

# 39 - I'm Counting On You

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**[00:04] @int\_Ochiai**

*When he gets ahead in the count,  
he can get them to swing at balls.*

**[00:09] @int\_Ochiai**

*Once he's in a rhythm, he's unstoppable.*

**[00:12] \_Sign**

154 km/h  
pitch

**[00:12] \_Sign**

Seido High School  
Satoru Furuya

**[00:13] @int\_Ochiai**

*A real monster.*

**[00:16] @int\_Ochiai**

*But once his rhythm breaks  
and falls apart...*

**[00:22] @int\_Ochiai**

*he's shockingly fragile.*

**[00:25] @int\_Ochiai**

*He has limitless potential  
and shows great promise,*

**[00:31] @int\_Ochiai**

*but this is where he is right now.*

**[00:36] @int\_Ochiai**

*If we're going after a  
national championship,*

**[00:41] @int\_Ochiai**

*we on the coaching staff must  
keep that fact in mind.*

**SIGN** Seido

**SIGN** Yamamori

**[02:27] Maezono**

Steal!

**[02:32] \_Fan**

It dropped!

**[02:34] \_Fan**

It wasn't a good hit, but it dropped  
in front of the right fielder!

**[02:36] \_Fan**

The first-base runner got a head  
start and made it to third!

**[02:40] \_All**

Yeah!

**[02:42] \_Fan**

The first pitch after a walk...

**[02:44] \_Fan**

They knew it was coming.

**[02:47] \_Fan**

The pitcher doesn't want  
to start off with a ball.

**[02:54] @Kataoka**

We're switching pitchers, Furuya!

**[02:59] @int\_Ochiai**

*That's a reasonable decision.*

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

*If he were to fall apart here  
and his pitching got even worse,*

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

*it would be to the detriment of the team.*

**[03:08] \_Player**

Kaneda! Okumura!

**[03:13] @Kataoka**

Yui, you take left field!

**[03:27] @Furuya**

Sorry for leaving you with two runners.

**[03:34] Kaneda**

No worries.

**[03:38] int\_Kaneda**

*This is my chance to shine.*

**[03:42] @Yuki**

I'm being subbed out?

**[03:49] @Yuki**

I'm not sure I agree with this.

**[03:57] \_Fan**

Two outs, but there are  
runners on first and third.

**[03:59] \_Fan**

Yamamori's back at the top  
of their batting order.

**[04:03] \_Fan**

They've brought in another  
first-year catcher.

**[04:07] \_Fan**

Kaneda's best pitch is his forkball.

**[04:09] \_Fan**

Will he be able to throw it without fear  
with that runner on third?

**[04:13] \_Fan**

He's come in at a critical time.

**[04:16] @int\_Okumura**

*The batter's going to  
swing from the first pitch.*

**[04:19] @int\_Okumura**

*Let's ignore the runners  
and focus on him.*

**[04:34] Kaneda**

Sorry.

**[04:36] \_Fan**

His first pitch was a forkball.

**[04:38] \_Fan**

I can't believe the catcher stopped it.

**[04:43] \_Umpire**

Strike!

**[04:46] \_Fan**

His second pitch was another forkball.

**[04:48] \_Fan**

And he got it in the strike zone.

**[04:49] @int\_Okumura**

*It's good that we got him to swing.*

**[04:53] @int\_Okumura**

*Now he's got that pitch in his head.*

**[05:00] Kukki**

Yes, two strikes!

**[05:02] Kanemaru**

Nice pitch, Kaneda!

**[05:04] Kanemaru**

Looking good!

**[05:06] Ota**

He's swinging his arm well.

**[05:08] @Kataoka**

Yeah, Okumura caught the first pitch,  
so he's relaxed.

**[05:13] \_Fan**

Okay, slow and steady!

**[05:15] \_Fan**

Use the count to your advantage!

**[05:17] \_Fan**

Will he fight head-on with a fastball,  
or go with a forkball?

**[05:20] @int\_Okumura**

*Right here.*

**[05:29] Kaneda**

Yeah!

**[05:30] \_Umpire**

Strike! Batter out!

**[05:40] Takashima**

Would you like to get changed  
before you go back?

**[05:43] Ono**

No.

**[05:46] Ono**

I'm going back to the field.

**SIGN** Seido

**SIGN** Yamamori

**[05:49] Narrator**

*Neither team scored in the seventh inning,  
and now it's the eighth inning.*

**[05:54] Narrator**

*With one out, Shirasu hit a double.*

**[05:58] Narrator**

*Cleanup hitter Maezono caught  
a fastball drifting inside*

**[06:02] Narrator**

*and smacked it to left-center.*

**[06:04] Maezono**

Oh, yeah!

**[06:06] Narrator**

*With that clean hit, Shirasu made it home,*

**[06:09] Narrator**

*and Seido took the lead for  
the first time in the game.*

**[06:13] Narrator**

*But then...*

**[06:15] Narrator**

*Lead-off batter Yuto Kotari  
started with a double,*

**[06:18] Narrator**

*and the Yamamori batters followed through.*

**[06:21] Narrator**

*Kaneda's pitches were spirited,  
but Yamamori again took the lead.*

**[06:27] Narrator**

*Seido began the last inning  
trailing by one run.*

**[06:29] Narrator**

*It was their last chance to score.*

**[06:32] @Kuramochi**

We're gonna take the lead!

**[06:34] \_All**

Yeah!

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

*I won't let it end yet.*

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

*We're still in this!*

**[06:55] \_Fan**

They advanced the runner with a solid bunt.

**[06:57] \_Fan**

They want the top of their order  
to come in with the score tied.

**[07:00] Kanemaru**

I got it done in one go!

**[07:04] Narrator**

*There's one out and a runner on second.*

**[07:07] Narrator**

*Kaoru Yui is up to bat,  
but he has yet to get a hit this game.*

**[07:23] int\_Yuto**

*This batter's a first-year...*

**[07:25] int\_Kazuto**

*...but he's got a good swing.*

**[07:27] int\_Player**

*Just two more outs!*

**[07:29] int\_Player**

*Stay strong, Yuto!*

**[07:32] \_Coach**

They're without their captain and  
cleanup batter, the core of their team.

**[07:35] \_Coach**

Then their starting catcher left the game,

**[07:37] \_Coach**

and the two who came out to replace him  
were both first-years.

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

*They can make several excuses if they lose  
this game, but we won't have any.*

**[07:56] \_Coach**

Okay!

**[07:57] int\_Coach**

*That's how it's done, Yuto!*

**[07:59] int\_Coach**

*This is the critical moment!*

**[08:01] int\_Coach**

*Put everything you have on the line!*

**[08:04] int\_Coach**

*When you overcome a difficult situation, it helps you grow.*

**[08:07] int\_Coach**

*Victories make you more confident.*

**[08:10] int\_Coach**

*Don't you want to take this summer by storm?*

**[08:13] int\_Coach**

*Kazuto.*

**[08:15] int\_Coach**

*Yuto.*

**[08:20] \_Player**

*Yes!*

**[08:21] \_Player**

*Two strikes!*

**[08:23] int\_Kazuto**

*You've thrown over 140 pitches, so you must be tired,*

**[08:25] int\_Kazuto**

*but hang in there, Yuto!*

**[08:27] int\_Kazuto**

*If we win you can have three... two of my fried pork cutlets!*

**[08:32] int\_Yuto**

*I'm not tired at all.*

**[08:34] @int\_Ochiai**

*His readiness to swing is laudable.*

**[08:38] @int\_Ochiai**

*Both Coach Kataoka and I want to acknowledge his potential as a batter.*

**[08:43] \_Player**

*Let's finish this!*

**[08:45] \_Player**

*Take him down, Yuto!*

**[08:48] @int\_Yui**

*I'm not done yet.*

**[08:50] @Seto**

*He's swinging well, even in this situation.*

**[08:53] @Seto**

*He hasn't been on the bench since the spring tournament for nothing.*

**[08:57] @Seto**

*He might just pull something off.*

**[09:03] @int\_Yuki**

*Once you're out of the game, you're out,*

**[09:06] @int\_Yuki**

*but the guys left on the field will*

*still have opportunities to shine.*

**[09:11] @int\_Yuki**

*Don't let this opportunity pass you by.*

**[09:16] (Flashback) fb\_Ono**

*Don't worry.*

**[09:24] @int\_Yui**

*I've been team captain in  
elementary and middle school,*

**[09:26] @int\_Yui**

*and I played catcher on  
the Japanese youth teams.*

**[09:31] @int\_Yui**

*But I've never been satisfied,*

**[09:33] @int\_Yui**

*and felt I've grown every time  
I'm on the field.*

**[09:38] (Flashback) fb\_Scout**

*Kaoru Yui? He's a perfectly good player.*

**[09:42] (Flashback) fb\_Scout**

*But his parents are both short.*

**[09:44] (Flashback) fb\_Scout**

*He might not last long in  
high school if he doesn't get taller.*

**[09:47] (Flashback) fb\_Scout**

*I'm sure a lot of high  
schools will want him.*

**[09:50] (Flashback) fb\_Scout**

*We didn't reach out to him, though.*

**[09:56] @int\_Yui**

*I can do more.*

**[09:57] @int\_Yui**

*I can grow more.*

**[10:01] @int\_Yui**

*I've always proved with my play!*

**[10:13] \_Umpire**

*Strike! Batter out!*

**[10:24] \_Player**

*Two outs!*

**[10:26] \_Player**

*You've got this, Yuto!*

**[10:29] @Asada**

*Sawamura-senpai!*

**[10:31] @Asada**

*The game's over!*

**[10:33] @Asada**

*The next game will start in thirty minutes.*

**[10:35] @Sawamura**

Okay.

**[10:36] @Sawamura**

So, how'd we do?

**[10:40] @Asada**

Um...

**[10:43] Narrator**

*With two outs and a runner on second in the ninth inning,*

**[10:46] Narrator**

*Kuramochi got an infield hit to second, putting runners on first and third.*

**[10:52] Narrator**

*Kominato hit the first ball pitched to him...*

**[10:55] Narrator**

*but it flew right into the third baseman's glove.*

**[11:01] \_All**

Thank you!

**[11:03] Narrator**

*Seido's winning streak since the spring ended at nineteen games.*

**[11:22] @Yui**

I'm sorry.

**[11:24] @Yui**

I wasn't good enough.

**[11:30] Ota**

Ono, you're back!

**[11:32] Ota**

What did the doctor say?

**[11:39] Ono**

As I feared, it's broken.

**[11:41] Ono**

It will take five to six weeks to heal.

**[11:56] @Kataoka**

I see.

**[11:59] @Kataoka**

So you'll be back during the tournament.

**[12:02] @Kataoka**

Heal up and come back to us in top shape.

**[12:16] Ono**

Yes, sir!

**[12:19] @Kataoka**

Okumura!

**[12:21] @Kataoka**

You'll be the starting catcher next game!

**[12:24] @Kataoka**

Have Ono tell you about how Seiho bats.

**[12:30] @Okumura**

Yes, sir!

**[12:31] @Kataoka**

Yui!

**[12:33] @Kataoka**

I'll be putting you in as  
catcher in the second half!

**[12:37] @Kataoka**

Review the last game, and talk  
with Ono during the next one!

**[12:42] @Yui**

Yes, sir!

**[12:44] @Kataoka**

We'll also be switching out  
the infielders and outfielders!

**[12:49] @Kataoka**

Yamaguchi, Kijima, Nakata,  
Higasa, are you ready?

**[12:53] \_All**

Yes, sir!

**[12:54] Yamaguchi**

Of course!

**[12:55] @Kataoka**

Mimura, left field!  
Aso, center field! Yuki, right field!

**[12:59] \_All**

Yes, sir!

**[13:01] @int\_Kuramochi**

*Why?*

**[13:03] int\_Maezono**

*Weren't the regulars supposed  
to play the second game, too?*

**[13:09] @Kataoka**

We're facing the beast from Aichi,  
Seiho High School under Coach Nishidera.

**[13:15] @Kataoka**

They don't have any big sluggers  
like Sano from last year,

**[13:18] @Kataoka**

but they all have fast swings  
that send balls flying.

**[13:23] @Kataoka**

If that lineup builds up momentum,  
it's unstoppable, like a machine gun.

**[13:27] @Kataoka**

They are at least as strong as Yamamori.

**[13:33] @Kataoka**

Okumura has the skill to be  
part of the first string,

**[13:37] @Kataoka**

but things are different when facing  
a top-class nationally-ranked team.

**[13:44] @Kataoka**

I'm counting on you, Sawamura.

**[13:51] @Kataoka**

Lead the team.

**[14:12] @Sawamura**

Yes, sir!

**SIGN** Meijin University

Tsurushima Ballpark

**SIGN** Tokyo VS Wynd Youth

Game 2

**SIGN** Top of the Second

**[14:23] Umemiya**

Oh, yeah!

**[14:24] \_All**

Oh, yeah!

**[14:26] Harris**

What did they say?

**[14:27] Anthony**

Good job, Elvis!

**[14:29] @int\_Miyuki**

*A power curveball.*

**[14:31] @int\_Miyuki**

*When it's thrown with the same motion  
as a slow curveball,*

**[14:34] @int\_Miyuki**

*the batter can't do anything.*

**[14:37] int\_Umemiya**

*Though you still hit it...*

**[14:39] int\_Umemiya**

*Yeah, I haven't forgotten!*

**[14:44] Umemiya**

Oops!

**SIGN** Seiho

**SIGN** Seido

**SIGN** Seido Practice Field A

**[14:51] \_Umpire**

Play!

**[14:52] \_All**

Please!

**SIGN** Double Header

Game 3

**SIGN** Seiho - Seido  
(Aichi) (West Tokyo)

**[15:00] \_Fan**

Sawamura's the starting pitcher.

**[15:03] \_Fan**

They changed out all the  
infielders and outfielders.

**[15:06] \_Fan**

There was that accident with Ono.

**[15:08] \_Fan**

They're emphasizing getting  
experience over winning.

**[15:12] @int\_Ochiai**

*Well, it's not quite a penalty,*

**[15:16] @int\_Ochiai**

*but even if you've had an accident,  
once you lose in the summer, it's over.*

**[15:20] @int\_Ochiai**

*No do-overs.*

**[15:22] @int\_Ochiai**

*The regulars need to feel the anguish  
of losing that game.*

**[15:27] \_Player**

Seido's Eijun Sawamura.

**[15:30] \_Player**

I've been hearing a lot about him lately.

**[15:33] \_Player**

He's a junkballing southpaw, right?

**SIGN** Seiho High School Coach Sato Nishidera

**[15:37] \_Coach**

West Tokyo also has an unbelievable  
southpaw named Narumiya-kun.

**[15:42] \_Coach**

Let's see what this guy can do.

**[15:46] @Okumura**

Let's start off with fastballs  
to see how they react.

**[15:51] @Okumura**

We'll vary the trajectory horizontally,  
as well as vertically.

**[15:56] @Okumura**

If we can use the numbers  
effectively on top of that...

**[16:01] @Okumura**

What do you think?

**[16:02] @Sawamura**

You're too close!

**[16:05] @Sawamura**

You look way tenser than usual!

**[16:07] @Sawamura**

Even you get nervous, huh?

**[16:10] @Sawamura**

Okay, let's take a deep breath!

**[16:13] @Sawamura**

Watch, take it in through your nose...

**[16:16] @Sawamura**

and let it out slowly!

**[16:17] @Sawamura**

Now you!

**[16:19] @Sawamura**

Focus your mind just below your navel!

**[16:25] @Sawamura**

Once more!

**[16:26] @Sawamura**

Even slower!

**[16:35] @Sawamura**

Teams that play at Koshien Stadium

**[16:39] @Sawamura**

really stand out, both in defense and batting.

**[16:42] @Sawamura**

It's intimidating, but pitching against them really helps you improve.

**[16:46] @Sawamura**

I envy you first-years having your first taste of this tension so early.

**[16:56] @Sawamura**

I can tell you're trying to plan things out.

**[16:59] @Sawamura**

I'll let you call the shots.

**[17:02] @Sawamura**

I'll trust your mitt and throw to it.

**[17:07] @Sawamura**

We pitchers are the only ones who can show if you made the right call or not.

**[17:20] @Sawamura**

Welcome to game three!

**[17:22] @Sawamura**

It's a shame our winning streak is over,

**[17:25] @Sawamura**

but it's the summer games that really count!

**[17:28] @Sawamura**

As that day approaches, let's keep preparing ourselves step by step!

**[17:34] @Sawamura**

So just to review...

**[17:36] @Sawamura**

Balls will come flying your way,

**[17:38] @Sawamura**

so please back me up!

**[17:41] \_Fan**

I was waiting for that!

**[17:43] \_Fan**

There's Sawamura's catchphrase!

**[17:44] \_Fan**

It wouldn't feel right without it!

**[17:45] Kazuto**

Does he always do that?

**[17:48] Yuto**

That's so cool!

Kazuto, I wanna do that, too!

**[17:52] \_Player**

He's pretty popular.

**SIGN** Batting First Center Field

Sho Nakagawa

**[17:55] \_Player**

Let's have a good game.

**[18:00] @int\_Okumura**

*He barely looked at his feet when  
he stepped into the batter's box.*

**[18:03] @int\_Okumura**

*He's standing close to plate,  
toward the back.*

**[18:07] \_Coach**

A southpaw who throws junkballs, eh?

**[18:09] \_Coach**

We'll need to get a look at him  
from the batter's box.

**[18:12] \_Coach**

We have a few tricks up our sleeve, though.

**[18:18] @Kuramochi**

Sawamura!

**[18:20] @Kuramochi**

If you feeling pressure, just let me know!

**[18:22] @Kuramochi**

I'll run over and give you a kick in the pants!

**[18:27] @Sawamura**

No, thanks!

**[18:29] @Sawamura**

Why would I want to be kicked  
by someone from the sideline?

**[18:32] @Kuramochi**

You've got three chances!

**[18:33] @Sawamura**

What chances?!

**[18:34] Maezono**

Okay, I'll do it, too!

**[18:36] @Kanemaru**

I wanna kick him, too!

**[18:37] @Sawamura**

Hey, don't jump on the bandwagon!

**[18:39] Tojo**

Can I, too?

**[18:40] @Sawamura**

Tojo?!

**[18:42] @Kominato**

What the coach said really  
got Eijun-kun excited.

**[18:46] @Kuramochi**

I guess. I just hope it  
doesn't make him tense.

**[18:54] @int\_Kuramochi**

*Those words were supposed to  
be meant for me, not him!*

**[18:59] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

I'm counting on you, Sawamura.

**[19:02] (Flashback) @fb\_Kataoka**

Lead the team.

**[19:06] int\_Ota**

*I was a little surprised  
by what the coach said,*

**[19:10] int\_Ota**

*but given the results Sawamura has produced,  
I can sort of understand.*

**[19:16] int\_Ota**

*He is a great presence on the team.*

**[19:19] int\_Ota**

*You can count on him to clear the air.*

**[19:29] int\_Ota**

*Sawamura just might...*

**[19:42] @int\_Okumura**

*A drag bunt?*

**[19:50] \_Umpire**

Strike!

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

*He wasn't fazed when  
the batter showed drag bunt.*

**[19:59] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

I'll trust your mitt and throw to it.

**[20:08] @Okumura**

Nice pitch!

**[20:11] int\_Player**

*What's with his pitching?*

**[20:13] \_Umpire**

Strike two!

**[20:16] int\_Player**

*How can you call these junkballs?*

**[20:22] \_Umpire**

Strike! Batter out!

**[20:25] int\_Player**

*It's spinning like crazy!*

**[20:28] @Kuramochi**

Okay, Sawamura! Nice pitch!

**[20:31] @Kanemaru**

Looking good!

**[20:32] \_Player**

Watch out for the crazy spin.

**[20:34] \_Player**

What do you mean?

**SIGN** Batting Second Second Base

Subaru Yamauchi

**[20:38] int\_Player**

*Crazy?*

**[20:46] \_Umpire**

Foul!

**[20:47] int\_Player**

*Spin?*

**[20:52] int\_Player**

*Hey, hey, that's downright bizarre!*

**[20:55] int\_Player**

*Sho swung late and Subaru*

*can't get a read on him.*

**[20:59] int\_Player**

*What kind of pitches does he throw?*

**SIGN** Batting Third First Base

Raimu Ichinose

**[21:03] \_Coach**

I'm not sure, but the

batters seem confused.

**SIGN** Batting Fourth Pitcher

Seiya Akashi

**[21:07] \_Player**

I'm looking forward to stepping

into the batter's box.

**[21:10] @int\_Okumura**

*Number 2 and Number 1 are moving well.*

**[21:13] @int\_Okumura**

*They change how they bat  
when they're down in the count, but...*

**[21:22] @int\_Okumura**

*You don't want to waste  
any pitches, right?*

**[21:27] @int\_Sawamura**

*So you're getting it, Wolf-boy.*

**[21:33] @int\_Okumura**

*Number 4 to the inside.*

**[21:36] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

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

**[21:43] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

*Are you sure you want to do this?*

**[21:47] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

*Will you create that art with me?*

**[22:03] \_Umpire**

*Strike! Batter out!*

**[22:05] @Sawamura**

*Yeah!*

**SIGN** "I'm Counting on You"

**[22:15] @Kataoka**

*"I'm Counting on You."*

**[23:49] @Okumura**

*I won't waste the chance  
the older players created.*

**[23:52] \_Player**

*Instead of getting distracted by other things,*

**[23:55] \_Player**

*you focus on the next play.*

**[23:57] @Okumura**

*If I can get the runner home,  
it will help boost Sawamura-senpai.*

**[24:01] \_Player**

*With no burden to shoulder,  
you can leave it all on the line.*

**[24:04] @Okumura**

*I'll stay with you even if I die.*

**[24:06] \_Player**

*I had that look in my eyes once, too.*

**[24:09] \_Player**

*Bite me if you dare, first-year boy!*

**[24:12] @Sawamura**

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

**[24:15] @Sawamura**

"Expression."

**SIGN** Next Time

**SIGN** "Expression"

**[24:16] @Sawamura**

Let's win the national title!

**SIGN** Color Illustration / Yuji Terajima

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