

with expectant interest for the appearance of Ruth, Meusel, and the other stars. However, the major leaguers did not make an early appearance, and came down to breakfast shortly before noon. Everybody expected a large crowd for the game that was to start at 3:15. Pat Riley was announced as the umpire.

When game time approached, rain started. This caused a temporary delay and a reduction in the number of expected fans. It was believed that the rain kept hundreds of fans from the game. Nevertheless, the crowd was treated to a real show. The *Jamestown Evening Journal*, on Wednesday, October 19, 1921, captured the highlights. "Ruth's Stars Defeat Locals. Muesel's Home Run Scoring 'Babe' Feature of Game." The *Journal* went on to state: "Babe Ruth made good his promise to knock one into the lake, but it did not come during the game. Before the game, in a long distance hitting exhibition Ruth knocked one into the blue water of Chautauqua Lake, a distance of over 500 feet."

The *Jamestown Post* described it as follows: "The Babe lifted one over right center field which found a resting place in the waters of the lake. This drive would have gone for a home run in most any game. It is a feat that has seldom been accomplished on

the local lot and it brought great cheers from the crowd, which the 'enfant terrible' acknowledged with a doff of his cap and winning smile."

Dorothy Ruth Pirone, the Babe's daughter, in her book entitled *My Dad The Babe*, described the hit as follows: "In Jamestown, one of his first stops on the tour, Babe hit a home run into Lake Chautauqua - it has yet to be retrieved."

Whether fact or fantasy, baseball lore was created and to this day, people recall the Babe crashing one into Chautauqua Lake.

As to the game, it was played under rainy conditions, which were not conducive to good baseball or the spirits of the fans. The downpour made for a muddy field. During the rain which fell before the game, the Babe found refuge underneath the stands and entertained a group of small boys and curious fans. Once the game started, Hugh Bedient was announced and his appearance was met with large applause. He clearly was the local baseball hero. Hugh's career highlights included a game in which he struck out 42 men in a 23-inning game at Corry to establish what is generally believed to be an all-time record for any kind of baseball, and his brilliant victory over

Christy Mathewson of the New York Giants in the 1912 World Series. Bedient and Ruth played together in Boston in 1914. It was reported that Hugh was in a facetious mood and kidded with the big fellow whenever the Bambino faced him. Hugh intimated that he would not be averse to letting Ruth drive one to Greenhurst, but for some reason, the protegee of swat failed to connect.

As for the game, the final score was 14 to 10. A turnout of 2,500 jammed the ancient ballpark. Ruth was 2 for 5 but failed to get a home run. So great was his home run prowess that the *Jamestown Post* banner the next morning read as follows: "Ruth Fails to Get Homer Here." Obviously, when Ruth failed to hit a homer (after having hit 59 home runs in 1921) he was banner news, even if it was an exhibition game.

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