

# Babe Ruth's Called Shot

George Herman (Babe) Ruth Jr. – nicknamed The Bambino and The Sultan of Swat – was a slugging outfielder for the New York Yankees. Playing 22 seasons (from 1914 to 1935), he established many Major League Baseball batting records, including 714 career home runs, along with 2,062 bases on balls.

The called shot Ruth made in the third game of the 1932 World Series against the Yankees' hated rival, the Chicago Cubs, is legendary. With the score tied 4-4 and when Ruth came to bat in the top of the fifth, the Chicago crowd and players, led by pitcher Guy Bush, were screaming insults at Ruth.

With the count at two balls and two strikes, Ruth gestured in the direction of centerfield, and he hit the fifth pitch over the centerfield fence. Estimates are that it traveled nearly 500 feet.

The Yankees won Game Three, and the following day clinched the Series with another victory.

After Game Three, a young reporter asked the Yankee slugger, "How would you have felt if you hadn't hit that home run, if you had made an out instead?"

The Babe looked at the young man and said, "Son, that never even entered my mind."

He didn't think about striking out, grounding out or flying out. He didn't even think about hitting a single, double or triple. His mind was on the home run and the exact location he was going to hit it.

But how many people see all the ways that they can fail rather than concentrating on how they can succeed?

How many people are like the character in the "Li'l Abner" cartoons who always had a black cloud over his head? Wherever he went, there was trouble for him and for the people with whom he associated.

Like the cartoon character, some people view themselves as losers and they become losers to others. Winners dwell on reward and move toward it. Losers dwell on failure and move toward that.

*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13 ESV).*

