

A Schott From The Bleachers

March 1921: The Babe Went 6-for-6 & Played First Base

by

Arthur O. Schott

Member, Society for American Baseball Research



The New York Yankees selected Shreveport, Louisiana, as its spring training site for 1921. Babe Ruth had just completed his most productive season to date, with 54 home runs in the 1920 season, and he was the biggest attraction in sports. Ruth appeared in 23 exhibition games that spring and put up the following numbers:

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	BA
23	98	24	32	5	6	7	.327

On March 13th at Shreveport, in the second game of the exhibition season, the Babe gave a memorable performance. In six trips to the plate he produced three home runs and three singles. In addition the great slugger stole two bases and participated in a double play while playing the entire game at first base.



Spring Training Notes

- New Orleans was first exposed to spring training in 1870, long before the New York Yankees came into existence, when five New Orleans baseball clubs played against the famous 19th century barnstorming Cincinnati Red Stockings.
- For 24 consecutive years (1916 – 1939) New Orleans hosted a major league team as a spring training site.
- The first club to train in New Orleans in the 20th century was Cleveland of the American League in 1902 and 1903.
- Although gone from the spring season baseball map, New Orleans was once a favorite stop along the exhibition trail. The site of many March major league contests was old Heinemann Park.
- Among my favorite spring training exhibition memories are:
 - Cy Blanton pitching a complete game no hitter for Pittsburgh over Cleveland
 - Joe DiMaggio's amazing hitting performances
 - Memorable home run blasts over the distant centerfield fence by Gus Bell and Dick Wakefield.

Arthur O. Schott

Louisiana's Official Baseball Historian

Babe Ruth's Perfect Day at Shreveport on March 13, 1921.

SHREVEPORT

	AB	R	H	PO	A
Storey, cf	4	0	1	4	0
Ewoldt, 3b	3	0	0	2	2
Miller, lf	3	0	0	1	0
Hollohan, 2b	4	1	1	1	4
Griggs, 1b	4	0	2	11	0
Kelleher, rf	3	1	1	1	0
Massey, rf	1	0	0	0	0
Watts, ss	4	1	1	1	2
Greenase, c	1	0	1	1	0
Wallace, c	3	0	1	1	0
Bennett, p	1	0	0	0	1
b – Vann, ph	1	0	0	0	0
Bird, p	2	0	0	1	0
Shirley, p	2	0	0	0	2
Totals	36	3	8	24	11

b – batted for Bennett

NEW YORK

	AB	R	H	PO	A
Fewster, 2b	3	3	1	3	2
Roth, rf	4	1	1	1	0
Christian, rf	2	1	1	1	0
Ruth, 1b	6	4	6	10	0
Wingo, lf	5	1	3	4	0
Bodie, cf	4	1	1	0	0
Skinner, cf	2	1	1	3	0
Ward, 3b	4	1	0	2	1
Mitchell, ss	3	3	1	1	5
Hofmann, c	3	2	2	2	1
Devormer, c	3	0	1	0	0
Doyle, p	0	1	0	0	1
a – Connelly, ph	0	1	0	0	0
Clifford, p	1	1	1	0	0
Johnson, p	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	42	21	19	27	11

a – batted for Doyle

Score by innings:

	R	H	E
Shreveport	0	1	4
New York	0	6	1

Summary:

- E - Skinner, Ewoldt, Griggs, Wallace
- 2B - Storey, Kelleher, Griggs, Wallace, Wingo
- 3B - Hollohan, Skinner
- HR - Bodie, Ruth 3
- SH - Miller, Fewster
- SB - Ruth 2, Mitchell, Fewster, Ward
- DP - Hollohan to Griggs, Fewster to Mitchell to Ruth, Hollohan to Watts to Griggs
- LOB - Shreveport 7, New York 8

Pitching:

	IP	H	R	BB	SO
Bennett	3	8	8	3	1
Bird	3	4	6	4	2
Shirley	2	7	7	3	0

	IP	H	R	BB	SO
Doyle	3	5	2	1	1
Clifford	3	3	1	1	1
Johnson	3	0	0	0	0

Umpires – Goes and Moriarty
Time – 2 hours