

# E44 - Fuse

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**[00:17]** ---

Ahiru no Sora

**[00:22]** ---

Nanairo no niji ga umareta asa

**[00:25]** ---

Tori tachi wa hane o hirogete yuku

**[00:29]** ---

Kotae nante doko ni mo nai kara sa

**[00:32]** ---

Sore o egaki ni yukou

**[00:35]** ---

Feel it

**[00:39]** ---

Feel it

**[00:43]** ---

Utsukushiki hane o motsu kimi wa

**[00:46]** ---

Taiyou o mezashi tobu no darou

**[00:50]** ---

Matataki no sono shunkan ni sekai o

**[00:54]** ---

Kaeru koto mo dekiru to shinjite

**[00:58]** ---

Bokura wa toumei na kokoro de umareta hazu sa

**[01:05]** ---

Yogoreta kutsu de habatakunda

**[01:10]** ---

Arch o egaku youni

**[01:12]** ---

Ashita no sora ga kieteshimau sono mae ni

**[01:20]** ---

Kanashimi no yoru o koete umarekawarunda

**[01:31]** ---

Fuse

**[01:33]** ---

Yokohama Taiei

Kuzuryu

**[01:36]** ---

Is that Shigeyoshi from class 7 out there?

**[01:39]** ---

Yes, he apparently played basketball in middle school.

**[01:43]** ---

Ah, that would explain it.

**[01:45]** ---

It's surprising, I had no idea that Hanazono and those other boys could play this well.

**[01:49]** ---

What do you think? Their performance thus far must have changed your opinion of them, no?

**[01:54]** ---

Well, that's true. I honestly didn't think this would ever end up being a respectable match.

**[01:59]** ---

Watching them has made it pretty clear to me they're serious about playing basketball.

**[02:04]** ---

However...

**[02:05]** ---

that really doesn't have much impact on the issue of serving as their advisor.

**[02:09]** ---

Yes, of course. That's perfectly understandable.

**[02:18]** ---

Excellent! That was a great pass!

**[02:23]** ---

Hey! Where did you come flying in from?!

**[02:27]** ---

There we go! Nice block!

**[02:30]** ---

Counter!

**[02:32]** ---

Little brat! He just never stops getting in the way!

**[02:36]** ---

Hello.

**[02:37]** ---

I ain't letting you get by, dumbass.

**[02:39]** ---

Fuwa!

**[02:44]** ---

Why did you stop?

**[02:45]** ---

Just on reflex...

**[02:48]** ---

Fuwa, listen up.

**[02:51]** ---

I want you to totally shut down #11  
and prevent him from scoring at all this quarter.

**[02:58]** ---

I... I'm exhausted...

**[03:01]** ---

The last guy was bad and this hedgehog head is worse.

**[03:03]** ---

All of Taiei's players just won't stop running...

**[03:07]** ---

How?

**[03:08]** ---

What kind of training do they do every day?

**[03:11]** ---

Say dude, you're pretty dang good.

**[03:14]** ---

Let me guess. You focused on mastering three-pointers  
'cuz you're so short, right?

**[03:18]** ---

Yeah.

**[03:19]** ---

I knew it.

**[03:20]** ---

Shorter players always need an extra  
something aside from speed and good driving skills.

**[03:21]** ---

\* GAME IS ONGOING

**[03:25]** ---

But to be real with you, I'm not so good  
at shooting from long-range.

**[03:29]** ---

Because we already have tons of guys  
who can nail threes with accuracy like yours.

**[03:33]** ---

For real?!

**[03:35]** ---

Keep this a secret from everybody else,  
but I tend to get the jitters when I'm out here.

**[03:39]** ---

I had that figured out from the moment  
we first got matched up...

**[03:43]** ---

Somehow I always get super nervous  
at the most critical times.

**[03:46]** ---

Though you look like you've got some real guts.

**[03:48]** ---

I'm surprised there are players like him on Taiei's team.

**[03:51]** ---

Feels like a kindred spirit.

**[03:53]** ---

But even so...

**[03:55]** ---

Kurumatani! Cover!

**[04:05]** ---

But even so, I'm one of the few  
who gets to wear the Taiei jersey.

**[04:10]** ---

And if I miss this shot, I might not get to wear it again!

**[04:13]** ---

Every day at Taiei, it's survival of the fittest!

**[04:20]** ---

Hell yeah!

**[04:22]** ---

I have no doubt he was being honest  
about his lack of confidence.

**[04:25]** ---

But he's this good in spite of that!

**[04:27]** ---

Taiei really is an amazing team!

**[04:29]** ---

Kuzuryu  
Yokohama Taiei

**[04:29]** ---

Defense! Defense! Defense! Defense!

**[04:31]** ---

Go Mokichi! You can do it!

**[04:37]** ---

He's not falling for any of my feints!

**[04:39]** ---

His sense for the game is more impressive  
than his brute strength!

**[04:46]** ---

Go, Kite! We've been waiting for this!

**[04:54]** ---

He tipped the ball! It's gonna miss!

**[04:59]** ---

We're deadlocked again?!

**[05:02]** ---

Nice rebound!

**[05:05]** ---

We just can't seem to get any rebounds.

**[05:07]** ---

It's not that we can't, it's that the other team won't let us.

**[05:12]** ---

Getting into deadlocks over and over is making me

**[05:14]** ---

look bad and that's really stressing me out.

**[05:18]** ---

Smooth move, Shiraishi! Always the sharp eye.

**[05:25]** ---

Amazing!

**[05:26]** ---

You rule, Itoga! That was awesome!

**[05:37]** ---

But I'm relieved to know you're not actually all that good.

**[05:41]** ---

Thanks for the game. I imagine  
we'll never play each other again, though.

**[05:47]** ---

We've crossed paths again a lot sooner than expected,

**[05:49]** ---

I didn't even have a chance to get tired of waiting.

**[05:51]** ---

Oh-ho! Now that's a good matchup.

**[05:54]** ---

Who do you wanna bet on? I'm pretty partial  
to Kuzu High, so I'd put my money on #11.

**[06:00]** ---

I've played against Natsume once before.

**[06:03]** ---

So I know full well he's not your run-of-the-mill player.

**[06:09]** ---

That being said, I get the feeling  
Fuwa is still a step above him.

**[06:13]** ---

Defense! Defense! Defense! Defense!

**[06:21]** ---

Nice try, man.

**[06:25]** ---

He chickened out. How lame.

**[06:28]** ---

When all's said and done they're still only just freshmen.

**[06:31]** ---

What's the deal?! Ain't you here to beat me?  
Then bring it on!

**[06:35]** ---

What a brat.

**[06:37]** ---

No need to rush, we still got  
plenty of time left in this match to throw down.

**[06:42]** ---

Natsume's playstyle seems oddly reserved today.

**[06:46]** ---

Perhaps that's just his way of adapting  
to the shooting guard position?

**[06:50]** ---

Well, I hope it doesn't blow up in his face  
by the end of this.

**[06:54]** ---

Although it's true we're making them  
do the exact same things,

**[06:57]** ---

they're in entirely different situations, Nanao.

**[07:05]** ---

The shot clock is almost up, lil' Sora!

**[07:10]** ---

I can't already be out of breath!  
We've only just gotten started!

**[07:15]** ---

Only 2 seconds left!

**[07:22]** ---

Gah! So close!

**[07:24]** ---

It's started to get really tough for us to score any points.

**[07:27]** ---

Points aren't the only thing we're having trouble with...

**[07:32]** ---

Who the hell shoves in through there?!

**[07:39]** ---

Nice pass!

**[07:47]** ---

I've been waiting for a situation... just like this!

**[07:56]** ---

Slam dunk!

**[07:58]** ---

Unbelievable, he's hardly any taller than Kite is!

**[08:02]** ---

It seems the difference  
between the two teams is crystal clear now.

**[08:15]** ---

Time out! Kuzuryu High School!

**[08:20]** ---

Where are you going Yozan?

**[08:23]** ---

There's only 5 minutes left until halftime,

so I'm just going to wait downstairs.

**[08:28]** ---

Kuzuryu  
Yokohama Taiei

**[08:30]** ---

Three-pointers, alley-oops, and jump shots  
coming off dribble penetration.

**[08:35]** ---

They've come at us and scored  
by using all the tactics that zone defense is weak to.

**[08:39]** ---

Changing our zone formation  
or switching to man-to-man...

**[08:43]** ---

In either case, we have to do something  
to turn this around.

**[08:45]** ---

I'd really like to swap Mokichi out  
and give him a breather,

**[08:48]** ---

but I feel like taking him out now would doom us.

**[08:50]** ---

I'm okay.

**[08:52]** ---

I won't get stuck. I'm done repeating the same mistakes.

**[08:56]** ---

Good, that's the spirit!

**[08:59]** ---

Their #12 has terrible footwork,

**[09:01]** ---

which means they're stuck with zone defense as long as he's out there.

**[09:04]** ---

Will they sub him out and opt for man-to-man?

**[09:06]** ---

No, they're already panicked enough right now,

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

so they won't risk dropping their guard in the paint.

**[09:12]** ---

Which means we can expect either  
a 3-2 or a 2-1-2 formation.

**[09:15]** ---

We're gonna solidify our defense on the outside.

**[09:18]** ---

Fuwa and Yokoyama, listen close.

**[09:20]** ---

Your long-range shots are only for support.

**[09:22]** ---

The best way to crush a zone is by pulling the rug out from under them in the paint!

**[09:26]** ---

That's it for me, then.

**[09:27]** ---

Tetsuo!

**[09:28]** ---

Yeah... I already know...

**[09:30]** ---

Starting from this point on,  
you're going to be at the center of our offense!

**[09:33]** ---

Huh?

**[09:34]** ---

You and your 164 centimeters of height are...  
gonna break their zone apart.

**[09:44]** ---

Tetsuo is gonna lead our offense to break their zone?

**[09:48]** ---

Seriously?

**[09:49]** ---

Don't you think Tetsuo's getting used a little too much?

**[09:52]** ---

I mean, I know we don't have many point guards...

**[09:55]** ---

True, but I gotta admit he does practice hard,

**[09:57]** ---

eats a ton of food and really puts in a lot of effort.

**[10:01]** ---

That's nothing remarkable.

**[10:03]** ---

Our team has no room for players  
who don't put in effort like that.

**[10:07]** ---

He's a damn tower!

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

Sweet! Nice block!

**[10:11]** ---

Whoa there! No counterattacks allowed!

**[10:18]** ---

That #11 is lightning fast!

**[10:29]** ---

He stopped it!

**[10:31]** ---

That orange fluffhead is just too good!

**[10:34]** ---

That was too reckless, stupid!

**[10:35]** ---

Sorry...

**[10:36]** ---

Hey!

**[10:38]** ---

Want me to tell you something useful?

**[10:46]** ---

Seems like Fuwa is doing a lot better out there now than he was in the first quarter.

**[10:50]** ---

Must be having fun playing against a guy cut from the same cloth.

**[10:55]** ---

Doesn't look like the same can be said for the other side, though.

**[10:58]** ---

Offense! Offense! Offense! Offense!

**[11:02]** ---

Looks like 2-1-2. But isn't the front out too far?

**[11:05]** ---

Must be too hard to fit all 3 under the basket given their big size.

**[11:09]** ---

I wonder what Tetsuo is gonna do.

**[11:12]** ---

We might be in for some threes!  
Don't take your eyes off #20!

**[11:16]** ---

You and your 164 centimeters of height are...  
gonna break their zone apart.

**[11:24]** ---

Tetsuo is headed straight for low-post?!

**[11:28]** ---

He's no threat, forget him! Don't open up space inside!

**[11:30]** ---

You can't let him go free!

**[11:39]** ---

Mokichi!

**[11:43]** ---

That #12 is their weak spot.

**[11:46]** ---

Once you get the ball in, cut right for the short corner.

**[11:50]** ---

If their defense feels shallow,  
you can even go into low-post.

**[11:53]** ---

After that, it's all you.

**[11:55]** ---

You can do whatever you want  
as long as you mind our score.

**[12:06]** ---

He smashed right through their 2 meter wall!

**[12:09]** ---

Shorter players have a bad tendency  
to rely on their techniques,

**[12:12]** ---

which is true for both their #15 and our Yozan.

**[12:16]** ---

They can hone their three-pointers  
and passing skills all they like,

**[12:19]** ---

but those are really only complementary in the end.

**[12:23]** ---

Because a short player's greatest weapon  
will always be their drive.

**[12:26]** ---

And it's also the greatest threat to a good defense.

**[12:29]** ---

Whoa, there goes Tetsuo again!

**[12:34]** ---

I never imagined they would send that point guard  
to face off with Shigeyoshi...

**[12:41]** ---

I'll admit they've got a lot of height,

**[12:43]** ---

but their balance between inside and outside is way out of whack.

**[12:55]** ---

Kuzuryu  
Yokohama Taiei

**[13:00]** ---

Pushing! Black #12!

**[13:03]** ---

Sweet, easy points for us.

**[13:07]** ---

Mokichi is just getting wasted out there.

**[13:11]** ---

Is this all we can do even with our best lineup out there?

**[13:15]** ---

Do you really think there's even a chance  
of us winning this?

**[13:26]** ---

He sunk the second one, too!

**[13:28]** ---

Is it common for just one team

to score points so quickly like this in basketball?

**[13:33]** ---

They were off their game at the start,

**[13:35]** ---

but since the second quarter they haven't made a single mistake!

**[13:38]** ---

Seriously, not even one slip up!

**[13:41]** ---

Nailing every one of the free-throws they get does a lot more

**[13:44]** ---

overall damage than any fancy play.

**[13:47]** ---

That Yakuma dude is a year younger than us,  
but I remember him really well.

**[13:51]** ---

As I recall, he was the only freshmen  
to get picked for the all-star team last year.

**[13:55]** ---

He has a thin body, but enough strength  
to go on par with even you, Chiba.

**[14:01]** ---

For starters, we have to break their momentum.

**[14:04]** ---

Which means we either have  
to stop a shot or make our own.

**[14:07]** ---

This is exactly the kind of situation  
that calls for my skills as a point guard!

**[14:12]** ---

It's no good, I can't force my way in even a little bit!

**[14:15]** ---

I bet this guy has played as center for his whole life.

**[14:18]** ---

All his moves are typical of a center with nothing else.

**[14:20]** ---

Mokichi!

**[14:23]** ---

Switch!

**[14:24]** ---

Wow, this one's pretty bold!

**[14:27]** ---

I can do it!

**[14:29]** ---

So quick!

**[14:38]** ---

You sure are easy to read.

**[14:40]** ---

Dammit!

**[14:44]** ---

This is it! Focus on stopping them here no matter what!

**[14:47]** ---

Hm? Did they go back to man-to-man?

**[14:49]** ---

Smart move. In fact, they should have done it sooner.

**[14:52]** ---

That manager made a big mistake.

**[14:54]** ---

She should have had them switch the moment

**[14:57]** ---

that Taiei's point guard started to change things up.

**[15:05]** ---

Mokichi!

**[15:07]** ---

Their center took up his position way over there?!

**[15:09]** ---

What's the matter?

**[15:11]** ---

No, I can't plant my feet here.

**[15:14]** ---

This guy is probably getting ready to make a drive...!

**[15:20]** ---

Don't underestimate me!

**[15:24]** ---

Their center just...

**[15:26]** ---

...shot a three-pointer?!

**[15:30]** ---

If you could shoot like that,  
you'd have made it to nationals.

**[15:34]** ---

Just shut up.

**[15:36]** ---

What are you so surprised by?

**[15:39]** ---

Centers like that who can shoot long-range  
must have been the standard at your old school.

**[15:44]** ---

In other words...

**[15:45]** ---

we're not going to rise to the top unless we have

**[15:47]** ---

the power and skill needed to oppose that kind of player.

**[15:55]** ---

Want me to tell you something useful?

**[15:58]** ---

Stay calm, don't let him provoke you.

**[16:07]** ---

They missed!

**[16:14]** ---

Kurumatani! Don't let them make a fast break!

**[16:16]** ---

Oh crap!

**[16:20]** ---

Bastard!

**[16:32]** ---

Losing this game is nothing to be ashamed of.

**[16:36]** ---

Because the team you're playing right now,

**[16:38]** ---

is destined to become the #1 in all of Japan someday.

**[16:42]** ---

I guess it's time to head back.

I can't really stand watching much more of this.

**[16:46]** ---

Yeah, same here.

**[16:49]** ---

No, wait...

**[16:53]** ---

Huh?

**[16:57]** ---

P-please wait just a moment!

**[16:58]** ---

The game is only halfway over!

You have to see it through to the end!

**[17:01]** ---

I don't see much point in staying that long.

**[17:04]** ---

The way it's going, those kids  
will only feel worse if we stay to watch.

**[17:07]** ---

But we can't be certain they're going to lose, right?

**[17:11]** ---

Excuse me. What's going on?

**[17:13]** ---

Oh! Mr. Satsuki!

**[17:15]** ---

Um, I don't want there to be any misunderstandings here.

**[17:18]** ---

All of the teachers are fully aware of the reason  
that you encouraged us to come watch.

**[17:23]** ---

There are many of us on the staff

**[17:25]** ---

who were members of sports teams when we were students, after all.

**[17:29]** ---

Based only on how I feel right now,

**[17:31]** ---

I honestly wouldn't mind taking on the role of advisor for their team.

**[17:36]** ---

Th-then, are you saying...?

**[17:38]** ---

However, there's a lot more to it than that, right?

**[17:42]** ---

The place they are striving so hard

**[17:43]** ---

to reach is where that other team is currently standing, correct?

**[17:46]** ---

Do you honestly believe that their strength alone  
will be enough for them to make it that far?

**[17:56]** ---

Damn you!

**[18:01]** ---

Blow him away, Momoharu!

**[18:10]** ---

Just one!

**[18:11]** ---

Nail just one shot!

**[18:23]** ---

The second quarter is over! Halftime starts now!

**[18:29]** ---

In 10 minutes... we only scored two shots...

**[18:32]** ---

B-but things were worse back when  
we played against Maru High, weren't they?

**[18:37]** ---

You dumbass, we didn't even have anybody  
who could score us points back then.

**[18:41]** ---

Today we have Kite and Mokichi,  
but we still can't score much.

**[18:44]** ---

Kuzuryu  
Yokohama Taiei

**[18:47]** ---

In the first half... no, in just the second quarter alone,  
they pulled away by 20 points.

**[18:55]** ---

I'd want to quit watching if I were a teacher, too.

**[18:57]** ---

Hey! You've still got a second half to play!

**[19:02]** ---

Kurumatani... Sora, is that right?

**[19:05]** ---

I'm Sakamaki, nice to meet ya.

**[19:07]** ---

Oh, same here.

**[19:09]** ---

Huh? Why does he know my name?

**[19:14]** ---

Have we met somewhere before?

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

So, is this your first time  
playing the point guard position on this team?

**[19:21]** ---

No, I did once before.

**[19:23]** ---

Earlier, during that play of yours that Yakuma stopped...

**[19:26]** ---

you planned to pass it right from the start, right?

**[19:29]** ---

Any player not serious about taking a shot  
gives it away in their eyes.

**[19:33]** ---

When your opponent pulls ahead and your team is stressing out,

**[19:37]** ---

that's the time for a point guard to shine.

**[19:40]** ---

It's totally fine if you miss shots.

**[19:43]** ---

Because you've got to constantly show your teammates  
what being bold looks like.

**[19:46]** ---

Use your actions to say: "I'm gonna fight tooth and nail,  
so you guys better do the same!"

**[19:50]** ---

You'd be the bee's knees if you could do that!

**[19:52]** ---

The bee's knees, huh?

**[19:55]** ---

But actually, uh, aren't you coaching an enemy?

**[19:58]** ---

Oops, I got carried away!

**[19:59]** ---

Keep this a secret from everybody else for me.

**[20:02]** ---

A secret...?

**[20:07]** ---

I just remembered... who this guy is...

**[20:12]** ---

From back then...

**[20:15]** ---

Um, excuse me.

**[20:17]** ---

You knew my m-mother...

**[20:20]** ---

You're still a long ways off from her.

**[20:22]** ---

Huh?

**[20:24]** ---

That first three-pointer you made was great,

**[20:27]** ---

but the rest seemed like you  
just felt them out on instinct alone.

**[20:31]** ---

You should thank your DNA for that.

**[20:35]** ---

I'm sorry, you guys.

**[20:37]** ---

This whole mess is my fault for going  
and accepting a match against a team like Taiei.

**[20:44]** ---

If we had gone up against another team, then...

**[20:46]** ---

Stop! Quit talking like we've already lost!

**[20:50]** ---

Who do you think you're talking to?!

**[20:52]** ---

I'm guilty of it, too,

**[20:54]** ---

but all this snapping at others  
for your own shortcomings needs to stop.

**[20:58]** ---

And besides...

**[20:59]** ---

Right now, Nao is the one  
taking the biggest hit from all this.

**[21:06]** ---

It's too early to be giving up.

**[21:09]** ---

We ain't going down like this, not without a fight!

**[21:20]** ---

Maybe because we play together

with amazing guys like Kite and Mokichi,

**[21:23]** ---

we were just getting full of ourselves  
thinking we had a pretty strong team.

**[21:29]** ---

I can't believe there's so much  
of the basketball world we still don't know.

**[21:33]** ---

You should thank your DNA for that.

**[21:36]** ---

So the only reason I nailed those shots  
is because of my mom?

**[21:40]** ---

Dammit!

**[22:17]** ---

Egaita yume tsukamu no wa

**[22:22]** ---

Kantan janaitte wakatteru kedo

**[22:27]** ---

Saisho kara muri datte dakyou shiteru

**[22:32]** ---

Hito no me hikari wa mienai

**[22:38]** ---

Miageru sora no kousei tachi wa

**[22:43]** ---

Itsumo inochi o moyashite hikatteru

**[22:48]** ---

Boku ni datte

**[22:51]** ---

Taiyou runner kokoro o kanzen nenshou

**[22:55]** ---

Goal e kakumei no hikari hanatsu yo

**[23:01]** ---

Last rei byou sore made kekka nante wakaranai sa

**[23:07]** ---

Akireru hodo onore o koete hashiritsuzukeru yo

**[23:14]** ---

Step 1! Shouri o mark shite

**[23:16]** ---

Step 2! Image wakasete

**[23:19]** ---

Step 3! Tada zenryoku de penerate

**[23:31]** ---

Ahiru no Sora

Next Time: Break

**[23:31]** ---

Next time: "Break."

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