

From the mouth of Babe

Impersonator spreads message in guise of baseball legend

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On April 3, 1930, a legend stepped up to the plate at Spudder Park Stadium, promptly knocking a home run out of the park in front of nearly 9,000 North Texans.

Now “The Great Bambino” is coming back, though he won’t be sprinting around a baseball diamond.

“You can tell a real story, the goods and the bads,” said evangelist David Frazie. “In everything he did, his motto was ‘If you’re going to do it, do it big.’ He was one of America’s greatest heros.”

Frazie, a Babe Ruth look-alike, uses his resemblance to the famed baseball player to spread his message of hope in churches across the country. He will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday and at 11 a.m. Sunday at Bible Baptist Church, 908 Austin.

“Texas has been so good to me,” Frazie said. “The doors have opened, and I come in.”

Frazie’s transformation took place about four years ago, when John Wayne approached him with a little advice at a conference — he knew if “The Duke” was willing to bestow a little wisdom, it was a good idea to consider it.

Gene Howard — a John Wayne impersonator — told Frazie he looked quite a bit like a certain baseball legend.

“He told me I looked enough like him,” Frazie said. “I just wasn’t interested. The next thing I know, I was in a revival meeting, and the pastor announced that ‘The Great Bambino’ would be there soon. I didn’t



Courtesy

David Frazie will appear as Babe Ruth this weekend at Bible Baptist Church, together with an old-fashioned Yankees uniform and inspirational message.

have a choice.”

After a rocky first performance, one of the younger audience members had a few questions for Frazie.

“This 13-year-old kid heard I was coming and looked up all these facts,” he said. “I was scared plumb to death. I didn’t even know much about the guy, and he was asking me when I was born.”

Frazie realized if he was going to be Babe Ruth, he needed to learn a thing or two about him. A few Internet searches and a pile of print-outs later, and Frazie was feeling more confident.

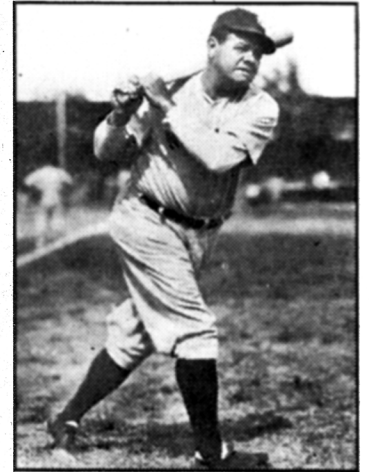
“I’ve always loved sports, but after a little research I learned so much about Babe Ruth,” he said. “He

was just a big ol’ kid. He was loud and boisterous. Lived a big life.”

Now Frazie tells the story of George Herman Ruth, a troublesome boy who was just a child when he was caught by police in the railroad yards of Baltimore throwing rocks at the trains. When his parents got overwhelmed, they sent him to St. Mary’s Industrial School for Boys where he learned the game of baseball.

“I tell the story of his passion for the game,” Frazie said. “I take various highlights of his life and share them. We tell people we need athletes, we need to work with passion and to help others.”

Together with a baseball



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Babe Ruth

bat and a boisterous laugh, Frazie appears in churches all over the country in a white and navy New York Yankees uniform, prepared to help inspire anyone who will listen.

“His name would draw thousands to the ballpark,” he said. “It stirred up the people. We are to live with passion and excitement, as when ‘The Great Bambino’ came to town.”

Frazie recounts stories of the generous and boisterous Babe, who was always the life of the party. But he doesn’t neglect Ruth’s darker side, full of addiction and warning.

“Babe had an alcohol problem,” Frazie said. “That side caught up to him. I try to use that part of the story to get some of these kids to make their lives count.”

About 30 times a year in different locations around the country, Frazie tells the story of an American hero who touched many lives and inspires both children and adults to look to Babe Ruth’s example.

“Our time is short,” Frazie said. “As long as God is using it, I’ll keep dressing up. I’ll do my best. It’s a great story for anyone to hear.”