BRAIN DELAY - DECISION MAKING AMIDST RUTHIAN PERFORMANCES AND EXCITABLE CROWDS AT LARGE VENUES

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The Setting

On 19 May 1929, Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig hit back to back home runs in the 3rd inning against the rival Boston Red Sox sending the capacity crowd of 50,000 in Yankee Stadium into a frenzy.

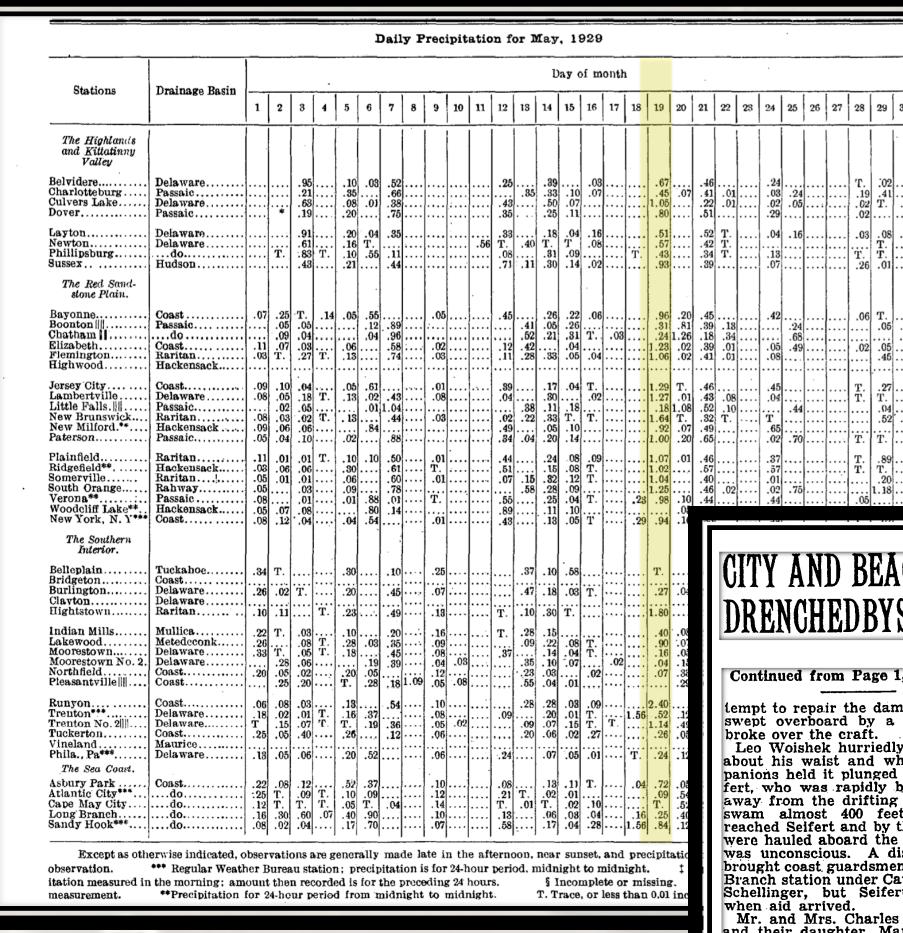






The Threat

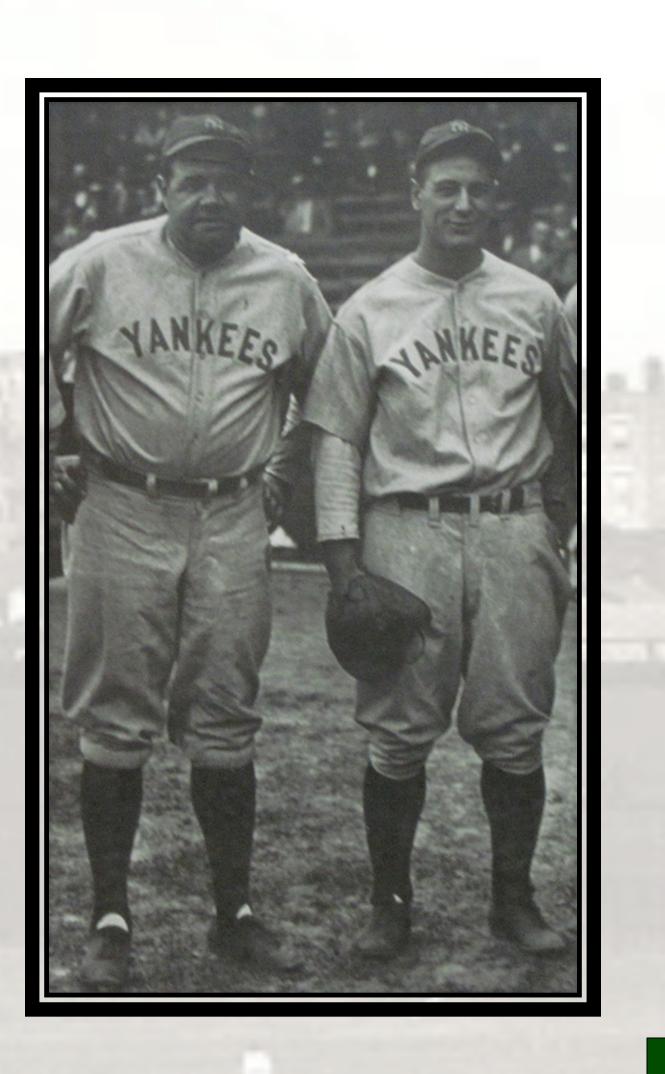
At the same time, a derecho-like squall line was wreaking havoc on an axis from eastern New York southward across New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania to the DelMarVa. Although it is undeniable that the western sky must have been imposing, the game continues.



NJ precipitation data courtesy of NCDC

Impacts

The 19 May 1929 storms caused widespread damage in NYC, uprooting trees, causing flooding, impacting beachgoers, and disrupting transportation.



CITY AND BEACHES

DRENCHED BY SQUALL

Sudden Storm Sweeps Man Off

Boat to Death at Edgemere-

Six Saved in Hudson.

THRONGS AT SHORE ROUTED

Miniature Cyclone Strikes in

New Jersey---Mercury Drops

21 Degrees in Two Hours.

Continued on Page Two.

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The Decision

The 50,000 in attendance had come to see their heroes. As Ruth steps to the plate to lead off the 5th inning, the skies open. Torrents of rain and lightning descend upon the gathered, and all 50,000 patrons attempt to leave simultaneously. Over 9,000 fans had packed "Ruthville," the right field bleachers where many of Ruth's home runs landed.

BALL FANS RUN TO EVADE RAIN

College Girl and Teamster Found at Bottom of Stairs After Crush.

18 RECEIVE INJURIES

Stampede Occurred as 9,000 Fans in Bleacher Rush to Escape Deluge.

Girl Victim Had Planned to Go to Game Day Before—Put

esterday and tried to save her from knocked down and trampled. He suffered concussion of the brain and internal injuries and still is in seri-

At Hunter College where Miss Price was majoring in geology she was known as a bright student who was also interested in literature. She said to have been a member of the editorial staff of the Echo, the Hunter College magazine, and to have contributed more than eighty poems to that magazine.

Her parents came to this country thirty years ago. Her father, Dr. Max Price, is head of the general division of the Union Health Centre at 222 Fourth Avenue. Her uncle. George Price, is head of the medical division at the same centre.
Dr. and Mrs. Max Price have an

house as a quiet man who kept to himself much of the time. He got up early every morning and went to a nearby garage for his truck, they said, and returned from work late at night. Carter has a son living at 431 East 144th Street. He was not at home all day vesterday. Detectives requested neighbors there to notify him of his father's death as soon as he returned, and to ask him to visit

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The Times

""Ruthville," yesterday afternoon, was filled. The Stadium altogether held about 50,000 persons, the bleachers, more than 9,000 and more than half of the latter sat in the desirable location. They wore straw hats and summer clothes, for at the beginning of the first game of the scheduled New York Yankee-Boston doubleheader the sun was out."

- May 20, 1929, The New York Times

BOY TRIED TO SAVE SISTER IN STAMPEDE

It Off for Brother.

A 17-year-old Hunter College sophomore and a 60-year-old truck driver were trampled to death in yesterday's stampede at the Yankee Sta-The former was Eleanor Price, a graduate of Evander Childs High School and a daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Max Price of 1,848 Loring Place, the Bronx. The truck driver was Joseph Carter, who lived alone in a furnished room at 218 East

other child, Nathan, 9 years old. Al. three children were born in New York. Eleanor Price graduated from Evander Childs in February, 1927. In high school she had been much interested in athletics and she was an ardent baseball fan. Yesterday's game was the first she had attended this season. Carter, the other victim of the

roomers in the East 128th Street the morgue to identify the body.

The New Hork Times

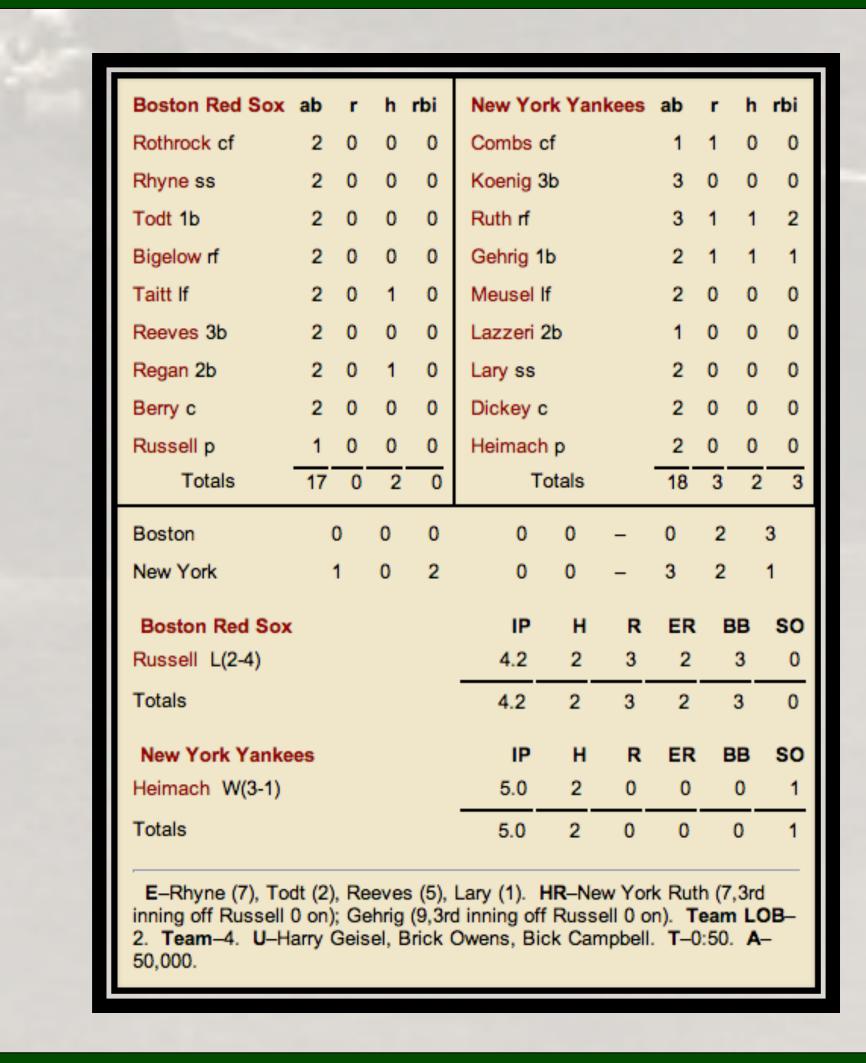
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Within 2 days, the Yankees were absolved of any responsibility in the fatalities and injuries. The Bronx District Attorney determined that there was no negligence on the part of the Yankees.



Baseball

The 19 May 1929 official box score between the Yankees and Red Sox. The official game lasted 50 minutes. The game was not called until after both Ruth and Gehrig had batted in the 5th inning.



The Tragedy

In the stampede to exit the Yankee Stadium "Ruthville" bleachers during the deluge, 2 were killed and dozens were injured.

Many of the injuries were significant, including broken bones and fractured skulls.

Stampede Occurred as 9,000 Fans in Bleacher Rush to Escape Deluge.

New York, May 20 .- (AP)-Eighteen persons were in hospitals today recovering from injuries suffered in stampede of bleacher fans at the Yankee stadium in which a college girl and a teamster were killed.

Miss Eleanor Price, 17 years old, a student at Hunter college and Joseph Carter, 60 years old, were killed. More than 60 were injured. The stampede occurred when 9,000 fans rushed from the south bleachers to escape a heavy rain which stopped the first game of a double header between the Yankees and the Boston

drove back the hundreds shoving toward the top of the stairs Wire netting enclosing either side of the stairway gave under the pressure of bodies and scores dropped

The crush was not stopped until

police rushed into the stands and

from the pile to the ground beneath ! the stand and escaped uninjured. Miss Price and Carter were among those at the bottom of the mass. The fgirl's 14-year-old brother was beside her but escaped serious injury.

Police called reserves and ambulances and set up emergency first aid stations in the players' dressing coopis welice ambulance surgeons attended the scores of injured. The injuries ranged from fractured skulls, broken bones and internal

injuries to cuts and bruises. Hundreds of persons had their clothing torn off in the jam. Police gathered up bushels of hats, coats, and even shoes after the passage had been cleared.

Newspaper articles from 20-22 May 1929 The New York Times, The Sporting News, The Albany Evening News

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Philadelphia, were carried by the blasts on short but fantastic flights and then pitched to the ground, badly oil fuel and stores taken on board.

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The details and aftermath of one of the first known large venue weather tragedies involving a professional sports franchise in the US. Have we learned anything since 1929?