians devastates some people.

The thought of change is apparently terrifying even though Cleveland’s baseball team had several different names before the Cleveland Indians.

Personally, I like to make it a general rule that people should not be mascots or logos, so I hope it goes

as far as a name change.

I hope they remove Chief Wahoo from shops and merchandise, I hope they change the name from the Cleveland Indians, I hope every other professional sports team with racist names, like the Washington Redskins, change their name and mascots too.

In conclusion, Chief Wahoo is racist.

No one is stopping you personally from wearing Chief Wahoo or continuing to buy Chief Wahoo merchandise, that is a personal choice.

They are just removing the logo from the uniforms in 2019.

It is happening. It is what should be happening. Get over it.

The Collegian

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