

**The Sultan of Swat: Babe Ruth -Part II**

**Lead: The experts said Babe Ruth was finished, a has-been, long past his prime. At Wrigley Field one fine fall afternoon, he showed them he had a little left after all.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: After two decades of baseball and six years of unparalleled and record-setting play, Babe Ruth was beginning to slow down. Despite his 50 homers average per year from 1926-1931, serious questions were being raised about his ability to**

**continue at such a pace. His personal life had largely calmed down after his second marriage in 1929 but time was beginning to take its toll for the New York Yankee slugger.**

**In 1932 his total of homers dropped off to 41, but even that number was respectable. During a fall road trip he had an attack of what appeared to be appendicitis and had to return to New York for treatment. The doctors did not operate but Ruth took it easy for the rest of the regular season.**

**When the World Series with the Chicago Cubs began the Sultan of Swat was on the roster and he played every game. Batting .333 for the series, Ruth drove in six runs and in the third**

**game hit one of the most famous homeruns in baseball history.**

**The Cub fans were expressing their utter disapproval of Ruth and the Yankees and the Cub players were taunting the Babe when he came to bat. Legend has it that he stared the crowd down and pointed to a spot in the center-field stands and promised to hit it out of the ball park. The legendary Called Shot, a typical piece of Ruth bravado, turned out to be accurate. It was the longest home run that had been hit in Wrigley Field to that point. He probably did not point to the ball's destination, but the Cubs knew and the Ruth legend grew. As he rounded the bases he said to himself, "you lucky bum, you lucky, lucky**

**bum.**

**Ruth retired after a disappointing final year with the Boston Red Sox in 1935. He died in 1948.**

**At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

### **Resources**

**Creamer, Robert. *Babe: The Legend Comes to Life*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2015.**

**Creamer, Robert. "Rutholotry, or Why Everyone Loves the Babe," *Smithsonian* 25 (11, February, 1995), 68-78.**

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