

FILED

MA

Judge Ronald A. Guzman
 United States Attorney's Office
 Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
 United States Courthouse
 219 South Dearborn Street
 Chicago, IL 60604

12CR567
 US v. MASTRO

JUL 15 2013
 July 15 2013
 RONALD A. GUZMAN, JUDGE
 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

March 29, 2013

Up until very recently, I had been under the impression that the Federal Government was only pursuing a case against William Mastro regarding the trimmed Honus Wagner card and not for shilling bidders in Mastro Auctions. I then read that in fact, the Government had also indicted Bill Mastro for shilling bidders as well.

In December 2006, I was the high bidder for a Jackie Robinson game used bat sold in an on-line auction by Mastro Auctions Inc. My winning bid was \$82,356 plus I was charged a 20% buyer's premium of \$16,471, making my total cost \$98,827. After winning the bid, I began to suspect that I may have been a victim of shill bidding, since other than one all-star labeled bat that originated directly from Rachel Robinson, all of the other Jackie Robinson bats that have since come to market have realized prices, including buyer's premiums, of \$38,000-\$86,000. Jackie Robinson bats that either originated from his wife Rachel, and/or were from special events such as the World Series or an all-star game, always sell for a premium.

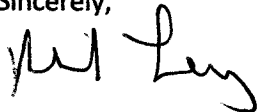
A list of recent auction sales is as follows, with my bat listed first:

Ref #	Date	Auction Company	Price paid	Bat period	Remarks
1	12/2006	Mastro Auctions	\$ 98,827	1949	MVP year
2	7/2008	Hunt Auctions	80,000	1956	Desirable #42 marked on knob
3	5/2009	Lelands	86,165	1955-56	More desirable since bat originated from Rachel Robinson
4	9/2010	Heritage Auctions	56,762	1953	Desirable #42 marked on knob
5	8/2011	Heritage Auctions	83,650	1949	MVP year - All-star game bat originated from Rachel Robinson
6	4/2012	Mears Auctions	39,382	1953	
7	5/2012	SCP auctions	133,235	1950	All-star bat originated from Rachel Robinson
8	8/2012	Heritage Auctions	83,650	1956	Desirable #42 marked on knob

Two factors about these sales are worth noting. Clearly the value of Jackie Robinson bats has not risen since I acquired mine, since bat sales #2 and #8 are for the exact same bat, resold at a later date for nearly the identical amount. In addition, bat sale #5 above, another bat from 1949 like mine, although a more desirable all-star game bat that originated from Rachel Robinson, sold for only \$83,650 nearly 6 years after I purchased my 1949 bat for \$98,827 through Mastro Auctions. I therefore feel that it is likely that I was a victim of shill bidding, and ended up overpaying for the bat by at least \$15,000, and maybe more, since my bat neither originated from Rachel Robinson nor has the #42 on the knob.

Please let me know if you need any further info.

Sincerely,



Richard Levy

[REDACTED]