

Film Title and Release Date: *Ground Rules: Baseball Before Babe Ruth* (2019)

Length of Film in Minutes: 28 Minutes

Film Genre: Documentary

Reviewer Name and Grade: Corey F., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 21, 2021

In this documentary, the speaker went into great detail about baseball's Deadball Era. Baseball's deadball era was a time when baseballs were scarce and they were very hard to make and the material wasn't very good. The time period focussed in this documentary was the 1920's. A player named George Herman Ruth, (AKA, Babe Ruth, AKA The Great Bambino) was rewriting history. Babe Ruth shattered records for the most home runs in one season with 60 home runs in one season. The speaker then went into detail about the ball and how it was made. The ball was made by rubber from an old shoe which was molded into a ball shape, then it was covered by wool and yarn, and then it was ready to be played with. Since this ball was so hard to make, the balls were not replaced often. But all that eventually changed in this era. The umpires were expected to change the ball frequently, but with the ball being rubber and it being new, hitters were swinging with more power. To accommodate this, pitchers began spitting on the ball to make it harder for hitters to hit. This action was eventually banned. In my opinion this documentary was good. The way that the information was presented was a little fast and abrupt. The speaker changed topics just after saying something else, and the information was said very very fast. But on the contrary, some people may like information that is fast and continuous, but in my opinion it is too fast.

How did you find the film on Kanopy?

I found this film by subject searching "Baseball".

Did the presentation of information keep you interested?

The information was interesting, but the presentation was not very good.

What is the pace of the film?

This film is too fast for me.

What grade levels is this film appropriate for?

This film is appropriate for and will be easily understood by grades 5 and up.

Rating:

I give this film a rating of 3 Stars (it was okay; I had hoped for better). I give this film that rating because of the presentation of information. It was way too fast. For example, when the speaker was talking about how the ball was made, he immediately after jumped to Babe Ruth hitting with no pause.