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BASEBALL

How MLB plans to get the Yankees and White Sox in and out of the Dyersville Field of Dreams site in one day

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Jeremiah Yolcut, Major League Baseball's director of events and scheduling, has already envisioned it: Buses carrying the New York Yankees and Chicago White Sox driving down Dyersville roads, passing by farms and rows of corn, with players pulling out their phones to document baseball's unusual road trip through Iowa.

That vision could become a reality when the Yankees and White Sox arrive in Iowa to play a game at the Field of Dreams movie site in Dyersville on Thursday.

The game will be played in a specially constructed ballpark near the iconic diamond from the 1989 movie that starred Kevin Costner.

Perhaps the only thing just as unique as this first-of-its-kind game is the two clubs finding a way to get to the small Iowa town. It's no easy task for MLB, which has never played a regular season game in Iowa, let alone Dyersville.

But it's an undertaking Yolcut said they're more than ready for.

"I think we have thought of every possible scenario," he said.

More: Watch the Register's 20-minute documentary about Iowa's iconic Field of Dreams

How are the teams getting here?

The two teams will arrive in Iowa the day of the game. Because of the quick turnaround, MLB worked closely with the White Sox and Yankees on limiting travel as much as possible on game day. The two teams will fly into Dubuque and then bus to Dyersville the day of the game.

The Yankees are coming from Kansas City after wrapping up a series with the Royals, and the White Sox will fly in from Minnesota after finishing their series with the Twins. Their arrivals at the airport won't be open to the public. Yolcut expects it to be about a 40-minute bus ride for the teams from Dubuque to Dyersville.

"We're sensitive to not burdening the players with too much travel given that they're flying in the same day that they're playing," he said.

PREVIOUSLY:

MLB commissioner Rob Manfred excited for Field of Dreams game in Dyersville
Iowans willing to pay top dollar for tickets to MLB's game in Dyersville
What you need to know about MLB's Field of Dreams ballpark in Dyersville

Where are they staying?

If you're staying at a local hotel, you won't be seeing Aaron Judge, Anthony Rizzo, Jose Abreu or Tim Anderson wandering the hallways.

Neither of the teams will be staying in Iowa. They'll not only arrive the day of the game, but after it's finished, they'll pack up, shower, get on a bus and head back to the airport to fly to Chicago. The following day is a built in off-day for the two teams in case Thursday's game in Dyersville has to be pushed back because of any weather hiccups. Their next scheduled game is Saturday in Chicago.

It will make for a long day but Yolcut said MLB has talked to reps from both teams who have relayed how excited players are for the event.

"I think similar to our fans, they're wondering what it's going to be like," he said.

More: Didn't win the MLB's Field of Dreams ticket lottery? You can buy on StubHub for \$1k.

So, how long will they be here?

Yolcut expects the two teams to arrive in Iowa late morning or early afternoon before heading over to Dyersville. They'll leave shortly after the game. But it won't be all work during this work trip for the White Sox and Yankees.

MLB has encouraged players, especially younger ones, to watch "Field of Dreams" before the trip. Players will also have time to go over to the movie site diamond, where they can play

catch or take photos before the game. Yolkut said players may even use the movie site diamond to warm up on before the game.

"They're going to want to connect with the field the same way that obviously a fan would that comes here," he said.

Who all is coming?

Players and coaches, of course, will make the trip. But Yolkut said front office members from both teams are also set to also travel to Dyersville.

MLB commissioner Rob Manfred is also expected to be in attendance. Costner might be as well. None of those are really any big surprises, though. But since the game is on FOX, a whole other cast of familiar faces could be in the park. In the past, FOX has brought out some heavy hitters from some of its shows to MLB's big-stage games as a marketing ploy.

"We've had a lot of interest, whether its celebrities or politicians, in what we're doing here," Yolkut said. "So, I have no doubt that come Thursday as people interact with the game and come to the game and the ballpark, that there will be some special folks in attendance and as part of the event."

More: Yankees and White Sox to don custom throwback uniforms for Field of Dreams game

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