

# 10 - The Backhand Grip Is Like This

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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] nagi**

*I started badminton really  
early in elementary school.*

**[00:10] nagi**

*It was frustrating.*

**[00:13] nagi**

*It was sometimes painful.*

**[00:15] nagi**

*But it was fun.*

**[00:19] nagi**

*"I'll become the best in Japan."*

**[00:21] nagi**

*"I'll play on the world stage."*

**[00:24] nagi**

*That's what I thought.*

**SIGN** Hanesaki Ayano Aragaki Nagisa

**[00:27] nagi**

*But...*

**[00:31] sign**

*No matter how I hit it...*

**[00:33] nagi**

*No matter where I sent it...*

**[00:34] nagi**

*The shuttle never landed on her court.*

**[00:44] nagi**

*She was overpowering.*

**[00:52] aya**

*I'm back.*

**[00:57] uchi**

*Welcome back, Ayano.*

**[01:07] uchi**

*Though really, I guess I'm  
the one who just got back...*

**[01:20] uchi**

*I hear you qualified for the Inter-High.*

**[01:42] gm**

Uchika-shan...

**[01:46] gm**

You and Ayano have had a deep connection...

**[01:49] gm**

...through badminton for a long, long time.

**[01:55] gm**

Won't you consider coming home?

**[02:05] uchi**

I wonder if she's gotten good.

**[02:08] uchi**

While I was gone...

**[02:12] uchi**

Has she really gotten good?

**SIGN** #10 "The Backhand Grip Is Like This"

**[03:52] yu**

They seem kind of... intense.

**[03:58] aya**

Dang it...

**[04:00] aya**

17-14.

**[04:02] tachi**

That was close!

**[04:04] ri**

Coach Tachibana was an  
Olympic hopeful, right?

**[04:09] ri**

But I wonder why Ayano-chan...

**[04:12] ri**

...suddenly wants to play him.

**[04:29] yu**

21-17. Game, Coach Tachibana.

**[04:33] tachi**

Boy, playing you is exhausting...

**[04:37] aya**

One more game.

**[04:38] tachi**

Nope.

**[04:39] tachi**

I'm getting too old for this.

**[04:42] aya**

No fair! You can't just run off!

**[04:44] aya**

C'mon, let's play!

**[04:49] aya**

How about you?

**[04:51] aya**

Let's play. It'll be a dry run for the finals.

**[05:00] aya**

It's hard to get real practice  
against anyone else, you know?

**[05:03] aya**

I bet you want to play me, too, Nagisa-chan.

**[05:08] ri**

W-Wait a minute...

**[05:10] ri**

You don't have to play each other yet!

**[05:13] aya**

Riko-chan, you're so uptight!

**[05:16] aya**

It's just practice.

**[05:19] riko**

I know that.

**[05:20] riko**

But...

**[05:23] tachi**

Hey, everyone, over here!

**[05:27] riko**

Let's go!

**[05:36] tachi**

The boys' prelims are tomorrow.

**[05:39] tachi**

Hayama, Isehara, this is  
your final tournament.

**[05:42] tachi**

Give it your best.

**[05:44] tachi**

Okay.

**[05:44] tachi**

Okay.

**[05:47] ri**

Give it your best!

**[05:50] hay**

Gotta say, getting paired against  
one of last year's final four...

**[05:53] hay**

I'm pretty unlucky!

**[05:55] tachi**

You never know what'll happen in a match.

**[05:58] tachi**

Just give him the best you have.

**[06:00] hay**

Okay!

**[06:01] hay**

Gaku, let's meet in the finals.

**[06:04] gaku**

That's not possible.

**[06:05] gaku**

We're in the same bracket.

We'd meet in the semis.

**[06:08] hay**

I know that!

**[06:10] hay**

You've got no sense of humor...

**[06:13] hay**

Don't take everything

literally! It's just a joke!

**[06:31] riko**

S-Still, it's amazing for two girls from  
our school to be the finalists, huh?

**[06:36] yu**

Yeah!

**[06:37] yu**

And it means they're both  
going to nationals!

**[06:40] riko**

I just hope it's a good match.

**[06:44] aya**

That might be tough.

**[06:47] aya**

I mean, we all know that Nagisa-chan...

**[06:50] aya**

...doesn't stand a chance  
against me now, right?

**[06:57] riko**

Y-You won't know that until you play...

**[07:12] riko**

Nagisa... Um...

**[07:14] nagi**

I'm gonna stop by the gym teacher's office.

**[07:16] nagi**

Head on without me.

**[07:24] aya**

Aw, no fun.

**[07:38] nagi**

Excuse me.

**[07:40] tachi**

Hey.

**[07:44] nagi**

What is it?

**[07:47] mi**

How's your knee feeling?

**[07:50] nagi**

It's a little tense, but it isn't  
affecting me on the court.

**[07:55] tachi**

You're already going to the Inter-High.

**[07:58] tachi**

You don't need to push yourself.

**[08:00] nagi**

Are you telling me to forfeit?

**[08:02] tachi**

You can wait to face Hanesaki  
on the national stage.

**[08:06] nagi**

There's no guarantee we'll get matched up.

**[08:08] tachi**

If you keep winning,  
you'll face her eventually.

**[08:11] tachi**

You're both capable of going that far.

**[08:15] tachi**

Don't get so fixated on every single match.

**[08:17] tachi**

Think about your future.

**[08:24] tachi**

Well, give it a few days' thought.

**[08:27] tachi**

Boy, am I hungry!

**[08:31] tachi**

Well, see you later!

**[08:37] miya**

I've told you before,  
but he went really far.

**[08:41] nagi**

He was in the running  
for the Olympics, right?

**[08:46] miya**

His knee was hurting, too.

**[08:48] miya**

There was a big international match...

**[08:51] miya**

But he was a shoe-in for the Olympics,

**[08:53] miya**

so he chose not to participate,  
for his own health.

**SIGN** Winner Mr. Tachibana Kentaro For winning the 50th All Japan High School Kanagawa Prefecture Men's Badminton Singles Preliminaries, you are hereby presented with this award.

**[08:56] miya**

Then another Japanese player  
came out with a surprise win.

**[09:02] miya**

The slot went to that player instead.

**[09:05] miya**

That's when he retired.

**[09:08] nagi**

You mean...

**[09:10] nagi**

He was so worried about his knee,  
he let his chance slip away?

**[09:14] nagi**

Then...

**[09:14] miya**

He's been through that same awful thing,

**[09:17] miya**

and he's still telling you to be careful.

**[09:22] miya**

I think he understands how  
you feel better than anyone.

**[09:26] miya**

Try to understand, that's where  
his advice is coming from.

**[09:36] riko**

What did Coach Tachibana want to talk about?

**[09:39] nagi**

My knee.

**[09:41] riko**

I see.

**[09:50] riko**

If you have a choice,  
I think you shouldn't play.

**[09:56] riko**

Besides... Ayano-chan has been acting  
more and more strangely these days.

**[10:01] riko**

I guess I don't really want  
you two to play each other.

**[10:12] riko**

Sorry. I know it's still your choice.

**[10:16] riko**

Forget what I said.

**[10:41] uchi**

I see!

**[10:43] uchi**

She was really good, then?

**[10:47] uchi**

Oh, I know that.

**[10:55] uchi**

Leave it to me.

**[10:57] uchi**

I'll be in touch soon.

**[11:00] uchi**

Godnat, Connie.

**SIGN** 2018 All Japan High School Athletics Tournament Kanagawa Prefecture Preliminaries  
Badminton Boys' Singles Venue

**[11:14] nagi**

Yes!

**[11:16] yu**

Gaku-senpai's on fire, huh?

**[11:18] sora**

Yeah.

**[11:19] sora**

Isehara-kun!

**[11:21] sora**

Give it your best!

**[11:23] sora**

Gakkun! Fight!

**[11:27] hay**

Those girls don't go to our school.

**[11:31] riko**

He got some fan letters earlier, too.

**[11:35] hay**

For real?!

**[11:36] yu**

Gaku-senpai's really handsome, after all.

**[11:40] hay**

I guess... Yeah, he's pretty good-looking.

**[11:45] hay**

Nice smash!

**[11:46] hay**

Get another point on that board!

**SIGN** Venue: Kanagawa Prefectural Gymnasium Isehara Gaku 1st Match 2nd Match

**[11:54] miya**

Isehara-kun.

**[11:55] miya**

Keep it up. See if you can conserve  
energy through your second match, too!

**[11:58] gaku**

Okay.

**[11:59] ele**

Gakkun, fight!

**[12:02] sora**

Big brother.

**[12:05] sora**

Don't get cocky, okay?

**[12:11] ele**

Was he... being cocky?

**[12:14] riko**

No clue.

**[12:16] tachi**

Follow in Isehara's footsteps, Hayama.

**[12:19] hay**

Sure.

**[12:22] mie**

Do your best!

**[12:25] tachi**

Hey now, where's your usual passion?

**[12:28] tachi**

I'll check you out in the early game.

**[12:31] tachi**

If you hit him hard and get him flustered early, you can open things up.

**[12:35] hay**

Sure.

**[12:36] riko**

After coming this far, what can you do but give it your best?

**[12:39] nagi**

He made it to the final four last year, but he's still a second-year.

**[12:43] nagi**

If you do your best and hang in there—

**[12:44] yu**

You don't have to fight so hard!

**[12:48] yu**

You don't have to fight so hard anymore!

**[12:59] tachi**

H-Hey! Ebina?

**[13:03] nagi**

Did I say something strange?

**[13:06] ri**

I don't know...

**[13:09] hay**

Wh-What the heck?

**[13:11] hay**

I didn't...

**[13:30] nagi**

Yu.

**[13:32] nagi**

Sit here.

**[13:43] ump**

On my right, Hosoi Shun.

**[13:46] ump**

On my left, Hayama Yukiteru.

**[13:48] ump**

Hosoi to serve. Love-all. Play!

**[14:03] riko**

Nice one!

**[14:07] hay**

Yeah!

**[14:07] mie**

It's going great!

**[14:09] riko**

He's really moving!

**[14:19] riko**

Yes!

**[14:20] riko**

He's got luck on his side, too!

**[14:22] nagi**

He might just do this!

**[14:30] hoso**

Damn it...

**[14:32] gaku**

Yes!

**[14:32] miya**

Keep it up, keep it up!

**[14:34] riko**

His opponent is flustered.

**[14:36] riko**

He should widen the gap as much as possible.

**[14:49] gaku**

He got it!

**[14:50] nagi**

Now!

**[14:52] hay**

It's out.

**[14:58] hoso**

Yeah! Got one!

**[15:01] ri**

Wasn't that out?

**[15:03] nagi**

No, it was on the line.

**[15:05] nagi**

Now, the real match begins.

**SIGN** Hosoi Shun - Toho High School

**SIGN** Kitakomachi High School - Hayama Yukiteru

**[15:17] ump**

Out.

**[15:21] hoso**

Yeah! Got one!

**[15:23] sora**

His voice gets under my skin.

**[15:26] nagi**

Don't sweat it! Hang in there!

**[15:29] ele**

His opponent's really good.

**[15:31] tachi**

There's a reason he reached  
final four in his first year.

**[15:35] ele**

Do your best, Hayama-senpai!

**[15:37] ele**

Fight!

**[15:41] nagi**

Don't sweat it!

**[15:43] riko**

You're still in this!

**[15:45] gaku**

Don't give up!

**[15:47] nagi**

Keep calm!

**[15:52] hay**

*Damn! I gotta change this momentum.*

**[15:57] hay**

Yes!

**[16:06] ump**

In!

**[16:07] hoso**

Yeah!

**[16:09] riko**

He got it in.

**[16:11] gaku**

Yukiteru! Keep your feet moving! Go, go!

**[16:15] riko**

What's wrong?

**[16:17] yu**

Bathroom break.

**[16:24] tachi**

Your opponent's tired, too.

**[16:26] tachi**

You gotta hang in there.

**[16:28] hay**

He sure is good, though!

**[16:36] gaku**

Well, I should get to my match.

**[16:38] sora**

Good luck, big brother!

**[16:39] miya**

Fight!

**[16:40] gaku**

Sure.

**[16:54] hay**

Look at him, posturing.

**[17:00] hay**

You've got your third match next, right?

**[17:02] hay**

I know you can make it... to nationals.

**[17:06] (Flashback) hay**

The backhand grip is like this.

**[17:13] (Flashback) hay**

Great!

**[17:14] (Flashback) hay**

Raise your index finger a little more.

**[17:16] (Flashback) gaku**

Like this?

**[17:17] (Flashback) hay**

Yeah, yeah!

**[17:19] (Flashback) hay**

Now I'll teach you how to serve!

**[17:21] (Flashback) hay**

First off, there's a short  
serve and a long serve.

**[17:37] (Flashback) coach**

Isehara!

**[17:39] (Flashback) coach**

What was that all about?

**[17:40] (Flashback) coach**

I told you to hit a round-the-head,  
not a high backhand!

**[17:44] (Flashback) coach**

If you get in the habit of taking  
it easy, you'll never get far!

**[17:46] (Flashback) gaku**

Okay.

**[17:47] (Flashback) coach**

Also, you're changing the direction  
your racket faces too early.

**[17:50] (Flashback) coach**

You need to hold it until the last second,  
or you won't beat strong opponents.

**[17:55] (Flashback) coach**

Your eye line, too.

**[17:57] (Flashback) coach**

If you always look in the direction  
you want the shuttle to go...

**[18:01] hay**

*No matter what you tried,*

**[18:03] hay**

*you always picked it up right away...*

**[18:06] hay**

*I'm kind of a clod, so I just  
couldn't get the knack.*

**[18:09] riko**

He's getting tired!

**[18:10] hay**

*I thought, "I guess you've got talent."*

**[18:10] miya**

Move, move!

**[18:14] hay**

*But... I have it, too.*

**[18:17] hay**

*A talent called bullheadedness!*

**[18:24] nagi**

What's wrong?

**[18:28] nagi**

Did something happen with you and Hayama?

**[18:47] yu**

Senpai...

**[18:50] yu**

He was in the park  
practicing on the way home.

**[18:55] yu**

I knew he was working hard, so...

**[19:01] yu**

But when I saw him working  
so hard on badminton, I...

**[19:06] yu**

For some reason, I felt so frustrated...

**[19:11] yu**

It was painful.

**[19:17] hos**

Oh, yeah!

**[19:26] ump**

Game.

**[19:27] ump**

Match won by Hosoi.

**[19:30] ump**

21-17, 21-13.

**[19:33] hos**

Thanks!

**[19:37] hay**

Thanks!

**SIGN** Boys Third Round (Quarterfinals)

**SIGN** Isehara Gaku

**[20:08] hay**

Too bad, huh?

**[20:11] gaku**

I'm going to keep it up in college.

**[20:14] gaku**

Badminton... I had thought  
this would be the end of it,

**[20:19] gaku**

but now I want to keep it up a bit longer.

**[20:23] hay**

Sounds like a good idea to me.

**[20:38] hay**

Hey, is this usually the way you take home?

**[20:41] yu**

No.

**[20:48] hay**

Thank you.

**[20:57] hay**

It feels strange to do this when it's over.

**[20:59] yu**

Hayama-senpai!

**[21:00] hay**

Wh-What?!

**[21:02] yu**

I... I liked you!

**[21:05] hay**

For real?!

**[21:06] yu**

But I don't know if I do anymore.

**[21:10] yu**

I realized...

**[21:12] yu**

The reason I wanted to  
encourage you might be...

**[21:16] yu**

...because you showed me the  
point of playing badminton.

**[21:22] yu**

Um, it's hard to explain.

**[21:24] yu**

Um... I really have no talent at badminton,

**[21:29] yu**

so I thought there was  
no point in playing it.

**[21:32] yu**

But you showed me that that doesn't matter.

**[21:35] yu**

That the struggle itself means something.

**[21:37] yu**

That that made it cool...

**[21:40] yu**

Do you think that means I like you?

**[21:44] hay**

Um...

**[21:46] hay**

I think it might mean you like badminton.

**[21:49] yu**

Oh! I see, was that it?

**[21:53] yu**

Thanks a lot!

**[21:55] hay**

S-Sure...

**[21:56] yu**

See you later!

**[22:03] hay**

Maybe I'll keep it up, too.

**[22:12] riko**

21-14.

**[22:13] riko**

Ayano-chan.

**[22:15] aya**

Thanks.

**[22:16] sora**

Thank you... very much.

**[22:20] aya**

Wanna play?

**[22:22] aya**

I bet you won't. Your  
knee seems pretty wrecked.

**[22:26] aya**

Not that your knee would  
make the real difference.

**[22:34] nag**

I'm playing in the finals.

**[22:38] tachi**

There's no need to rise to  
Hanesaki's provocations.

**[22:43] nagi**

When I lost to her in the All-Japan Juniors,

**[22:46] nagi**

it's because I gave up in the end  
and stopped chasing the shuttle.

**[22:51] nagi**

In that moment... I lost to myself.

**[22:56] nagi**

Fighting her means fighting  
the person I was back then.

**[23:03] tachi**

Well, I figured you'd say that.

**[23:09] nagi**

But I won't push myself  
past what I can take.

**[23:13] nagi**

So please, coach me!

**[23:17] tachi**

Give it your best.

**[23:19] miya**

I'll be rooting for you.

**[23:44] uchi**

I hear you played Connie.

**[23:50] uchi**

Once this tournament is over,

**[23:53] uchi**

why not leave Japan with me?

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Revision #1

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