

# 40 - Expression

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**[00:04] @Kataoka**

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

**[00:09] @Kataoka**

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

**[00:13] @Kataoka**

but they all have fast swings  
that send balls flying.

**[00:18] @Kataoka**

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

**[00:22] @Kataoka**

They are at least as strong as Yamamori.

**[00:28] @Kataoka**

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

**[00:32] @Kataoka**

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

**[00:39] @Kataoka**

I'm counting on you, Sawamura.

**[00:46] @Kataoka**

Lead the team.

**[01:06] @Sawamura**

Yes, sir!

**[01:18] \_Umpire**

Foul!

**[01:19] int\_Player**

*Spin?*

**[01:23] int\_Player**

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

**[01:26] \_Coach**

I'm not sure, but the  
batters seem confused.

**[01:30] \_Player**

I'm looking forward to stepping  
into the batter's box.

**[01:34] @int\_Okumura**

*Number 2 and Number 1 are moving well.*

**[01:37] @int\_Okumura**

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

**[01:45] @int\_Okumura**

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

**[01:51] @int\_Sawamura**

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

**[01:56] @int\_Okumura**

*Number 4 to the inside.*

**[02:00] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

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

**[02:06] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

Are you sure you want to do this?

**[02:10] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

Will you create that art with me?

**[02:26] \_Umpire**

Strike! Batter out!

**[02:28] @Sawamura**

Yeah!

**[04:04] \_Fan**

Two strikeouts in a row!

**[04:06] \_Fan**

Sawamura's on fire!

**[04:08] \_Fan**

He'll have another good game today!

**[04:09] @Kominato**

He's going all in from the get go.

**[04:17] \_Player**

*Why, you...*

**[04:23] \_Player**

Three outside pitches?

**[04:26] \_Umpire**

Out!

**[04:28] @Sawamura**

Yeah!

**[04:29] @Kanemaru**

Okay, Sawamura! Nice pitch!

**[04:32] Kukki**

Yeah! Perfect!

**[04:34] @Seto**

All to the outside.

**[04:36] (Flashback) @fb\_Okumura**

The third batter hit another inside pitch.

**[04:41] (Flashback) @fb\_Okumura**

He seems to like those,  
so we need to be careful.

**[04:43] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

That's the eye of a catcher.

**[04:45] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

You notice the finer details.

**[04:47] (Flashback) @fb\_Okumura**

That last pitch was good.

**[04:50] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

But it was a solid hit.

**[04:52] (Flashback) @fb\_Okumura**

Yes, we need to be careful of that third  
batter and the cleanup, Akashi-san.

**[04:58] @Sawamura**

Yeah.

**[05:00] Maezono**

Sawamura gave us the momentum!

**[05:03] Yamaguchi**

Let's get out there!

**[05:04] Aso**

Yeah!

**[05:05] Akashi**

They had a great start.

**[05:08] \_Coach**

We let him get a little too comfortable.

**[05:11] \_Coach**

We need a way to attack that fastball.

**[05:14] Akashi**

I'm jealous.

**[05:17] Akashi**

If only I could pitch  
without hesitation, like him...

**[05:23] int\_Coach**

*Seiya...*

**[05:25] Akashi**

It's too late to talk about adjustments  
or making excuses.

**[05:29] Akashi**

All that matters is quality and results.

**[05:34] Akashi**

That's how it is for the ace.

**[05:42] Akashi**

Here goes!

**[05:46] Yamaguchi**

Seiya Akashi...

**[05:48] Yamaguchi**

When he played at Koshien  
Stadium as a first-year,

**[05:50] Yamaguchi**

he got even more attention than Narumiya.

**[05:53] Yamaguchi**

They called him the super rookie.

**[05:55] @Sawamura**

Really?

**SIGN** He appears!!

**SIGN** Super Rookie

**SIGN** Akashi

**SIGN** He pitches the whole  
game with 3 RBIs!

**[05:58] Yamaguchi**

He pitched three games by himself,

**[06:00] Yamaguchi**

and I think he hit two home runs, too.

**[06:03] @Yui**

I remember it well.

**[06:05] @Furuya**

Super...

**SIGN** Super...

**SIGN** Sano says, without tears, "We lost."

**[06:07] \_Sign**

Inashiro's Mei Narumiya  
deals Sano 3K

**SIGN** Seiho is shut down

**[06:07] Yamaguchi**

But then everything went to Narumiya  
at Koshien Stadium last year.

**[06:12] Yamaguchi**

He did fine as a batter, but...

**[06:15] Aso**

He injured his elbow, right?

**[06:16] Yamaguchi**

He didn't pitch much as a second-year.

**[06:20] @int\_Yui**

*Injured?*

**[06:34] @Sawamura**

Injured?

**[06:43] \_Umpire**

Strike! Batter out!

**[06:46] \_Fan**

That was fast!

**[06:47] \_Fan**

Akashi's changed his form!

**[06:49] \_Fan**

That butt! That thigh line!

**[06:51] \_Fan**

If he pitches balls low like that  
no one's gonna hit 'em!

**[06:54] \_All**

Yeah!

**[06:55] \_All**

Nice pitch, Seiya!

**[06:58] int\_Coach**

*He relied on the older team  
members in his first year*

**[07:01] int\_Coach**

*and was able to pitch as he pleased.*

**[07:05] int\_Coach**

*As a second-year, he felt the  
weight of his responsibilities*

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

*and agonized over how best to improve.*

**[07:11] int\_Coach**

*His form deteriorated after the injury,  
and he went a long time without a win.*

**[07:22] \_Player**

Yeah! Nice pitch!

**[07:23] \_Player**

Looking sharp!

**[07:24] \_Player**

Seiya, you're huge!

**[07:26] int\_Coach**

*He's right. The time for  
making excuses is over.*

**[07:31] int\_Coach**

*It's his last year of high school.*

**[07:33] int\_Coach**

*He has to overcome things himself.*

**[07:45] Akashi**

Yeah!

**[07:45] \_Fan**

A strikeout!

**[07:47] \_Fan**

That's three outs!

**[07:49] \_Player**

Yeah!

**[07:49] \_Player**

Nice pitch, Seiya!

**[07:51] \_Player**

Nice butt!

**[07:52] \_Player**

You're huge!

**[07:53] \_Player**

Seiya's hitting his peak!

**[07:54] \_Player**

Those thighs are looking good!

**[07:56] \_Fan**

Wow, they're very different pitchers,  
but they both led with two strikeouts!

**SIGN** Seiho

**SIGN** Seido

**[08:01] \_Fan**

I can't wait to see how  
the game plays out!

**[08:04] \_Coach**

You look like you're feeling good.

**[08:06] Akashi**

Yes, it was a good start.

**[08:09] Akashi**

It's thanks to their pitcher  
getting me excited.

**SIGN** Top of the Second

**[08:22] @int\_Sawamura**

*Third-years really do have  
intensity up the wazoo.*

**[08:26] @int\_Sawamura**

*Their facial expressions  
are different.*

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

*You can get into a good tempo  
because you get ahead in the count, right?*

**[08:37] @int\_Sawamura**

*I'm not gonna let him beat me...*

**[08:43] @int\_Sawamura**

*in desire!*

**[08:44] int\_Akashi**

*Oh, no you don't!*

**[08:45] int\_Akashi**

*I'm swinging for your fastball—*

**[08:50] \_Umpire**

Strike!

**[08:52] int\_Akashi**

*He led with a changeup.*

**[08:55] \_Coach**

A clever call.

**[08:57] int\_Coach**

Is that catcher really a first-year?

**[09:02] \_Coach**

This will be a battle of endurance.

**SIGN** Seido High

**SIGN** School

**SIGN** Practice Field

**SIGN** Bottom of the Third

**[09:11] \_Fan**

Their shortstop knows just where to stand.

**[09:13] \_Fan**

As you'd expect.

**[09:14] \_Fan**

He hasn't given up any hits,  
but he's walked two batters.

**[09:18] \_Fan**

It was really a shame  
that he walked Sawamura.

**[09:21] \_Fan**

When he gets like this,  
he might be about to break down.

**[09:25] \_Fan**

On the other hand,  
Sawamura has only allowed one hit.

**[09:28] \_Fan**

The Seiho batters aren't  
able to swing effectively.

**[09:32] \_Fan**

Maybe one team will break the stalemate on  
their second time through the batting order.

**[09:44] \_Umpire**

Out!

**[09:48] @int\_Okumura**

*Did he swing at that with no stride?*

**[10:09] ---**

Ball!

**[10:10] Akashi**

Yeah, he's pitching well.

**[10:13] @int\_Okumura**

*I was right.*

**[10:15] @int\_Okumura**

*This team switches to no-stride hitting  
when they're down in the count...*

**[10:19] @int\_Okumura**

*But they're starting with no-stride to  
attack Sawamura-senpai's moving pitches.*

**[10:26] \_Coach**

*This style of hitting keeps the line of sight fixed so you can focus on making contact.*

**[10:31] \_Coach**

*Even if it's an unusual pitch,  
if you can get a solid hit,*

**[10:34] \_Coach**

*it'll fly over the infielders' heads.*

**[10:38] @int\_Okumura**

*If he's going to wait until  
the last moment to swing,*

**[10:41] @int\_Okumura**

*we'll just cramp him for room.*

**[10:45] @int\_Okumura**

*With Sawamura-senpai's fastball!*

**[10:49] @int\_Okumura**

*Yes!*

**[10:51] \_Player**

*Yeah! Seiya-san got a hit!*

**[10:54] @int\_Okumura**

*He jammed that,  
yet hit it into the outfield?*

**[10:57] \_Player**

*Okay, let's follow it up!*

**[10:59] \_Player**

*Put some more beads on the chain!*

**[11:00] \_Coach**

*Look at that distance.*

**[11:01] \_Coach**

*When you hit from your hips, it really flies.*

**[11:04] @int\_Okumura**

*From the first to the ninth,*

**[11:06] @int\_Okumura**

*but they all have fast swings  
that send balls flying.*

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

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

**[11:14] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

*Okumura.*

**[11:15] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

*We'll put Number 7 and  
Number 11 on ice for a while.*

**SIGN** Grr

**[11:22] (Flashback) @fb\_Okumura**

*Are you saying you don't trust me with them?*

**[11:24] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

*No, that's not it.*

**[11:26] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

A team like this can be hard  
to handle in the second half.

**[11:29] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

We need to save those for when we need them.

**[11:35] (Flashback) @int\_Okumura**

I see.

**[11:37] (Flashback) @int\_Okumura**

You were pitching at full  
strength at the start,

**[11:40] (Flashback) @int\_Okumura**

so I thought you weren't thinking  
about anything like that.

**[11:42] (Flashback) @int\_Okumura**

I'm sorry.

**[11:45] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

I'm not letting you make *all* the calls!

**[11:48] (Flashback) @fb\_Sawamura**

I think about things, too.

**[12:01] @int\_Sawamura**

*Not yet.*

**[12:02] @int\_Sawamura**

*We don't need to get ahead of ourselves.*

**[12:07] @int\_Okumura**

*Then pitch Number 2 inside.*

**[12:17] \_Umpire**

Safe!

**[12:22] @int\_Sawamura**

*This is baseball, so of course  
they'll get some hits.*

**[12:26] @int\_Sawamura**

*If I were afraid of them hitting,  
I wouldn't be able to stand here.*

**[12:31] @int\_Sawamura**

*We aren't...*

**[12:35] @int\_Sawamura**

*in any trouble at all!*

**[12:38] int\_Player**

*It's coming straight—*

**[12:45] \_Umpire**

Out!

**[12:46] @Sawamura**

Yeah!

**[12:47] Maezono**

Yeah, just what we needed!

**[12:48] @Kanemaru**

A 5-4-3 double play!

**[12:49] @Kuramochi**

Sawamura!

**[12:50] @Kanemaru**

Sawamura, you jerk!

**[12:52] Kukki**

Sawamura-senpai!

**[12:56] @Okumura**

Please don't look at me  
with that smug expression.

**[13:00] @Sawamura**

You're gonna criticize my face?!

**[13:01] @Okumura**

Pitchers should control their emotions.

**[13:04] @Sawamura**

You're such a problem child!

**[13:07] Kawakami**

Nice pitch, Sawamura.

**[13:08] Kawakami**

You're in a good rhythm.

**[13:09] @Sawamura**

Thank you!

**[13:11] @Sawamura**

They've got a lot of tough hitters.

**[13:14] @Sawamura**

I can't afford to throw any meatballs.

**[13:21] Kawakami**

*He's sweating a lot.*

**SIGN** Bottom of the Fourth

**[13:29] Ono**

Sawamura.

**[13:31] Ono**

You said you were going to put  
Number 7 and Number 11 on ice for a while...

**[13:35] @Sawamura**

Yes, sir, until we need them.

**[13:38] Ono**

That's fine, but what about testing them  
once a batter has two strikes?

**[13:44] Ono**

The numbers are slightly different every day.

**[13:49] Ono**

They're a lot to handle for us catchers.

**[13:52] @Sawamura**

Oh, is that so?

**[13:55] @Okumura**

Thank you for explaining it.

**[13:57] @Okumura**

He said he'd let me call the shots,  
but then he shakes his head.

**SIGN** What?!

**[14:00]** ---

What?!

**[14:01] @Sawamura**

But I made eye contact!

**[14:04] @Okumura**

And you think that was enough?

**[14:06] \_Sign**

What?!

**[14:07] @Sawamura**

Okay, then! We'll discuss it to death!

**[14:10] @Sawamura**

To death!

**[14:11] @Okumura**

Gladly.

**[14:13] @Sawamura**

Don't be glad!

**[14:14] @Sawamura**

You're too wild!

**[14:18] @int\_Yui**

*The numbers are pitches that Sawamura-senpai  
and Miyuki-senpai came up with together.*

**[14:24] @int\_Yui**

*Honestly, I'm still not used to all of them.*

**[14:28] @int\_Yui**

*And we're up against Seiho High School,  
a real powerhouse.*

**[14:33] @int\_Yui**

*It's going to be a tough game  
to call from here.*

**[14:41] \_Player**

Okay, Seiya!

**[14:43] \_Player**

Seiya-san, you're on a roll!

**[14:44] \_Player**

You're too huge!

**[14:56] int\_Player**

*This first-year has a powerful swing,*

**[15:00] int\_Player**

*but...*

**[15:01] int\_All**

*Seiya's bigger,*

**[15:06] int\_All**

*stronger,*

**[15:11] int\_All**

*and ready to burst!*

**[15:16] \_Umpire**

Strike!

**[15:17] \_Umpire**

Batter out!

**[15:19] \_Player**

Yeah! That's the stuff, Seiya-san!

**[15:21] \_Player**

He's too huge!

**[15:24] int\_Akashi**

*He's got a good swing.*

**[15:28] @Yuki**

Next time!

**[15:30] \_Umpire**

Ball four!

**[15:32] Narrator**

*Seido faced an obstacle: Seiho's ace, Akashi.*

**[15:36] Narrator**

*In the bottom of the fourth inning with two outs, Yamaguchi was walked to first,*

**[15:41] Narrator**

*then Mimura hit to center field, and Higasa was also walked.*

**[15:46] Narrator**

*With three third-years loading the bases,*

**[15:49] Narrator**

*first-year Koshu Okumura steps into the batter's box.*

**[15:53] @Sawamura**

Okumura, swing for the first pitch after a walk!

**[15:57] @Sawamura**

The pitcher will want a strike!

**[16:03] @Sawamura**

Communication!

**SIGN** Communication

**[16:05] @int\_Okumura**

*I don't need you to yell out loud about swinging for the first pitch!*

**[16:09] @int\_Okumura**

*It's this stuff that drives me nuts!*

**[16:16] \_Player**

Okay, let's go head-on!

**[16:17] \_Player**

Get aggressive!

**[16:21] @int\_Okumura**

*If I can get runners home,*

*it will help boost Sawamura-senpai.*

**[16:26] @int\_Okumura**

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

**[16:31] int\_Akashi**

*I love that expression that shows no fear.*

**[16:37] int\_Akashi**

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

**[16:45] \_Umpire**

Ball two!

**[16:46] @Sawamura**

Good eye!

**[16:48] @Sawamura**

Wait for your pitch, Okumura!

**[16:51] \_Player**

Yeah, two strikes!

**[16:53] \_Player**

Seiya, put him away!

**[16:54] \_Player**

Finish him off!

**[16:56] @int\_Okumura**

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

**[16:59] int\_Akashi**

*Instead of getting distracted  
by other things,*

**[17:01] int\_Akashi**

*you focus on the next play.*

**[17:05] int\_Akashi**

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

**SIGN** He appears!!

**SIGN** Super Rookie

**SIGN** Akashi

**SIGN** He pitches the whole  
game with 3 RBIs!

**[17:10] int\_Akashi**

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

**[17:17] int\_Akashi**

*I won't...*

**[17:27] int\_Akashi**

*lose to you!*

**SIGN** Seiho

**SIGN** Seido

**SIGN** Top of the Fifth

**[17:34] \_Umpire**

Strike! Batter out!

**[17:37] Nakata**

Two outs!

**[17:38] Higasa**

Two outs!

**[17:41] Kawakami**

Kawashima.

**[17:43] Kawakami**

I'm coming with you.

**[17:45] Kawashima**

Are you sure? You pitched a lot yesterday.

**[17:49] Kawakami**

With how hard he's going,  
even Sawamura must be getting tired.

**[18:02] int\_Ota**

*They're all warming up without  
anyone telling them to.*

**[18:08] int\_Ota**

*They're saying they're ready  
to go in anytime.*

**[18:18] \_Umpire**

Strike! Batter out!

**[18:21] @Sawamura**

Yeah!

**[18:22] \_Umpire**

Three outs! Change!

**SIGN** Bottom of the Fifth

**[18:31] \_Umpire**

Out!

**[18:32] Akashi**

Yeah!

**SIGN** Seiho

**SIGN** Seido

**SIGN** Top of the sixth inning

**[18:40] \_Umpire**

Out!

**[18:41] \_Fan**

Getting the first batter  
out with one pitch!

**[18:45] \_Fan**

This is quite the pitching contest.

**[18:47] \_Fan**

They're taking Seiho on without Miyuki.  
Their starters are all on the bench, too.

**[18:51] \_Fan**

I thought they'd given up on this game.

**[18:54] \_Fan**

It's undeniably Sawamura  
keeping his team in the game.

**[19:03] @int\_Okumura**

*This guy got a piece of an outside pitch.*

**[19:07] @int\_Okumura**

*We can't simply throw all outside pitches.*

**[19:11] @int\_Okumura**

*Let's mix in some inside pitches.*

**[19:17] ---**

*But first, outside.*

**[19:21] @int\_Okumura**

*The other side?!*

**[19:25] \_Player**

Yeah!

**[19:27] \_Player**

An easy stand-up double!

**[19:29] \_Player**

Ichinose-senpai, nice batting!

**[19:32] @Sawamura**

He got me!

**[19:33] \_Player**

He finally threw a meatball.

**[19:37] \_Fan**

There's the commentator's curse.

**[19:40] \_Fan**

It's not my fault!

**[19:42] Akashi**

I think it's time to break you,  
since I'm the cleanup.

**[19:57] @Ochiai**

This isn't looking good.

**[19:58] @Ochiai**

More of his pitches are drifting high.

**[20:03] \_Umpire**

Ball!

**[20:05] int\_Akashi**

*I know how it feels to get tired out  
in the middle innings like that.*

**[20:13] @int\_Okumura**

*He's suddenly lost control.*

**[20:18] \_Fan**

Oh, a walk!

**[20:20] \_Fan**

And the catcher dropped it!

**[20:22] \_Fan**

The second-base runner advanced to third!

**[20:24] \_Fan**

Now there are runners on first and third!

**[20:30] @int\_Okumura**

*Damn. If I had caught that,  
he wouldn't be on third.*

**[20:35] @int\_Okumura**

*Next is their fifth batter.*

**[20:37] @int\_Okumura**

*What do we throw? And where?*

**[20:41] @int\_Ochiai**

*They need to break things up.*

**[20:44] Yamaguchi**

Sawamura!

**[20:45] Yamaguchi**

You can let him hit!

**[20:48] Yamaguchi**

Go get him!

**[20:49] @Sawamura**

Yes, sir!

**[20:51] Nakata**

We're right behind you!

**[20:53] Kishima**

Stay strong!

**[20:54] @Kanemaru**

Stay aggressive, Sawamura!

**[20:55] \_Fan**

The infielders have moved in!

**[20:57] \_Fan**

They don't want to give up a single run!

**[20:59] \_Fan**

They've got Sawamura's back!

**[21:02] @Ochiai**

The third-years know when to call out.

**[21:10] \_Fan**

A fly ball!

**[21:11] \_Fan**

It's right to the center fielder!

**[21:13] \_Fan**

Is it shallow?

**[21:15] \_Player**

Go!

**[21:16] int\_Aso**

*No, you don't!*

**[21:18] int\_Aso**

*You blind base coach!*

**[21:25] \_Umpire**

Out!

**[21:26] @Kanemaru**

There you go!

**[21:28] Tojo**

Aso-senpai!

**[21:29] Kawakami**

That was a heck of a throw!

**[21:31] Aso**

Don't yell about that.

It's what I always do.

**[21:34] @Sawamura**

Aso-senpai, nice throw to home!

**[21:39] @Sawamura**

That was perfect!

**[21:41] Aso**

Yeah, show some respect!

**[21:44] int\_Kawakami**

*Everyone knows how seriously*

*Sawamura takes this.*

**[21:47] int\_Yamaguchi**

*That's why...*

**[21:49] int\_Both**

*...we third-years...*

**[21:50] int\_Higasa**

*...need to support him!*

**[21:52] Yamaguchi**

Okay, it's our turn at bat!

**[21:54] Yamaguchi**

Let's keep the momentum going!

**[22:00] @Seto**

Wow.

**[22:01] @Yui**

This is the kind of team that has  
players of that caliber on the bench.

**[22:07] @Sawamura**

Way to go, Aso-senpai!

**SIGN** "Expression"

**[22:17] @Kataoka**

"Expression."

**[23:49] @Okumura**

I'm sorry. I withdraw my previous remarks.

**[23:51] @Okumura**

Let's put the erratic numbers on ice and  
focus your remaining power on fastballs.

**[23:56] @Sawamura**

You're as sure as ever. Enough to  
tell an upperclassman to leave.

**[24:00] @Okumura**

You really want to discuss that now?

**[24:03] @Sawamura**

It's a compliment, really!

**[24:05] @Sawamura**

Three innings left.

I'm counting on you, partner!

**[24:08] @Okumura**

If you die, we all die.

**[24:10] @Okumura**

It's okay. I won't let you die alone.

**[24:12] @Sawamura**

On the next episode of

*Ace of the Diamond Act II:*

**[24:15] @Sawamura**

"Shared Fate."

**SIGN** Next Time

**SIGN** "Shared Fate"

**[24:17] @Sawamura**

Let's win the national title!

**SIGN** Color Illustration / Yuji Terajima

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