

# **The New York Yankees, Baseball and Fake News**

**by Phillip W. Weiss**

The Yankees lost 13 to 12. They blew big leads three times. Their new acquisitions failed to keep the lead. Just when I thought the Yankees were set to excel my hopes were dashed. All three new relief pitchers failed to perform well. Their new field player made a key error. After the game, manager Aaron Boone was lacking for words to adequately express his feelings. He sounded devastated. Maybe he was shellshocked. It is not every day that a team scores twelve runs and loses. That means the Yankees can score lots of runs in a game and still be at risk of losing. That is not a good place to be. Then I heard that the Rockies came back from nine runs down to defeat the Pirates 17 to 16 and the Mets lost to the Giants by the score of 4 to 3 in ten innings. So, there were several debacles in baseball. It happens. The best teams lose, and the worst teams win. The great players fail, and the mediocre players produce. It happens. Earlier this week I personally witnessed the Yankees defeat the Tampa Bay Rays TWICE. Now the Yankees came across a hot Miami Marlins team and the Marlins hung in there, did the job, got the key hits and won the game. But in baseball, a great win does not necessarily spill over into the next game. Each game is separate and unique unto itself. The Yankees can bounce back and win, or they can lose again. Whatever happens will happen. The future is uncertain. While the Yankees and Mets fans complain, the players are thinking about one thing, the next game.

For the players, the game is a job; for the fans it is a spectacle. The players have a job to do while the fans witness what the players do. The Yankees made several roster changes and judging from yesterday's loss, the results give cause for concern. All three new relief pitchers pitched poorly. The Yankees released one of their starting pitchers. His tenure with the Yankees did not work out. His problem was that he could not protect the lead. He could not go deep into a game. He showed that again. But it is unfair to judge the results from one game. But if the Yankees do a repeat performance with these pitchers failing again, then the alarm may sound much louder. WFAN is obsessed with Anthony Volpe's "defensive issues." I called WFAN and after waiting for about one hour spoke with Pete Hoffman. I said that Phil Rizzuto committed 263 errors, Pee Wee Resse 407 errors and Robin Yount 305 errors and no one ever complained about their fielding. I also stated emphatically and at least three times that errors are part of the game, that every player makes errors, that players like Mantle, Mays and Aaron made errors, even seemingly bonehead plays, which is part of baseball. Errors HAPPEN. Every player makes errors. First, Pete never heard of Pee Wee Reese. He also never saw these players play, and while conceding that errors are part of the game, asserted that Anthony Volpe's fielding is losing games for the Yankees. I replied that he is refusing to accept facts and that WFAN is pushing some kind of anti-Volpe agenda which is unfair. All my comments went out on the air. It is obvious that for reasons unknown to me, WFAN is pursuing an anti-Anthony Volpe agenda. I told Pete that I have been to one hundred Yankees

games and have seen Volpe make many superlative fielding plays. My point was that errors are part of the game and that it is unfair to dismiss the value of a player based on the fielding errors. Errors are inevitable. But WFAN is part of the Fake News media machine, so it inevitable that WFAN will manufacture a story to push an agenda that grabs the audience's attention. So, Volpe's fielding issues is not about concern over Anthony Volpe, who no one knows personally, but rather to use Volpe as a means for improving ratings and charging higher fees for advertising. If it isn't Volpe, then it would be another player who becomes the hapless target of unwarranted attack. No wonder that excellent players such as Albert Belle wanted nothing to do with the media. As a result, the media vilified Belle to the point that he left baseball at an early age. Jim Brown also retired early.

Fake News does not confine itself just to politics. Fake News will distort stories on any subject if they think it will grab an audience. WFAN often comments about how well Aaron Boone deals with the media. They like Aaron Boone because Boone is cooperative with the media. But if Boone refused to hold press conferences, Fake News would be on his case in a lightning second. This is what free press is about. Fake News has no obligation to be fair. Fake News wants to sell stories. That is how Fake News makes money. Fake News controls the airwaves and the press. No news gets out without Fake News. Sometimes Fake News isn't even free. It becomes an organ of the government which then uses Fake News to promote a political agenda. No matter who

**controls Fake News, the essential nature of Fake News never changes.**

**Fake News exists to spin stories that the public will buy and if it first does not, then create interest in the story by cleverly manipulating the public through a form of deceit known as propaganda. For example, using Anthony Volpe as a case in point, objectively few people care about Anthony Volpe. He plays baseball. There is no reason why there should be any public interest in Anthony Volpe. But then journalists reporting on the Yankees note that the Yankees are losing games and that Volpe makes errors. Fake News then blames Volpe's errors for causing the Yankees to lose, put that out as a story which they use to incite the public against Anthony Volpe, and the story gains traction, and the next thing Anthony Volpe is now the focal point of a controversy manufactured by Fake News which ignores the fact that errors are part of the game of baseball. Then Fake News starts to vilify Volpe, even accusing him of having mental problems, and incites hostility toward the New York Yankees for continuing to play Volpe, all of which is being done to force the Yankees to bend to the will of Fake News which wants Volpe gone. That's Fake News and it is here to stay.**