Yankee breakdown a mental problem?

By Robert Laherre

Being a fanatic Red Sox fan or Yankee fan means literally nothing to those of you who have witnessed this baseball season. The question as to team preference is irrelevant at this point. We have seen a dominating World Series winner crumble to a lowly fourth place finish, viewing a subtle aspect of the game as we watched this team sink into the second division.

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The answer lies in the psychological make-up of the player, or, more collectively, the team. Seldom does one find more of a mental power struggle than a pitcher going one-on-one with a dangerous hitter. Should the pitcher's psyche diminish one iota, his physical attributes (mainly those concerning the magnitudes of his fastball, curves, and sliders) render themselves virtually meaningless.

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