

E16 - The Best Start and the Worst Start

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

Editor:

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.)

[00:01] ---

Go for it! Kitasumi for the win!

[00:04] ---

We need to shore up our
defense in the middle!

[00:05] ---

Taro, don't do anything stupid this time!

[00:10] ---

I won't let him past me this time.

[00:11] ---

I didn't do all that defensive
practice for nothing!

[00:14] ---

It doesn't matter how
much height he has on me!

[00:18] ---

You dumbass! She told us
to expect shots from long range!

[00:22] ---

Momoharu, get the rebound!

[00:23] ---

Shit, you guys are running me ragged!

[00:28] ---

Loose ball!

[00:29] ---

What the hell?!

[00:30] ---

You had one job, Momoharu!

[00:33] ---

Not happening!

[00:36] ---

Crap... he waited to shoot...!

[00:44] ---

That little snot... he took his sweet time
to get the foul call!

[00:48] ---

Defensive foul on #7!

[00:49] ---

The basket counts! One free-throw!

[00:55] ---

He made a complete fool
out of me in front of Nao.

[00:58] ---

Damn him and his silky seaweed hair!

[01:01] ---

I'm gonna totally murder him!

[01:03] ---

One free-throw!

[01:08] ---

Dear God,

[01:10] ---

I love Nao with all my heart.

[01:13] ---

So if the power of love truly does exist...

[01:18] ---

...then please help me tap into it now!

[01:47] ---

Ahiru no Sora

[02:59] ---

The Best Start and the Worst Start

[03:03] ---

Shit! I swear I must be losing my damn mind!

[03:07] ---

I'm seriously starting to
think that dude is cool!

[03:11] ---

Taro! Why the hell are you
praying before a free-throw?!

[03:14] ---

5 more seconds and it
would have been a penalty!

[03:17] ---

Listen up, boys!

[03:19] ---

We'll never live it down if we lose
to a hair oil addict like that chump!

[03:22] ---

We know.

[03:24] ---

Don't let them catch up.
Let's lay on the pressure.

[03:27] ---

Right!

[03:28] ---

Defense! Defense! Defense!

[03:31] ---

Defense! Defen- huh?

[03:31] ---

Defense! Defense! Defense!

[03:34] ---

Wait, aren't we on offense right now?

[03:36] ---

If you don't know what you're
doing, then stop doing it!

[03:40] ---

Here they come!

[03:41] ---

Konishi! Watch out for #4!

[03:43] ---

On him!

[03:48] ---

You've got the ball, but what
can you even do from here?

[03:51] ---

I'm not just going to leave
you open for an easy shot!

[03:58] ---

How the hell does he turn on a dime
while running so fast?!

[04:07] ---

He blocked the shot!

[04:09] ---

Nice, Taro!

[04:12] ---

Tell me, is there a reason
you aren't trying to score any baskets?

[04:15] ---

Huh?

[04:17] ---

First you screwed up that
jump ball and now this.

[04:19] ---

Have you forgotten how to play the game?

[04:21] ---

Konishi, you damn punk.

[04:23] ---

Are you just here to start
shit with me or what?

[04:26] ---

I'm disappointed.

[04:27] ---

Because I had been really looking forward
to playing against you, Senpai.

[04:34] ---

Even back then, you were...!

[04:39] ---

Shit, was he always this good?!

[04:44] ---

I'm gonna shut you down hard!

[04:51] ---

Nice pass, Koney!

[04:56] ---

Awesome play, Taro! Konishi!

[04:56] ---

Kitasumi

[04:56] ---

Kuzuryu

[04:59] ---

That evens up the score!

[05:04] ---

Damn.

[05:04] ---

Defense! Defense! Defense!

[05:06] ---

Come on, freshmen!

I know you can cheer louder than that!

[05:09] ---

They're starting to build
up some serious momentum.

[05:11] ---

We need to score a basket soon.

[05:14] ---

They haven't gotten to the point
of totally dominating the game.

[05:17] ---

But letting them take the lead
here would be really bad!

[05:23] ---

We've gotta push through
and sink a shot right now!

[05:28] ---

Gah! I can't believe I let him get me
with that lame-ass fake!

[05:32] ---

Koney! Help me out!

[05:38] ---

Oh crap!

[05:41] ---

You left me wide open.

[05:43] ---

Damn! I've got to stop him,
even if it means a foul!

[05:46] ---

I'm gonna pay you back
for that fake you pulled.

[05:48] ---

And with interest!

[05:53] ---

A dunk?!

[06:02] ---

A-are you all right?

[06:04] ---

SHIT! I WAS SO CLOSE!

[06:06] ---

Just a little more and I
would have touched the rim!

[06:08] ---

You mean he didn't touch the rim just now?

[06:11] ---

So then, that was just his
attempt to fake a dunk?

[06:13] ---

But wow, he got some
serious air on that jump.

[06:16] ---

Anybody who plays basketball has to satisfy

[06:18] ---

the urge of pulling off a dunk
during a game, at least once!

[06:21] ---

Dude, you can't even pull it off to begin with.
The rim's too high.

[06:25] ---

If I was just 5 centimeters taller...

[06:29] ---

I told you. The only winner here is me.

[06:32] ---

I'll admit that your three-pointers
are pretty impressive,

[06:35] ---

but they're not enough to win.

[06:37] ---

Just so you know, it's not
our height that separates us.

[06:40] ---

The crucial difference
between you and me is...

[06:43] ---

...the fact that I have wings, and you don't.

[06:49] ---

Bye-bye, baby.

[06:50] ---

Defense! Defense! Defense!

[06:53] ---

Defense! Defense! Defense!

[06:53] ---

What now? The other team
is starting to really get riled up.

[06:56] ---

Let's go defense! Get it done!

[07:02] ---

Out of bounds! Kitasumi ball!

[07:07] ---

Timeout by Kuzuryu High!

[07:09] ---

Kitasumi
Kuzuryu

[07:09] ---

I didn't realize Kitasumi
was so tough to beat.

[07:12] ---

I don't think we can win, not at this rate.

[07:17] ---

It's a little early, but we're going
to change up our defense.

[07:20] ---

The players that we need
to shut down are #7...

[07:25] ---

...and #14 when he goes to post up.

[07:29] ---

Although he hasn't made any shots yet,

[07:31] ---

we also need to look out for
dribble penetration from #5.

[07:35] ---

That all being said, we're actually

in a pretty good position.

[07:38] ---

Going up against this team is
the perfect opportunity to put

[07:41] ---

the defense we practiced into use.

[07:43] ---

Do you understand?

[07:45] ---

This is going to be where the
real trial for our team starts.

[07:49] ---

It's going to be hard for you out there,

[07:51] ---

but you're the cornerstone
of our defense, Kurumatani.

[07:56] ---

A'ight! Let's knock their socks off.

[07:59] ---

And show them what our
defense is really made of!

[08:04] ---

Kurumatani will need to return back
to doing footwork practice by himself tomorrow.

[08:10] ---

What will decide the outcome of this match
is whether you can stop him or not.

[08:17] ---

I'll stop him, no matter what!

[08:23] ---

What's this? Their defense changed.

[08:25] ---

Huh?

[08:28] ---

That little guy rushed out all on his own!

[08:31] ---

Full court man-to-man?!

[08:33] ---

Have you gone off the deep end?!

[08:37] ---

But the four in the back are doing zone?

[08:39] ---

That's Box and 1, no... it's
actually Diamond and 1!

[08:43] ---

Hmm. So, they let the short one run loose

[08:46] ---

and kept their tallest player
at the top of the zone.

[08:49] ---

It's a solid formation that
fully accounts for our offense.

[08:52] ---

However... it's much easier said than done.

[08:57] ---

I wonder just how long they'll last?

[09:00] ---

This is the same defense
the girls' team used against us, isn't it?

[09:03] ---

That's right.

[09:04] ---

The formation is a little different,
but the idea is the same.

[09:08] ---

Tinytown is going to get wiped out
doing full court, ain't he?

[09:11] ---

I mean, the offense doesn't really
make any moves until they reach the front court.

[09:14] ---

And that's exactly why it's necessary.

[09:17] ---

Before they even reach front court,
our goal is to make them think

[09:19] ---

"#7 can't do anything", or even just,
"getting a pass to him would be difficult."

[09:26] ---

Like you said, this is really going
to push the limits of Kurumatani's stamina.

[09:30] ---

But our opponent will be expending
just as much effort by trying to shake him.

[09:35] ---

We'll throw their scorer off-kilter
with pressure and fatigue.

[09:38] ---

That will be Kurumatani's job.

[09:41] ---

Of course, it won't be easy for
the rest of the team, either.

[09:44] ---

Since they'll be playing zone D

with only 4 players instead of the typical 5.

[09:48] ---

Okay, but like, are you really sure
that our defense is so important?

[09:52] ---

I feel like we could easily win this thing
if Kite and Sora just focused on scoring.

[09:56] ---

Yeah, I was thinking about that, too.

[09:59] ---

It's true that the effectiveness
of defense is ambiguous,

[10:02] ---

we can't just tally it
like points or rebounds.

[10:06] ---

That also makes it difficult to understand
how much of an impact it has on the end result.

[10:11] ---

However, I think that only applies
if you ignore one important thing.

[10:14] ---

The reality of winning or losing.

[10:17] ---

The majority of players on losing teams
share the same feelings after a game,

[10:21] ---

about how essential defense
is to winning the game.

[10:25] ---

That was close, I gotta focus.

[10:27] ---

There's no point to using this defense
if I let Kabachi get free.

[10:31] ---

I've gotta be quick to fill any space
where a pass might come through.

[10:35] ---

But the problem is, this guy is really good
at subtle fakes and other simple moves.

[10:40] ---

He's also a lot quicker
on his feet than I am.

[10:42] ---

But even so...

[10:43] ---

Too slow!

[10:44] ---

Why do you keep using defensive slides against me
when I'm doing a full-on drive?

[10:48] ---

Didn't you consider just
dashing alongside me?

[10:50] ---

No, because then it'll
delay my reaction time.

[10:53] ---

You dummy. Your ability to
react in time only matters

[10:56] ---

if you can actually keep up with your mark.

[10:59] ---

Your priority is to match
the speed of your opponent,

[11:01] ---

or move slightly faster than them
if they have possession of the ball.

[11:05] ---

If you can't do that,
then we'll never be able to use Nanao's defense.

[11:10] ---

All right, let's go again.

[11:14] ---

Dealing with an opponent
who is unbelievably fast...

[11:17] ---

...that's something I'm totally
used to at this point!

[11:20] ---

And compared to how
ridiculously fast Kite is...

[11:22] ---

...this guy seems way
more grounded in reality!

[11:25] ---

He's gotten pretty damn good.

[11:27] ---

Dammit! It's like he's stuck right to me!

[11:30] ---

I hate sticky shit like natto
and gum with a passion!

[11:34] ---

I can do this! I can shut him down!

[11:37] ---

Screen!

[11:44] ---

Kato! Pass it to m-

[11:49] ---

Behind you, Nabe!

[11:50] ---

Huh?

[11:53] ---

Nice shot!

[11:54] ---

Kitasumi

[11:54] ---

Kitasumi! Kitasumi!

[11:57] ---

Katori! Nice assist!

[12:01] ---

That's the way. Create some open space
and then attack their weak side.

[12:05] ---

Don't sweat it, Nabe!

[12:07] ---

Just shake it off and switch to offense!

[12:10] ---

You okay after that run in?

[12:12] ---

Your head hit my elbow pretty hard.

[12:14] ---

I'm fine!

[12:15] ---

Defense! Defense! Defense!

[12:17] ---

Only 3 minutes left in the first quarter.

[12:20] ---

That settles it! For the
rest of this quarter...

[12:22] ---

I won't let Kabachi score a single point!

[12:25] ---

Rebound!

[12:29] ---

Kitasumi!

[12:31] ---

Let's score!

[12:32] ---

There's an opening near #8, hurry!

[12:34] ---

Hey, am I crazy or is Momoharu

a little off his game?

[12:37] ---

You think? There's not much
he could've done differently just now.

[12:43] ---

Him again?!

[12:45] ---

Dammit, what a pest!

[12:47] ---

I don't want to boost their morale
by letting them shut Taro out here.

[12:51] ---

So we'll catch them off guard by getting Taro
to score with brute force.

[12:56] ---

Shit!

[12:57] ---

I don't get it. How is he so relaxed
while putting up such a fierce defense?

[13:01] ---

Having a solid poker face is
essential to a good defense!

[13:04] ---

I can't afford to show him even
the slightest sign of fatigue!

[13:06] ---

Rather than staying up close, I'm better off
leaving a tiny bit of space between us.

[13:10] ---

No matter what crazy moves
he pulls to get rid of me,

[13:12] ---

I can't let my eyes off the ball.

[13:14] ---

I've got to keep track of the
point guard's movement, too.

[13:16] ---

Kuzuryu
Kitasumi

[13:17] ---

Actually, wait... I don't have the time
to be thinking about all that right now!

[13:21] ---

I just need to sprint, dash...
and run all over the place!

[13:30] ---

You might think you've got me 1-on-1,

but from my eyes it's 5-on-1!

[13:41] ---

This is the same situation as before!

[13:43] ---

Kato!

[13:46] ---

I've got this!

[13:49] ---

What the?!

[13:54] ---

That damn shrimp!

[13:57] ---

Out of bounds! Kitsumi ball!

[14:00] ---

Aw, man! I was so close!

[14:02] ---

I knew having a shorty would be useless.

[14:05] ---

What a waste of space.

[14:07] ---

Let's swap him out for Yashuhara.

[14:09] ---

No way, I won't stand for it!

[14:10] ---

That was almost a clean steal.

[14:13] ---

Yeah, it would have been
a huge advantage if he'd gotten it.

[14:16] ---

There's nothing to be disappointed about.

[14:19] ---

Throw-in!

[14:21] ---

He's providing us with the very best defense!

[14:31] ---

Sweet! That's the third one in a row!

[14:34] ---

Nice moves, Kite!

[14:40] ---

I can't believe they're sticking to Taro
for the entire quarter.

[14:43] ---

There's hardly any time left!

[14:44] ---

Go Kitasumi! Sink it before the buzzer!

[14:48] ---

Don't make it sound so easy!

[14:55] ---

That's the end of the first quarter!

[14:58] ---

2-minute interval!

[15:03] ---

Hey Sora, great job out there!

[15:05] ---

Thanks!

[15:06] ---

Kuzuryu

Kitasumi

[15:07] ---

They haven't left us in the dust.

[15:08] ---

We're keeping right up with them!

[15:10] ---

And most importantly, Kabachi hasn't scored a single basket since

[15:13] ---

I started my full court defense!

[15:15] ---

I did it!

[15:17] ---

I shut him down!

[15:19] ---

We can do this! We can win!

[15:24] ---

He's drenched in sweat,
and they're not even at halftime yet.

[15:30] ---

You know, I'm starting think
we're pretty damn good!

[15:32] ---

The score might be tied, but I think
we've showed them who has the most skills!

[15:36] ---

Kite's actually scored more
than I thought he would!

[15:39] ---

Well, it looks like you guys
aren't going to need me to save you.

[15:43] ---

We've barely made it 1/4th
of the way through the match.

[15:46] ---

Things are only going to get harder for us
from here on out.

[15:50] ---

I have here a copy of their team's
official records from last year.

SIGN National High School Basketball Tournament Kanagawa Preliminaries - Kitasumi

[15:54] ---

Kitasumi is what is known
as a "slow-starter" team.

[15:59] ---

They perform better in the
second quarter than the first.

[16:01] ---

Same for the second half of the game overall.

[16:04] ---

The level of intense play that
they bring to the court at their

[16:06] ---

peak is something to be scared of.

[16:08] ---

Hold up. How'd you get your
hands on that, anyway?

[16:11] ---

Taro gave it to me. Or
rather, forced it on me.

[16:16] ---

Our defensive strategy worked well
in the first quarter, but that's

[16:19] ---

not going to be enough to win.

[16:21] ---

Starting in the second quarter,
we'll put on more of an offensive.

[16:24] ---

This should be obvious to all of you,

[16:26] ---

but we want to score without
letting them score.

[16:29] ---

If we can't manage that,
then we won't be able to win in the end.

[16:32] ---

Yasuhara will be subbing in for Nabe.

[16:35] ---

S-sure.

[16:37] ---

Natsume, please provide
him with your support.

[16:40] ---

I already know what I need to do.

[16:43] ---

Kurumatani, keep up your aggressive defense and aim to get some steals.

[16:48] ---

Whenever making a fast break for the basket

[16:49] ---

isn't an option, Chiaki will be our rallying point.

[16:52] ---

Am I understood?

[16:53] ---

Loud and clear.

[16:58] ---

I was very curious, since I heard that their manager was also doubling as their coach.

[17:03] ---

She's quite the tactician, far more competent than I ever expected.

[17:07] ---

For now, let's just see what happens when I play into their hand.

[17:11] ---

Taro. Here's the plan.

[17:13] ---

You don't need bother trying to score any more points, okay?

[17:16] ---

What?!

[17:17] ---

Have you gone senile on us, Gramps?!

[17:20] ---

If I'm not going to score us points, then who the hell is?!

[17:23] ---

Cut me some slack. You can't shake off that short kid at all, can you?

[17:27] ---

Running around like a madman is only going to wear you out.

[17:30] ---

That's not enough to stop me!

[17:33] ---

The interval is now over!

[17:34] ---

Huh? Already?!

[17:36] ---

Give 'em hell, Yasu!

[17:38] ---

Get out there and show them
what a supporting character can do!

[17:40] ---

I'm a main character, dammit!

[17:43] ---

Um, Momoharu?

[17:45] ---

Is something wrong? Everyone's
already on the court.

[17:48] ---

Oh... right.

[17:55] ---

Throw-in with Kuzu High in possession!

[17:57] ---

Why did you say all that
stuff to Taro, coach?

[18:01] ---

You know that's only going
to get him all wound up!

[18:04] ---

Ehhh, don't fret about it.

[18:06] ---

That's exactly why I gave him a hard time
in the first place.

[18:08] ---

Huh?

[18:09] ---

Kuzuryu! Kuzuryu!

[18:12] ---

Kuzuryu! Kuzuryu!

[18:16] ---

His eyes just never stop moving.

[18:19] ---

He's keeping a sharp watch for any openings.

[18:21] ---

As a fellow point guard, I've
really gotta hand it to him.

[18:24] ---

This guy is a legit passing specialist!

[18:27] ---

Peep.

[18:31] ---

You know, Chiaki keeps glancing over here
every so often. Why is that?

[18:35] ---

Beats me.

[18:36] ---

Okay, I've exuded enough charisma.
It's time to strut my stuff.

[18:44] ---

He's trying to drive past me?

[18:46] ---

But considering his big size,
I doubt he's actually that fast.

[18:50] ---

Does he seriously think he can cut through
with a spin like that?

[18:55] ---

I don't see the ball!

[18:56] ---

Did he lose it?! Where'd it go?!

[18:58] ---

Kato! Above you!

[19:02] ---

It was a pass?!

[19:04] ---

He coordinated with the center
to get that pass through while in my blind spot?!

[19:09] ---

Go!

[19:14] ---

His timing is absolutely sensational.

[19:16] ---

Just one misstep and that would have been
a foul for sure.

[19:19] ---

Look! Yasu's wide open!

[19:21] ---

Score us some points!

[19:37] ---

All right! We took the lead!

[19:39] ---

Hell yeah! We're a force to be reckoned with!

[19:43] ---

Jeez, I gotta do everything around here.

[19:46] ---

Those were all smooth moves,
from in the back and up to the basket!

[19:50] ---

I can't believe how coordinated
those plays were!

[19:53] ---

I nearly forgot. Those two are twin brothers!

[19:57] ---

Our point guard and our center.

[20:00] ---

I don't think there's ever been a better duo!

[20:02] ---

I was a little worried about Momoharu
because of how he was acting.

[20:06] ---

But I guess I was just
reading too much into it.

[20:10] ---

Katori! They haven't gotten
their zone defense up yet!

[20:13] ---

Oh shit!

[20:14] ---

Okay! Let's make a fast
break and tear them apart!

[20:19] ---

Just watch me, you damn pipsqueak!

[20:21] ---

I'm DEFINITELY going to
leave you in the dust!

[20:25] ---

Acceleration Mode.... on!

[20:31] ---

What the hell was that, dude?!

[20:33] ---

I didn't see him coming
because he's so damn small!

[20:36] ---

Shit!

[20:40] ---

Oh crap!

[20:41] ---

Yasuhara! Go for it again!

[20:45] ---

Stop!

[20:46] ---

Your layup form is all wrong.

[20:49] ---

What your hands are doing is more important
than how you jump.

[20:52] ---

After you jump, have the
ball roll over your fingers.

[20:55] ---

Then all you have to do is... let
it fall right into the basket.

[21:11] ---

You did it! That was awesome, Yasuha-

[21:17] ---

Hoo boy, they've really
got us on the ropes now!

[21:19] ---

Don't make it sound like we've already lost!

[21:22] ---

We're just getting started! Isn't that right?

[21:24] ---

I'm impressed, the other team
has some incredible players on their roster.

[21:27] ---

Come on, Coach!

[21:29] ---

We're in a tight spot,
I'm not sure what to do.

[21:32] ---

I guess maybe we should
put Taro on the bench.

[21:34] ---

I can hear you from over here, damn geezer!

[21:37] ---

Just shut up and watch.

[21:39] ---

Forget that shorty, I'm gonna
fly past their whole team!

[21:42] ---

Oh crap, now he's even more wound up.

[21:44] ---

He's gonna go on a rampage
soon, there's no doubt.

[21:47] ---

And I keep telling you,
that's exactly what we want.

[21:50] ---

Huh?

[21:53] ---

We're going to have Taro...
trample all over that kid's tiny wings.

[23:30] ---

Ahiru no Sora
Next Time: Versus

[23:31] ---

Next time: "Versus."

Revision #1

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