

# 29 - Neck and Neck

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**[00:00] (Flashback) Sa**

Furuya!

**[00:03] Sa**

*I'll carry on your frustration.*

**[00:07] (Flashback) Sa**

Leave the rest to me!

**[00:39] Mi**

*We've inherited...*

**[00:41] Mi**

*...your spirit.*

**[00:49] E1**

First pitch!

**[00:56] Sh**

*He swung late?*

**[00:57] Sh**

*It wasn't even that fast!*

**[01:00] Um**

Strike!

***SIGN*** Neck and Neck

**[02:35] Um**

Strike!

**[02:38] C1**

Yes.

**[02:39] Yu**

Nice pitch.

**[02:42] Is**

So you do have it in you!

**[02:45] Ku**

Let's get aggressive!

**[02:46] Ry**

Nice.

**[02:50] E1**

His pitch...

**[02:59] E2**

What are you doing, Nino?

**[03:01] E3**

His pitch is slow!

**[03:03] E4**

Eyes on the ball!

**[03:08] E1**

*Damn it!*

**[03:09] E1**

*It's seriously hard to time it right.*

**[03:15] E1**

*His left arm is hidden behind his body,*

**[03:20] E1**

*and then...*

**[03:26] E1**

*Did that one... move?*

**[03:30] E1**

Yes!

**[03:32] MM**

Third!

**[03:35] P1**

Wow! He got an out!

**[03:38] P2**

S-Sawamura got an out  
without allowing a runner!

**[03:41] Sa**

Yes!

**[03:44] Ka**

*That brat!*

**[03:46] Ka**

*He's gaining confidence because  
the coach acknowledged him.*

**[03:49] Ha**

Nice pitching, Eijun-kun!

**[03:53] Ha**

Wow! Sawamura-kun!

**[03:56] Sa**

Yes! Yes! Yes!

**[03:58] Sa**

Yes! Yes! Yes!

**[03:59] Sa**

Yes! Yes!

**[04:00] Ku**

Shut up!

**[04:01] Mi**

*A moving pitch right after a fastball.*

**[04:04] Mi**

*Just what I ordered.*

**[04:06] Mi**

*Though his control is still weak.*

**[04:09] Ch**

*He carried on Furuya's spirit  
and threw with his heart.*

**[04:13] Ch**

*Shutting them down with  
the first batter here was big.*

**[04:18] Ot**

*It was his first relief  
with a runner on base.*

**[04:21] Ot**

*But what guts he has...*

**[04:30] E1**

*Damn it!*

**[04:32] E1**

*There's something about that pitcher!*

**[04:35] E2**

*Don't worry about it, Nino.*

**[04:37] E2**

*It's not as fast as the last guy.*

**[04:39] E2**

*We'll definitely be able to take him out.*

**[04:42] E1**

*That's not it.*

**[04:44] E1**

*His pitch just feels disgusting.*

**[04:48] Sh**

*He swung really late.*

**[04:50] Sh**

*It's probably not about his pitch speed.*

**[04:55] EC**

*You know...*

**[04:56] EC**

*This inning's important.*

**[04:57] EC**

*Let's defend carefully!*

**SIGN** Akikawa Seido

**[05:00] An**

*Bottom of the fourth,  
Seido High School's offense starts with...*

**[05:05] An**

*...Number 3, center fielder,  
Isashiki-kun.*

**[05:07] Is**

*Yeah! I'm up!*

**[05:09] Ku**

*Jun-san, your helmet!*

**[05:12] Is**

Let's have a good match.

**[05:14] Um**

He's well-mannered despite his attitude.

**[05:16] R1**

A great line-up starting with the three-hole.

**[05:19] R1**

Seido should be looking  
to make a counterattack here.

**[05:22] R2**

Yeah.

**[05:24] Fu**

*It's hot.*

**[05:28] Ku**

Don't copy him!

**[05:31] Is**

*The first-year newbies  
are fighting with their spirits.*

**[05:35] Is**

*As third-years, we can't just sit by and watch.*

**[05:44] Sh**

*The second round with the clean-ups.*

**[05:47] Sh**

*I'll have to play even  
more meticulously here.*

**[05:55] Is**

You'd better be kidding me!

**[06:00] E1**

*That was a high and inside  
ball to throw him back!*

**[06:05] C1**

That went right over!

**[06:06] C2**

A long one down the left!

**[06:09] Sa**

Wow!

**[06:10] Sa**

Seriously?

**[06:11] Sa**

That wasn't even close to a strike!

**[06:13] Ku**

He just hits whatever pitch  
he likes even if it's a ball!

**[06:18] Sa**

So he's just a bad ball hitter?

**[06:20] Is**

Yeah! And second base!

**[06:23] Sh**

*It's the same batter as last time.*

**[06:26] Sh**

*I can't tell what he's thinking,  
which makes things hard for me.*

**[06:30] Is**

What are you looking at?

**[06:31] PP**

Seido! Seido!

**[06:33] P1**

Jun-san!

**[06:35] R1**

Th-The crowd is roaring.

**[06:38] R2**

He followed up well after the two  
first-years showed some fight.

**[06:42] R2**

*Can they turn the game around this inning?*

**[06:46] An**

Number 4, first baseman,  
Yuki-kun.

**[06:59] E1**

*Even if we walk him...*

**[07:02] Sh**

*No, we don't need to give up the first base.*

**[07:06] Sh**

*Not even the best batters  
hit 100% of the time.*

**[07:11] Sh**

*If I don't mess up my control...*

**[07:18] Um**

Foul!

**[07:20] E1**

*That hit was crazy fast...*

**[07:23] E2**

*If that thing comes my way...*

**[07:43] Um**

Ball four!

**[07:47] Sa**

He gave up his first walk!

**[07:50] Mi**

*Tetsu-san's swing must've made him cower.*

**[07:59] Mi**

*Looks like his gears are starting to misalign.*

**[08:06] An**

Number 5, third baseman,  
Masuko-kun.

**[08:23] E1**

First!

**[08:27] Um**

Out!

**[08:29] C1**

The five-hole bunted!

**[08:31] C2**

They're playing it real careful!

**[08:34] P1**

One out, runners on second and third!

**[08:36] P2**

Let's turn it around right here!

**[08:39] Sa**

That was an exquisite bunt  
which absorbed all the power.

**[08:41] Sa**

Unlike a certain someone!

**[08:44] EC**

*They're coming for those runs  
with everything they have.*

**[08:50] EC**

*This is where you fight it, Shunshin.*

**[08:55] An**

Number 6, catcher,  
Miyuki-kun.

**[09:01] P1**

Miyuki!

**[09:02] P2**

Hit it long!

**[09:04] P3**

Let's get a run here!

**[09:07] Re**

*One out, runners on second and third.*

**[09:09] Re**

*There's no one else better for the job.*

**[09:12] Ch**

*It's all you, Miyuki.*

**[09:18] Sh**

*He showed his first sign  
of weakness against Tetsu-san.*

**[09:22] Sh**

*That's how I'll take him down.*

**[09:35] R1**

Akikawa is bringing their players in close.

**[09:37] R1**

They don't plan to give up a single run.

**[09:40] R2**

Looks like it.

**[09:41] Mi**

*You little...*

**[09:43] Mi**

*Trying to realign your gears by force?*

**[09:49] Mi**

*"Even if I walk the clean-up,  
I just have to take out the rest."*

**[09:53] Mi**

*Sounds like you're trying  
your best to put up a front.*

**[09:56] Mi**

*Bring it on.*

**[10:01] Is**

*Won't go your way.*

**[10:03] Is**

*Watch out for a squeeze play!*

**[10:06] Sh**

*Do it if you want.*

**[10:07] Sh**

*I'll get you out at the plate.*

**[10:11] Um**

*Strike!*

**[10:14] Is**

*He's already back to his former self.*

**[10:18] Mi**

*Wow! That's a tight pitch.*

**[10:21] Mi**

*A curve to the farthest  
outside corner of the zone.*

**[10:25] Mi**

*Where are you gonna throw it next?*

**[10:33] Mi**

*A fastball high and inside.*

**[10:35] Ma**

*He got cornered with just two throws!*

**[10:37] Sa**

*High and inside right after  
his low and outside curve.*

**[10:41] Ma**

*With balls coming at every corner of the zone,*

**[10:43] Ma**

*even Miyuki's gonna have  
a hard time figuring it out.*

**[10:51] Sa**

*Where's his usual composure?*

**[10:54] Ku**

He's playing under Yeung's pace right now.

**[10:57] Fu**

*It's harder to hit than it looks.*

**[11:02] Mi**

*I accidentally swung at a high ball.*

**[11:06] Mi**

*I'm so lame.*

**[11:08] Sh**

So far so good.

**[11:10] Sh**

One out, runners on second and third.

**[11:12] Sh**

The next batter is very careful.

**[11:15] Mi**

*Your control is seriously amazing.*

**[11:18] Mi**

*Making plays would be so easy  
if I paired up with you.*

**[11:24] Mi**

*Starting with a curve to low and outside.*

**[11:27] Mi**

*Then a fastball to high and inside.*

**[11:31] Mi**

*Another high and inside,  
but it's outside the zone.*

**[11:35] CC**

Hit it hard!

**[11:39] Mi**

*What about the next pitch?*

**[11:41] Mi**

*If I were catching his pitch...*

**[11:45] Sh**

*I don't need another ball.*

**[11:48] SM**

*End it with a low and outside...*

**[11:51] SM**

*...curve.*

**[12:02] Mi**

*We're a perfect match!*

**[12:05] Mi**

*We'd make a great battery.*

**[12:11] Is**

Yeah!

**[12:24] Um**

Safe!

**[12:26] Is**

Yeah!

**[12:27] PP**

Tied!

**[12:29] P1**

A two-RBI triple!

**[12:31] P2**

Miyuki!

**[12:32] P3**

Nice batting!

**[12:34] Ot**

Yes!

**[12:38] Fu**

He hit.

**[12:39] Sa**

Nice batting!

**[12:41] R1**

Advancing to third while the outfield  
was playing with the ball was big.

**[12:46] R1**

*That battle of glasses  
will go down in history.*

**[12:50] R2**

It's times like this that really  
put teams to the test.

**[12:53] R2**

Seido might turn it around this inning.

**[12:57] E1**

Shun.

**[12:58] E2**

Shunshin.

**[13:02] Sh**

Did he know what I was throwing?

**[13:05] E1**

P-Probably.

**[13:07] E1**

He stepped in with no hesitation.

**[13:10] E1**

But even then, he hit it perfectly...

**[13:15] Sh**

This is good.

**[13:18] Sh**

Finally a team worth playing.

**[13:22] E1**

Shun.

**[13:25] Sh**

*That's right.*

**[13:27] Sh**

*I came to Japan...*

**[13:28] Sh**

*...to play a game like this.*

**[13:33] Sh**

The fun's just beginning.

**[13:41] E1**

One out!

**[13:42] E2**

One at a time!

**[14:01] Um**

Out!

**[14:03] C1**

They stopped it!

**[14:04] C2**

That glove toss was amazing!

**[14:06] C1**

Yeah, a great play from both teams.

**[14:10] R1**

This battle of glasses is just amazing!

**[14:17] Mi**

*Are you serious?*

**[14:19] Mi**

*You little...*

**SIGN** Akikawa Seido

**[14:31] E1**

*It was faster than I thought...*

**[14:33] Sa**

Third!

**[14:36] Um**

Out!

**[14:39] Sh**

*He swung late again.*

**[14:42] Sa**

Yes! Yes! Yes!

**[14:44] Ku**

Don't shout every time!

**[14:47] E1**

*What's with his form?*

**[14:54] E1**

*My timing's way off!*

**[14:56] Sa**

Shortstop!

**[14:58] Ku**

*Man...*

**[14:59] Ku**

*You sure know how to make my job difficult.*

**[15:05] Um**

Out!

**[15:07] P1**

Yes! Two outs!

**[15:09] P2**

Nice play, Kuramochi!

**[15:12] Ha**

Wow!

**[15:13] Ha**

Sawamura-kun's pitching  
is working really well!

**[15:16] Re**

Yeah.

**[15:17] Re**

The opponents are quick to hit,  
so he's playing at a good tempo, too.

**[15:25] Sa**

Harucchi's brother!

**[15:27] E1**

*Wh-What was that feeling?*

**[15:31] C1**

Wow! Three for three!

**[15:33] C2**

He took out the top  
of the line-up, fair and square.

**[15:36] Mi**

*His pitch has power because  
he's throwing with confidence.*

**[15:40] Mi**

*At this rate, we should be fine even  
if his control's a little weak.*

**[15:42] Sa**

Yeah!

**[15:45] E1**

Sorry, Shun.

**[15:47] E1**

His pitch feels a little weird.

**[15:50] E2**

His arm comes out late, too.

**[15:54] Sh**

*Well played.*

**[15:56] Sh**

*Looks like he wasn't some random  
pitcher to buy you time.*

**SIGN** Interesting

**[16:05] Sh**

Interesting.

**[16:08] Um**

Strike!

**[16:09] Um**

Batter out!

**[16:11] Sa**

Damn it! I missed by a hair!

**[16:15] Sh**

*A hair?*

**[16:17] Sh**

*Does he know Japanese?*

**[16:19] Sa**

The first curve!

**[16:21] Sa**

I should've swung at that one!

**[16:23] Ku**

You still would've missed.

**[16:25] P1**

Kuramochi!

**[16:26] P1**

It's about time you showed them up!

**[16:28] P2**

Show them how fast you are!

**[16:30] P3**

Roll it gently!

**[16:32] Ku**

*I know already.*

**[16:34] Ku**

*I can't go zero for three.*

*I'm gonna get on base.*

**[16:42] Sh**

The ones I have to watch  
out for are the clean-ups.

**[16:46] Sh**

I can't allow any runners before them.

**[16:54] Ku**

*He's persistent about throwing inside.*

**[16:58] Ku**

*You're gonna throw the last  
one to the outside, right?*

**[17:02] Ku**

*Shoot!*

**[17:04] Um**

Strike!

**[17:05] Um**

Batter out!

**[17:09] CC**

Nice try!

**[17:10] CC**

Nice fight!

**[17:12] Mi**

*This is bad.*

**[17:13] Mi**

*We need to take him out quick.*

**[17:19] Mi**

*He's starting to throw with more spirit.*

**[17:24] R1**

H-His aura is intense.

**[17:27] R1**

He's still a second-year, isn't he?

**[17:30] R1**

He throws as if this is his last year.

**[17:37] R2**

This summer is his last season.

**[17:41] R2**

School in Taiwan starts in September,  
six months before us.

**[17:48] R2**

So he was technically in a Taiwan high school

**[17:51] ---**

for six months before he came here.

**[17:55] R2**

And in the rules of high school baseball,

**[17:58] R2**

it states that only those whose  
attendance is three years

**[18:02] ---**

or less can participate.

**[18:05] R1**

So because of his six months in Taiwan...

**[18:08] R2**

Right.

**[18:10] R2**

After spring next year,

**[18:13] ---**

he'll be ineligible to participate  
in high school baseball.

**[18:19] Um**

Foul!

**[18:21] Um**

Foul!

**[18:29] E1**

Let him hit it, Shun!

**[18:31] E2**

We'll stop it with our bodies!

**[18:33] E3**

We'll stop it with our lives!

**[18:35] Sh**

*I'll throw as many and  
for as long as it lasts.*

**[18:40] Sh**

*So long as I don't give up  
any runs, we won't lose.*

**[18:50] E1**

Yeah!

**[18:54] R2**

The ace from overseas.

**[18:56] R2**

He's made his final summer his best.

**[19:01] R2**

Akikawa has something they can't give up.

**[19:11] R1**

*I-I see.*

**[19:13] R1**

*So that's why they can keep such  
high morale against a school like Seido.*

**[19:17] E1**

All right, one more run!

**[19:19] E2**

Let's get one more run, guys!

**[19:22] Is**

We're gonna take this game!

**[19:24] Is**

You'd better show some spirit, Sawamura!

**[19:26] Sa**

Yes, sir!

**[19:39] Is**

Let's be aggressive, Sawamura!

**[19:40] Ku**

Send some this way, Sawamura!

**[19:42] Is**

Kill them!

**[19:43] Ma**

One at a time!

**[19:52] Um**

Out!

**[19:54] Ka**

Wow, he even jammed Yeung!

**[19:56] Ho**

Are you serious?

**[19:58] P1**

Is this really for real?

**[20:01] R1**

Looks like his own teammates are surprised...

**[20:05] Sh**

*He got me good.*

**[20:07] Sh**

*His weird pitching form  
wasn't his only weapon.*

**[20:10] Sh**

*His pitch randomly moves.*

**[20:12] Sa**

One out!

**[20:14] Sh**

*I only knew about their ace  
and sidearm pitcher.*

**[20:17] Sh**

*He's a real game changer.*

**[20:19] Ha**

Wow.

**[20:21] Ha**

He's on a roll!

**[20:23] Ha**

*I can't stand just sitting here  
in the dugout like this.*

**[20:28] Ha**

*I want to stand on the field, too!*

**[20:31] Ma**

Seido's pitcher is a first-year.

**[20:33] I1**

Yeah, but he wasn't in the dugout  
for the Kanto tournament.

**[20:37] Ma**

Is he worth keeping Tanba  
and Kawakami reserved?

**[20:41] I1**

Either way, it's the end-game.

**[20:44] I1**

Whoever scores the next run  
could win the game.

**[20:50] Ka**

Kominato.

**[20:52] Ka**

Go swing your bat and warm up.

**[20:55] Ka**

Be ready to go when I call you.

**[20:58] Ka**

And Tanba, you...

**[21:04] E1**

It's not fast, but it's really hard to hit.

**[21:07] E1**

Let's start by acknowledging that.

**[21:09] E2**

Let's hold the bat short and swing.

**[21:11] E3**

Let's get another run and put Shun at ease.

**[21:14] E2**

After all, their ace can't play today!

**[21:17] E3**

Yeah, let's get a hit-by-pitch  
or something and—

**[21:20] C1**

Hey, what's going on?

**[21:26] ---**

*What?*

**[21:32] (Flashback) Ka**

This is something only you, the ace, can do.

**[21:37] (Flashback) Ka**

Go to the bullpen

**[21:39] (Flashback) Ka**

to put some pressure on the other team.

**[21:48] (Flashback) Ka**

Tanba.

**[21:52] Sh**

*The ace... is in the bullpen.*

**[23:36] Sh**

I thought Seido's ace couldn't play today.

**[23:38] Sa**

All right, Harucchi, Kuramochi-senpai!

**[23:40] Sa**

Let's smack a big one and get a run here—

**[23:41] Ka**

Boys!

**[23:42] Ka**

Do you seriously plan  
to play past the ninth inning?

**[23:45] Ka**

Go get as many runs as you can right now!

**[23:48] Sh**

Bring it on.

**[23:49] Sh**

This is the Japanese high school  
baseball that I came to play.

**[23:53] Mi**

Next time on *Ace of the Diamond*:

Winner and Loser.

**SIGN** Winner and Loser

**[23:56] Mi**

Let's win the national title!

**[23:58]** ---

**[24:00]** ---

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