

**“The Ruthian News”™**  
**BRC’s eNewsletter**  
**BabeRuthCentral.com: The Site That Ruth Built™**  
**Volume 1, Issue 2**

Welcome to the second edition of *The Ruthian News*, the companion e-newsletter to the BabeRuthCentral.com website. We hope you enjoy this issue and invite you to take a look at the features below. We expect to continue publishing *The Ruthian News* several times per year and will deliver it directly to the email address of your choice. You may opt-out at any time.

**THIS ISSUE’S FEATURES:**

**Report:** A recap of this year’s Babe Ruth Home Run Award presentation.

**Heard from a Fan:** BRC responds to a question from one of Babe’s fans.

**Announcing “BRGoods”:** Introducing exclusive, officially-licensed merchandise and collectibles.

**BRC SITE NEWS:**

**Announcements** – The launch BRC’s content for kids – The BRC Kids Clubhouse.

**What’s New Now** – The latest and greatest additions to the “Site that Ruth Built”™.

**Coming Up at BRC** – More audio clips, including an interview with author Charles Poekel.

**The Archives** – Read our prior Inaugural Edition of *The Ruthian News*.

**THIS ISSUE’S FEATURES**

**"Report": Presentation of the 2007 Babe Ruth Home Award to Ryan Howard**

As BRC visitors know, the Babe Ruth Award was created by the Sullivan brothers, Brian and Pat, and is jointly presented with Ruth Family members to the baseball player who hits the most home runs in either league. This year’s award event took place at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia on June 16<sup>th</sup> and the beautiful bronze statue representing the achievement was given to the Phillies’ Ryan Howard, who hit 58 home runs in 2006. Presenting the award to Howard were both Brian and Pat Sullivan, along with Julia Ruth Stevens and Tom Stevens (Babe’s daughter and grandson).

Brian Sullivan recently recapped the event for BRC:

“This season, it was kind of interesting how the event came together. We got started late in contacting Ryan Howard’s agent. We sent him a letter letting him know that Ryan had won the award for most home runs during the 2006 season and that we had wanted to present him with the trophy.

Earlier in the season, Ryan had already received the MLB MVP and Hank Aaron awards for his achievements that year. And, unfortunately, Ryan had started out the 2007 season very slowly. He only had a couple of home runs to start out the first month of the season and was pretty far behind the pack. Although Ryan ended up having another great season, he had started out so slowly that the Phillies management was not receptive to us presenting Ryan with the award.

We had sent Ryan’s agent a letter with the pictures of the other award recipients. Luckily, the assistant for Ryan’s agent happened to be meeting with Howard’s parents around the time that his office received our letter. After sharing the pictures with Ryan’s mom, she insisted that Ryan receive this award on the field. And, she was so taken with the trophy that she wanted to be there.

What was very nice about the whole thing was that Julia Ruth Stevens, Babe’s daughter who is 91-years-old, called to say that she was interested in joining Pat Sullivan of Sullivan Artworks and her son, Tom Stevens, in presenting the award this year. Without a doubt, it’s a great thrill for baseball fans to see Babe’s daughter. A lot of people aren’t even aware that she’s alive, so for a young fan it’s “big time” to say that they saw her. In fact, I think it would be great, if the MLB were to hire her in some capacity as an ambassador of sorts to baseball. She’s got a lot of great stories and it’s always such a pleasure to talk with her.

We also were joined by Bill Jenkinson, who wrote “The Year Babe Ruth Hit 104 Home Runs”. Bill was great to talk with, as he had a bunch of stories and insights into Babe’s home runs.

Ryan Howard was genuinely a nice guy. I guess he was pretty pleased to receive the award. When Pat Sullivan went to present the award to him, he said, ‘Wow, it looks awful heavy,’ and Pat said, ‘Yeah it is.’ Then when Pat was handing it over to Ryan he said, ‘I get to hold it!?’ and Pat said ‘Yeah, it’s yours, take it!’ I guess he was like a big kid in a candy store. He loved it. He seemed truly happy to be receiving it.

It was great to be back at the Phillies new ballpark. We had actually been there a few years earlier to present the award to Jim Thome. We can’t say enough nice things about the Phillies organization and how great they were to us. It just makes for a very pleasurable experience for all of us. And I have a feeling that somewhere along the way that Ryan Howard will certainly be winning this award again. We’ll be headed back to Philly!

I would say this award has been a great experience all along the way and it’s been fun presenting to all these guys. Up to this point, the number one experience in presenting the award has been at Yankee Stadium. We were standing in same exact spot where they had Babe Ruth Day and

where Lou Gehrig retired. And, when you consider that we were presenting the Babe Ruth Home Run Award in the “House That Ruth Built,” it was like the pinnacle of what we’ve doing with this trophy. Words couldn’t express how happy we were. But we still had a really great time presenting to Ryan. He was a really good guy.

When it comes down to it, we’re just a couple of working guys and we felt that more stuff should be in Babe Ruth’s name. It’s the right thing to do and we really enjoy it. We take a lot of pride in doing this every year and, believe me, the players are always very excited about receiving it, because it’s really a great trophy.”

[View pictures of the event.](http://baberuthcentral.com/Albums/SlideShow_SiteBRAward2007.html)

If you haven’t seen the photos from prior year awards, including presentations to Alex Rodriguez, Sammy Sosa and others, you can find them here:

**<INSERT LINK>**

### **"Heard from a Fan": BRC Responds to a Question from one of Babe’s Fans.**

A recent visitor to BabeRuthCentral.com sent us the following question: “I was discussing Barry Bonds with some friends and they mentioned that he has won seven MVP’s. This caused me to look up the MVP winners list and I noticed that Babe Ruth only won once. How is this possible? I checked the voting for other years that he clearly was the best player and he didn’t even get a vote. To add to that, other Yankee players were receiving votes in years that Ruth had monster years. (Example: In 1926 Ruth hit .372 and hit 47 homers and didn’t receive a single vote; Herb Pennock received the most Yankee votes.) The same can be said for many of his seasons. So what’s the deal?”

Here’s the answer, as well as a follow-up question for everyone’s thoughts:

The original version of the MVP award was the Chalmers Award, presented by Hugh Chalmers of the Chalmers Automobile Company from 1911 - 1914. From 1915 - 1921 (during some of Babe’s most notable pitching and hitting years), the MVP award did not exist. From 1922 - 1929, the MVP award was reinstated and became the “League Awards”, during which time Babe won only one award. Why? Because, according to the rules of the award at that time, a player was only allowed to receive the recognition once. This is why Babe did not come up in voting again until the rules regarding the award, and the award itself, were changed in 1931 to what we know as the MVP Award today.

So, when you consider Babe’s impact and statistics throughout his career, how many years do you think he should have won the award, if the MVP Award had existed throughout his career and he was eligible to receive it more than one year?

To share your thoughts, go to <http://baberuthcentral.com/grandstand/index.php>)>the BabeRuthCentral “Grandstand”. Select answers will be published in a future issue of The Ruthian News. The person who submits the best answer, as determined by BRC, will be given a complimentary BRC Fans’ Dugout membership, including an exclusive 100%-cotton t-shirt.

### **Announcing “BRGoods”: Introducing exclusive, officially-licensed merchandise and collectibles – The “Babe Ruth Inspirations” and “Legends of Their Leagues” Collections.**

BabeRuthCentral is happy to announce “BRGoods” – exclusive sports merchandise – and the opening of its companion site, BRGoods.com (BRG), an online store for collectibles and memorabilia from Babe Ruth and other players.

BRG’s inaugural product set includes, the “Babe Ruth Inspirations” and “Legends of Their Leagues” Collections. The first products in the “Inspirations” line include four unique, collectible t-shirt designs, while the “Legends” line features a high-quality art print featuring a hypothetical meeting between Josh Gibson, the Negro League great, and the Babe.

#### *Babe Ruth Inspirations Collection*

Some Ruth fans may not realize that Babe has been attributed with a number of famous quotes that have endured throughout baseball history. Several, not only reflect Babe’s famous personality, but are also quite motivational, including:

- “Never let the fear of striking out get in your way.”
- “Every strike brings me closer to my next homerun.”
- “I swing big with everything I got. I hit big or I miss big. I like to live life as big as I can.”

With BRG’s Inspirations line, Ruth fans can now get a shirt with one of these quotes on the front with a reproduction of a signed photo of the Babe (a part of the Ruth family collection) on the back. Each is a unique and inspirational Ruth collectible!

A fourth shirt simply recognizes the one claim to fame that no other ballplayer will ever be able to duplicate – the fact that Babe was “The Original Home Run King”. The front design features this achievement, superimposed by the number “714” representing Babe’s lifetime professional home run record.

Additional items and designs will be forthcoming over the next year. In the meantime, you may even want to get all four designs in this inaugural collection!

Each high quality shirt features the “quote” on the front, the exclusive photo of Babe on the back and the Babe Ruth Inspirations logo on the left sleeve. Each design is screenprinted on a heavyweight 100% cotton t-shirt, available in adult sizes Small thru 3XL for \$19.95 per shirt, plus shipping. These unique t-shirts can be purchased here: [<INSERT LINK>](#)

### *Legends of Their Leagues Collection*

In addition to the Inspirations Collection, BRG is pleased to introduce the Legends of Their Leagues Collection – a line of new-to-market, high-quality art prints. The first, in what will be a series of themed works, is Legends of Their Leagues No. 1 -- “Josh and The Babe.” This print, developed by BRG, in conjunction with the Family of Josh Gibson and Legendary Sports Prints, LLC, is available as both a limited-edition giclee and an open-edition museum print.

Based on a painting created by renowned sports artist, Bill Purdom, this first print features Babe Ruth and Josh Gibson, together in a hypothetical meeting at Yankee Stadium before an exhibition game. This beautifully-painted concept piece represents the coming together of these two legendary power hitters – Ruth, the predominant home run hitter of his time in the Major Leagues, and Gibson, the home run king of the Negro Leagues.

Both of their baseball careers (Ruth: 1914-1935 and Gibson: 1930-1946) occurred during an era in which Caucasians and African Americans did not have the opportunity to play together professionally, although both figures were known to have played a number of inter-race exhibition games. During their respective time periods, each figure was recognized as the premier home run hitter of their respective league. Over time, the two sluggers have been compared many times to each other, with Babe sometimes called “the white Josh Gibson” and Josh often referred to as “the black Babe Ruth.”

Babe Ruth led the American League or tied for most homeruns for 12 seasons. Ruth’s 1927, single-season record of 60 homeruns lasted for 34 years until it was broken by Roger Maris in 1961 and his career record of 714 lasted for 39 years until it was broken by Hank Aaron in 1974.

Although Negro League statistics were not officially recorded, Josh Gibson’s plaque in the Baseball Hall of Fame states that he hit “almost 800 homeruns” over the course of his career. Gibson was also recognized by multiple publications as having hit 84 homeruns in a season. Although there has been questions raised regarding some Negro League statistics and records, there is no question of Gibson’s tremendous homerun hitting abilities, as reinforced by some other famous contemporaries: “He hits the ball a mile.” – Walter Johnson; “He was the greatest hitter who ever lived.” – Satchel Paige.

There are many legends that surround both of these individuals and their home run-hitting prowess. Many baseball fans are familiar with Ruth’s “Called Shot” and “Home run for Little Johnny in the hospital”, as well as the story of home run hit by Josh Gibson in 1934, which was said to be the only fair-ball home run hit out of Yankee Stadium. Although the story’s accuracy cannot be established, the legend forever identifies part of Josh Gibson’s legend with Yankee Stadium, just as Babe’s “Called Shot” in the 1932 World Series will always be recognized as a part of the history of Chicago’s Wrigley Field.

In this 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jackie Robinson's entrance into the Major Leagues, this print recognizes baseball's significant role in Civil Rights and considers "what could have been", if these two home run figures were able to play on the same ball field professionally. What a home run duel that would have been!

The limited-edition 18"x24" giclee on superior, heavyweight cotton canvas is available for \$295 each, plus shipping, and is strictly limited to 300 units. The open-edition 8"x10" museum print on 200-year archival paper is available for \$50 each, plus shipping. It is available for purchase here: [INSERT LINK](#).

## BRC SITE NEWS

**Announcements** – The launch BRC's content for kids – The BRC Kids Clubhouse.

**What's New Now** – The latest and greatest additions to "The Site that Ruth Built".

**Coming Up at BRC** – An interview with author Charles Poekel, plus the a new section – Fans Contributions.

**The Archives** – Read our prior Inaugural Edition of *The Ruthian News*.

### **"Announcements": The launch of BRC's content for kids – The BRC Kids' Clubhouse**

During this past summer, the BRC team was hard at work developing some special content just for kids. Launched quietly in August, this section has some fun stuff. First, we discuss Babe's life as a kid, himself. Then, we go into some other features, such as explaining how Babe got his nickname, describing his love for kids and telling the story of Little Ray Kelly, Babe's "personal mascot".

We also include some additional multimedia content, including a number of episodes from "The Adventures of Babe Ruth" radio program that aired during the 1930's. We also have several video clips of short films that featured the Babe.

We wrap up this section with a feature on giveaways that kids loved to collect in Babe's days and a request for today's kids to submit their own description of what they like to collect now. In the future, we hope to bring some "activity pages" to this section, including coloring pages, a trivia quiz and some other puzzles or games.

We hope all the young BRC visitors and the young-at-heart BRC visitors enjoy this section! We welcome your comments and feedback via email at [Feedback@BabeRuthCentral.com](mailto:Feedback@BabeRuthCentral.com).

### **"What's New Now" – The Latest and Greatest Additions to "The Site That Ruth Built".**

TBD

**Coming Up at BRC** – An interview with author Charles Poekel, plus the a new section – Fans Contributions.

- 1) New Voices – BRC has interviewed author Charles Poekel, who just published a book called “Babe & The Kid”, which tells the true story of Babe and Johnny Sylvester. You can buy the book at Amazon.com through the link in Section 13: Stuff. If you’re not sure who Johnny Sylvester is, you can read BRC’s short recap of the Babe and Johny in Section 3: Legends. Watch Section 9: Voices for links to the audio clips of the interview with Mr. Poekel. We hope to have that on the site soon.
- 2) Fan Contributions - Coming soon to BRC are contributions from some of our frequent site visitors, who, of course, are big Babe fans. We’ll be uploading these articles and information in a new section called “Fans Contributions” within Section 10: Interact. The first piece to launch will be a short article and related history of every address that Babe lived at in his lifetime. We thank Bob Siler, a self-described “Babeite” or “huge admirer of the Babe” for his time, effort and input. Please look for this item soon in Section 10.

We will continue to post other large features such as this one in the “Fans Contributions” subsection of Section 10. For smaller thoughts and comments, we encourage you to contribute to “View from The Grandstand”, the blog of BabeRuthCentral.com. You can access it from the link in Section or go to it directly at [BabeRuthCentral.com/Grandstand](http://BabeRuthCentral.com/Grandstand).

**The Archives – Read our prior Inaugural Edition of *The Ruthian News***

If you missed the first edition of The Ruthian News from this past Spring, you can find it in our newsletter archives: < INSERT LINK >.

This issue will also be posted there, as well as all future issues.