4 - Railroad to Retirement / The Man Who Couldn't Make Pro

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.)

SIGN "Railroad to Retirement"

[01:31] bon
This story started last September.

[01:35] bon
Career home runs: 500.

[01:37] bon
A three-time home run king
with a 400 million yen contract.

[01:40] bon
That's the Setouchi Carnavits'
Doterai Jo, 40 years old.

[01:50] dote
Oh no!

[01:51] dote
It's gonna—

SIGN Hit by pitch!

[02:06] bon
His right wrist was broken!

[02:07] bon
Doterai-san was ruled out for
the remaining month of the season!

SIGN Meiji Jingu Stadium

[02:12] bon
Now, this season...

[02:20] ann
It's the much-anticipated showdown
after six long months.

[02:24] ann
It took ages for Doterai to
return from the broken wrist,

[02:26] ann
and he didn't make it in

time for the season opener.
[02:29] ann
And one week ago, he was finally
put back in the starting lineup.
[02:32] ann
But unfortunately,
[02:34] ann
he hasn't had any hits in six games
and twenty-four at bats.
[02:38] ann
A batting average of .000.
[02:41] ann
And on top of that, not so much as a walk!
[02:43] ann
He hasn't been on base even once!
[02:45] ann
Could this have less to do with his wrist,
and more to do with his age?
[02:49] fan
Pinch hitter! Pinch hitter!
[02:51] fan
Doterai can't hit squat!
[02:52] fan
You've got a good right-hander on the bench!
SIGN 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th
[02:56] ann
The Carnavits are two runs behind.
[02:58] ann
Two outs, with runners on first and second.
[03:01] ann
It's easy to see why the fans
want a pinch hitter...
[03:04] ann
They brought slugger Doterai back to
the majors, for better or for worse.
[03:07] ann
You can't just put out a pinch hitter for him.
[03:10] ann
At least, that's what the Carnavits'
Manager Usui is probably thinking.
[03:13] col
Of course, if he hits a
home run, they take the lead.
[03:19] dote
The club president and general manager
both came along for the Tokyo game.
[03:25] dote

Just to watch me.

[03:27] pres

Dote couldn't hit a home run now
if his life depended on it.

[03:31] org

And the chances of him
getting an RBI are even lower.

[03:35] pres

This showdown...

[03:37] pres

There's a 98% chance that Bonda will win it!

[03:41] tana

Even if he does have a .000 batting average,

[03:43] tana

seeing Doterai on the plate with
two runners on is intimidating.

[03:48] ko

He's still the man who hit
500 home runs, after all.

[03:51] ko

The worst-case scenario is a three-run
homer to put them in the lead.

[03:53] tan

And that's the one thing we want to avoid.

[03:55] tan

So to inflate our chances...

[03:58] tan

Southpaw Natsunosuke!

[04:00] man

In our ball club,

[04:02] man

there was an unwritten rule to trade
anyone with a contract over 200 million.

[04:06] man

But last year, at the roster meeting
right after Dote's injury...

SIGN President! We must let Dote go next season!

SIGN Let's say we don't re-sign Dote next year.

SIGN Who'll pick him up, then?

SIGN Someone... might take him.

SIGN Or they might not...

SIGN President...

SIGN If nobody signs him, he should retire!

SIGN Indeed, that may be the most likely scenario.

SIGN I dunno about this...

SIGN Dote's going to be forty-one next year.

SIGN With twenty-nine home runs under his belt, he might have hit thirty by season's end.

SIGN But a batting average of .260 and 55 RBIs are, quite frankly, troubling numbers.
SIGN The hit-by-pitch would make it awkward to reduce Dote's salary next year.
SIGN It was an in-game injury, after all.
SIGN And since that 29th was his historic 500th home run,
SIGN maybe he should retire while he still—
SIGN But can we really justify spending 400 million on a forty-one year old Dote?
SIGN Dote is the face of our team.
SIGN He's a treasure of the baseball world.
SIGN But why do *we* have to be the ones
paying the "treasure's" salary?
SIGN Surely there are other teams with the resources to pay him.
SIGN I'd much rather scout two foreigners who'll hit twenty home runs at 50 million.
SIGN That'll help the team more!
[05:34] org
The meeting's conclusion was,
[05:36] org
"*We can't make such*
an important decision today."
[05:43] org
And then, not long after...
SIGN Michael
SIGN Mac
SIGN Steve
[05:49] org
Our staff pointed us to three foreign players
with good records in Triple-A ball.
SIGN Triple-A Resources DVD
SIGN Nice, nice!
SIGN All three are well-suited to Japanese ball and raring to go!
SIGN I'd like to recruit all three, if possible.
SIGN With all three, we're bound to hit the jackpot with at least one.
SIGN Will they go for this?
SIGN I'm afraid all three are asking for this, at the minimum...
SIGN 150 million for all three, then...
SIGN But not an impossible number.
[06:21] org
However...
SIGN What?!
SIGN That's the final word. Owner's decision.
SIGN We'll be signing Dote for another season, with the same salary as before.
SIGN N-No...
SIGN There's no way we can recruit three players for 150 million!
SIGN We just don't have the room in our budget!
SIGN Wh-What about just one, then?
SIGN If he'll take 30 million.
[06:45] org
Only 30 million to hire one rookie foreigner?

[06:48] org
I'm really starting to hate this ball club!
[06:51] org
I somehow got it up to 40 million, but...
SIGN Which one is likely to sign for 40 million?
[06:56] org
And while I was worrying about that,
[06:59] org
all three ended up signing
with other ball clubs.
[07:03] org
But that was just one example.
[07:07] org
In order to raise funds to pay Doterai,
[07:09] org
we had to build the rest of the roster
on a shoestring budget,
[07:12] org
and we couldn't afford to
give raises to our other regulars.
[07:16] org
Our owner is a man of the people!
[07:20] org
And he loves Doterai, who's also
a man of the people.
[07:24] org
That was tripping up our attempts
to round out the roster.
[07:28] org
But that, too, may be nearing its end.
[07:31] org
After twenty-four at bats
with no hits, Dote's heart...
[07:35] org
...is surely on the verge of breaking.
[07:37] org
If he goes hitless in this game too,
[07:39] org
he might ask to be removed
from the starting lineup!
[07:43] org
That is the moment when...
[07:44] org
...Dote's railroad to retirement begins!
[07:48] org
This is an epoch-defining moment for us!
[07:51] org

Once he's out of the starting
lineup, there's no going back.

[07:55] org
But if there's just one thing
standing in our way,

[07:58] org
it's that pitcher, Bonda Natsunosuke!

[08:02] org
The man originally
responsible for Dote's injury!

[08:06] bon
Earlier, the manager made a
rare appearance on the mound...

SIGN Natsunosuke. I know this might be a hard matchup for you,
SIGN but all you need to do is pitch the way you usually do.
SIGN No matter what else may be true, Bonda Natsunosuke is a major league pitcher!
SIGN I hear Doterai pummeled the pitchers in the minors,
SIGN but he can't hit off major league pitchers anymore.
SIGN That's all there is to it.

[08:35] bon
Of course, he didn't come
right out and say it,

[08:39] bon
but the least I need to do here

[08:43] bon
is keep Doterai-san from
hitting a three-run homer!

[08:47] bon
Which means...

[08:49] bon
I can let him get a two-RBI hit.

[08:52] bon
But I can't let myself
start thinking like that!

[08:57] bon
Even if it is Doterai-san that I'm facing...

[08:59] pres
What if he starts psyching himself
out like that, darn it?!

[09:03] org
Darn it!

[09:05] bon
500 home runs in his twenty-two
years as a pro. "Mr. Carnavits."

[09:11] bon
Am I going to be the one
responsible for retiring him?!

[09:16] both
Bonda!
[09:18] both
For heaven's sake, give us an
excuse to retire him already!
[09:26] bon
What I'd like to do is give him a hit
without giving him a home run.
[09:29] bon
But there's no way I can
achieve that kind of precision...
[09:33] bon
I'll just have to pitch with
all the power of my youth
[09:38] bon
and finish you off!
[09:41] both
Please, Bonda! Don't be afraid!
[09:45] tana
Even if he's afraid, that pitch
[09:48] tana
is a major league pitch!
[10:03] ann
It's down the first base line!
[10:10] ann
The runner from second comes home!
[10:12] ann
The right-fielder picks it up,
and the runner from first comes home, too!
[10:16] ann
The hitter, Doterai, gets held on second.
[10:21] ann
Doterai gets his first hit of the season!
[10:24] ann
He puts his two runs on the board!
[10:27] ann
Great job, Doterai!
A clutch hit to tie the game!
[10:31] pres
D-Dote...
[10:33] org
B-Bonda...
[10:35] ko
He got hit after all.
[10:37] tan
It is what it is.
[10:38] tan

The mighty Doterai's not dead
yet, it seems. That's all.

[10:43] tan
But more importantly...

[10:44] tan
Change pitchers!

[10:46] ko
Y-Yes, sir!

[10:48] ann
Uchiyama will be pitching for Bonda.

[10:52] dot
Bonda, that pitch was one hell
of a major league pitch.

[10:57] dot
It wasn't a bad pitch by any means.

[11:00] dot
But there was still hesitation in it.

[11:02] dot
That's the only reason you gave up the hit.

[11:05] dot
And it also means I haven't hit my limit yet!

[11:11] bon
S-Sorry...

[11:13] tan
Don't worry about it, Natsunosuke.

[11:15] tan
Your job was to avoid a home run, that's all.

[11:19] tan
Holding them to a tie means
we can still retake the lead.

SIGN 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th

[11:21] tan
A three-run homer would have
given them the momentum.

[11:28] bon
Somehow, the match went just
as Coach Tanabe imagined it.

[11:32] bon
The pitcher who replaced me
didn't give up the winning run.

[11:36] bon
And then...

[11:43] bon
I don't feel great about my full-force
pitch getting hit by Doterai-san,

[11:49] bon
but hey, we won the match,

so all's well that ends well.
SIGN 6th 7th 8th 9th
[11:53] pres
That one hit today...
[11:56] org
...may reinvigorate Dote.
[11:58] pres
If that means we'll have to
re-sign him again next year...
[12:04] org
...we won't get to
improve our roster yet again.
[12:11] bon
And indeed!
[12:13] bon
That day would be the start of
a major hot streak for Doterai,
[12:17] bon
but at that point in time,
nobody knew that yet!
[12:21] bon
And the Setouchi Carnavits' roster
would remain stagnant for another year.
[12:27] bon
But this is another part of pro ball!
[12:30] bon
It's not bad to be an old man at work!
[12:33] bon
Well, at least I can breathe a sigh of relief...
SIGN "The Man Who Couldn't Make Pro"
[12:56] bon
The ballgrounds at Jingu Park.
[12:58] bon
As usual, it's full of people
playing grass lot baseball.
[13:17] oki
Hey, that's one of the Spiders.
[13:19] oki
Who is that?
[13:25] oki
Number 39. Who was that again?
[13:27] oki
It's Bonda. Bonda.
[13:29] oki
The relief pitcher.
[13:30] oki
Oh, right. Yeah, Bonda.

[13:33] oki
The Spiders play the Mops tonight.
[13:36] oki
It's early. I bet they haven't
even started practice yet.
[13:40] nao
I have tickets for tonight,
so I'll be watching them later.
[13:44] man
But wow, he's been juggling
that ball for a while, huh?
[13:47] man
It's not even touching the ground.
[13:49] oki
Bonda stinks at baseball. Maybe he should
give it up and go play soccer instead!
[13:58] oki
He's got a bad case of the yips.
[14:01] oki
When he's throwing the ball to first...
[14:03] oki
He can handle a fast throw
that goes in a straight line,
[14:05] oki
but he can't handle
a slow throw in a nice arc.
[14:08] nao
Yeah...
[14:10] nao
I thought of Bonda as being
pretty on the slow side,
[14:13] nao
but seeing him up close,
he's got pretty nice motor skills.
[14:17] nao
No. They're way beyond "*pretty nice.*"
[14:21] nao
Is this what it takes to make
your living in sports?
[14:24] oki
Naoki.
[14:26] oki
You were on Kawasaki's youth team, right?
[14:29] oki
You can play on his level, right?
[14:32] oki
You were this close to

becoming a pro, weren't you?

[14:34] oki

In soccer...

[14:36] nao

Nah...

[14:37] nao

I was a long way from being a J-Leaguer.

[14:41] nao

That's right. My field was soccer.

[14:45] nao

But could I beat Bonda,
whose field is baseball?

[14:49] nao

Bonda's twenty-five or twenty-six, right?

[14:51] nao

That's three or four years older than me.

[14:57] no

Sorry about that!

[15:07] oki

Naoki...

[15:21] bon

Not bad!

[15:35] oki

Oh, boy. Now Naoki's joined
in with the juggling.

[15:49] nao

I guess my skills, or rather my legs,
haven't totally atrophied.

[15:57] nao

Oh no!

[15:59] nao

It's no use! You can't catch it!

[16:06] bon

Got it!

[16:07] nao

Hey! You could hurt your leg
or your hip sliding like that!

[16:12] bon

Okay!

[16:14] nao

He caught up with it!

[16:17] nao

H-He's totally fine?

[16:21] nao

It's not just his motor skills.
Look at that flexibility!

[16:26] nao

He moves in a way only someone
who makes their living at sports could!

[16:30] nao
It's no use.

[16:32] nao
I could never have made it as a pro athlete!

[16:36] nobo
You're great, Bonda-san.

[16:38] bon
Okay, Noboru! Let's go!

[16:41] bon
Oh no!

[16:44] nao
An amateur can't keep up
with something like that!

[16:47] nobo
Go on!

[16:51] nao
You what?!

[16:52] nobo
Coming your way!

[16:55] nao
Oh no!

[16:59] oki
Hey, Naoki lost.

[17:06] nobo
Well, at least I caught up with it.

[17:10] nao
Who is that guy?

[17:12] nao
That acceleration!

[17:14] nao
That speed!

[17:15] nao
And despite heading the ball with the
back of his head, he still sent it to me!

[17:20] nao
I'd been putting all my focus on Bonda,

[17:22] nao
but that guy might be even better than him.

[17:27] nobo
Uh-oh!

[17:28] nobo
Look at the time.

[17:30] nobo
Bonda-san.

[17:31] bon

Sure thing, Noboru.

[17:33] nobo

See you, Bonda-san.

[17:35] bon

Yeah, see you!

[17:38] nao

The way he's running...
He must be an athlete.

[17:41] nao

Is he with the Spiders, too?

[17:42] bon

Well, I have to go, too.

[17:51] oki

How'd it go, J-Leaguer? Did you win?

[17:54] ano

I totally lost.

[17:57] ano

I mocked Bonda as a low-rate athlete,

[18:00] ano

but compared to a guy like me,
who couldn't go pro...

[18:03] ano

I could feel this huge wall between us.

[18:05] ano

But that kid Bonda was juggling with...

[18:08] ano

I feel like I've seen him somewhere.

[18:11] nao

I feel like I've seen him before, too.

[18:13] nao

Where was it, though?

SIGN Meiji Jingu Stadium

[18:22] nao

Boy, pro baseball is the best, isn't it?

[18:24] nao

Going to a night game in
this weather is awesome.

[18:28] nao

I guess Bonda's not in the bullpen yet.

[18:31] oki

It's still early innings yet.

[18:32] nao

I'm heading to the concessions.

[18:35] oki

What are you gonna buy?

[18:37] nao

Bonda merch.

[18:39] nao
Since I ran into Bonda today,
[18:42] nao
I've kind of become a fan.
[18:45] oki
I'll go with you.
[18:46] nao
Excuse me!
[18:47] nao
Do you have any Bonda merch?
[18:49] nobo
Sorry, we don't sell any
merchandise for Bonda-san.
[18:55] nao
Hey, it's you again.
[18:56] nobo
Hey there.
[19:00] nao
How pathetic, that Bonda.
[19:02] nao
Why doesn't he have any merch?
[19:05] nao
Well, because he's just a LOOGY, I guess.
[19:07] nao
Maybe it was silly to assume
they'd sell his merch.
[19:10] oki
Naoki, I just remembered.
The kid who was juggling with you.
[19:13] oki
He's Minokawa, a high school championship
winning pitcher seven or eight years ago.
[19:19] oki
And the Spiders took first in the draft.
[19:23] nao
The winning pitcher at the high school
championships and first draft pick?!
[19:28] nao
That kid was someone that amazing?
[19:33] oki
Last fall, he retired.
SIGN A Professional Career Lost to Injury Minokawa Retires
[19:36] nao
I can see it.
[19:37] nao
Those were the moves of a pro athlete.
[19:40] nao

And he was active until last year?

[19:43] nao

But in six years, he never
made one major league start...

[19:47] nao

Poor guy.

[19:48] oki

I think his career was ravaged by injuries.

[19:52] nao

A number one draft pick working part-time,
selling stadium merch?

[19:55] oki

I actually don't think it's part-time for him.

[19:59] oki

It's probably a full-time job
that the ball club got for him.

[20:03] nao

The pro world is unforgiving!

[20:05] nao

Maybe it's a good thing
I didn't become a pro.

[20:08] ann

Bonda will be pitching for Shiina.

[20:16] nao

Hey, it's Bonda.

[20:21] ann

Ground ball to the pitcher.

[20:22] ann

Bonda has it easily.

[20:24] ann

He just needs a careful throw to—

[20:27] ann

It's a wild throw!

[20:29] ann

The third base runner comes home!

[20:32] fan

What are you doing? You coulda had him!

[20:36] fan

That was an easy out!

[20:38] oki

There it is, the yips.

[20:40] nao

He tried to be too careful.

[20:42] oki

Though he can throw as many
hard pitches as you need...

[20:45] tera

Natsunosuke. Calm down.
[20:47] bon
Sorry!
[20:49] oki
Well, despite all that, he's still
standing on a major league mound.
[20:54] oki
Pro athletes have incredible motor skills!
[20:58] oki
But the reason they still mess up
[21:01] oki
is because they're all playing
under absurd amounts of pressure!
[21:04] ann
A bad throw to first, and the Spiders
see the game tied up!
[21:09] nob
Bonda-san, get it together already.
[21:13] fan
Excuse me.
[21:14] nobo
Welcome!
[21:16] nobo
I can't dig up that money
buried under the pitch anymore.
[21:21] nobo
But you're still going strong!
[21:24] bon
I need to become someone they sell merch for!
[21:28] bon
Money Pitch!
[23:01] bon
Natsunosuke here!
[23:02] bon
I'm going to be a model for a baseball manga!
[23:05] bon
Isn't that great?
[23:06] bon
No, it's real, though!
[23:09] bon
But the artist's deadline is coming up, and...
[23:13] bon
I can't say anything more than that, but...
[23:16] bon
Be it sports or manga,
the world of pros is always unforgiving.
[23:22] bon

Next time: "Safe Bets, Risky Bets."

[23:24] bon

Seize tomorrow's success and today's money!

SIGN "Safe Bets, Risky Bets"

[23:27] ---

Money Pitch!

Revision #1
Created 2026-06-23 00:59:21 UTC by whimsee
Updated 2026-06-23 00:59:21 UTC by whimsee