

# 57 - Reliable Underclassmen

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**[00:03] Ta**

You're the ace now.

**[00:06] Ta**

Pitch with power.

**[00:12] Na**

*He can only pitch a moving fastball.*

**[00:17] Na**

*If he throws anything easy,  
I'll send it flying.*

**[00:28] Um**

Strike!

**[00:41] C2**

*Three consecutive pitches...*

**[00:43] C2**

*...to the inside?*

**[00:45] Na**

*You little... Don't get cocky!*

**[01:08] Sa**

Let's go!

**[01:10] Sa**

Yes! Yes! Yes!

**[01:11] Sa**

Yes! Yes! Yes!

**SIGN** KICK

**SIGN** miss

**[01:21] R1**

Narumiya-kun went three for three.

**[01:24] R2**

And they were all inside pitches.

**[01:28] C1**

*Narumiya would get pissed  
and even swing at a ball.*

**[01:33] C1**

*He read the batter very well.*

**[01:37] 31**

Three inside pitches in a row!

**[01:40] 31**

What an idiot!

**[01:42] 31**

He swung at a ball!

**[01:45] 32**

It was a pretty risky pitch sequence,

**[01:48] 32**

but that first-year's got some guts  
to be able to execute it.

**[01:54] Wa**

*Eijun.*

**[01:57] Ta**

Sawamura.

**[02:00] Ta**

Nice pitch.

**SIGN** Reliable Underclassmen

**[03:52] Ch**

Narumiya has pitched  
ten change-ups so far.

**[03:57] Ch**

He only threw it four times  
in the first five innings,

**[04:01] Ch**

but he threw six in the sixth.

**[04:04] Ch**

It's as if he's trying to shift our focus

**[04:09] Ch**

to the pitch that struck out Yuki.

**[04:23] Ch**

In all their past games this season,

**[04:26] Ch**

he's only used around ten  
change-ups per game.

**[04:30] Ch**

Even in this game,

**[04:32] Ch**

he stopped using it after Isashiki  
sent it into the outfield.

**[04:38] Ch**

This is purely a speculation,

**[04:40] Ch**

but they may have a reason they  
don't want to use it so many times.

**[04:48] Ot**

T-True.

**[04:49] Ot**

There is something off  
about how they've used it,

**[04:52] Ot**

but perhaps that's what  
they want us to think!

**[05:01] Ka**

It doesn't matter if there's a reason  
for their use of the change-up.

**[05:05] Ka**

If they've made us think this hard about it,

**[05:07] Ka**

then we've already played into their hands.

**[05:12] Ka**

If we continue to play like we have,

**[05:14] Ka**

we can't win.

**[05:24] Ka**

Let's forget their change-up.

**[05:30] Ma**

Mei, last one!

**[05:36] I1**

Don't look so down, Mei!

**[05:37] I2**

Chin up!

**[05:39] I3**

Deap breaths.

**[05:40] Na**

I know! Shut up!

**[05:45] Ma**

*This isn't good.*

**SIGN** Seido

Inashiro

**[05:48] Ma**

*We've gotten some really good chances,*

**[05:51] Ma**

*but we haven't scored since the fifth inning.*

**[05:57] Ma**

*Mei's pitched almost 100 pitches, too.*

**SIGN** Top of the eighth, and Seido's up to bat.

**SIGN** Batting seventh, left fielder, Furuya-kun.

**[06:11] C1**

Furuya!

**[06:13] C2**

Monster!

**[06:15] C3**

You've got this!

**[06:17] C4**

Let's go, Furuya!

**[06:19] Sa**

Hit it, Furuya!

**[06:21] Sa**

Be the man!

**[06:23] Fu**

*I was ready to pitch, too, you know!*

**[06:31] Ma**

*He got a hit in his last at-bat.*

**[06:35] Ma**

*Don't underestimate him, Mei.*

**[06:39] Na**

*Why would I?*

**[06:44] Na**

*I'm freaking pissed!*

**SIGN** A crossfire pitch to the inside!

**SIGN** Looks like he's pitching with a vengeance!

**SIGN** The count is 1-2.

**SIGN** He's quickly cornered the batter.

**SIGN** Will we see his change-up?

**SIGN** Will that be his final pitch?

**[07:35] Ka**

*Be confident.*

**SIGN** Fourth pitch!

**[07:45] Ka**

*Swing with your normal form until the end!*

**SIGN** A fastball to the outside, and Furuya hits!

**SIGN** It's a hit to the right field!

**[08:02] SS**

Yeah!

**SIGN** Finally after seven innings,

**SIGN** could this be the spark Seido needed?

**[08:12] Ha**

Nice hit, Furuya-kun!

**[08:13] S1**

Don't be so shy about it!

**SIGN** hide

**[08:17] S2**

No need to hide it!

**[08:25] Sa**

Well hit, Furuya!

**[08:27] Sa**

Leave the rest to me!

**SIGN** touch

**[08:38] Ku**

What a bunt.

**[08:40] Sa**

Yes!

**[08:41] Sa**

Yes! Yes!

**[08:41] Sa**

Yes! Yes! Yes!

**[08:43] Na**

Shut up!

**[08:44] Na**

It's just a bunt!

**SIGN** A successful sacrifice bunt!

**SIGN** One out and a runner on second.

**SIGN** Seido has put a man in scoring position.

**[08:55] C1**

Nice, Sawamura!

**[08:57] Ka**

You're way too consistent!

**[09:00] R1**

They're behind by two runs,  
but they used a bunt.

**[09:03] R2**

Yeah.

**[09:05] R2**

I thought they might use a pinch hitter,

**[09:07] R2**

but it looks like they want him  
to keep pitching next inning.

**[09:11] Sa**

*Why won't you let me swing?*

**[09:13] Ka**

Stop making that face!

**[09:15] Ka**

You're only good at bunts!

**[09:17] Ka**

Don't get cocky!

**[09:20] R1**

Yeah.

**[09:21] R1**

He brings the team to life when he pitches.

**[09:24] R1**

Not to mention...

**[09:27] R1**

His last three pitches

**[09:29] R1**

lifted the tension in the air.

**[09:52] Ka**

It slipped through!

**[09:53] C1**

Nice one!

**SIGN** Ninth batter, Shirasu, pulled the first pitch!

**[09:58] Ha**

*What's going on?*

**[10:00] Ha**

*Their swings have gotten much sharper.*

**[10:04] I1**

Mei!

**SIGN** First base! Safe!

**[10:07] S1**

Yeah!

**SIGN** One out with runners on first and third!

**[10:16] C1**

*Shirasu just roared.*

**[10:19] C2**

*Is that...*

**[10:22] C3**

*Is that...*

**[10:25] C3**

*...a fist pump?*

**[10:31] CC**

*From Shirasu?*

**SIGN** Seido's runner advanced from second to third,

**SIGN** and their next batter is their lead-off man, Kuramochi!

**[10:45] C0**

You've got this!

**[10:47] C1**

Let's keep it up, Kuramochi!

**[10:49] C2**

Bring the runners home!

**[11:05] Ha**

Let's go, Kuramochi-senpai!

**[11:07] M1**

You've got this!

**[11:08] M2**

Come on, Kuramochi!

**[11:12] Ka**

Kuramochi.

**[11:14] Ku**

Yes, sir?

**[11:16] Ma**

Excuse me.

**[11:17] Ma**

Time out, please.

**[11:19] Um**

Time out!

**SIGN** Inashiro's infield are gathering at the mound.

**[11:24] Na**

Get out of here!

**SIGN** *They're taking a short breather.*

**[11:29] 31**

One out with runners on first and third.

**[11:32] 31**

A lot of possible plays here.

**[11:35] 31**

Like a squeeze play.

**[11:37] 32**

Yeah.

**[11:39] 32**

They need at least one run, no matter what.

**[11:43] 32**

I'm sure their coach knows that very well.

**[12:04] Ma**

Watch out for a squeeze bunt.

**[12:08] Na**

I know already!

**[12:10] Na**

You're too close!

**[12:11] Na**

Too big!

**[12:11] Na**

Too scary!

**[12:12] Ma**

Whaddaya mean "too big"?

**SIGN** Grrrrrrr

**[12:14] Na**

Exactly what I said!

**[12:18] I1**

Excuse me.

**[12:19] I1**

The coach said you can concede a run.

**[12:22] Ma**

Yeah, I know.

**[12:24] Ma**

Infield, play halfway.

**[12:27] Ma**

Outfield, prepare for a long one.

**[12:30] Ma**

Let's get the outs we can get.

**[12:34] I1**

Right.

**[12:35] I1**

That's what the coach said.

**[12:37] I1**

That we're up two runs for a reason.

**[12:43] I2**

You have a problem?

**[12:45] Na**

No problems!

**[12:46] Na**

Though I think it's a boring plan!

**[12:49] Na**

Let me tell you.

**[12:50] Na**

The batters are under pressure, too.

**[12:53] Na**

I bet they've lost their calm  
chasing after a run.

**[12:57] Na**

So it's 60:40 in...

**[12:59] Na**

Wait!

**[13:02] Na**

I'm pitching for our team.

**[13:05] Na**

So it's 80:20 in our favor.

**[13:14] Na**

See?

**[13:15] Na**

This is gonna be a piece of cake!

**[13:17] Na**

Now scram, kids!

**[13:19] Na**

It's hot here, so let's  
get this game over with!

**[13:23] I1**

*Unbelievable.*

**[13:25] I2**

*You really think you're a king.*

**[13:30] I3**

*This is the Mei we know.*

**[13:35] Ma**

Mei.

**[13:36] Ma**

Let's check the first pitch.

**[13:38] Ma**

I want to see how they react.

**[13:41] Na**

I know, so stop—

**[13:42] Ma**

Let me finish, Mei!

**[13:46] Ma**

It's my job as the catcher.

**[13:53] Ma**

Anyway, we can concede a run here.

**[13:56] Ma**

Let's end this inning with  
the next two batters.

**[14:08] CC**

Keep on moving!

**[14:11] CC**

Don't ever stop!

**SIGN** It's one out with runners on first and third at the top of the eighth!

**SIGN** Seido has proven their defense time and time again,

**SIGN** and they've kept an eye out for a chance to score.

**SIGN** This could be the chance they've been looking for!

**SIGN** However, the best southpaw in Kanto,

**SIGN** Mei Narumiya of Inashiro Vocational High, stands in their way!

**[14:41] C1**

Let's go, Kuramochi!

**[14:42] C2**

Go for it!

**[14:47] Ma**

*He's batting right-handed this time.*

**[14:49] C1**

Mei-kun!

**[14:51] C2**

Narumiya!

**[14:53] C3**

Narumiya!

**[14:54] C4**

Stay strong!

**[14:55] C5**

Mei!

**[14:56] C6**

Narumiya-kun!

**[14:57] C7**

Mei-kun!

**[14:59] C8**

Inashiro's playing their infield halfway.

**[15:02] C9**

Looks like they've prepared to lose a run.

**[15:06] C9**

*But if they just give one away for free,*

**[15:10] C9**

*it'll give Seido momentum.*

**[15:22] Na**

*Goodness.*

**[15:23] Na**

*You're such a worrywart, Masa-san.*

**[15:32] Na**

*We're two runs up.*

**[15:34] Na**

*You don't need to remind me.*

**[15:37] Na**

*This is different from before.*

**[15:50] Sa**

Don't worry!

**[15:52] Sa**

You can do this!

**[15:53] Sa**

You're more than just a failure,  
Kuramochi-senpai!

**[15:56] Sa**

Be confident!

**[15:58] Ku**

*I'll make it.*

**[16:01] Ku**

*I have to make it.*

**[16:04] C1**

Kuramochi!

**[16:16] Ka**

You're next at-bat.

**[16:19] Ka**

Are you ready?

**[16:24] Ha**

Yes, sir.

**SIGN** He opens up with a ball to the outside.

**[16:43] Ma**

*No signs of a squeeze bunt yet.*

**[16:51] Na**

*If you're gonna do it, then make it quick.*

**[16:56] Um**

Strike!

**SIGN** Low and away into the corner!

**[17:01] Na**

*You can't hit my pitch, anyway.*

**[17:09] C1**

The count is 1-1.

**[17:12] C1**

No signs of a squeeze bunt yet.

**[17:18] C1**

*Are they going for a hit?*

**[17:21] C2**

*I don't know.*

**[17:23] C2**

Runners on first and third.

**[17:25] C2**

They could do it any time.

**[17:36] C2**

There's the bunt!

**[17:38] Ma**

Mei!

**[18:05] C1**

He tapped it!

**[18:06] Ma**

That was close!

**[18:08] C2**

W-Wow! How did he tap that?

**[18:12] C3**

Dang! Are you serious?

**[18:16] 31**

That was a nice tap.

**[18:18] 32**

If he'd missed, it would've been  
game over for the runner.

**[18:23] 33**

But...

**[18:24] 33**

Two strikes now.

**[18:26] 33**

He's completely cornered.

**[18:31] Na**

*Like I said.*

**[18:34] Na**

*It's 80:20 in our favor.*

**[18:37] Na**

*We can concede a run?*

**[18:44] Na**

*How about being more optimistic?*

**SIGN** He didn't swing!

**SIGN** The count is 2-2!

**[18:54] Na**

*You want me to stand here to concede a run?*

**[19:01] Na**

*No way in hell!*

**[19:09] Ma**

A squeeze bunt after two strikes?

**[19:11] Na**

*Damn it!*

**[19:15] M1**

Come on!

**[19:17] Ku**

*I'll do it.*

**[19:20] Ku**

*I have to do it!*

**[19:25] (Flashback) Ot**

What?

**[19:26] (Flashback) Ot**

You want a pinch hitter?

**[19:28] (Flashback) Ot**

Why would you say that, Kominato?

**[19:30] (Flashback) Ot**

Are you hurt somewhere?

**[19:33] (Flashback) Ku**

Ryo-san!

**[19:34] (Flashback) Ha**

I hate to admit it,

**[19:38] (Flashback) Ha**

but I can't move like I thought I could.

**[19:49] (Flashback) Ka**

Are you sure?

**[19:56] (Flashback) Ry**

Yes.

**[19:59] (Flashback) Ry**

I know we have...

**[20:02] (Flashback) Ry**

...a lot of good underclassmen.

**[20:13] Ma**

First base!

**SIGN** Third base runner scores!

**SIGN** Kuramochi pulls off a risky squeeze bunt after two strikes!

**[20:34] Ku**

Yeah!

**[20:35] S1**

Kuramochi!

**[20:36] S2**

Nice bunt!

**[20:39] Sa**

I can't believe you did it, Kuramochi-senpai!

**[20:41] Ku**

Shut up!

**[20:42] Ku**

Whaddaya mean you can't believe it?

**[20:45] S1**

You son of a gun!

**[20:50] Is**

*We got a run back.*

**[20:52] Yu**

*Just one more run.*

**SIGN** Seido

Inashiro

**SIGN** Seido finally scores in the eighth inning!

**SIGN** And a runner is still on second!

**[21:00] Ma**

*They got us good.*

**[21:02] Ma**

*But it's two outs now.*

**[21:04] Ma**

Mei, let's get the next batter—

**[21:06] Na**

I know!

**SIGN** Seido High School is switching players.

**[21:19] Ma**

*They're switching here?*

**[21:21] Ma**

*Isn't Kominato up next?*

**[21:24] Ma**

*Pinch hitting for the second batter  
and baseman, Ryosuke Kominato-kun,*

**[21:31] Ma**

*is Haruichi Kominato-kun.*

**[21:44] Ry**

Smack the first pitch, Haruichi.

**[21:49] Ry**

You've got this.

**[23:35] Mi**

Kuramochi pulled off the squeeze bunt,

**[23:37] Mi**

and now we're just one run behind  
with a runner on second.

**[23:41] Sa**

Smash it, Harucchi!

**[23:43] Ha**

I can't catch up to you  
if I just do what's normal.

**[23:46] Na**

I'll break your bat!

**[23:49] Is**

What reliable underclassmen.

**[23:51] Is**

Wouldn't you say, Captain?

**[23:52] Yu**

Next time on Ace of the Diamond\*:  
The Three-Hole.

**SIGN** The Three-Hole

**[23:56] Yu**

Let's win the national title!

**[23:58] ---**

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