

# E23 - Do Your Best. Don't Lose. Fight to Your Limits

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(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] Ashito/I**

*You've improved so much  
in just a year, Kaneda.*

**[00:06] Ashito/I**

*You have my respect.*

**[00:11] Fukuda**

Nozomi, can I have a word  
before the team talk?

**[00:21] Anri**

It will be fine.

**[00:24] Anri**

Aoi, you are doing great.

**[00:28] Anri**

I... I know you are.

**[02:06] Sign**

Do Your Best. Don't Lose.  
Fight to Your Limits

**[02:09] Togashi/I**

*That son of a...*

**[02:12] Togashi/I**

*I charged Kaneda down before he could shoot,  
but he still managed to get the shot away.*

**[02:18] Togashi/I**

*And what's worse...*

**[02:20] Togashi/I**

*He was the one who saved my ass.*

**[02:23] Tachibana**

T-Tsukishima-san!

**[02:25] Roan**

How's Kuroda?

**[02:27] Tsukishima**

The doctor says he doesn't have a concussion.

**[02:30] Tsukishima**

But the cut on his forehead is deep,  
so they're trying to stem the bleeding.

**[02:36] Takeshima**

We have to regroup somehow.

**[02:40] Takeshima**

Apart from Kaneda, we have them  
in hand. If we watch for counters—

**[02:43] Asari**

But Kaneda's the problem!

**[02:46] Asari**

There's no doubting we're better  
than them. I don't understand it.

**[02:50] Togashi**

If ya don't get it, ya can't  
play soccer anymore, huh?

**[02:53] Togashi**

Pathetic.

**[02:54] Asari**

Togashi! Takeshima!

**[02:56] Asari**

If you two aren't solid as a defensive unit,  
there's no way we can win!

**[03:00] Sign**

Locker Room

**[03:00] Sign**

Esperion

**[03:00] Sign**

Youth

**[03:00] Asari**

Both center-backs are key in this formation.

**[03:04] Asari**

If you hadn't botched it,  
we wouldn't have let them score!

**[03:09] Date**

That's not true, Asari.

**[03:15] Date**

I'm aware that Takeshima and Togashi  
lack cohesion on defense.

**[03:21] Date**

Defenders tend to focus on the times  
they allowed the other team to score.

**[03:26] Date**

But I can see the big picture.

**[03:29] Date**

They're defending against numbers, all while  
barking instructions and getting the ball.

**[03:34] Date**

And that's without mentioning  
the quality of their long balls.

**[03:38] Date**

They have initiated every  
attack in today's game.

**[03:42] Date**

When it comes to their all-round play,

**[03:46] Date**

Takeshima and Togashi are both  
the best defenders for this team.

**[03:52] Date**

Which is all the more reason I hope to see  
the two of you play in perfect harmony.

**[04:02] Takeshima**

Togashi...

**[04:05] Takeshima**

Please listen to what I have to say.

**[04:08] Kuroda**

I... I want in on this chat.

**[04:12] Ashito**

K-Kuroda!

**[04:15] Kuroda**

I'll keep playing.

**[04:16] Roan**

K-Kuroda! Don't be so reckless!

**[04:20] Kuroda**

Coach Nozomi, please let me play closer  
to the defensive line in the second half.

**[04:28] Date**

Very well.

**[04:29] Date**

I'm counting on you, Kuroda.

**[04:31] Togashi**

Ya might fall flat on yer face at any moment,  
but yer gonna provide defensive cover?

**[04:36] Togashi**

Too risky. I don't see ya bein' much help.

**[04:39] Kuroda**

If you don't want to talk to me, that's fine.

**[04:42] Kuroda**

Just stand around and watch like  
a useless log until the final whistle.

**[04:46] Togashi**

What'd ya say?!

**[04:49] Kuroda**

This team cannot lose because of my error.

**[04:52] Kuroda**

My pride won't allow it.

**[04:58] Togashi**

So this youth team "pride"  
of yours a big deal, huh?

**[05:02] Date**

And what about you, Togashi?

**[05:08] Togashi/I**

Me?

**[05:13] Togashi/I**

*He's moved on and is lookin' ahead.*

**[05:16] Togashi/I**

*What am I doin'?*

**[05:19] Ashito**

I want the three of you to communicate.

**[05:23] Ashito**

And to make eye contact.

**[05:26] Ashito**

Put yourselves in each other's shoes  
and try to understand one another.

**[05:32] Ashito**

When I got to do that with Asari and  
Kuroda in the match against Seikyo,

**[05:36] Ashito**

it expanded my concept of soccer.

**[05:40] Ashito**

If you three can do the same  
and be in sync with each other...

**[05:44] Ashito**

I'd love to see that.

**[05:45] Ashito**

I can't wait to see that!

**[05:49] Togashi**

Can it.

**[05:51] Date**

What Aoi is saying is right.

**[05:53] Date**

It's about pressing and covering.

**[05:56] Date**

When the other team is on the attack,

**[05:58] Date**

you must instantly decide which of you goes  
for the ball and which of you stays back.

**[06:04] Date**

Togashi. Takeshima.

**[06:06] Date**

You two must have worked out some rules.

But you need more real-time communication.

**[06:13] Date**

I want you to make a clear agreement.

**[06:16] Kuroda**

Allow me to say something, Takeshima.

**[06:19] Takeshima**

Sure.

**[06:21] Kuroda**

You can just listen to us  
without saying anything.

**[06:25] Takeshima**

We'll have a one-sided conversation.

**[06:31] Ashito/I**

*Togashi, we all want to win.*

**[06:36] Ashito/I**

*Please understand that.*

**[06:38] Ashito/I**

*Come to think of it...*

**[06:40] Ashito/I**

*This never happens.*

**[06:42] Ashito/I**

*Nozomi-san's giving us  
such specific instructions.*

**[06:48] (Flashback) Fukuda**

So what's your plan?

**[06:52] (Flashback) Fukuda**

You're the only one who can rally them.

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

I want to leave it to the players.

**[06:58] (Flashback) Date**

They need to see the problems  
on the field and talk it out.

**[07:01] (Flashback) Date**

That's the ideal.

**[07:04] (Flashback) Date**

We're only here to guide them.

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

That's the role of the youth team.

**[07:11] (Flashback) Fukuda**

It's the difference between  
teaching and coaching, huh?

**[07:14] (Flashback) Fukuda**

Teaching is giving them the answers.

**[07:17] (Flashback) Fukuda**

Coaching is guiding them in such a way that  
they come up with the answers themselves.

**[07:23] (Flashback) Fukuda**

You're right. That's the ideal.

**[07:26] (Flashback) Fukuda**

But you know, you could  
tell them a *little* more.

**[07:30] (Flashback) Date**

I'm never quite sure what  
I need to do to help them grow.

**[07:37] (Flashback) Date**

I'm not strong like you are.

**[07:41] (Flashback) Fukuda**

Players are imperfect, Nozomi. And...

**[07:46] (Flashback) Fukuda**

So are we.

**[07:50] (Flashback) Fukuda**

The manager can't be a god.

**[07:52] (Flashback) Fukuda**

So loosen up a bit, will you?

**[07:57] (Flashback) Fukuda**

If you wanna say something, just tell them.

**[08:01] (Flashback) Fukuda**

Everyone on this team is relying on you.

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

A good team like this one  
looks up to their manager.

**[08:10] (Flashback) Fukuda**

It's your team, Nozomi.

**[08:12] (Flashback) Fukuda**

You got this.

**[08:14] Sign**

Locker Room

**[08:14] Sign**

Esperion

**[08:14] Sign**

Youth

**[08:16] Sugawara**

All right!

**[08:17] Sign**

Locker Room

**[08:17] Sign**

Esperion

**[08:17] Sign**

Youth

**[08:17] Sugawara**

Time for the second half!

Let's turn it around!

**[08:20] Ohtomo**

Yeah!

**[08:29] Ashito**

Ha—

**[08:29] Fukuda**

Ashito.

**[08:31] Fukuda**

Come here a sec.

**[08:36] Fukuda**

Stop trying to put yourself  
in a position to finish it.

**[08:42] Ashito**

H-How did you—

**[08:44] Fukuda**

That's not how you use your talent.

**[08:49] Ashito**

You really don't want me to score—

**[08:51] Fukuda**

I never said you couldn't score.

**[08:54] Fukuda**

If a full-back gets the chance  
to score, they should take it.

**[08:59] Fukuda**

But right now, you're moving people  
around you, without even meaning to.

**[09:08] Fukuda**

If you get hung up on putting  
yourself in a position to finish it,

**[09:14] Fukuda**

the team's ideal formation falls apart.

**[09:18] (Flashback) Ashito**

Ohtomo! The left wing's open!

**[09:21] (Flashback) Ashito**

Leave it, Tachibana!

**[09:23] (Flashback) Ashito**

Ohtomo!

**[09:24] Fukuda**

Starting on the left side of midfield,  
it creates an invisible stagnation.

**[09:29] Fukuda**

I know you're bothered by it,

**[09:31] Fukuda**

but the interception isn't the  
main reason the team conceded that goal.

**[09:38] Fukuda**

Before that interception,  
a stagnation had set in

**[09:42] Fukuda**

which weakened the

cohesion of the back line.

**[09:45] Fukuda**

Stagnation.

**[09:47] Fukuda**

It's something you can only sense.

**[09:49] Fukuda**

And only when looking at the formation  
as whole, not at any one individual player.

**[09:56] Ashito**

I get it.

**[09:58] Ashito**

I get it.

**[10:01] Fukuda**

Okay, this is the next step, Ashito.

**[10:04] Fukuda**

You're only able to move Tachibana, Ohtomo,  
and Kuroda around by barking instructions.

**[10:12] Fukuda**

You aren't able to move  
the other players yet.

**[10:14] Fukuda**

That's one thing.

**[10:16] Fukuda**

Next, make sure the defense is impenetrable.

**[10:16] Sign**

Tokyo Metropolis League

**[10:16] Sign**

Tokyo Musashino  
Football Club Youths

**[10:16] Sign**

Tokyo City Esperion Youth

**[10:20] Fukuda**

World-class full-backs, without exception,

**[10:22] Fukuda**

only go upfield when they're sure they  
aren't leaving a hole in the defense.

**[10:26] Ashito**

Old man, you told me you'd  
take me to the world stage.

**[10:31] Ashito**

If I become a defender and cast off  
all hope of ever being a forward again,

**[10:36] Ashito**

and continue to listen to you,  
will I get to play on the world stage?

**[10:42] Fukuda**

Ashito, if you grow up based on someone

else's plan, you won't amount to anything.

**[10:49] Fukuda**

A manager always yearns for players  
who go beyond their wildest imaginings.

**[10:55] Ashito/I**

*The heck does that mean?  
So what am I supposed to do?*

**[11:01] Fukuda**

Go beyond my wildest imaginings.

**[11:04] Fukuda**

If you want to play on the world stage,  
that's your top priority. I know you can do it.

**[11:19] Ashito**

Could you say something to me?

**[11:22] Hana**

Huh?

**[11:23] Ashito**

Well, y'know... Just something.

**[11:25] Ashito**

From my fan. You. Yeah?

**[11:34] Ashito**

Please.

**[11:41] Hana**

Do your best. Don't lose.

**[11:45] Hana**

Fight to your limits.

**[11:51] Ashito**

Okay! I'm off!

**[11:56] Sign**

Tokyo Metropolis League

**[11:56] Sign**

Tokyo Musashino  
Football Club Youths

**[11:56] Sign**

Tokyo City Esperion Youth

**[11:58] Sign**

Announcement Board

**[11:58] Sign**

Fire Safety  
Precautions

**[11:58] Sign**

Fire Safety  
Precautions

**[12:11] Sign (Top)**

Musashino Youth

**[12:11] Sign (Bottom)**

Esperion B

**[12:12] Kaneda**

Even with half-time, it's unlikely  
they've managed to get their act together.

**[12:18] Kaneda**

So just keep feeding me the ball.

**[12:21] Kaneda**

That's the only way this team can beat them.  
You all already know that, I assume?

**[12:27] Muto**

Everyone, do as he says.  
Feed Kaneda and he'll score.

**[12:32] Muto**

Keep on attacking. Let's wrap  
this match up, nice and quick.

**[12:36] Muto**

Let's go!

**[12:37] Musashino Youths**

Yeah!

**[12:40] Muto**

Maintain your focus. Don't stop moving.

**[12:54] Takeshima**

Here they come, Togashi.

**[13:00] Sign (Top)**

U-12 Kanagawa Prefectural Selection

**[13:00] Sign (Bottom)**

Prefectural Training Center

**[13:00] (Flashback) Coach A**

Togashi-kun, I hear you've had  
a few run-ins with the police.

**[13:05] (Flashback) Esperion Coach B**

We can't have you injuring the other kids,  
so could you go home for today?

**[13:13] (Flashback) Manager**

Can you only show up to the games?

**[13:16] (Flashback) Manager**

When you come to training,  
everyone gets scared and holds back.

**[13:22] Togashi/I**

*Fukuda-san...*

**[13:25] Togashi/I**

*I'll go to Esperion and learn from him.*

**[13:28] (Flashback) Date**

I'm the manager of the B team.  
I look forward to working with you all.

**[13:33] Togashi/I**

*Was Date Nozomi even a J.Leaguer?*

**[13:38] Togashi/I**

*Where the hell is Fukuda-san?*

**[13:40] (Flashback) Date**

Togashi, you've been faithfully following Fukuda's instructions.

**[13:44] (Flashback) Togashi**

Right. No attackin' till I have defendin' down pat.

**[13:49] (Flashback) Date**

That deserves praise. You're doing well to stick to it.

**[13:53] (Flashback) Date**

Togashi. You did well today.

**[13:56] (Flashback) Togashi**

Yeah. My assist on Yoshitsune's goal that put us on track to win was perfect, right?

**[14:01] (Flashback) Date**

Not that. I meant your self-sacrificing defense.

**[14:06] (Flashback) Date**

Even when the rest of the team went all-out on the attack,

**[14:09] (Flashback) Date**

you dropped back into position at the first sign of danger.

**[14:14] (Flashback) Date**

This team owes everything to your defensive skills.

**[14:18] (Flashback) Date**

Your only flaw is you pick up too many yellow cards.

**[14:21] (Flashback) Togashi**

Those other teams're just lightweights! If yer tellin' me to be less physical...

**[14:25] (Flashback) Date**

I know that you aren't roughhousing players.

**[14:29] (Flashback) Date**

Because you're so much bigger than most, referees quickly call fouls against you.

**[14:34] (Flashback) Date**

There's no need for you to dial it back.

**[14:38] (Flashback) Date**

Keep that fighting spirit of yours.

**[14:41] (Flashback) Date**

You're fine as you are.

**[14:48] Takeshima**

I got this.

**[14:51] Togashi/I**

*That bastard Takeshima has  
some incredible defending skills.*

**[14:54] Togashi/I**

*S'all down to his exceptional  
sense for maintainin' distance.*

**[15:00] Togashi/I**

*He can gauge the speed of the other player,*

**[15:02] Togashi/I**

*and put pressure on 'em at the  
exact moment they don't want him to.*

**[15:07] Shiomaki**

Kaneda, go!

**[15:10] Togashi/I**

*'Cause he put pressure on him right there,*

**[15:14] Togashi/I**

*the other guy ain't got no other  
choice than passing to Kaneda.*

**[15:18] Togashi/I**

*In other words, he made him pass it this way.*

**[15:22] Togashi/I**

*That was yer aim, wasn't it, Takeshima?*

**[15:25] Shiomaki**

Dammit!

**[15:32] Togashi**

Takeshima.

**[15:34] Togashi**

I hate yer guts, it's true,

**[15:36] Togashi**

but yer probably the  
only one on this team

**[15:39] Togashi**

who can time it just right  
when closin' down players.

**[15:44] Togashi**

Basically, ya should be doin' the pressin'.

**[15:47] Togashi**

I'll hang back and cover,  
and dance to yer tune.

**[15:54] Togashi**

I mean, what else can I do?

**[15:56] Togashi**

I don't wanna go embarrassin' that old man.

**[15:59] Takeshima**

Okay, Togashi.

**[16:02] Takeshima**

But there's one other problem.

**[16:04] Togashi**

Yeah, Kaneda.

**[16:06] Togashi**

If we don't stop him, we can't win this game.

**[16:11] Togashi**

When it's Kaneda attackin', leave him to me.

**[16:14] Togashi**

I'll stop him, no matter what.

**[16:17] Takeshima**

I seriously hate your guts.

**[16:21] Takeshima**

But what I hate more is that even I know  
you're the only one who can stop Kaneda.

**[16:31] Takeshima**

I trust you.

**[16:34] Takeshima**

I'm putting my faith in you.

**[16:41] Kaneda/I**

*Center-backs who aren't  
in sync don't scare me.*

**[16:46] Kaneda**

I'm going past you!

**[17:04] Miyako**

What the heck happened  
during half-time?

**[17:11] Takeshima**

I'll go!

**[17:13] Kaneda**

You idiot! Don't let yourself get pincered!

**[17:26] Sugawara**

Kick it out!

**[17:31] Takeshima**

Aw, hell. We were in a good position.

**[17:38] (Flashback) Ashito**

Put yourselves in each other's shoes  
and try to understand one another.

**[17:44] Takeshima**

Y'know, what Aoi said has stayed  
with me more than anything else.

**[17:48] Togashi**

Huh?

**[17:50] Takeshima**

I followed Aoi's advice and tried  
putting myself in your shoes, but man...

**[17:57] Takeshima**

Togashi, you're...

**[17:59] Takeshima**

Out of all the center-backs  
I've partnered with, you have to be...

**[18:06] Takeshima**

the dumbest, stupidest, biggest asshole!

**[18:13] Togashi**

Kuroda!

**[18:16] Togashi**

The way ya play...

Every movement has a point, right?

**[18:20] Togashi**

A bit of simple observation  
reveals the logic behind yer play.

**[18:28] Kuroda**

Isn't that how everyone plays?

**[18:30] Togashi**

Nah, ya take it to the extreme, ya logic fiend.

**[18:39] Togashi**

Ya've always been unwaverin',  
ever since ya were a kid.

**[18:43] Togashi**

That's really somethin'.

**[18:48] Nikaido**

Hey, we're restarting.

Make sure you hydrate.

**[18:56] Takeshima**

I'm still pissed at you, Togashi.

**[18:59] Togashi**

Huh?

**[19:00] Takeshima**

I'll find out where you live  
and ding-dong ditch you.

**[19:17] Kuroda**

You're also unwavering, Togashi.

**[19:26] Kaneda**

You...

**[19:27] Kaneda**

...piece of shit!

**[19:29] Kaneko**

H-Hey, what was *that?!*

**[19:31] Kaneko**

Who goes for a ball that's been  
given back after an injury?!

**[19:40] Togashi/I**

*Out to the wing?*

**[19:43] Kaneda**

Dammit. Dammit!

**[19:55] Ashito**

Kaneda, I knew you'd run.

**[20:01] Ashito**

And you ran where I expected you to.

**[20:05] Kaneda**

What?!

**[20:08] Referee**

It isn't against the rules to go after a ball that's been given back, but that conduct—

**[20:13] Kaneda**

Shut up! I know that!

**[20:19] Ashito**

Kaneda.

**[20:20] Ashito**

I respected you up until half-time.

**[20:23] Ashito**

But you seem to have gone back to being who you were a year ago.

**[20:30] Ashito**

It's our turn now!

**[20:34] Hana**

Do your best.

**[20:35] Hana**

Don't lose.

**[20:37] Hana**

Fight to your limits.

**[20:41] Muto**

Keep calm! Forget the high line!  
Drop back and stand your ground!

**[20:48] (Flashback) Fukuda/I**

Make sure the defense is impenetrable.

**[20:51] Ashito/I**

*The defense...*

**[20:53] Ashito/I**

*With Togashi, Takeshima, and  
Kuroda working as a unit now,*

**[20:57] Ashito/I**

*all I have to do is support them.*

**[21:00] Ashito/I**

*I don't say that 'cause I wanna go on the attack.  
That's just how strong they are as a unit.*

**[21:07] Ashito/I**

*Which means, next up...*

**[21:12] Date**

Asari!

**[21:15] Sugawara**

Dammit! They've all pulled back  
and they're really compact now!

**[21:19] Tachibana**

Sugawara-san!

**[21:23] Ohtomo/I**

*Darn it. All of them have dropped back.*

**[21:27] Ohtomo/I**

*What am I meant to do here?*

**[21:34] Anri**

Both full-backs...

**[21:35] Miyako**

They've pushed way up on both wings.

**[21:38] Kaneda**

Are they mocking us?! Their full-backs  
have totally abandoned the defensive line!

**[21:43] Kaneda**

Now's the time to give me the ball!

**[21:50] Ashito/I**

*Wow, I haven't had this view  
of the field in a while.*

**[21:54] Ashito/I**

*Yeah, man. It's nice.*

**[21:58] Muto/I**

*What's that guy's deal?  
What's with that look in his eye?*

**[22:02] Muto**

I'll go mark him. You all stay where you are!

**[22:08] (Flashback) Fukuda**

Stagnation.

**[22:10] Ashito/I**

*Stagnation. I like that word.*

**[22:14] Ashito/I**

*It all makes sense now.*

**[22:21] Ashito/I**

*Wow, just like at the tryouts  
and in the Seikyo match...*

**[22:26] Ashito/I**

*No, it's more vivid and  
clearer than it was before.*

**[22:33] Muto/I**

*I'll teach this guy how useless it is for  
a full-back to push up without a plan.*

**[22:44] Ashito/I**

*Stagnation. Stagnation.  
Stagnation. Stagnation.*

**[22:52] Fukuda/I**

*What do your eyes see now?*

**[22:55] Fukuda/I**

*They're far more sophisticated now*

*than they were back in the Seikyo match.*

**[23:00] Fukuda/I**

*Think about it over and over, and then...*

**[23:03] Fukuda**

Move on instinct, Ashito!

**[23:06] Satake**

Muto! You're the one marking him!

**[23:09] Satake**

Go after him! Don't let him break free!

**[23:15] Ohtomo/I**

*Ashito!*

**[23:16] Ohtomo/I**

*Tachibana!*

**[23:18] Ohtomo/I**

*They both have a good chance to shoot.*

**[23:21] Ohtomo/I**

*Who do I pass it to? Who...*

**[23:25] Ohtomo/I**

*Ashito! I knew it'd be you.*

**[23:32] Muto/I**

*Wh-What's going on? What's he trying to do?*

**[23:42] Muto/I**

*The right-side full-back?*

**[23:47] Madoka**

I won't let you shoot!

**[23:54] Hana**

He's clean through.

**[24:20] Sign**

Next Episode

**[24:20] Sign**

From Now

**[24:20] Sign (Bottom)**

This is a work of fiction, and bears no relation to any actual persons, organizations, or names.

**[24:23] Ashito**

The next episode of *Aoashi* is: "From Now."

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Revision #1

Created 2024-03-25 21:18:31 UTC by whimsee

Updated 2024-03-25 21:18:32 UTC by whimsee