

# 31 - Kind of Like a Promise

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**SIGN** May 11th

Practice Field A

**SIGN** Mamiya East - Seido

(Kanagawa) (West Tokyo)

**[00:13] @Sawamura**

Okay! Nice pitch!

**[00:16] @Sawamura**

Looking good, Nori-senpai!

**SIGN** Batting eighth Left fielder

Eijun Sawamura

**[00:19] @Sawamura**

I can even tell all the way from left field!

**[00:21] @Sawamura**

I think I'm in love!

**[00:22] @Kuramochi**

Shut up!

**[01:59] @Kanemaru**

Left field!

**[02:00] Aso**

It's yours, Sawamura!

**[02:02] @Sawamura**

I've got it! I've got it!

**[02:03] @Kanemaru**

Fine, just don't drop it!

**[02:07] @Sawamura**

I've got it!

**[02:09] @Kanemaru**

Yeah! Nice catch, Sawamura!

**[02:12] Seki**

Nice catch!

**[02:13] Aso**

It was right to him.

**[02:15] @Sawamura**

Nori-senpai, nice pitch!

**[02:18] @Sawamura**

Two outs!

**[02:20] @int\_Miyuki**

*He's able to play defense now.*

**[02:23] @int\_Miyuki**

*But I hate his MLB-inspired call outs.*

**[02:26] Ota**

I get nervous when the ball flies that way.

**[02:29] Sachi**

He's gotten better at fielding.

**[02:34] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

Kawakami will start! Miyuki will bat cleanup!

**[02:37] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

Sawamura will play left field!

**[02:39] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

Be ready to pitch at any time.

**[02:41] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

Keep your shoulder warm while you're fielding.

**[02:45] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

In the summer tournament, you may have to take the mound after being in the field.

**[02:51] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

Let's prepare for as many scenarios as we can.

**[02:55] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

Yes, sir!

**[02:59] @Sawamura**

Two outs!

**[03:01] @Tojo**

Focus on the batter!

**[03:02] @int\_Sawamura**

*The game looks different depending on where you play.*

**[03:05] @int\_Sawamura**

*Three per inning.*

**[03:08] @int\_Sawamura**

*Twenty-seven in nine innings.*

**[03:12] @int\_Sawamura**

*An out that the fielders get and a strikeout...*

**[03:16] @int\_Sawamura**

*both count as an out!*

**[03:25] @Sawamura**

That's the Cap cannon!

**[03:28] Narrator**

*Spurred on by their eight-game winning streak,*

**SIGN** Mamiya

**SIGN** Seido

**[03:31] Narrator**

*the batters exploded in this game,*

**[03:33] Narrator**

*getting double-digit hits  
in six innings.*

**[03:36] Narrator**

*Sawamura took the mound  
in the eighth inning.*

**[03:41] Narrator**

*The numbers were all over  
the place at the start*

**SIGN** Eep

**[03:43] Narrator**

*as he had trouble controlling them.*

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**SIGN** H

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**[03:46] @Miyuki**

Hold yourself back!

**[03:47] @Sawamura**

Sorry!

**[03:49] Narrator**

*Subsequently, he went back to his fastballs,*

**[03:52] Narrator**

*and his pitching settled down.*

**[03:54] Narrator**

*He allowed no runs.*

**[03:59] Narrator**

*The cleanup put the game out of reach  
with a second home run*

**[04:04] Narrator**

*for the team's ninth straight win.*

**[04:05] @Miyuki**

That felt good.

**SIGN** Y

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**[04:07] @Sawamura**

Yeah!

**[04:10] @Miyuki**

Number 2 looked pretty good that last inning.

**SIGN** Mamiya

Seido

**SIGN** Win Kawakami – Sawamura Loss Okamoto – Kido – Mizuno

**[04:13] @Sawamura**

Yes, and 7 was improving, too.

**[04:16] @Miyuki**

Yeah, let's work on that.

**SIGN** Kodama – Seido

(Chiba) (West Tokyo)

**[04:21] Narrator**

*Next, the second game.*

**[04:23] Narrator**

*The Kawashima-Ono battery started.*

**SIGN** Kodama

**SIGN** Seido

**[04:27] Narrator**

*The early innings were a fierce hitting battle.*

**[04:30] Narrator**

*Two first-years had especially good performances.*

**[04:34] Narrator**

*Left fielder Masashi Yuki hit two doubles and a home run.*

**[04:39] Narrator**

*Right fielder Kaoru Yui had three hits and four runs.*

**[04:45] @Kataoka**

With Miyuki and Ono on the first string,

**[04:48] @Kataoka**

you won't have many chances to don a mask.

**[04:52] @Kataoka**

Would you be willing to play a different position?

**[04:59] int\_Ono**

*The coach is asking him?*

**[05:01] @int\_Miyuki**

*He must have been really  
impressed by Yui's batting.*

**[05:05] (Flashback) @fb\_Yui**

I'm Kaoru Yui from Mamiya Senior.

**[05:08] (Flashback) @fb\_Yui**

I was a catcher in elementary  
and middle school,

**[05:11] (Flashback) @fb\_Yui**

so I can't think of playing  
any other position!

**[05:19] @Yui**

Yes, if you think I can help the team.

**SIGN** Meanwhile

Practice Field B

Maeda - Seido

(East Tokyo) (West Tokyo)

**[05:47] @int\_Ochiai**

*He hit that slider well.*

**[05:50] @int\_Ochiai**

*Was he waiting for it?*

**[05:52] @int\_Ochiai**

*I said I'd train him, but he  
already has a head for baseball.*

**[05:59] @Ochiai**

What do you think of those two?

**[06:03] @Furuya**

They're trouble if they get on base.

**[06:06] @Furuya**

That alone makes me not  
want to pitch to them.

**[06:09] @Furuya**

And it's discouraging when they hit  
strikeout pitches.

**[06:14] @Ochiai**

I see.

**[06:16] @int\_Ochiai**

*That's his opinion as a pitcher,  
but he's watching them closely.*

**[06:21] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

Would you please show Furuya  
the second-string game?

**[06:25] (Flashback) @fb\_Ochiai**

If you're sure that's what you want.

**[06:27] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

Yes, I want him to defend the infield.

**[06:32] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

That will teach him how the other fielders behind him feel.

**[06:36] \_Sign**

Itching

**[06:36] \_Sign**

Itching

**[06:36] @int\_Ochiai**

*This natural pitcher...*

**[06:42] @int\_Ochiai**

*No matter what amazing pitches you throw,*

**[06:44] @int\_Ochiai**

*it is your heart that moves your body.*

**[06:47] @int\_Ochiai**

*That is probably what*

*Coach Kataoka wants him to learn.*

**SIGN** Practice Field A

**SIGN** With the relay from Kawashima to Kaneda to Tojo

**SIGN** Kodama

Seido

**SIGN** Win Kawashima - Kaneda - Tojo Loss Sasaki - Shigeki - - Izumi

**SIGN** Seido has reached

10 consecutive wins

**SIGN** Third week of May

**[07:13] \_Student**

How does Okumura-kun seem today?

**[07:15] \_Student**

Pretty quiet.

**[07:17] \_Student**

What's that thing he's reading?

**[07:19] \_Student**

It's a baseball scorebook.

**[07:21] \_Student**

A scorebook? Not a story about swords and magic?

**[07:27] (Flashback) fb\_Student**

Okumura-kun, I borrowed this from Umemoto-senpai.

**[07:31] (Flashback) @fb\_Okumura**

Thanks.

**[07:34] (Flashback) fb\_Umemoto**

Oh, a scorebook?

**[07:36] (Flashback) fb\_Umemoto**

That's some pretty hardcore studying!

**[07:38] (Flashback) fb\_Umemoto**

I'm impressed!

**[07:42] int\_Student**

*She complimented me for studying,  
and I didn't have the heart to deny it.*

**[07:50] @int\_Okumura**

*This is amazing.*

**[07:52] @int\_Okumura**

*Not only did he throw various pitch types,  
he also threw them to various areas.*

**[07:57] @int\_Okumura**

*He threw a lot in the early innings to  
show the batters his different pitches.*

**[08:02] @int\_Okumura**

*But in the middle innings,  
he didn't throw any balls.*

**[08:06] @int\_Okumura**

*They're all in the strike zone.*

**[08:10] @int\_Okumura**

*Trusting his pitcher's arsenal,*

**[08:12] @int\_Okumura**

*he calls a simple and effective game.*

**[08:15] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

*You should know, pitching is an art  
performed by the pitcher and catcher!*

**[08:22] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

*Are you sure you want to do this?*

**[08:26] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

*Will you create that art with me?*

**[08:39] Watanabe**

*Two home runs in one game.*

**[08:42] Watanabe**

*Batting practice is really paying off.*

**[08:45] @Miyuki**

*Could be.*

**[08:46] @Miyuki**

*I'm getting more comfortable  
with a wooden bat, too.*

**[08:50] Maezono**

*I want to do that, too!*

**[08:59] @Sawamura**

*Yeah!*

**[09:08] @Sawamura**

*Go!*

**[09:12] @Sawamura**

*Run!*

**[09:20] @int\_Okumura**

*What is he, damn it?!*

**[09:23] @Asada**

He said that trying the tire...  
showed promise.

**[09:29] @Asada**

Sawamura-senpai sounded really happy.

**[09:34] @Sawamura**

Okay, last one!

**[09:40] @Okumura**

Jerk.

**[09:49] \_Player**

Thank you for the food!

**[09:51] \_Player**

Thank you for the food!

**[09:53] @Yui**

Thank you for the food!

**[09:56] \_Player**

Thank you for the food!

**[09:57] \_Player**

Thank you for the food!

**[09:59] \_Player**

Thank you for the food!

**SIGN** May 13th

Practice Field A

**[10:21] @Kataoka**

Move your legs and lower your hips!

**[10:24] @Kataoka**

Keep your eyes on the ball!

**[10:28] @Kuramochi**

Furuya's playing infield?

**[10:31] @Kominato**

Maybe he'll be in the game.

**[10:33] @int\_Miyuki**

*The coach really meant it.*

**[10:40] @Yui**

Let's make the twentieth a good one!

**[10:48] @Yui**

Nice pitch! Let's take a break.

**[10:52] @Sawamura**

Yeah.

**[10:54] \_Fan**

Resting after twenty pitches?

**[10:55] \_Fan**

Is that all for today?

**[10:58] @Kataoka**

No, he'll be pitching one hundred times.

**[11:01] @Kataoka**

But he would never pitch one hundred  
times consecutively in a real game.

**[11:06] @Kataoka**

Twenty pitches, rest, twenty pitches,  
sprints, twenty pitches, rest.

**[11:12] @Kataoka**

I'm having him practice like a real game,

**[11:15] @Kataoka**

including anticipating him  
getting on base as a batter.

**[11:19] \_Fan**

Oh, I see.

**[11:22] @Yui**

Want to work in some of the numbers?

**[11:24] @Yui**

Number 11 or the improved cutter?

**[11:29] @Sawamura**

I'll stick to fastballs for today.

**[11:31] @Sawamura**

Miyuki-senpai is catching for me tomorrow.

**[11:34] @Sawamura**

I'll work on the numbers then.

**[11:37] ---**

I understand.

**[11:41] @Okumura**

Nice pitch! Next will be  
your fifteenth pitch!

**[11:47] (Flashback) @fb\_Ochiai**

Okumura and Seto are not physically ready yet.

**[11:52] (Flashback) @fb\_Ochiai**

I said I'd train them on the second string,

**[11:55] (Flashback) @fb\_Ochiai**

but their high baseball IQ  
may help motivate the first string.

**[12:04] @Kataoka**

Okumura, you'll switch with Yui for this set!

**[12:07] @Kataoka**

You'll catch for Sawamura.

**[12:18] @Okumura**

I'm sorry, but I can't do that.

**[12:23] @Kataoka**

You can't? What do you mean?

**[12:31] @Sawamura**

Boss, he won't catch for me  
until he's on the first string!

**[12:36] @Sawamura**

It's kind of like a promise,  
a rule for himself!

**[12:39] @Sawamura**

He's like... as difficult  
to deal with as a wolf!

**[12:45] @Sawamura**

But that's what makes him interesting!

**[12:53] @Kataoka**

I intend to put you and  
Seto on the first string

**[12:56] @Kataoka**

before Miyuki leaves for  
the Tokyo Tournament.

**[13:01] @Kataoka**

Does that satisfy you?

**[13:06] (Flashback) @fb\_Okumura**

I haven't earned the right yet.

**[13:11] (Flashback) @fb\_Okumura**

I'm going to make it to the first string.

**[13:14] (Flashback) @fb\_Okumura**

Once I do...

**[13:16] @Okumura**

Once that time comes,  
I will be all too happy to.

**[13:24] @Okumura**

But...

**[13:25] @Okumura**

I am a catcher.

**[13:27] @Okumura**

If I'm going to be on the first string,  
it has to be as a catcher.

**[13:46] @Kataoka**

I understand. That's enough.

**[13:52] \_Fan**

He disobeyed Coach Kataoka.

**[13:55] \_Fan**

Who is that kid?

**[13:59] @Sawamura**

Time to get back to it, young Yui!

**[14:01] @Yui**

Y-Yes, sir!

**[14:03] @Sawamura**

Okay, third inning!

**[14:08] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

Would you be willing to  
play a different position?

**[14:13] (Flashback) @fb\_Yui**

Yes, if you think I can help the team.

**[14:48] @Sawamura**

He's back, he's back!

**[14:50] @Sawamura**

Wolf boy's back!

**[14:53] @Okumura**

Is today another cram school day?

**[14:55] @Sawamura**

Nope, not today.

**[14:58] @Okumura**

Then why are you here?

**[15:00] @Miyuki**

I heard, Okumura.

**[15:03] @Miyuki**

You won't catch for Sawamura  
until you're on the first string?

**[15:06] @Miyuki**

You said that to the coach?

**[15:16] SFX**

Grrrr

**[15:18] @Miyuki**

The coach thought it would be best for the  
team if you caught for a first-string pitcher.

**[15:24] @Miyuki**

Then you went and refused.  
You sure are a weird one.

**[15:29] @Miyuki**

And really...

**[15:30] @Miyuki**

You made the coach mad and passed up  
your chance to be on the first string.

**[15:36] @Sawamura**

He may be right!

**[15:38] @Sawamura**

The boss is even stricter than he looks!

**[15:44] ---**

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**[15:46] @Miyuki**

Come to think of it, there was  
another guy who mouthed off

**[15:49] @Miyuki**

to the coach and almost  
got removed as a pitcher!

**[15:55] @Sawamura**

Who was that idiot?

**[15:57] @Miyuki**

You. It was you.

**[15:58] @Sawamura**

What a handful!

**[15:59] @Miyuki**

You sure are.

**[16:01] @Sawamura**

Why are you bringing that up now,  
in front of a first-year?!

**[16:05] @Sawamura**

It got way worse because you got involved!

**[16:12] SFX**

Grrrr

**[16:17] @Okumura**

I must seem insignificant  
to the guys on the first string.

**[16:25] @Sawamura**

No, I don't think that at all.

**[16:28] @Sawamura**

You stand out, you're a  
good catcher, and you're scary.

**[16:32] @Okumura**

I won't...

**[16:35] @Okumura**

be satisfied with just  
making the first string.

**[16:37] @Okumura**

I want to become a starter.

**[16:47] @Miyuki**

Well...

**[16:49] @Miyuki**

*I see.*

**[16:51] @Miyuki**

*No wonder he's been so hostile  
toward me from day one.*

**[17:00] (Flashback) @fb\_Miyuki**

I'll be joining the team this spring.

**[17:02] (Flashback) @fb\_Miyuki**

My name is Kazuya Miyuki.

**[17:04] @fbint\_Miyuki**

*I'll steal everything I can from you,  
even your starting spot.*

**[17:11] (Flashback) fb\_Chris**

Yeah, good luck.

**[17:17] @Miyuki**

Sounds like fun.

**[17:53] @Yui**

Furuya-san, what would you think about playing a position other than pitcher?

**[18:04] @Furuya**

I don't want to, of course.

**[18:09] @Furuya**

Especially infield.

**[18:10] @Furuya**

There's so much to learn,  
and everyone else is better than me.

**[18:21] @Furuya**

But I'm in no position to complain.

**[18:26] @Furuya**

If I have to be a fielder,  
I'll do my best, even if I suck.

**[18:30] @Furuya**

That's what I think.

**[18:32] @Furuya**

When I'm out there playing, it means  
there's someone else who isn't.

**[18:47] (Flashback) \_Player**

Furuya, don't you have  
an outfielder's glove?

**[18:52] (Flashback) \_Player**

You can borrow mine when  
you're in the field.

**[18:56] (Flashback) \_Player**

It's pretty beat up,  
but it'll serve you well.

**[19:01] @Furuya**

If I can play,

**[19:03] @Furuya**

I'll do my best in any position.

**[19:08] @Furuya**

That's why I want to practice  
swinging and do fielding drills.

**SIGN**

**[19:15] @int\_Kataoka**

*Wanting to be the best pitcher in Japan  
and wanting to make your team the best*

**[19:20] @int\_Kataoka**

*are admirable goals.*

**[19:23] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

The one who shoulders the feelings of  
the whole team on the mound is the ace.

**[19:27] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

The current jersey numbers will be discarded!

**[19:30] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

The twenty players on the tournament roster will be decided

**[19:33] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

by your performance and attitude in the coming days!

**[19:37] (Flashback) \_Fan**

He's going for third!

**[19:38] (Flashback) \_Fan**

He's crazy!

**[19:41] (Flashback) \_Fan**

He's out!

**[19:43] (Flashback) \_Umpire**

Out!

**[19:45] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

There is no shortcut to glory.

**[19:48] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

The team doesn't need plays that mistake arrogance for aggressiveness.

**[19:55] @int\_Kataoka**

*But it may be for nothing if you lose yourself within those goals.*

**[20:03] @int\_Kataoka**

*They may show themselves as you continue working without doing anything special.*

**[20:16] @Yui**

Thank you, Furuya-san.

**[20:19] @Yui**

I made this decision, so I'll stand on the field and make sure that I don't regret it.

**[20:28] @Furuya**

I will, too.

**[20:30] @Yui**

Yes, sir!

**SIGN** "Kind of Like a Promise"

**[21:23] @Furuya**

"Kind of Like a Promise"

**SIGN** Seido Spirit Dorm

**SIGN** May 15th

**SIGN** Sawamura's Birthday

**SIGN** Kuramochi-senpai's

Birthday

**[21:36] ---**

Born May 15th

**[21:36] ---**

Born May 17th

**[21:38] @Sawamura**

As of today, we're the same age!

**[21:41] @Sawamura**

I don't need to talk to you  
like you're older anymore!

**SIGN** Eijun Sawamura  
is now 17 years old.

**[21:44] @Sawamura**

Right, Yoichi?

**[21:47] @Asada**

Okay, I'm taking the picture.

**[21:49] @Asada**

Kuramochi-senpai, smile please!

**SIGN** 2 days later...

**[22:02] @Kuramochi**

What are you waiting for, Asada?  
Take the picture!

**[22:05] @Asada**

I'm sorry!

**[22:06] @Asada**

I'm sorry, Sawamura-senpai!

**[22:09] @int\_Asada**

*Kuramochi-senpai is not  
someone to mess with...*

**[22:13] ---**

18 years

**[22:13] ---**

17 years

**[22:13] ---**

HB!

**[23:49] @Okumura**

It doesn't matter once I'm on the field.

**[23:51] @Ochiai**

If I'm going to be in the game,  
I want to show what I can do!

**[23:55] @Kataoka**

I'm not looking for anything special.

**[23:58] @Kataoka**

You just focus on doing what you need to,  
every day, and it'll come to you.

**[24:03] @Kataoka**

That will get you closer  
to being the best in Japan.

**[24:06] @Kataoka**

I'll ask again: What kind of pitcher  
do you think the best in Japan is?

**[24:12] @Okumura**

On the next episode of  
*Ace of the Diamond Act II:*

**SIGN** Next Time

**SIGN** "Hunger"

**[24:15] @Okumura**

"Hunger."

**[24:16] Kawakami**

Let's win the national title!

**SIGN** Illustration / Yuji Terajima

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Revision #1

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