

YES, IRENE, BABE RUTH PLAYED IN CELORON AND HIT A BALL INTO THE LAKE

From an article written by
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THE October 17, 1921 headlines screamed "Babe Ruth to play here." The *Jamestown Post* went on to say, "Babe Ruth! The name falls like magic on the ear of every baseball fan. Those who have read and heard of the prowess have longed for the opportunity to feast their optics on this Champion of Champions and baseball phenom."

On the night of October 13, 1921, the day after the Yankees lost the World Series to the New York Giants, reports circulated in the New York papers that Babe Ruth and several other New York Yankees had signed contracts with a local promoter for a barnstorming trip to start immediately after the last series game. In the early years of the century, players from World Series teams went on tours and replayed the Series in backwater towns. Sometimes the touring players were truly representative of the pennant-winning team; more often, they had only two or three top players and a bunch of amateurs. In either case, they were billed as World Series heroes and tickets were sold on that basis.



On the evening of October 13, 1921, Babe Ruth left for Buffalo. He played in Buffalo on the 14th. The *Jamestown Evening Journal*, the city's other paper, stated on Monday, October 17, 1921, "Babe Ruth is Coming to City." It further quoted Ruth, "I am not in any fight to see who is the greatest man in baseball, I am out to earn an honest dollar, and at the same time give baseball fans in these towns a chance to see the big players in action. I think we are doing something good for baseball...."

The exhibition game was scheduled at Celoron Park on Tuesday, October 18, 1921. George Maltby, manager of the local team and also the manager of Celoron Park, decided to open the doors of the recently closed park to present this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"It is a big undertaking to bring an attraction of this size and importance to Celoron, but Mr. Maltby, after posting a big

guarantee (\$1,000) decided to take the chance and ask in return only that all red-blooded fans turn out and enable him to break even on the deal. It is a chance that many will never have again and if the fans show the spirit that they have in the past, it is a foregone conclusion that Celoron Park will be filled to capacity ... Oh the joy of it all, seeing (Ruth) clouting a few of those dear \$2.50 balls into the blue waters of Chautauqua Lake."

The anticipation was great in the city. The results of the games in Buffalo and Elmira were covered in the paper. The *Jamestown Post* noted in an article that Hugh Bedient, Falconer's own hero of the 1912 World Series and a former teammate of Babe Ruth's, would pitch against Babe Ruth. This would be Bedient's first appearance in the area in the 1920s.

The paper covered every move of the Babe as he traveled to Jamestown. He arrived at 2:07 in the morning on October 18 and stayed at the Hotel Samuels. During the morning, a number of local fans gathered in the lobby of the hotel waiting