

28 - Path, Eijun Sawamura to the Scorching Mound

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(Please feel free to edit the speaker names if incomplete or inaccurate. Names are handled on a best-effort basis depending on the info on the source file. Dialogue is left as is.)

[00:03] Sa

The final game...

[00:05] Sa

...of my junior high career.

[00:17] Sa

My last pitch meshed
the gears of my fate.

SIGN Path, Eijun Sawamura

to the Scorching Mound

[01:58] (Flashback) Recap

Nice to meet you.

[02:01] (Flashback) Recap

You must be Eijun Sawamura-kun.

SIGN Rei Takashima Seido High School Baseball

[02:06] (Flashback) Recap

I'm the assistant director
of the Seido High School Baseball Team.

[02:08] (Flashback) Recap

My name is Rei Takashima.

[02:11] (Flashback) Recap

If you are *actually* aiming
to go to the nationals,

[02:15] (Flashback) Recap

you should gain something
from seeing a top-level practice.

[02:22] Recap

Is it just me?

[02:24] Recap

*Or did she make fun of
my junior high team?*

[02:28] Recap

You better be kidding me!

[02:31] Sa

I went to Tokyo to watch the Seido
High School Baseball Team's practice.

[02:36] (Flashback) Recap

If you don't want to get better,
then go back home to your mommy!

[02:39] Sa

I couldn't stand Azuma-san
talking trash to his teammate,

[02:45] Sa

so I challenged him to a duel.

[02:49] Sa

And then he showed up.

[02:51] (Flashback) Recap

This sounds like a lot of fun.

[02:55] (Flashback) Recap

Rei-chan,

[02:56] (Flashback) Recap

can I catch his pitch?

[03:00] (Flashback) Recap

Who's he?

[03:02] (Flashback) Recap

Kazuya Miyuki, a catcher.

[03:06] Mi

I'm Kazuya Miyuki,
a second-year at Seido.

[03:10] Mi

My first impression of Sawamura was...

[03:13] Mi

Well, a guy with a big attitude

[03:16] Mi

but not the skills to back it up.

[03:20] Mi

But Rei-chan herself brought him here,
so I figured he must have something.

[03:25] Mi

That's why I volunteered as catcher.

[03:27] (Flashback) Recap

The best pitches

[03:29] (Flashback) Recap

are works of art produced by the pitcher
and the catcher working as one.

[03:32] (Flashback) Recap

Works of art?

[03:35] (Flashback) Recap

Let's get cracking, partner.

[03:39] (Flashback) Recap

Partner?

[03:42] Mi

Sawamura's pitch far
exceeded my expectations.

[03:48] Recap

Fastballs for life? Yeah, right.

[03:50] Recap

I'm sure he doesn't realize it,

[03:54] Recap

but his pitch moves at the plate.

[03:57] Mi

His pitch was a natural moving fastball
that changed its path at random.

[04:07] Recap

Just clear your head...

[04:09] Recap

and give me your best shot.

[04:11] Recap

I'll catch it with everything I have.

[04:16] Recap

Right down the middle.

[04:19] Recap

What is this feeling?

[04:21] Recap

*I can hear my heart
beating loud and clear.*

[04:25] Recap

Oh, man...

[04:27] Recap

I know I can throw my best pitch here.

[04:31] Recap

I just gotta trust his mitt,

[04:34] Recap

and it'll be the best ever.

[04:36] Recap

The best pitch I've ever...

[04:39] Recap

ever thrown!

[04:41] Recap

*I'll hit it outta the
park, you stupid kid!*

[04:55] Recap

Nice pitch.

[04:57] (Flashback) Recap

This moment...

[05:03] (Flashback) Recap

...I think I opened the doors to a new world.

SIGN Seido Spirit Dorm

[05:09] (Flashback) Sa

The pitch I threw at Miyuki-senpai wouldn't get out of my head,

[05:13] (Flashback) Sa

so I decided to join the Seido High School Baseball Team.

[05:16] Sa

Nice to meet you.

[05:18] (Flashback) Sa

But even after I joined,

[05:21] (Flashback) Sa

there were many obstacles in my way.

[05:25] (Flashback) Recap

I'm Kataoka, the head coach.

[05:28] (Flashback) Recap

Is this all the new members this year?

[05:30] (Flashback) Recap

Yes, sir!

[05:34] (Flashback) Recap

I can't walk out in this atmosphere.

[05:36] (Flashback) Sa

Damn it!

[05:38] (Flashback) Recap

He came here late, but he's trying to sneak into the line!

[05:51] (Flashback) Recap

A guy who can't even apologize for being late to practice...

[05:55] (Flashback) Recap

is not a member of the Seido Baseball Team.

[06:00] (Flashback) Recap

If you don't like how I do things, then don't show up.

[06:04] (Flashback) Recap

Ever.

[06:15] (Flashback) Recap

I overslept because I was naive.

[06:20] (Flashback) Recap

I have no excuse.

[06:23] (Flashback) Recap

But I'm... I'm...

[06:28] (Flashback) Recap

I'm...

[06:32] (Flashback) Recap

I'm here to become the ace!

[06:35] (Flashback) Recap

And I'm confident that

I want it more than anyone here!

[06:49] Sa

And then, I was forced

to form a battery with...

[06:53] Sa

...someone I didn't know

instead of Miyuki-senpai.

[06:56] (Flashback) Recap

I'm Chris Yu Takigawa.

[07:00] (Flashback) Recap

Nice to meet you, loser pitcher.

[07:13] (Flashback) Recap

What is he doing?

[07:15] (Flashback) Recap

He didn't move the mitt a single inch.

[07:20] (Flashback) Recap

What's wrong?

[07:22] (Flashback) Recap

This is where my...

[07:23] (Flashback) Recap

mitt is.

[07:26] (Flashback) Recap

A head-to-head battle of powers

is the best part about baseball?

[07:31] (Flashback) Recap

Maybe for your own self-satisfaction.

[07:36] (Flashback) Recap

I would never...

[07:37] (Flashback) Recap

want to entrust the three

years we spent here to you.

[07:45] Sa

I couldn't understand Chris-senpai,

[07:48] Sa

and my urge to retaliate

only grew larger.

[07:55] (Flashback) Recap

Switching out Tanba-kun for

the pitcher, Furuya-kun.

[08:28] (Flashback) Recap

It's hard to believe he's

a first-year like us.

[08:31] (Flashback) Recap

One of his pitches can
crush a batter's heart.

[08:36] (Flashback) Recap

This is the difference between
Furuya's talents and yours.

[08:45] (Flashback) Recap

You...

[08:47] (Flashback) Recap

I told you.

[08:48] (Flashback) Recap

You'll never be the ace on this team.

[08:52] (Flashback) Recap

As long as he's in your grade.

[09:03] (Flashback) Recap

What about you?

[09:04] (Flashback) Recap

You're a second-string like me.

[09:07] (Flashback) Recap

Aren't you frustrated that
you lost to a second-year?

[09:11] (Flashback) Recap

You finish practice so early.

[09:16] (Flashback) Recap

If you want to go up, don't you have
to practice harder than anyone else?

[09:22] (Flashback) Recap

You've just given up
on getting better!

[09:33] (Flashback) Recap

Give up on aiming higher?

[09:37] (Flashback) Recap

For the idiot that
you are, you're sharp.

[09:46] (Flashback) Recap

Don't end up like me... Sawamura.

[09:58] Sa

Back then,

[10:00] Sa

I didn't know anything.

SIGN National Training Center

[10:02] Sa

How naive I was or anything
about Chris-senpai.

[10:07] (Flashback) Recap

We're here.

[10:09] (Flashback) Recap

Next, one-hand rowing.

[10:12] (Flashback) Recap

Ten reps.

[10:15] (Flashback) Recap

Don't rush. Go slowly.

[10:18] (Flashback) Recap

Go slow.

[10:21] (Flashback) Recap

He ruptured his subscapularis
and pronator teres muscles.

[10:28] (Flashback) Recap

On our team, with so many players,

[10:30] (Flashback) Recap

being away from the team for a year

[10:32] (Flashback) Recap

is the same as quitting the team.

[10:35] (Flashback) Recap

Even Coach Kataoka asked him
to support the team as a manager.

[10:42] (Flashback) Recap

However, he clung to a small chance,

[10:45] (Flashback) Recap

and he never gave up
on finishing as a player.

[10:51] Recap

You're kidding.

[10:54] Recap

Are you...

[10:57] Recap

kidding me?

[11:00] (Flashback) Recap

Hey, Sawamura-kun!

[11:04] (Flashback) Recap

Why?

[11:05] (Flashback) Recap

Why did you let a stupid first-year like me
mouth off to you and not say anything?

[11:11] (Flashback) Recap

Damn it!

[11:12] (Flashback) Recap

Are you kidding me?

[11:14] (Flashback) Recap

Damn it...

[11:16] (Flashback) Recap

I look like...

[11:19] (Flashback) Recap

...a stupid moron now!

[11:30] (Flashback) Recap

I have an impossible request.

[11:34] (Flashback) Recap

Please...

[11:36] (Flashback) Recap

Please...

[11:38] (Flashback) Recap

Please teach me baseball.

[11:44] Sa

On the Seido Baseball Team,
there's another pitcher...

[11:48] Sa

...who's a first-year.

[12:03] (Flashback) Recap

Sorry.

[12:04] (Flashback) Recap

I threw a little too hard.

[12:07] Sa

This... is how I met the one who
will be my rival pitcher on the team,

[12:14] Sa

Satoru Furuya.

[12:23] (Flashback) Recap

What are you doing?

[12:24] (Flashback) Recap

He's a first-year!

[12:27] (Flashback) Recap

Don't swing at those
high fastballs!

[12:32] Sa

Furuya is a fastball pitcher
who gets strikeouts by power.

[12:37] Sa

But...

[12:38] (Flashback) Recap

Furuya, I'm sorry.

[12:41] (Flashback) Recap

I can't catch your pitch...

[12:44] (Flashback) Recap

He's a monster.

[12:46] (Flashback) Recap

Damn.

[12:48] (Flashback) Recap

What does he want from us?

[12:51] (Flashback) Recap

I'm sorry, Furuya.

[12:53] (Flashback) Recap

The upperclassmen don't want to play baseball with you.

[12:58] Sa

Furuya's pitch was too fast,

[13:00] Sa

and he couldn't play baseball like he wanted to in junior high.

[13:05] (Flashback) Recap

By the way, did you hear the word about the first-string team?

[13:09] (Flashback) Recap

Twenty players can be registered for the summer Tokyo District tournament.

SIGN Super Baseball Theory: The Logic of Batting

[13:12] (Flashback) Recap

Basically, two second-string players will be moved up by the summer.

[13:17] (Flashback) Recap

You serious?

[13:19] (Flashback) Recap

So the scrimmages will be good opportunities to show off.

[13:23] (Flashback) Recap

Two players?

[13:24] (Flashback) Recap

Yep, two players.

[13:26] (Flashback) Recap

So we're moving up to the first-string!

[13:29] (Flashback) Recap

No, nothing's final yet...

[13:34] Sa

In the practice game against Kokudokan,

[13:37] Sa

which doubled as the last first-string tryout,

[13:39] Sa

I finally got the chance to form a battery with Chris-senpai.

[13:45] (Flashback) Recap

Switching out the catcher, Ono...

[13:50] (Flashback) Recap

for Takigawa.

[13:53] Ch

My job was to open the doors for Sawamura

[13:57] Ch

with the kind of talent he has.

[14:00] Ch

And in the duel against
Zaizen of Kokudokan,

[14:03] Ch

I saw how much potential he really had.

[14:12] Recap

*I've only been pitching
for three innings,*

[14:15] Recap

but was I able to show Chris-senpai...

[14:18] Recap

that I've improved, even a little?

[14:23] Recap

*Was I able to get even
a little bit closer...*

[14:30] Recap

*to the crown, the ace number,
that's still miles away?*

[14:42] Recap

*For now, I'll just throw
my best pitch into his mitt!*

[14:59] Ch

The infinite possibility
to shine as much as you polish...

[15:04] Ch

...like polishing a diamond in the rough.

[15:08] Sa

And then, as the summer
tournament closed in,

[15:11] Sa

the members of the first-string
team were announced.

[15:15] (Flashback) Recap

The new first-string players...

[15:17] (Flashback) Recap

are first-year, Haruichi Kominato,

[15:21] (Flashback) Recap

and another first-year,
Eijun Sawamura.

[15:26] (Flashback) Recap

That is all.

[15:28] Recap

Wait a minute...

[15:31] Recap

What about Chris-senpai?

[15:34] Recap

I have no regrets.

[15:36] Recap

In my last moments,

[15:39] Recap

I was able to receive the best pitch...

[15:43] Recap

I've ever had as a player.

[15:51] (Flashback) Recap

There's only one thing we can do.

[15:55] (Flashback) Recap

We have to get stronger,

[15:58] (Flashback) Recap

so we can fight for those who can't!

[16:04] (Flashback) Recap

Now...

[16:06] (Flashback) Recap

You don't have any time to look back.

[16:09] (Flashback) Recap

Not just you...

[16:11] (Flashback) Recap

Me, too.

[16:18] (Flashback) Recap

I'm going to fight till the very end.

[16:22] (Flashback) Recap

The fight Chris-senpai couldn't.

[16:25] (Flashback) Recap

This goes for both of us.

[16:28] (Flashback) Recap

So get stronger.

[16:31] (Flashback) Recap

Stronger.

SIGN Meiji Jingu Baseball Stadium

SIGN National High School Baseball Championship, Tokyo Qualifier

[16:38] Sa

Then the summer tournament began.

[16:41] Sa

There are many strong teams
in our West Tokyo District.

[16:47] Sa

Ichidai Third High with
Manaka-san as the pitcher.

[16:52] (Flashback) II

Let's get another run!

[16:53] (Flashback) II

Yeah!

[16:55] Sa

And...

[16:59] Sa

The ones who robbed us of our
ticket to nationals last summer.

[17:06] Sa

Inashiro Vocational School
with Mei Narumiya as the ace.

[17:11] Sa

But on our team, we have
amazing upperclassmen, too.

[17:16] Sa

The quiet, cleanup hitter
and captain, Yuki-senpai.

[17:21] Mi

He sucks at shogi, though.

[17:24] (Flashback) Recap

Miyuki, let's pick up from
where we left off yesterday.

[17:28] Sa

The roaring three-hole and
strong-shouldered center,

[17:31] Sa

Isashiki-senpai.

[17:33] Mi

Don't tell anyone,
but his nickname's "Spitz."

[17:38] Is

Who's a Spitz?

[17:41] Sa

Kind to others but strict to himself,

[17:44] Sa

a power-hitter five-hole, Masuko-senpai.

[17:47] Mi

His family owns a liquor store.

[17:53] Sa

One of my roommates at the Seido dorm,

[17:55] Sa

the cheetah-legged, lead-off man,

[18:00] Sa

Kuramochi-senpai.

[18:03] Mi

He's a second-year like me.

[18:07] Sa

A fellow first-year
who made the first-string,

[18:10] Sa

a baseball prodigy,

[18:13] Sa

Kominato Haruichi,

also known as Harucchi.

[18:15] Recap

*There's no easier pitch
to hit than this.*

[18:20] Sa

His brother and second baseman,

[18:23] Sa

Ryosuke Kominato-senpai.

[18:25] Mi

He doesn't even come close to Ryosuke-san
yet in terms of both fielding and batting.

[18:29] (Flashback) Recap

Haruichi, you're in the way.

[18:33] Sa

As for the pitchers,

[18:34] Sa

we have our ace, Tanba-senpai,
looking to come back from an injury,

[18:39] Sa

and Nori-senpai, the
second-year sidearm pitcher.

[18:43] Mi

The reason people say we don't
have an ace is because...

[18:48] (Flashback) Recap

Ball four!

[18:53] Mi

Tanba-san couldn't overcome
his weak mentality.

[18:58] Mi

But Tanba-san overcame
his weakness with effort.

[19:04] (Flashback) Recap

Yes! A fastball!

[19:11] (Flashback) Recap

It dropped?

[19:15] Mi

At last, we can go into the tournament
in our best state possible.

[19:18] Mi

Or so I thought...

[19:20] Recap

*Everything is about
getting to the stage.*

[19:24] Recap

We're definitely going...

[19:28] Recap

...to nationals.

[19:50] Mi

We were forced to go into the tournament without our ace.

[19:58] Mi

Until Tanba-san comes back,

[19:59] Mi

Furuya, Sawamura, and Nori's pitching are our only hope.

[20:04] (Flashback) Recap

Strike! Batter out!

[20:07] (Flashback) Recap

Game set!

SIGN Akikawa Seido

[20:13] Sa

In the fourth round against Akikawa Academy,

[20:16] Sa

we're now facing our first pinch.

[20:20] (Flashback) Recap

I asked for forkballs, but you couldn't relax,

[20:24] (Flashback) Recap

and your fastballs are only getting higher.

[20:28] (Flashback) Recap

Even if you keep throwing, you'll drag the team down.

[20:31] (Flashback) Recap

Now hurry up and get off the mound.

[20:35] (Flashback) Recap

Furuya.

[20:39] Recap

I'll carry on your frustration.

[20:43] (Flashback) Recap

Leave the rest to me!

[21:09] Recap

We've inherited...

[21:12] Recap

...your spirit.

[21:18] Sa

We can't afford to lose.

[21:21] Sa

Not for the people who didn't make the team,

[21:25] Sa

nor for the pitcher who walked off.

[21:28] Sa

*I'm here with everyone's
will on my shoulders.*

[21:33] Recap

Give me a four-seamer to the inside.

[21:38] Recap

You can, can't you?

[21:46] Recap

Come!

[21:57] Recap

Yes! Yes! Yes!

[21:59] Recap

Yes! Yes! Yes!

[23:35] Mi

Sawamura finally stands on the mound.

[23:38] Mi

We enter the mid-game with Akikawa.

[23:41] R1

Seido is definitely strong,

[23:43] R1

*but Yeung-kun has a reason
he can't lose as well.*

[23:46] R2

*Mine-san, is that because he and
Miyuki-kun both wear glasses?*

[23:51] R1

No...

[23:53] Sa

*Next time on *Ace of the Diamond*:
Neck and Neck.*

SIGN Neck and Neck

[23:56] Sa

Let's win the national title!

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