

E3 - The Final Test Begins

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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.)

[00:01] Fukuda

I will now announce the 11 players
who will move on to the final stage.

[00:04] Fukuda

Fukatsu Hoichi.

[00:06] Fukuda

Lee Jong Suk.

[00:08] Fukuda

Kakita Toui.

[00:09] Fukuda

Nakano Junnosuke.

[00:11] Fukuda

Hasegawa Yudai.

[00:13] Fukuda

Soda Kensho.

[00:14] Fukuda

Izumi Mamoru.

[00:15] Fukuda

Ohtomo Eisaku.

[00:17] Fukuda

Kaneda Akinori.

[00:18] Fukuda

Tachibana Soichiro.

[00:20] Tachibana

Yes, sir.

[00:22] Fukuda

And last but not least...

[00:31] Noriko

Sorry, Shun, can you grab that?

[00:33] Shun

Oh, sure.

[00:37] Ashito

I did it.

[00:39] Ashito

I-I made the cut to the final stage

of assessment. Shun, I made the cut!

[00:44] Shun

Good job!

[00:46] Ashito

I can't believe it, Shun!

[00:49] Shun

You made it this far, so go ace this test.

[00:53] Shun

I'm the one who taught you how to play soccer.

[00:56] Shun

You gotta raise my stock, you hear?

[01:00] Ashito

Thank you, Shun.

[02:36] Announcement (Hotta)

*The final stage will
commence in 30 minutes.*

[02:40] Ashito

Hey.

[02:42] Ashito

Do you guys wanna chat?

[02:42] Sign

The Final Test Begins

[02:44] Ashito

Uh...

[02:45] Ashito

Only if you want to, I mean.

[02:47] Ashito

Since 11 of us made the cut,

[02:50] Ashito

I'm guessing this final stage
will be an 11-on-11 match.

[02:54] Ashito

It'll be all of us against
another team of 11, right? So...

[02:58] Ashito

I... I think we should get to
know each other a little...

[03:06] Ashito

H-Hey! Wh-What's up with you all?

[03:08] Ashito

I mustered up all the
courage I have to ask that!

[03:13] Ashito

Ohtomo?

[03:14] Ohtomo

I don't wanna be alone until the
final stage starts, so let's chat.

[03:18] Ohtomo

Let's chat about love.

[03:20] Tachibana

All right.

[03:21] Ohtomo

The word "love" is...

[03:22] Tachibana

Let's chat.

[03:23] Tachibana

I'm interested in you.

[03:25] Ashito

Huh?

[03:26] Nakano

I-I am, too.

[03:30] Fukatsu

I want in.

[03:38] Ashito

A-All righty, then!

[03:42] Ashito

Uh, we could play Truth or Dare...

[03:44] Ohtomo

You suggested chatting without thinking what to chat *about*?

[03:47] Ohtomo

Oh, fine. I'll start.

[03:49] Ohtomo

Everyone say what playing style you prefer.
Like what kind of passes you want.

[03:56] Tsukishima

What's going on?

[03:57] Hotta

Looks like the candidates
are coming up with a plan.

[04:00] Tsukishima

That's good.

[04:04] Nakano

Those are the kind of passes I want.

[04:07] Ashito

You're all so picky.

[04:09] Ohtomo

Look who's talking!

[04:12] Nakano

We all want to get signed.

[04:14] Kaneda

Well, obviously.

[04:16] Nakano

To tell you the truth, I think this is my

last chance... at becoming a pro player.

[04:26] Ashito

O-Oh, c'mon, you're exaggerating...

[04:29] Ohtomo

Mine, too.

[04:31] Ohtomo

I know what level I'm at.

[04:33] Ohtomo

We have to ace these tryouts if we want to make it onto the youth team.

[04:38] Ohtomo

Out of those hoping to go pro, we're the also-rans.

[04:42] Ohtomo

If I end up joining my high school soccer team,

[04:45] Ohtomo

I'll do the usual thing of playing for three years before retiring like everyone else.

[04:48] Ohtomo

That's the future in store for me. But is it really what I want?

[04:53] Ohtomo

I decided I'd change it, even if it calls for drastic measures.

[04:58] Ohtomo

Tachibana, I'm sure you've got a different outlook on it.

[05:01] Ohtomo

You might still get promoted to your club's youth team.

[05:05] Tachibana

No...

[05:06] Tachibana

I haven't improved as a player in years.

[05:10] Tachibana

I've grown complacent at the club I grew up in,

[05:14] Tachibana

and I can feel myself losing my competitive edge.

[05:19] Tachibana

I came here today to snap myself out of it.

[05:23] Tachibana

If I don't make it as a pro, my life is over.

[05:31] Ashito

Huh. I've never really given any

serious thought to going pro.

[05:38] Ashito

You're all amazing.

[05:40] Ashito

I mean it. I've never played
at such a high level in my life.

[05:48] Ashito

None of you are "also-rans."

[05:51] Ashito

It's me saying this, so there ain't no mistake!

[05:53] Ashito

I'm so pumped I get to play
soccer with all of you again!

[06:02] Fukuda

Sorry for the wait. Here are
your final stage opponents.

[06:06] Fukuda

Allow me to introduce...

[06:11] Fukuda

The Tokyo City Esperion Youth.

[06:14] Takasugi

We look forward to a good match.

[06:16] Tokyo Ce Youth

Let's have a good one.

[06:18] Spectator

What's the manager thinking?

[06:21] Ohtomo

S-Seriously?

[06:23] Izumi

H-Hold on a sec!

[06:26] Izumi

These guys are on a whole other level
in terms of physique and skills.

[06:30] Izumi

This is meant to be a test, but we
can't show our true skills against *them*!

[06:37] Fukuda

You can't play against players
who are better than you?

[06:42] Fukuda

You're trying to overcome the
wall that is the youth team.

[06:46] Fukuda

Which means going up against these guys.

[06:50] Fukuda

So go do it.

[06:52] Fukuda

Straightforward enough, right?

[06:55] Lee

This is ridiculous.

[06:59] Tachibana

So this is the Esperion Youth...

[07:03] Tachibana

*I saw them play in the final
of last year's J-Youth Cup.*

[07:07] Tachibana

*The skill on display was
beyond anything I was expecting.*

[07:10] Tachibana

*It was way above the level
of regular high-school soccer.*

[07:14] Tachibana

*With all my heart, I long
to play that kind of soccer.*

[07:24] (Flashback) Fukuda

I have an ambition, you see.

[07:35] Fukuda

Oh, one more thing.

[07:37] Fukuda

At some point during the game,
I'm going to tell you all something.

[07:41] Fukuda

It won't be an instruction or anything.
Just lend me your ears.

[07:52] Fukatsu

The crowd's still buzzing.

[07:54] Kaneko

It's hard to concentrate.

[07:56] Ashito

Let's go win.

[07:59] Ashito

We can do it.

[08:01] Tachibana

I'm with Aoi.

[08:03] Tachibana

Hear me out.

[08:05] Tachibana

I've seen a bunch of them
in the Under-15 league.

[08:08] Tachibana

Most of them are first-years in high school.

[08:11] Tachibana

Which means they're only one year above us.

[08:14] Tachibana

I believe we have a shot.

[08:18] Akutsu

Fukuda-san.

[08:20] Fukuda

Hm? What's up, Akutsu?

[08:23] Akutsu

If possible, I'd like to play, too.

[08:28] Fukuda

Where's this coming from?

[08:30] Ashito

Exactly! Let's do this!

[08:32] Ashito

If we can beat these guys,
they'll have no excuse!

[08:36] Ashito

They'll have to sign us *all* up!

[08:39] Akutsu

There seems to be some misunderstanding
about who exactly we are.

[08:45] Tachibana

I think our best bet is a 3-5-2 formation,
with Aoi and Kaneda as the two up front.

[08:50] Tachibana

I'll play in the pocket.

[08:52] Kaneda

Aoi, can I play on the right?

[08:55] Ashito

Sure! Whatever works!

[08:57] Tachibana

Anyone opposed to Hasegawa
being our holding midfielder?

[09:01] Lee

I'll command the back line.

[09:04] Tachibana

Okay.

[09:05] Tachibana

I'd like the defenders to limit how much
they go forward and just focus on defense.

[09:08] Tachibana

How's that sound?

[09:09] Nakano

Okay.

[09:10] Ashito

Great, we're set! Let's go!

[09:18] Ashito

They're still chatting? Hurry it up already.

[09:22] Akutsu

Hey, what happened to your cleats?

[09:25] Ashito

Huh? Oh...

[09:27] Ashito

They're, uh...

[09:29] Ashito

I guess you could say they're a little well-worn,
but they're actually quite comfy.

[09:35] Akutsu

I'm Akutsu, a first-year on Esperion Youth.

[09:38] Akutsu

Nice to meet you.

[09:40] Ashito

I'm Aoi Ashito from Ehime. Right back at ya.

[09:47] Ashito

What a polite, well-mannered guy.

[09:49] Ashito

*I pictured the youth team as elites,
and he's exactly that.*

[10:04] Tachibana

Huh? What's this?

[10:06] Tachibana

There's a huge space there all of a sudden.

[10:09] Tachibana

Is it a trap? But...

[10:13] Ashito

Ohtomo, hey!

[10:19] Ashito

*No pressure, no marking...
I'm slicing through them like it's nothing.*

[10:23] Ohtomo

Aoi!

[10:28] Hana

Ah! So close!

[10:31] Spectator (Haruta Midori)

Huh? It only took three of them
to break through their lines...

[10:43] Izumi

Ohtomo!

[10:46] Spectator A

He passed it in behind again!

[10:50] Hana

So close again!

[11:01] Spectator A

What the heck are you guys doing?

[11:03] Spectator B

Shame on you!

[11:04] Spectator C

The youth team's supposed
to be their inspiration!

[11:08] Spectator C

You're losing to the candidates!

[11:14] Hotta

Are you all right?

[11:15] Ohtomo

Sorry. I got overexcited and
gave myself a nosebleed.

[11:21] Tachibana

Are they going easy on us?

[11:24] Tachibana

No...

[11:27] Kaneda

They must be the benchwarmers.

[11:33] Akutsu

Can you all do it?

[11:35] Taira

Okay.

[11:36] Matsunaga

No problem.

[11:42] Akutsu

Everyone's ready.

[11:44] Akutsu

That was faster than I thought.

[12:03] Kaneda

They might be in the youth team,
but they're not doing so hot today, huh?

[12:07] Kaneda

Let's do this!

[12:13] Hasegawa

Go, No. 10!

[12:14] Hasegawa

Break through down the wing!

[12:16] Ashito

Only one defender to beat.

[12:18] Ashito

*If I can get past him,
I'll be at the goal!*

[12:20] Ashito

*If I use that first-touch technique
old man Fukuda taught me...*

[12:24] Ashito

and land the ball right there,
he won't have time to react.*

[12:30] Ashito

Huh? He got back already?

[12:37] Nakano

Huh?

[12:38] Ohtomo

What?

[12:53] Lee

Stop them!

[12:55] Lee

What are you doing?!

[12:56] Ashito

Their passes are... crazy accurate!

[13:00] Ashito

They're moving the ball around with only one-touch passes and minimal dribbling!

[13:08] Fukuda

Awesome, right?

[13:09] Fukuda

Is it beyond you since you don't play soccer, Hana?

[13:13] Fukuda

One-touch passing.

[13:16] Fukuda

It's a technique for passing between teammates using only one touch.

[13:21] Fukuda

If you do it right, you can bear down on the other team's goal at formidable speed.

[13:25] Fukuda

But this style of play requires everyone involved to have exceptional positioning,

[13:29] Fukuda

passing, and the ability to calculate where the space will be.

[13:34] Fukuda

In other words, in order to execute it successfully,

[13:37] Fukuda

all 11 of them must share a perfect mental map of the route the ball is going to take.

[13:41] Ohtomo

Unbelievable.

[13:45] Ashito

Snap out of it, you guys!

[13:47] Ashito

Gettin' outplayed like this ain't no fun!

[13:53] Ashito

For real this time!

[13:56] Ashito

Take it down, and...

[14:07] Spectator (Haruta Midori)

The first half is over!

[14:10] Ashito

I took the ball down and he just...
kicked it as soon as it landed.

[14:16] Ashito

Which means he knew precisely*
where I was trying to place it.

[14:21] Ashito

This guy...

[14:23] Akutsu

Hey, about your cleats.

[14:27] Akutsu

Can't you afford new ones?

[14:32] Ashito

S-So what if I can't?!

[14:36] Akutsu

I heard you came from quite far away.
Who paid for your trip?

[14:44] (Flashback) Shun

Find out for yourself
what's waiting for you.

[14:55] Akutsu

Utterly talentless. What a pity.

[14:59] Ashito

Huh?!

[15:00] Akutsu

Not you.

[15:02] Akutsu

The people around you.

[15:09] Akutsu

People with no talent going on
about effort and challenges...

[15:12] Akutsu

It doesn't make anyone happy.

[15:15] Akutsu

You wanna have fun playing
soccer, right? You're...

[15:19] Akutsu

...a piece of trash. Go home.

[15:23] Akutsu

This isn't the place for the likes of you.

[15:31] Fukuda

Akutsu, you weren't running
your mouth again, were you?

[15:37] Tachibana

Why didn't they do that
one-touch passing from the start?

[15:41] Kaneda

Do you think they did it to mock us?

[15:44] Tachibana

Maybe they were showing off for the crowd.

[15:48] Ohtomo

But it was incredible, wasn't it?

[15:53] Kaneda

Hey, Lee!

[15:54] Kaneda

Hasegawa!

[15:55] Kaneda

All of you! You joining in on
this team meeting or what?!

[16:02] Ohtomo

Hey, there. Haven't seen
you since the Inter-High.

[16:04] Ohtomo

I'm Ohtomo Eisaku. You remember me, right?

[16:07] Ohtomo

Unless you manage to put your skills
to full use today, we're all going down.

[16:15] Ohtomo

I don't want it to end like this.

[16:28] Ashito

H-Hey! Hold on a sec! Why are *you* treating me?

[16:32] Hana

Don't underestimate me
just 'cause I'm a cutie.

[16:35] Hana

Leave it to me. Stopping
nosebleeds is a piece of cake.

[16:44] Ashito

Who exactly is she again?

[16:47] Ashito

*She mentioned something
about being the old man's sister.*

[16:57] (Flashback) Akutsu

What a pity.

[16:59] (Flashback) Akutsu

The people around you.

[17:07] Ashito

Whoa!

[17:07] Hana

Hey, don't move!

[17:09] Ashito

You're too close! *Way* too close!

[17:18] Hana

Does Akutsu-kun bother you?

[17:20] Ashito

Wh-What's his deal?

[17:24] Hana

He's sca-a-ry.

[17:26] Hana

We have plenty of elite-level players, but he's an outlaw.

[17:31] Hana

He's only a first-year, but he's already a starter.

[17:35] Hana

Plus, he's the only one who made it in through last year's tryouts.

[17:46] Ashito

He was in the same position I am now.

[17:48] Ashito

Who are you to say if I have talent or not?

[17:53] Ashito

You just watch me!

[17:55] Tachibana

The second half's starting! I'm *determined* to pass these tryouts.

[17:58] Tachibana

Let's go pitch ourselves the best we can!

[18:00] All

Hell yeah!

[18:03] Fukuda

Wow. That huddle looks bigger than it did before.

[18:25] Ashito

That was like running into an iron wall.

[18:27] Ashito

This guy's core strength is crazy.

[18:30] Sign (Top)

Candidates

[18:30] Sign (Bottom)

Youth

[18:34] Reporter A

We're five minutes into the second half.

[18:37] Sekiya

They haven't done anything difficult like the one-touch passing in the first half.

[18:41] Sekiya

They've kept it simple.

[18:43] Sekiya

However...

[18:49] Haruta Midori

The Youth's got some skillful players!

[18:52] Ohtomo

What the heck is going on here?

[18:54] Ohtomo

They're totally different from what they were like at the start of the game.

[18:59] Kaneda

Dammit!

[19:01] Akutsu

Back to me, Yuma!

[19:03] Ashito

Come on!

[19:05] Hotta

Play on!

[19:10] Tsukishima

Kaneda-kun's a bit of a hothead, huh?

[19:13] Hotta

Corner kick.

[19:14] Ohtomo

N-Nice stop, goalie! Great job!

[19:19] Akutsu

You're all absolutely useless.

[19:23] Ashito

If you could play like this, why didn't you do so from the beginning?

[19:29] Akutsu

It just took us a while to get used to stuff.

[19:33] Akutsu

Hey, just before the second half kicked off,

[19:36] Akutsu

you all stood around in a circle, clapping.

[19:39] Akutsu

What was that all about?

[19:42] Akutsu

Aren't you supposed to be rivals?

You make me wanna puke.

[19:47] Ashito

Is that how you passed last year's tryouts?

[19:51] Ashito

Good to know.

[19:54] Ashito

But it doesn't mean you *have* to be a douchebag to get in.

[20:02] Ashito

Hey, all of you!

[20:03] Ashito

Don't make those faces!

[20:05] Ashito

It's a set play! We've gotta defend, y'hear?

[20:08] Ashito

Who's marking who?

[20:10] Ashito

Who's on this guy? And that guy?

[20:12] Ohtomo

A-Aoi...

[20:14] Ashito

After we defend, I'll go score some goals!

[20:17] Ashito

Help me out with that! I can't do it
unless you get the ball to me!

[20:22] Ohtomo

Hey, he's right.

[20:24] Ohtomo

We all knew the Youth would be strong.

[20:26] Ohtomo

We were bound to give up a few goals.

[20:28] Tachibana

Yeah! What's important is to
keep calm and play our game!

[20:32] Nakano

Let's do it! We won't give up till the very end!

[20:38] Ohtomo

Aoi, over there!

[20:38] Tachibana

Clear it!

[20:40] Ashito

Yeah!

[20:46] Ashito

Akutsu...

[20:56] Akutsu

I-I'm sorry!

[20:57] Akutsu

I lost my balance in midair.

[21:00] Akutsu

I-I'm so sorry! Are you all right?

[21:03] Ashito

I'm... fine...

[21:13] Hotta

Are you okay? Let's get you off the field.

[21:19] Ashito

Won't you give me a hand, Senpai?

[21:25] Ashito

I ain't got time to be lying around.

[21:33] Ohtomo

Y-You sure you're okay, Aoi?

[21:35] Hana

I'll patch you up. Come off the field.

[21:37] Ashito

Never mind that. Just let me score.

[21:41] Ashito

Score...

[21:43] Ashito

I can't let it end like this...

[21:45] Ashito

I can't go back to Ehime like this!

[21:50] Ohtomo

Well, it's not like we can let an
out-of-towner steal the show anyway, right?

[21:55] Ashito

What was that?!

[22:02] Date

Hey, Fukuda...

[22:03] Date

You're not really going to pick
now to tell them, are you?

[22:06] Fukuda

The time has come to tell them, Nozomi.

[22:13] Fukuda

Uh... Listen up, candidates.

[22:17] Fukuda

In this game, I purposefully
handicapped the youth team.

[22:22] Fukuda

Except for the goalie, everyone's playing
a position they've never played before.

[22:27] Fukuda

In other words...

[22:29] Fukuda

they're all playing out of position.

[24:19] Sign

Next Episode

[24:19] Sign (Bottom)

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

[24:23] Ohtomo

The next episode of *Aoashi* is: "CROW."

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