

Field of Dreams nostalgia lives on through the Ghost Players

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nearly four decades after “Field of Dreams” brought a group of dead baseball players to life with a homemade diamond on an Iowa farm, Keith Rahe and his traveling troupers are still dedicated to keeping the cornfield mystique alive.

Once the long days of filming had passed and the fantasy flick had shifted from movie theaters to video cassettes, the farmhouse and ballfield where those idyllic scenes were shot was naturally becoming a tourist attraction.

Rahe lived near the site on the edge of his native small town of Dyersville, with convenient access by way of a back road the Universal Studios crew had made just for the movie shoot. He and his neighbors began showing up to make sure the pitcher's mound and home plate were in place, mingle with the visitors, and play catch.

Then one summer Sunday afternoon in 1990, Rahe persuaded a handful of his



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/Associated Press file

People portraying ghost players emerge from the cornfield at the “Field of Dreams” movie site in Dyersville, Iowa on June 22, 1997.

friends to put on some old wool uniforms he'd found, walk through the cornfields with him, and see what happened.

The young girl standing nearby sure was surprised.

“Mommy! Daddy! It's the ghost players!” she shrieked as she retreated to her parents in the infield.

After playing catch with and pitching to the tourists for about an hour, Rahe and his pals doffed their caps, waved goodbye and disappeared into the corn. An enterprising newspaper reporter happened to be there, and in the next day's

edition of The Gazette in Cedar Rapids there was a headline touting the magical appearance of the “Ghost Players” at the site. Just like in the movie.

The following week, Rahe answered a phone call from Al Ameskamp, the owner of one of the two farms the movie ballfield straddled. He was wondering if they were going to come back and play ball again.

“Well, not really. It was kind of a one-time deal,” Rahe said.

Ameskamp replied, “Well, would you? There

are 400 people out here waiting for you.”

Rahe has retold that origin story of the Ghost Players countless times, and now at age 68 he's never been more in demand. His gregarious goodwill band of ballplayers is a recurring feature for the public at the site, which he runs as the executive director of Dyersville Events.

This has been an especially busy summer in this part of northeast Iowa, with the completion of a permanent ballpark next to the filming location that will host a Major League Baseball game on Thursday night between the Minnesota Twins and the Philadelphia Phillies. MLB last staged a game at Field of Dreams in 2022, when the Chicago Cubs played the Cincinnati Reds in a temporary facility. The Chicago White Sox faced the New York Yankees in 2021 in the inaugural event.

“The first time it happened, when we got to go into the stadium, I got goosebumps and kind of teared up while walking

through that corn,” said Paul Scherrman, another one of the original Ghost Players. “It's just a great place.”

BASEBALL HAS A RICH HISTORY IN IOWA

The Ghost Players have visited 28 countries and dozens of states, Rahe said, mostly by paying their own way and using their vacation time. There are currently about 40 members, with half of those making more regular appearances. Earlier this summer, they traveled to Chisholm, Minnesota, for the “Doc Moonlight Graham Days” festival in honor of the film's heroic physician who chose medicine over sport after getting in one major league game.

“A lot of the ghosts are much more loyal than some of the ghosts,” said Scherrman, who had a brief minor league career and had a cameo in the movie. “The ghosts that come to the events that aren't as popular as Major League Baseball games are the harder-working ghosts.”

The Ghost Player experience, which allowed Scherrman to befriend the family of Roberto Clemente on a trip to Puerto Rico, has been decidedly more rewarding than serving as an extra in the film. He and the other locals spent 21 days on the set for 12 hours at a time just waiting to be called into action. During one scene, Scherrman appears for a few seconds as the catcher in a game interrupted by Timothy Busfield, the disbelieving brother-in-law of Kevin Costner's character Ray Kinsella.

For a state without any major metropolitan areas or a year-round climate favorable to outdoor baseball, Iowa has produced its share of talented players on a list that starts with Hall of Fame pitcher Bob Feller and his 1936 major league debut at age 17 after training on the family farm in Van Meter. The state is serious enough about the sport to place the high school season in summer to avoid conflicts with spring sports and get better weather.



MATT SLOCUM/Associated Press file

Boston Celtics' Jaylen Brown plays during Game 6 in a first-round NBA basketball playoff series on April 30 in Philadelphia.

Brown and Giannis set for January homecoming games

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

NEW YORK — Jaylen Brown and Giannis Antetokounmpo will play homecoming games a week apart in January.

The 2026-27 NBA schedule was released Thursday, setting the dates for the two former NBA Finals MVPs to return to face the teams that traded them this summer.

The schedules for opening night and Christmas had already been unveiled earlier this week, so those two games were among the most intriguing matchups not yet known. Brown, who was dealt from the Celtics to the rival Philadelphia 76ers in a stunning move, will play his first game back in Boston on Jan. 21.

Antetokounmpo was expected to be traded by Milwaukee this offseason — at one point speculation was that he might be swapped for Brown — and was eventually dealt to Miami. The Heat will travel to face the Bucks for the first time on Jan. 28.

Both of those games, which will be on Thursday nights, will stream on Prime Video.

Other details about the schedule:

FROM START TO FINISH

The season will open Oct. 20 with a tripleheader, highlighted by LeBron James, Brown and the 76ers visiting the Knicks, who will receive their rings after winning the franchise's first championship since 1973.

The regular season ends April 11. All-Star weekend is set for Feb. 19-21 in Phoenix.

BUSY NIGHTS AND NIGHTS OFF

Every team will play on Monday, Nov. 2, and there will then be no games the

following night, which is Election Day in the U.S. The league is leaving that first Tuesday in November as an open day in hopes that fans and members of the NBA community will participate in the voting process.

No teams will play on Saturday, April 10, the second-to-last day of the regular season. Every team is then in action on the final day, with all the games matching Eastern Conference teams and the one interconference matchup scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. EDT. The games involving West teams are set for 8:30 p.m.

WHERE TO WATCH THE GAMES

There will be 90 regular-season games televised nationally on ABC or NBC, up from 79 last season. Every team will be scheduled to appear on national TV at least twice.

Throughout the season, games will stream on Peacock on Monday nights, be shown on NBC and Pea-

cock on Tuesdays, be televised by ESPN on Wednesdays, and stream on Prime Video on Fridays.

Saturday night primetime games on ABC begin Dec. 12 with the Knicks visiting the Heat, while NBC's “Sunday Night Basketball” returns Jan. 24 with Oklahoma City visiting Golden State.

Prime Video will begin streaming Thursday night doubleheaders in January and some Saturday afternoon games starting Feb. 6 with Portland at Memphis, when Ja Morant returns to face the Grizzlies for the first time.

A LOT OF TV TIME

The NBA champion Knicks have the most appearances on ABC with six, while the Lakers, 76ers, San Antonio Spurs and Minnesota Timberwolves all are featured on ESPN eight times.

The Knicks, Spurs, 76ers, Thunder, Warriors, Nuggets, Lakers and Houston all get the maximum 11 appearances on NBC.



PAUL SANCYA/Associated Press

Detroit Tigers pitcher Keider Montero throws against the Cleveland Guardians during the first inning of a baseball game Thursday in Detroit.

Tigers shut out Guardians without a strikeout, a first in MLB since 2014

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Keider Montero pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning and the Detroit Tigers blanked the Cleveland Guardians 3-0 on Thursday despite failing to record a strikeout.

The Tigers became the first team to blank an opponent without a strikeout since Rick Porcello did it to the Athletics on July 1, 2014. The feat has only been accomplished seven times since 2000.

Montero (9-7) allowed one walk over 6 1/3 innings, holding the Guardians scoreless despite not recording a strikeout. Tyler Holton worked 1 2/3 strong innings, and Kenley Jansen earned his 15th save in a perfect ninth.

Dillon Dingler drove in the game's first run with an RBI groundout in the third before Eduardo Valencia added his fifth homer of

the season on a ball that sailed into the left-field seats.

Spencer Torkelson capped the scoring with a one-run single in the eighth.

Parker Messick (9-7) worked 5 2/3 innings for the

Guardians, allowing two runs and three hits while fanning six.

Cleveland's Steven Kwan had his career-high on-base streak of 27 games snapped, finishing 0 for 4.

ABSOLUTE

AUCTION

ONLINE BIDDING ONLY ENDS
WEDS., AUG. 26TH @ 4:00 PM EDT

LOCATED IN HARDIN COUNTY at 52 Willyard Lane, Glendale, KY 42740. From White Mills Junction, take Star Mills-Eastview Road approximately one half mile to the site on the left. (signs posted)

BARR REALTY & AUCTION CO., INC. has been selected by the Heath Family and Norman L. Grimes, to conduct this online absolute auction. Auctioneers Mark Barr, Stephen Barr, Chris Barr, Dennie Armes, Evan Barr, and Eric Barr with offices in Hardinsburg and Brandenburg, KY.

8.9 ACRES • 3 BUILDING SITES

County Water Available

Going on the auction block, selling by online bidding only, will be approximately 8.94 acres located on Star Mills-Eastview Road. The land is pasture field that has grown up with bushes and small trees. It will be selling in 3 parcels. **Parcel 1** totals 2.757 acres that includes a 900 square foot home that is in disrepair. **Parcel 2** has 4.179 acres. **Parcel 3** contains 2.004 acres. All parcels have paved road frontage on Star Mills-Eastview Road. County water is available from Hardin County Water District #2. **INSPECTION:** The real estate will be available for inspection on Wednesday, August 19th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM EDT and Wednesday, August 26th from 12:00 to 4:00 PM EDT at 52 Willyard Lane, Glendale, KY 42740. If you need help registering or placing a bid give us a call at 270-422-2136. **For full terms, conditions, photos, inspection, and payment information, see BarrRealtyAuction.com. A 10% buyers premium will apply.**

The Heath Family & Norman L. Grimes, Owners

“Selling the Earth and Everything on It”

Mark Barr

Auctioneer/Realtor

270-257-2136

BARR

REALTY & AUCTION

COMPANY, INC.

Stephen Barr

Auctioneer

270-668-9955

BarrRealtyAuction.com

270-756-2136 or 270-422-2136

Chris Barr, Auctioneer 270-945-2111

Dennie Armes, Auctioneer/Realtor 270-617-1051

Evan Barr, Auctioneer 270-547-0377

Eric Barr, Auctioneer 270-668-7599

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Hardin County Board of Health is requesting Lump Sum bids for their Addition and Renovation Project located at 580 Westport Road in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Bids are due at the Lincoln Trail District Health Department located at 108 New Glendale Road in Elizabethtown, Kentucky in Meeting Room B and in care of Lisa Pollok on Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 2:00 PM EST/ 1:00 PM CST. Bids will be opened in the Meeting Room and read aloud. Note that this project is Tax Exempt and Bidders ARE NOT to include taxes in their Bids. Scope of Work consists of, but is not limited to the following:

- Phase 1 and Phase 2 Construction
- Owner Occupied while under renovations
- This is a Direct Purchase Order Project
- Selective Demolition
- Minimum Sitemap and Asphalt Patching
- Concrete Foundations

- Street Framing
- Metal Studs & Drywall
- Masonry Veneer
- Metal Roofing
- HVAC/Plumbing/Electrical
- Elevator & Shaft Installation within the existing building

Bidding Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be purchased from
Lynn Imaging
328 Old Vine Street in Lexington, KY
859-255-1021 Tel.
11460 Bluegrass Pkwy. in Louisville, KY
502-499-8400 Tel.

If documents are to be mailed, a non-refundable mailing charge is required, made payable directly to Lynn Imaging at the time of the order.

Plans and Specifications are also available for review at the following locations:

Office of the Owner:
Lincoln Trail District Health Department
108 New Glendale Rd.
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

Office of the Architect:
527 Main Street
Shelbyville, KY 40065
502-719-0845

Office of Builder's Exchange:
2300 Meadow Dr. #100, Louisville, KY 40218
502-459-9800
1035 Strader Dr. #100, Lexington, KY 40505
859-288-0011

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

001113