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Silicon Valley's Lesson in Failure for Baseball Players

July 7, 2015

One of my favorite baseball quotes is from Tom House, co-founder of the National Pitching Association:

"Baseball is a game of failure taught be negative people in a misinformation environment."

While the quote acknowledges that failure is a component of playing baseball, learning to fail in baseball can be a key ingredient to eventual success.

A recent article the NY Times highlighted the success of companies in Silicon Valley:

The New York Times

BUSINESS DAY

A Fearless Culture Fuels U.S. Tech Giants

JUNE 18, 2015

the key point in the article was that much of the success in Silicon Valley was built on learning from failure:

> Often overlooked in the success of American start-ups is the even greater number of failures. "Fail fast, fail often" is a Silicon Valley mantra, and the freedom to innovate is inextricably linked to the freedom to fail. In Europe, failure carries a much greater stigma than it does in the United States. Bankruptcy codes are far more punitive, in contrast to the United States, where bankruptcy is simply a rite of passage for many successful entrepreneurs.
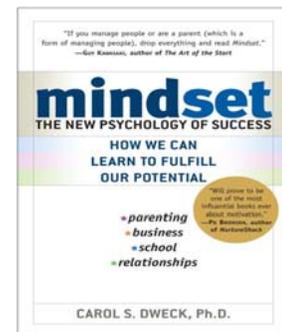
What do we take away from this article?

Being a successful baseball player means
accepting that failure is a component of eventual success.

In March I gave a presentation on mindset in sports where we discussed that many of our most successful athletes were not physically gifted so much as they had a successful mindset:

"We like to think of our champions and idols as superheroes who were born different from us. We don't like to think of them as ordinary people who made themselves extraordinary."

- Carol S. Dweck, PhD

You can view this Mindset presentation in my Baseball Video Library. Click here to watch a 1-minute video on the library and click here to subscribe.

Have a Question About This Newsletter?

Contact (631-352-7654 / PitchingDoc@msn.com) Dr. Arnold!