

45 - Fantasy

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Translator:

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Timer:

QC:

(Please feel free to edit the speaker names if incomplete or inaccurate. Names are handled on a best-effort basis depending on the info on the source file. Dialogue is left as is.)

[00:02] Sa

I do what I'm asked to do every game.

[00:07] Sa

I didn't have the luxury
to think about anything more.

[00:11] Sa

All my upperclassmen are just so amazing.

[00:16] Sa

I respect them,

[00:18] Sa

and they're super cool.

[00:21] Sa

I'm not really sure how to put it,

[00:24] Sa

but I just want to keep
playing with this team.

[00:31] Sa

Not sure if that came out right.

[00:35] Wa

Eijun.

[00:41] Ry

We've been calling you for a while now.

[00:44] Ha

B-Brother.

[00:46] Sa

Ow...

[00:51] Ku

Get over here, Sawamura!

[00:53] Ku

You wanna be late to Inashiro's game, stupid?

[00:57] Sa

That hurt!

[00:58] Sa

That hurt more than usual!

[01:00] Ku

Just your imagination, stupid.

[01:02] Ku

Well, I need to take him now,

[01:05] Ku

but please come cheer for us again.

[01:08] Ku

You listening?

[01:10] Ry

Start walking.

[01:12] Sa

I'm being abused!

[01:14] Ku

I'm not abusing you.

[01:16] F1

He just wants to keep playing
with this team, huh?

[01:20] F2

That's our Ei-chan.

[01:25] Ku

Walk!

[01:27] Sa

See ya!

[01:28] F1

But it doesn't change the fact...

[01:31] F2

...that it's just one more win away.

[01:34] F3

We all...

[01:37] F3

...want to see you pitch at nationals.

SIGN Fantasy

[03:18] C1

Mei!

[03:19] C2

Mei-kun!

[03:21] C3

Show us some great pitching!

[03:23] C4

Narumiya-kun!

[03:24] C5

We came to cheer you on!

[03:26] C6

Narumiya!

[03:27] C6

Let's go to nationals!

[03:29] R1

The cheering is louder.

[03:31] R1

Are there more people now?

[03:35] R2

*The winner of last year's
West Tokyo tournament,*

[03:38] R2

*Inashiro Vocational High School,
led by Coach Hiroshige Kunitomo.*

[03:43] R2

They're the favorite to win this tournament.

[03:46] I1

Damn.

[03:47] I1

Why are they only cheering for Mei?

[03:50] I1

I'm sick of this.

[03:51] I2

Stop complaining.

[03:52] I2

He's our ace, after all.

[03:54] R2

*Three-hole and third baseman,
Hideaki Yoshizawa, third-year.*

[03:58] R2

*Seven-hole and second baseman,
Tsubasa Hirai.*

[04:02] I3

But he doesn't have a girlfriend.

[04:06] R2

*Two-hole and shortstop,
Katsuyuki Shirakawa, second-year.*

[04:10] I4

'Cause he's a little boy.

[04:13] R2

Another second-year.

[04:14] R2

*Leadoff and center fielder,
Carlos Toshiki Kamiya.*

[04:23] R2

Second-year again.

[04:25] R2

*Six-hole and first baseman,
Riku Yamaoka.*

[04:30] R2

*The key player, cleanup and catcher,
Masatoshi Harada.*

[04:34] R1

Wow!

[04:35] R1

His pitch consistently looks really good.

[04:39] R2

I heard he did a lot of running in the off-season.

[04:45] Na

Koshien Stadium was good,
but I really like Jingu Stadium, too.

[04:49] R2

*And possibly the number one pitcher in Kanto,
second-year ace, Mei Narumiya.*

[04:56] R2

I wonder what he'll show us today.

[05:00] Na

I wish we played games every day.

[05:03] Ha

You just don't want to practice.

[05:06] Ha

Give me another fastball.

[05:14] Is

Damn kid's looking good.

[05:17] Is

That was a nice sound.

[05:26] Mi

He's a special opponent for us.

[05:29] Mi

If we can't take him down,

[05:31] Mi

we won't make it to nationals.

[05:39] Na

They're watching.

[05:40] Na

They're all watching.

[05:43] Na

Watch closely.

[05:46] Na

I'll change your glimmers of hopes and dreams

[05:49] Na

into complete despair.

[05:54] Ha

Th-That speed and control.

[05:57] Ha

If he throws breaking balls along with those,

[05:58] Ha

it's going to be tough to get a hit.

[06:01] Sa

I'll watch you down to your every last bone.

[06:05] Fu

I want to go back and pitch.

[06:09] S1

Come get your lunch, please!

[06:12] S2

We have multiple types, so pick what you like.

[06:14] S3

Over here!

[06:16] S4

First come, first served!

[06:18] Ku

Do you have a meatloaf set?

[06:19] Ka

Can I get a fried chicken set?

[06:29] D1

That's some wicked sound.

[06:31] D2

I bet nobody here is expecting us to win.

[06:35] D3

Well, we can probably only win
one out of ten games against them.

[06:39] D2

Moron.

[06:40] D2

Don't say that right before the game.

[06:43] DC

In order to make that one win possible,

[06:45] DC

we've been working hard, no?

[06:49] D3

Professor.

[06:59] DC

Boys, it's time we made history today.

SIGN Sakura

SIGN We will now begin game two of the semifinals

SIGN between Inashiro Vocational High School and Sakurazawa High School.

[07:15] Um

Both teams, line up!

[07:17] EE

Let's go!

[07:18] EE

Let's go!

[07:25] R2

The tournament favorite versus
the only public school in the semifinals.

[07:29] R1

Isn't Sakurazawa a famous high academic school?

[07:33] R1

I'm surprised they're still in the tournament.

[07:36] R2

They used to never make it past the first game.

[07:40] R2

Though they won against a seeded school in their third game this year.

[07:48] R2

It's a miracle that they've made this far.

[07:56] DC

Tokyo Prefectural
Sakurazawa High School.

[07:59] DC

We're one of the top schools
in Tokyo, academically,

SIGN Tokyo Prefectural Sakurazawa High School

[08:02] DC

but no one knows about us in the sports world.

[08:07] (Flashback) DG

See ya, Professor!

[08:09] (Flashback) DC

Yes. Goodbye.

[08:14] (Flashback) D1

Professor.

[08:15] (Flashback) DC

Are you done with practice already?

[08:18] (Flashback) DC

I just changed.

[08:20] (Flashback) D1

Yeah, we all have cram schools.

[08:24] (Flashback) DC

I see.

[08:25] (Flashback) D1

You got forced to oversee
the baseball team, right?

[08:30] (Flashback) D1

You don't have to show up every time.

[08:32] (Flashback) D2

We're just doing it to get
some exercise between classes.

[08:37] (Flashback) D1

Excuse us.

[08:39] (Flashback) D2

Excuse us.

[08:40] (Flashback) D3

Excuse us.

[08:40] (Flashback) DC

Okay, goodbye.

[08:46] DC

*Sakurazawa High School was on a
twenty-year consecutive zero-win record.*

[08:51] DC

However, no one cared about the record,

[08:56] DC

*and the students simply
enjoyed being in the tournament.*

[09:01] DC

That is...

[09:03] DC

...until they joined.

[09:09] (Flashback) D1

All right, one more.

[09:11] (Flashback) D2

Ready?

[09:16] (Flashback) D1

Sorry, Akira!

[09:18] (Flashback) D3

That one was pretty good.

[09:21] (Flashback) D1

One more!

[09:22] (Flashback) D1

I'll catch it this time.

[09:24] (Flashback) DC

You boys aren't going home yet?

[09:27] (Flashback) D1

Oh, Professor.

[09:28] (Flashback) D1

I mean, Coach.

[09:30] DC

First-years, Akira Nagao-kun...

[09:34] (Flashback) D2

I'm a little excited knowing

I get to play in the games.

[09:38] DC

...Yoshimi Hidokoro-kun...

[09:40] (Flashback) D1

We only just barely have enough people,

[09:43] (Flashback) D1

and even us first-years get to play.

[09:46] DC

...and Masaaki Minamoto-kun.

[09:48] (Flashback) D3

These guys were just

benchwarmers in junior high.

[09:52] (Flashback) D1

Shut up! Not like you played a lot!

[09:54] (Flashback) D2

Besides...

[09:55] (Flashback) D2

There's a pitch I've been dying to try.

[10:00] (Flashback) D2

Professor!

[10:01] (Flashback) D2

I mean, Coach.

[10:03] (Flashback) D2

If, and only if,

[10:05] (Flashback) D2

since it's a very low chance,
statistically speaking,

[10:09] (Flashback) D2

we went to nationals...
wouldn't it be cool?

[10:12] (Flashback) D2

I bet we could change the world!

[10:18] (Flashback) D3

Easier said than done.

[10:21] DC

Nationals.

[10:24] (Flashback) DC

I see that you three like baseball.

[10:29] (Flashback) DC

However, as it is, it's just a fantasy.

[10:41] D2

Just a fantasy, huh?

[10:45] D2

*We finally got our first win
one year after that day.*

[10:51] D2

*It was a scrimmage,
and we didn't exactly win easily,*

[10:58] D2

but that one win changed everyone's mentality.

[11:05] DC

Listen up, boys.

[11:07] (Flashback) DC

This team's fate currently rests
entirely on Nagao-kun's pitching.

[11:12] (Flashback) DC

In order to win,

[11:14] (Flashback) DC

we must greatly improve our fielding.

[11:17] (Flashback) DC

Now onto the batting.

[11:20] (Flashback) DC

If you played catch on a merry-go-around
going counter-clockwise,

[11:21] (Flashback) D1

Professor's been thinking, I see.

[11:24] (Flashback) DC

the ball throw will sway to the right.

[11:24] (Flashback) D2

I heard he's read every book
on baseball there is.

[11:26] (Flashback) DC

This is known as the Coriolis effect.

[11:30] (Flashback) D2

He's starting to look like a real coach.

[11:33] (Flashback) DC

Let's do this, boys.

SIGN Miss

[11:37] (Flashback) D4

I'll take over.

[11:38] (Flashback) DC

Sorry.

[11:41] (Flashback) DC

Did you need to throw that without a bounce?

[11:46] (Flashback) DC

How about you make it bounce once,
so it'll get to the other side without fail?

[11:49] (Flashback) D5

Y-Yes, sir!

[11:51] D2

*Professor gave each person a notebook
with what they needed to work on,*

SIGN Baseball Book

[11:55] D2

*and we wrote in it even during practice
when something was on our mind.*

[12:00] D2

*From a single play, to daily
assignments, and overall goals.*

[12:05] D2

As the number of notebooks increased,

[12:07] D2

we managed to win more scrimms.

[12:14] D2

And this year...

[12:20] D2

Shortstop!

[12:23] Um

Out!

[12:25] D5

Yeah!

[12:26] D5

Nice, shortstop!

[12:31] I1

Carlos first, and now Shirakawa?

[12:37] Sa

Wh-Why can't they hit a pitch that slow?

[12:41] P1

Nice one, Akira!

[12:42] P1

Nice pitch!

[12:45] Mi

Chris-senpai.

[12:46] Ch

Yeah.

[12:47] Ch

There's no doubt about it.

[12:51] Ch

He's a knuckleball pitcher.

[13:01] I1

Damn. Damn. Damn. Damn.

[13:02] IC

How was it?

[13:05] I1

I knew his pitch from seeing the videos,

[13:08] I1

but I never expected it'd be such a high level.

[13:17] IC

How they're making every throw with a bounce

[13:20] IC

already tells you their level of play.

[13:23] IC

But it also means they know themselves.

[13:29] Sa

Are they just playing catch?

[13:37] Um

Out!

[13:40] C1

Inashiro just went down, three for three!

[13:42] C2

Is that a knuckleball?

[13:44] C1

Their defense is good, too.

[13:45] C1

These guys are pretty good!

[13:47] D1

Nice pitch, Akira!

[13:49] D2

Nice pitch!

[13:50] DC

Couldn't have started a better way.

[13:52] D3

Fist bumps?

[13:54] D3

Are you trying to be like Coach Hara?

[13:56] DC

Your pitch even works against Inashiro.

[14:01] DC

Great job on improving so much
over the past two years.

[14:04] DC

I'm very proud of you.

[14:10] D2

Don't count your chickens
before they hatch, Professor.

[14:13] D2

If we don't win, it'll just end as a fantasy.

[14:25] Um

Strike!

[14:27] Um

Batter out!

[14:36] C1

Three consecutive strikeouts from the first inning?

[14:39] C2

He's going all out already!

[14:42] D1

This is crazy.

[14:44] D1

It's like he's telling us they're better.

[14:48] DC

That's who they are.

[14:50] DC

We just do our own baseball, isn't that right?

[14:55] DC

Only those who believe
in themselves can pave their paths.

[15:03] D1

He sure knows what to say, sometimes.

[15:05] D2

Though he still can't hit for fielding practice.

[15:10] D1

But he's right.

[15:13] D1

We just do our own thing.

[15:16] (Flashback) D1

Let's go!

[15:18] (Flashback) DD

Yeah!

SIGN We go into Inashiro's offense in the second inning.

SIGN Fourth batter, catcher, Harada-kun.

[15:31] C1

Masa-san!

[15:33] C1

Let's go, cleanup man!

[15:37] Na

He sure is popular.

[15:43] Is

Let's see how he hits the knuckleball.

[15:46] Yu

Maybe he can utilize his flexible batting.

[15:51] Sa

Chris-senpai, how about a little explanation on the knuckleball?

[15:56] Ch

Good idea.

[15:59] Ch

You grip the ball with your fingertips,

[16:01] Ch

and in the moment of your release,

[16:03] Ch

you snap your fingers

[16:05] Ch

to spin the ball in the opposite direction of a regular fastball.

[16:09] Ch

By doing so, the ball flies with zero rotation,

[16:12] Ch

making it break in directions not even the pitcher knows.

[16:18] Ch

It's a difficult pitch to catch,

[16:20] Ch

so some catchers use large mitts specialized for knuckleballs.

[16:24] Ch

It's a difficult pitch not everyone can throw,

[16:28] Ch

so it's a very special pitch.

[16:32] Sa

Not even the pitcher knows how it'll move?

[16:35] Sa

That's irresponsible, if you ask me!

[16:38] Ch

Your moving fastball is like that, too.

[16:42] Mi

The more time they spend trying
to figure out the knuckleball,

[16:46] Mi

the deeper they fall into Sakurazawa's trap.

[16:49] Mi

Impatience can bring the team
a sense of insecurity,

[16:51] Mi

and that can lead to mistakes.

[16:54] Mi

I assume all the teams
that went up against Sakurazawa

[16:57] Mi

went down without being able
to play to their best abilities.

[17:05] Um

Ball!

[17:07] Ha

That's not spinning at all.

[17:10] Ha

This is going to be really hard.

[17:13] Na

Masa-san!

[17:15] Na

I want a big one! A big one!

[17:17] Ha

Shut it.

[17:19] Ha

See it with your own eyes.

[17:26] Ha

I don't need to swing big.

[17:28] Ha

If I can make contact with the ball, then...

[17:31] Ha

It's a different break!

[17:37] Um

Out!

[17:38] D1

Yes! One out!

[17:40] D2

Nice pitching, Akira-kun!

[17:42] D3

Nice one!

[17:44] Na

That was so lame, Masa-san.

[17:46] Na

Are you seriously our cleanup?

[17:47] Ha

Shut up!

[17:49] Na

All righty, then.

[17:52] Na

I'll avenge you, Masa-san!

[17:55] Ha

I'm gonna punch you.

SIGN Batting fifth, pitcher, Narumiya-kun.

[18:01] C1

Mei, hit it!

[18:03] C2

Narumiya-kun!

[18:05] C1

Mei!

[18:07] D1

So this is...

[18:09] D1

...the best pitcher in Kanto, Mei Narumiya.

[18:14] Na

Wow! That's a huge mitt.

[18:17] Na

Is that tailor-made?

[18:23] D1

Stop.

[18:24] D1

Calm down.

[18:28] D1

Gotta calm down.

[18:33] D1

*In junior high, Yoshimi and
I were both benchwarmers.*

[18:43] D1

*Inamoto just barely managed
to play in and out.*

[18:47] D1

*I wanted to play games in high school,
even if the team wasn't good.*

[18:52] D1

*But I knew we wouldn't
be able to beat the best schools*

[18:55] D1

in terms of talent and physique.

[19:00] D1

That's when I discovered...

[19:03] (Flashback) D2

Akira, what are you reading?

[19:06] (Flashback) D2

Wakefield?

[19:08] (Flashback) D2

Is that the majors?

[19:09] (Flashback) D1

Yoshimi, do you know about
a special breaking pitch?

[19:14] (Flashback) D2

A special pitch?

[19:27] (Flashback) D1

It doesn't require superhuman powers
to throw a knuckleball.

[19:37] D1

If I can master this pitch, then maybe...

[19:40] D1

...I'll be able to dream.

[19:52] D1

One out!

[19:53] D1

One at a time!

[19:56] D2

Yeah! One at a time!

[19:59] D3

Just like usual!

[20:01] D4

Send them our way!

[20:03] D5

Akira!

[20:08] D6

Let's go, Akira!

[20:11] DC

That's right, Akira-kun.

[20:14] DC

You need not tense up when you pitch.

[20:18] Na

He's oddly calm.

[20:22] Na

Pisses me off a bit.

[20:25] DC

Just like your usual self,

[20:29] DC

be calm and comfortable when you pitch.

[20:35] DC

That alone will take your pitch to new heights.

[20:38] Na

What the?

[20:40] Um

Strike!

[20:42] Um

Strike!

[20:45] Um

Batter out!

[20:47] IC

I thought I told him to swing compactly.

[20:52] DC

*Always be calm and steady
as a rock, never excited.*

[20:58] DC

This is the secret to a great knuckleball.

[21:01] DC

The zen state of mind.

[21:08] C1

Is this for real?

[21:10] C2

Inashiro cleanups struck out.

[21:12] C3

That knuckleball's amazing.

[21:17] R2

It's not a pitch you can learn overnight.

[21:20] R2

He must've spent his entire
high school life learning this pitch.

[21:27] R2

It wasn't a fluke that they've made this far.

[21:33] D1

Yeah! We can do this!

[21:36] D2

We can put up a fight against Inashiro!

[21:39] D3

Hidokoro, eyes on the ball!

[21:42] D4

We've gotta score first!

[21:46] Um

Strike!

[21:48] Um

Batter out!

[21:50] Mi

Mei.

[21:55] Na

Bring it on.

[21:59] Na

Like I'd lose a pitching game.

[23:36] Mi

So this is why Mei was pitching
all out from the start.

[23:38] Ch

He's putting pressure
on the opponent from the mound.

[23:41] Sa

From the mound?

[23:42] D1

We just have to be persistent and patient.

[23:44] D1

If we play like we usually do,
a chance will definitely come around.

[23:48] DC

That's right.

[23:48] DC

This isn't the first obstacle
you've hit on your way here.

[23:53] Sa

Next time on *Ace of the Diamond*:
Pitching of Despair.

SIGN Pitching of Despair

[23:56] Sa

Let's win the national title!

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