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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sleepy Eye to celebrate 100th anniversary of Babe Ruth visit

Events planned at brewery and ballpark where Ruth hit two homeruns

SLEEPY EYE, Minn. – The story sounds like a baseball legend, too good to be true: the great Babe Ruth – *in his prime* – laced up his cleats for a game in this small town on the Minnesota prairie and belted two home runs, including one he described decades later as the longest he had ever hit.

This fall, baseball enthusiasts and local boosters will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Ruth's very real visit to Sleepy Eye with events happening on Saturday, Oct. 15. The schedule includes a plaque-dedication ceremony at the diamond where Ruth squared off against New York Yankees teammate Bob Meusel and a collection of amateur players on Oct. 16, 1922. The Sleepy Eye Ballpark is among the last-standing fields in the United States on which Ruth played.

The weekend will include a ticketed event at Sleepy Eye Brewing Co. with hot dogs and beer (two Ruth staples), presentations by baseball historians, special guests and live music by Sue Nelson, the organist for the Minnesota Twins and a native of nearby Nicollet.

Scheduled speakers include:

- **Stew Thornley**, Minnesota sports historian and official scorer for the Minnesota Twins and Minnesota Timberwolves
- **Dana Kiecker**, retired Major League pitcher for the Boston Red Sox who was born in Sleepy Eye and grew up in nearby rural Fairfax
- **Pat Fischer**, TV sports producer
- **Randy Krzmarzick**, local baseball historian and columnist

The Ruth event assumed another, deeper purpose when its primary organizer and champion, Dean Brinkman, died Sept. 5 from complications during emergency heart surgery at the age of 59. The event's committee plans to add time at the plaque ceremony for tributes to Brinkman, a chiropractor and former college baseball player who exuded enthusiasm for many things, not least of them his friends and baseball.

Space is limited for the ticketed program in Sleepy Eye Brewing Co.'s private event taproom. Tickets can be purchased at [sleepyeyebrewing.com](https://checkout.square.site/merchant/13M9WXGG3011M/checkout/HM7DR6DATZGOI/V7BLLLXSZEG). (direct link: <https://checkout.square.site/merchant/13M9WXGG3011M/checkout/HM7DR6DATZGOI/V7BLLLXSZEG>)

Schedule of Events for Oct. 15:

1 p.m. - Sleepy Eye Ballpark opens (500 7th Ave SW)

- All ages welcome to play catch and take swings where Ruth played
- Concessions by Sleepy Eye Baseball Association

3 p.m. - Plaque dedication ceremony at the ballpark

- Followed by tribute to event organizer Dean Brinkman

5 p.m. - Ticketed program at the Brewery (121 Main St. W.)

- Speakers, beer and loaded hot dog bar
- "Barnstorming Brew" beer release
- Purchase tickets [here](#)

7 p.m. - Private event room opens to the public for more talk about baseball and the Babe

- Brewery open till 11 p.m.

Organizers will be making the Babe Ruth celebration in Sleepy Eye an annual event, as Brinkman envisioned. They reproduced a 1922 photo of Ruth, Meusel and others in Sleepy Eye with two faces cutout so visitors can get their photo taken with "The Babe." The display is currently at Sleepy Eye Brewing Co. and will come out during special events in town.

For more on Ruth's visit to Sleepy Eye, view the 2016 feature by Boyd Huppert for his "Land of 10,000 Stories" series on KARE11:

<https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/land-of-10000-stories/babe-ruth-home-run-bal-l-turns-up-with-104-year-old-minnesotan/89-35072475>

Attachments:

- Photo of Ruth (right) and Meusel in Sleepy Eye on Oct. 16, 1922.
- Photo display with cutouts so visitors can get a picture with The Babe.
- Ruth's "longest home run" reference: Sleepy Eye Herald Dispatch, July 10, 1947, Diamond Jubilee Edition (Credit: Research by local Sleepy Eye historian Rick Borth)



"BABE" RUTH & "BOB" MEUSEL
AT SLEEPY EYE MINN. OCT. 16-22
FROM-NEW YORK YANKEES



Sleepy Eye



SIDS SIGNS ON BROADWAY

Ruth Hit Longest Homerun in City

Dozens of Sleepy Eye people still recall the visit to this city 25 years ago of Babe Ruth and Bob Meusel of the New York Yankees.

It was while playing here on a barnstorming tour that Ruth hit what he has often described as the longest homerun of his career.

Telling about it on a nationwide hookup a few years ago, Ruth said he hit the ball so hard, "it must still be traveling."

Very few old timers will dispute the Bambino's word that it was a powerful swat. John Cutting, who has perhaps seen more baseball games than any other Sleepy Eye resident, says it was the longest drive he has ever seen. Ruth's appearance here was on October 16, 1922.