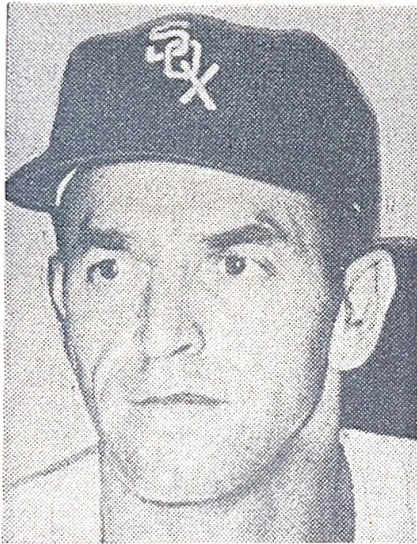


Sox Fielder Charged With Rape

James Rivera, center fielder for the Chicago White Sox, was arrested on a rape complaint by a 21-year-old wife of a soldier.

Rivera, 30, was seized Sunday immediately after he was identified by the woman during a game with the St. Louis Browns at Comiskey Park.

Rivera denied the attack, claim-



JIM RIVERA

ing he was intimate with the woman with her consent, police said.

He said they met Saturday night at Hyde Park near Lake Park and that he accompanied her to her apartment.

In her complaint of rape, the woman, a statistician, said that Rivera saw her walking her dog late Saturday at the intersection.

She said that Rivera whistled at the dog until the animal strained forward, pulling several packages from her arms.

Rivera offered to help, she said. He picked up the packages but kept them. Together they went to her apartment.

At the door, she told police, she

tried to block his way. He forced himself into the room and then made suggestive remarks, she said.

"I'm Jim Rivera, the great ball player," she said he told her.

When the woman was reluctant, he dragged her into the bedroom, she reported. After Rivera left, the woman called her husband, a private stationed at 5th Army Headquarters. He immediately notified Hyde Park police.

Rivera was arrested after he was identified at Comiskey Park by his alleged victim.

Rivera, regarded as one of the most promising rookies of the year, joined the White Sox last Spring.

After being "discovered" by famed coach Rogers Hornsby in Cuba, the colorful outfielder developed a reputation for batting .350 and more.

In 1951, when he was with the Pacific Coast League at Seattle, the White Sox bought his option for \$67,000, but he was traded to the St. Louis Browns when it was learned that he had a reputation for sex offenses. He was traded back to the Chicago team this year.

Rivera served four years in an Army prison for a sex offense against an Army captain's wife.

It was learned that Charles Comiskey, executive of the ball club, visited the police station.

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