

AL Wild Card Series: Red Sox vs Yankees

Thursday, October 2, 2025

New York, New York, USA

Yankee Stadium

New York Yankees

Aaron Boone

Postgame Press Conference

Yankees - 4, Red Sox - 0

Q. Was there a moment early on in the game where you thought Schlittler to give that kind of performance?

AARON BOONE: Last night. Every time he has taken the ball, I feel so good about him that he's capable of the play because he is such a good strike thrower and with that stuff.

Felt great about where he was mentally last night when he was leaving, and as I said, results aside, you never know what the result is going to be. Like I knew it wasn't going to be too big for him.

What a performance.

Q. Your starting pitchers this series, three runs in 20 and a third. How big of a lift is that when your starting pitchers are doing that?

AARON BOONE: They were excellent in their own way, capped off by Cam tonight. We ended up getting -- what did you say? Over 20 innings? 20 and a third? You signed up for that. They were great. Allows the bullpen to set up properly. And Bed coming in on the third day in a row, finishing it off was awesome.

Q. It's one thing to be impressive as a rookie, it is another to do what he just did, which is historic. What did he do tonight that allowed him to completely dominate the way he did?

AARON BOONE: Just didn't make it more than it was, but also realized the importance of it. And, you know, when you throw 100 and command the baseball and can land your secondary pitches, you can be a problem for the opposition.



So that's what he is capable of. And obviously efficient enough to get through eight innings there, and I mean, just I am not surprised, honestly.

Q. Was there a conversation after the seventh inning there about do we take him out here?

AARON BOONE: I just wanted to -- I didn't even want to talk to him much. I just wanted to say, You good? Usually I will come down the steps if I am going to have a conversation or take him out. I kind of stood on the steps and just gave him my, Are you good? He was.

I was going to go hitter to hitter with him. I trusted his ability to fill up the zone. Obviously I had Devin ready behind him in the 8th if anything got away, but he ends up having a really quick inning.

So not much conversation about whether I was going to bring him back out or not.

Q. What is going through your mind on that McMahon catch?

AARON BOONE: It went up, and then I felt like I saw, kind of my periphery, I feel like he's got a beat on it, but I know where he is headed, and he's on the dead run, so it just flashed back to Gio Urshela a couple years ago when he went flying into the dugout against Tampa late in the season. I came sprinting out of the dugout because I knew it could be dangerous over there.

Great play by a great defender.

Q. Did he even -- so he didn't seem to be tiring to you? I know it was time to take him out and you had your closer, so I am not asking about leaving him in for the ninth, but strength-wise, did he seem like even --

AARON BOONE: He seemed good to me. It is a little bit of uncharted territory for him. I don't think he has ever gone that deep. No, he seemed in control to me.

Q. You always have confidence in your starting



pitchers, yet sometimes they take a few pitches or an inning to settle in. Did you know strike 1, strike 2 to Duran that he was on with a certain pitch, you said to yourself, He's got it tonight?

AARON BOONE: Honestly, that's how I feel most nights with him since he has come up. I feel like he is capable of going out there and dominating. He is a good strike thrower with his stuff. I thought Duran threw a really good at-bat on him to start off the game. He got some good swings off, 6, 7 pitch at-bat, it was a really competitive at-bat.

So I don't know if it told me he was on tonight or not because I, frankly, felt that most nights he has taken the ball for us.

Q. You mentioned a conversation with him yesterday. What did he say during that conversation that made you feel like that?

AARON BOONE: I am not going to reveal anything. But he was ready for today.

Q. You knew coming in against the Red Sox it would be a different kind of series just because it is them. They have played you tough historically and gotten the better of you guys a number of times. Is it more special because it was them, and you lost the first game too, which is hard to do, to come back from in these series?

AARON BOONE: Yes. Part of this whole thing I have talked to you guys a lot over the last several weeks how good of a club we have now at this time of year. You go into that best of three and it is pressure filled. It is like -- and it is against the team that you know so well and is your rival and they win Game 1.

You know, these guys just kept playing. Honestly, going into the night for me personally, it felt like as pressure-packed game as I have ever been in, as a player, manager, going into World Series, that's clinching to go into a World Series, just because the context in my brain of what I think our team is.

A great opponent. A storied opponent. Here, down one. The boys answered the bell and played great baseball these couple days.

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