

# 41 - The Leadoff Man

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**SIGN** This is the Fall Tokyo Tournament Final!

**SIGN** Seido Yakushi

**SIGN** Out of two hundred and fifty-four schools from Tokyo,

**SIGN** we have just two remaining!

**SIGN** A dark horse now favored in this tournament!

**SIGN** Can Yakushi win and go to nationals for the first time?

**SIGN** They're back in the final again after summer.

**SIGN** Can Seido make their return to nationals after seven years?

**[00:29] Um**

Line up!

**[00:30] SS**

Let's go!

**SIGN** Let the game begin!

**SIGN** The Lead-off Man

**[02:11] C1**

Seido changed their lineup.

**[02:13] C2**

Tojo's batting second?

**[02:16] C3**

Furuya's not in the lineup.

**[02:18] C3**

They moved Shirasu down  
to compensate for that.

**[02:22] Y1**

Okay, last one!

**[02:30] Ra**

Hey!

**[02:34] Sa**

Focus on the first batter, Miss-shima!

**[02:37] Ra**

Focus on the first batter!

**[02:39] Mi**

Don't repeat it!

**[02:42] Mi**

*So I've been given the honor*

*to start in the final.*

**[02:46] Mi**

*Are you telling me  
that I'm the next ace?*

**[02:50] Mi**

Coach!

**[02:52] YC**

*I hope he can pitch two innings.*

**[02:54] R1**

Both teams' aces pitched yesterday,  
so they're not starting today.

**[02:59] R2**

*The key is when they switch to their ace.*

**[03:02] R2**

*That might decide the game.*

**SIGN** Top of the first, Seido is up to bat.

**SIGN** Batting first and shortstop, Kuramochi-kun.

**[03:14] Um**

Play!

**SIGN** Seido Yakushi

**[03:19] Mi**

Cheer for me more!

**[03:25] Ku**

*I remember him from playing  
during the off season.*

**[03:28] Ku**

*He pitches a lot of forkballs,  
so I should ignore the lows.*

**[03:35] Sa**

Kuramochi-senpai!

**[03:36] Sa**

Just tap the ball somehow and roll it!

**[03:39] Sa**

You can run!

**SIGN** Shut up

**[03:42] S1**

Come on, Kuramochi!

**[03:44] S2**

The first strike is key!

**[03:47] (Flashback) Ku**

If you're gonna be obstinate about it,

**[03:50] (Flashback) Ku**

you'd better not budge until the end.

**[03:54] Mi**

*He's always looking out for others.*

**SIGN** This game's victor is guaranteed a spot in the invitational.

**SIGN** Yakushi's starting pitcher is Mishima!

**[04:04] Ra**

*Over here?*

**[04:06] Ra**

*Bunt over here?*

**[04:09] Y1**

*He's not scary if he doesn't get on base.*

**[04:12] Y1**

*It's better to let him hit*

**[04:14] Y1**

*than give him a base on balls  
by being too careful.*

**[04:17] Mi**

*I know.*

**[04:19] Mi**

*I'll take him out by force!*

**[04:23] Ku**

*My job...*

**[04:26] Ku**

*...is to get on base.*

**[04:30] Ku**

*I need to lead the way,*

**[04:34] Ku**

*and create an opportunity.*

**[04:36] Is**

*Kuramochi's putting up a fight today.*

**[04:39] Is**

*Trying to be you, maybe?*

**[04:41] Ry**

*He just can't hit forward.*

**[04:44] Ry**

*He thinks about the fielders  
and tries to guess the next pitch.*

**[04:47] Ry**

*He thinks too much.*

**[04:51] Ry**

*If he just focused on hitting,  
he could get on base more.*

**[05:00] Um**

*Ball!*

**SIGN** *The count's 3-2.*

**[05:05] Y1**

*You're not gonna swing at that?*

**[05:08] Mi**

*Damn! I can't let him walk.*

**SIGN** *There it goes!*

**[05:18] C1**

*Nice! To the right field!*

**SIGN** Kuramochi paves the way for Seido!

**[05:22] Mi**

*Shoot.*

**[05:23] Sa**

That's how you do it!

**SIGN** Look at his lead!

**[05:35] Mi**

Damn it!

**[05:39] YC**

*Don't let him run so easily.*

**SIGN** He's going for it!

**SIGN** He's lightning fast!

**SIGN** He stole second, and it's no outs with a runner on second!

**[05:58] Sa**

Wow!

**[06:00] Sa**

His legs...

**[06:02] Sa**

He's a leg demon!

**[06:04] Sa**

A leg spirit?

**[06:07] Sa**

A leg dandy?

**[06:10] Ku**

Just praise me normally!

**[06:12] Oc**

*When he's on base,  
the offensive pressure is doubled.*

**[06:19] Mi**

*A single for him is basically a double.*

**[06:22] Ry**

He's unstoppable...

**[06:24] Ry**

...when he's on base.

**[06:30] Y1**

Yuta, first!

**SIGN** A sacrifice bunt by the book!

**SIGN** They put a man on third!

**[06:35] To**

*Thank goodness I got it off the first try.*

**[06:38] Sa**

Nice one, Tojo!

**[06:39] Sa**

But you should do it more like this!

**SIGN** The heart of Seido's order starts with this man.

**SIGN** Kominato is the three-hole.

**[06:49] Is**

He hit a home run against Oya.

**[06:52] Is**

Think we can count on him?

**[06:55] (Flashback) Ha**

I've been wanting to ask you something.

**[07:02] Sa**

Focus on the batter!

**[07:04] S1**

Let's go, Kominato!

**[07:05] Sa**

Come on, Haruo!

**[07:07] Y1**

Stay calm, Yuta!

**[07:11] Mi**

*How much pressure do you think  
I've been through this summer?*

**[07:15] Mi**

*This isn't even a clutch moment!*

**[07:21] Um**

Ball four!

**SIGN** Was he being too cautious?

**SIGN** That was four balls in a row!

**[07:28] YC**

What is he doing?

**[07:30] YC**

What?

**SIGN** It's one out with runners on first and third.

**SIGN** This guy hit the game-ending home run yesterday.

**SIGN** As a captain and cleanup, he carries the team on his back!

**SIGN** Batting fourth and catcher, Miyuki!

**[07:45] Mi**

I hate handsome guys!

**[07:51] Ku**

*So long as you're playing,  
you'd better show up.*

**[07:57] Ha**

When I first batted cleanup, I was so nervous.

**[08:01] Ha**

My batting average was low for a while.

**[08:05] (Flashback) Na**

You're not a scarecrow now.

**[08:07] (Flashback) Na**

You have to swing to hit the balls.

**[08:09] Ha**

He was always so annoying,

**[08:12] Ha**

so I did a ton of swings to shut him up.

**[08:15] Yu**

Yeah.

**[08:16] Yu**

I was so desperate, I had  
my head full with myself.

**[08:23] SS**

Aim and swing!

**[08:27] Ha**

He doesn't feel pressure from  
everyone's expectations, though.

**[08:31] Yu**

You give Miyuki a lot of credit.

**[08:34] Ha**

I hate him, though.

**[08:36] Yu**

He went through a lot, too.

**[08:40] Mi**

*It's been a while since Nori last started.*

**[08:42] Mi**

*It'd be nice if we can gift him a run.*

**[08:46] S1**

Come on, Miyuki!

**[08:48] Sa**

Everyone's watching you!

**[08:50] Sa**

Everyone in the crowd!

**[08:52] Sa**

This is where you become a man!

**SIGN** Shut up

**SIGN** A low and away into the corner!

**SIGN** It's a strike!

**[09:01] Y1**

Nice!

**[09:03] Y2**

Nice pitch, Mishima!

**[09:05] YC**

Didn't he just pitch four straight balls?

**[09:07] YC**

How did he throw that one?

**[09:11] Y1**

*He didn't even react to that.*

**[09:16] Y1**

*In the last game, he gave up  
all the strikes to the inside,*

**[09:20] Y1**

*and then cleanly hit  
an inside pitch in the end.*

**[09:25] Y1**

*He's not easy to take out.*

**SIGN** A forkball for the second pitch.

**SIGN** This one's a ball.

**[09:35] YC**

*He's not cowering at all  
against that batter.*

**[09:40] YC**

*He's so fearless or just plain dense,*

**[09:43] YC**

*but that's his strongest quality.*

**[09:47] Y1**

*I want to show him a pitch to the inside,*

**[09:49] Y1**

*but he'll hit it if the control isn't perfect.*

**[09:52] Y1**

*Let's pitch a forkball into the zone.*

**[09:55] Mi**

*These tough situations aren't trials.*

**[09:58] Mi**

*They're rewarding moments  
to help me grow.*

**[10:02] Mi**

*A gift from God.*

**[10:07] Mi**

*I'm so optimistic!*

**[10:12] Y1**

*It drops from here!*

**[10:15] Y1**

*Who goes for that?*

**[10:25] Y1**

*Yuta, second!*

**[10:26] Mi**

*Yone-san!*

**[10:28] Y1**

*Shunpei!*

**SIGN** A double play!

**SIGN** Mishima reacts beautifully to a strong line drive.

**[10:35] C1**

*That was pure luck!*

**[10:37] C2**

*Seido's so unlucky.*

**[10:39] C3**

*Mishima looked the most surprised!*

**[10:45] YC**

*Nothing fazes him because he's dense!*

**SIGN** The hit looked good,

**SIGN** but Seido goes down without a run this inning!

**[10:52] Ku**

Unlucky. Let's switch gears.

**[10:54] Mi**

Sorry, Nori.

**[10:56] Ka**

That was out of your control.

**[10:58] Ka**

Focus on the first batter, Kawakami.

**[11:01] Ka**

Go show them what you can do.

**[11:04] Ma**

This is your moment!

**[11:06] S1**

All out, Nori.

**[11:09] Fu**

Nori-senpai, good luck.

**[11:12] Fu**

I'll be ready any time.

**[11:13] Sa**

Go get 'em, Nori-senpai!

**[11:15] Sa**

Break a leg!

**[11:17] Ka**

*I don't want to break my leg.*

**[11:22] Ka**

*Sheesh.*

**[11:24] Ka**

*Let's go.*

**[11:25] Ka**

*Your cheers put so much pressure on me.*

**SIGN** Today is Kawakami's first time starting this tournament.

**SIGN** How will he pitch against the strong Yakushi batters?

**[11:40] C1**

It's the sidearm pitcher.

**[11:42] C1**

I thought Furuya would start.

**SIGN** Batting first and catcher, Akiba-kun.

**[11:51] Ka**

*I've been practicing for this day.*

**[12:00] Ka**

*It all comes down to one thing now.*

**[12:06] Ka**

*The heart!*

**SIGN** He opens up with an inside pitch. It's a strike.

**[12:09] SS**

Yeah!

**[12:11] Mi**

Nice pitch!

**[12:12] Ot**

Nice!

**[12:13] Ot**

Kawakami, nice!

**[12:15] Mi**

*Good.*

**[12:16] Mi**

*His shoulder looks relaxed,  
and his pitch looks good.*

**[12:19] Mi**

*Let's see how this pitch is.*

**[12:23] (Flashback) Wa**

Todoroki and Sanada  
are Yakushi's core batters.

**[12:27] (Flashback) Wa**

It won't be easy to take them out.

**[12:31] (Flashback) Wa**

How well you can use everything you have.

**[12:35] (Flashback) Wa**

That's what it'll come down to.

**[12:38] (Flashback) Oc**

It'll be about using the pitches  
they don't know.

**[12:42] (Flashback) Mi**

Yeah.

**[12:44] (Flashback) Mi**

We need to catch them off guard.

**[12:47] Mi**

*We'll show this pitch to Yakushi  
and take the upper hand.*

**[12:52] Mi**

*Can you do it?*

**[12:57] Ka**

*This is a strategic move  
for the fight against Todoroki.*

**[13:02] Mi**

*Let's do it.*

**[13:07] Mi**

*Sinker!*

**[13:11] Mi**

*If we can put this pitch  
on Yakushi's mind early,*

**[13:14] Mi**

*we can control them easily.*

**[13:19] Y1**

*Low and away!*

**[13:24] Y1**

*It dropped?*

**[13:28] Um**

Out!

**[13:29] Is**

Yeah!

**[13:31] C1**

Wow!

**[13:32] C1**

That was a difficult hit to catch.

**[13:34] C2**

That shortstop moves really well.

**[13:36] Sa**

He's a ferret!

**[13:37] Sa**

He moves like a ferret!

**[13:39] Fu**

I think he's more of a weasel.

**[13:42] Sa**

Don't butt in!

**[13:44] Ku**

Shut up, you two!

**[13:46] Y1**

What was that?

**[13:48] Y2**

It dropped and broke away.

**[13:50] YC**

What?

**[13:51] YC**

Did he pitch that against Seiko?

**[13:55] Mi**

*Thank goodness that was an out.*

**[13:58] Mi**

*If they got a hit off that,*

**[13:59] Mi**

*they'd think it was a pitch to go for.*

**[14:02] Mi**

*Don't worry about pitching balls.*

**[14:04] Mi**

*Throw it more toward the corner.*

**[14:13] Um**

Foul!

**[14:14] YC**

Damn!

**[14:15] YC**

His sliders are already annoying,

but he can pitch sinkers?

**SIGN** The last one's a slider!

**SIGN** That's three strikes!

**[14:28] Sa**

I see! Nori-sepnai's a squirrel!

**[14:30] Sa**

His cheeks are like a squirrel's!

**[14:32] Ka**

Did you have to say that now?

**SIGN** Batting third and pitcher, Mishima-kun.

**[14:40] Mi**

*You think that'll work on me?*

**[14:45] Mi**

Yeah!

**SIGN** Bounce!

**SIGN** He got jammed but hits into center field.

**[14:51] Y1**

Nice!

**[14:51] YC**

His swing is so tense.

**[14:55] Mi**

Coach!

**SIGN** Meiji Jingu Baseball Stadium

**SIGN** Fall Tokyo High School Baseball Tournament

**[14:59] Y1**

It's a Sunday, man?

**[15:02] Y1**

Why do we have to come  
cheer for baseball?

**[15:05] Y2**

I've always wanted to watch it live once.

**[15:08] Y3**

One more win until nationals.  
That's incredible.

**[15:11] Y4**

What a pain.

**[15:13] Y1**

I've never even heard of  
our team being strong.

**[15:16] Y4**

There's a weirdo in our class  
who plays baseball.

**[15:21] Y4**

I've tried talking to him,  
but he couldn't speak.

**[15:23] Y2**

Oh, that quiet guy?

**[15:26] Y1**

I bet he's just a bench warmer.

**SIGN** Hear the crowd!

**[15:39] Y4**

What's with the cheers?

**SIGN** He's a guy too big for Tokyo.

**SIGN** Yakushi's unparalleled cleanup, Raichi Todoroki!

**[15:49] C1**

Yeah!

**[15:52] C2**

I came to watch you!

**[15:54] C3**

Go to nationals!

**[15:56] Y1**

I didn't know baseball got so loud.

**SIGN** He hit a home run in the last game,

**SIGN** totalling seven home runs this tournament.

**SIGN** He shows up with a runner on first.

**SIGN** What can we expect from him today?

**[16:09] YC**

*He looks pretty timid.*

**[16:12] YC**

*If you hit a big one,  
you'll break him easily.*

**[16:16] Mi**

*It's the first inning.*

**[16:17] Mi**

*We still have eight innings,*

**[16:20] Mi**

*so let's go bold.*

**[16:23] Mi**

*First pitch!*

**SIGN** He opens up with a sinker!

**SIGN** It's a ball.

**SIGN** He follows up with an outside pitch!

**SIGN** Another ball.

**[16:42] Is**

He's throwing well.

**[16:44] Ry**

But they're balls.

**[16:46] C1**

Are they avoiding a fight?

**[16:49] Mi**

*Let's go in now.*

**[16:55] Um**

Foul!

**SIGN** An inside pitch after two outside pitches.

**SIGN** The hit had power, but it's a foul to first.

**[17:03] Is**

An inside pitch?

**[17:04] Is**

He's got some guts!

**[17:07] Mi**

*Nice pitch.*

**[17:08] Mi**

*Next...*

**[17:10] Mi**

*...the pitch Amahisa struck out  
Todoroki with.*

**[17:13] Mi**

*A slider...*

**[17:15] Mi**

*...toward his knee.*

**SIGN** A strong hit to right field!

**SIGN** Back-to-back hits from the three- and four-holes.

**SIGN** Or wait!

**SIGN** The hit was so fast, Todoroki almost got out.

**[17:40] C1**

He hit that slider really well.

**[17:43] C2**

That right fielder caught the ball fast.

**[17:45] C2**

The runner couldn't go to third.

**[17:48] Ku**

Two outs!

**[17:49] Mi**

*Thanks, Shirasu.*

**[17:52] Mi**

*Keeping that a single was a lifesaver.*

**[17:54] YC**

*Damn!*

**[17:56] YC**

*You weren't even cornered.*

**[17:57] YC**

*Raichi, don't go after such  
a difficult pitch next time.*

**[18:01] YC**

*Are you thinking about the last game?*

**[18:05] Y1**

That batter is amazing.

**[18:07] Y1**

Did you see the ball?

**[18:08] C1**

Nice try, Todoroki!

**SIGN** Next up for Yakushi is the man who made the winning hit.

**SIGN** Batting fifth and first baseman, Sanada-kun.

**[18:21] Sa**

What an exciting game already.

**[18:24] Mi**

*His focus in clutch moments is incredible.*

**[18:28] Mi**

*He could be more dangerous than Todoroki.*

**[18:33] Mi**

*He's the key player  
in both batting and pitching.*

**[18:35] Mi**

*He's dangerous.*

**[18:39] Mi**

*In the last game, it looked like  
he was only after fastballs.*

**[18:45] Mi**

*Let's pitch fastballs carefully.*

**[18:49] Mi**

*We'll use breaking balls to get the strikes.*

**[18:56] YC**

*Your fastball plan*

**[18:58] YC**

*might not work on their catcher.*

**[19:03] (Flashback) YC**

You'll have four at-bats this game,

**[19:05] (Flashback) YC**

and every time,  
it's gonna be a clutch moment.

**[19:09] (Flashback) YC**

For your first at-bat,

**[19:10] (Flashback) YC**

make a bold move of only  
swinging at breaking balls.

**[19:13] (Flashback) Sa**

What?

**[19:17] YC**

*The game's long.*

**[19:19] YC**

*Put some pressure  
on their brains in the beginning.*

**SIGN** He hits the slider!

**[19:31] Oc**

*He hit a breaking ball?*

**[19:33] C1**

Yeah!

**[19:34] C1**

A long hit!

**[19:36] S1**

Shirasu! Get it!

**[19:39] (Flashback) Ku**

Miyuki might be injured.

**[19:44] Sh**

*When I heard that from Kuramochi,*

**[19:47] Sh**

*it made me realize*

**[19:50] Sh**

*how irreplaceable Miyuki was.*

**[19:55] Sh**

*He can do it.*

**[19:58] Sh**

*He can hit it.*

**[20:01] Sh**

*It felt so normal that*

*it never once occurred to me.*

**[20:09] Sh**

*What if Miyuki couldn't play?*

**SIGN** H-He caught it!

**SIGN** What a play from Shirasu in the right field!

**[20:27] Sh**

*Playing in every game without fail.*

**[20:31] Sh**

*That itself is already a feat.*

**[20:34] Sh**

*He's the captain and cleanup,  
on top of that.*

**[20:37] Sh**

*No one can replicate that.*

**[20:41] Sh**

*I have to do everything I can to help him.*

**[20:49] Sa**

Come on, everyone!

**[20:50] Sa**

Another round of applause  
for Shirasu-senpai!

**[20:53] Sa**

Come! Come! Come!

**[20:54] S1**

Shirasu's been caught!

**[20:55] Sa**

Another round of applause!

**[20:55] S2**

Run away, Shirasu!

**[20:56] S3**

Sawamura won't leave you alone, anymore.

**SIGN** Seido Yakushi

**SIGN** Both teams batted really well,

**SIGN** but were robbed of their runs by great fieldwork.

**SIGN** What a fitting opening for the final.

**[21:09] Sa**

Who catches that?

**[21:13] Y1**

This was crazier than I expected.

**[21:15] Y2**

There are so many people.

**[21:18] Y3**

Raichi, your glove!

**[21:20] Y4**

Your hat!

**[21:23] Y5**

You can't walk out empty-handed!

**[21:29] Y6**

Were you walking out to sleep?

**[21:31] Y7**

Did you eat your banana?

**[21:33] Y1**

What?

**[21:36] Y1**

Todoroki, as in the one in our class?

**[21:43] Y1**

*Seriously?*

**[21:45] Y1**

*He's like a different person than in class!*

**SIGN** Seido

Yakushi

**[23:30] Mi**

The tournament final has finally begun.

**[23:32] Mi**

Nori's staying strong against

Yakushi's powerful batters.

**[23:36] Mi**

Keep it up, Nori.

Let's go with this pitch next.

**[23:38] Sa**

He's like a squirrel!

Nori-senpai's like a squirrel!

**[23:41] Sa**

A flying squirrel!

He's a flying squirrel!

**[23:43] Sa**

Blue marlin!

He's a blue marlin!

**[23:45] Sa**

A weasel!

A master weasel!

**[23:47] Ku**

Shut up!

**[23:48] Mi**

Next time on *Ace of the Diamond Season 2*:

Fastball, Featuring Todoroki.

**SIGN** Fastball, Featuring Todoroki

**[23:51] Ku**

Let's win the national title!

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