

# E13 - Mutsuko's Melancholy

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Timer:

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**[00:01] Ump**

Strike! Out!

**[00:02] Ump**

That's game!

**[00:05] Hik**

*We won.*

**[00:07] Dai**

Hikaru!

**[00:10] Hik**

*We were able to win because of Daigo-kun!*

**[00:13] Hik**

*And now, I finally feel like  
I'm part of the Dolphins!*

**SIGN** Mifune

**SIGN** Tanikawa

**[00:17] All**

Thank you for the game!

**[01:56] Coa**

You all did a fine job.

**SIGN** Mutsuko's Melancholy

**[01:58] Coa**

We were hanging on by a thread at the end,

**[02:00] Coa**

but Satou and Shigeno  
really came through for us.

**[02:03] Coa**

Thank you.

**[02:05] Coa**

Looking back, getting here has been  
a long and arduous journey for the Dolphins.

**[02:10] Coa**

I became this team's coach  
two years ago—no, three...

**[02:14] Coa**

And now, finally...

**[02:17] Coa**

I'm just so happy we finally  
made it past the first round!

**[02:23] Hik**

Huh?

**[02:24] Dai**

Is he seriously crying?

**[02:26] Ura**

More importantly, Manager, how's Andy doing?

**[02:31] Coa**

O-Oh, yeah. Fujii called me  
from the hospital earlier.

**[02:36] Coa**

Thankfully, it looks like  
it was only a light tear.

**[02:39] Coa**

But it means he'll be out for ten days.

**[02:42] Dai**

Ten days?

**[02:44] Coa**

Unfortunately, Andy won't be able to  
wear the mask in next week's game.

**[02:49] Coa**

So Daigo will be our catcher for it.

**[02:53] Dai**

Yes, sir!

**[02:54] Girl**

Hey, Hikaru-kun, you're coming  
next week, too, right?

**[02:58] Hik**

Huh? Uh, well, if it's all right  
with everyone else...

**[03:02] Kid**

What? Of course it is.

**[03:05] Kid2**

With two aces on our team, Urabe and you,  
we might actually win our second game, too!

**[03:10] Kid2**

Right, Urabe?

**[03:11] Ura**

Totally.

**[03:13] Ura**

You *have* to come.

**[03:15] Ura**

If we get past the second round,  
the third round's played on the same day.

**[03:18] Ura**

Which means we'll need another pitcher.

**[03:21] Ura**

However!

**[03:23] Ura**

Make sure you're prepped next time!

**[03:25] Ura**

The set position, pickoffs, base covering,  
and dealing with bunts.

**[03:29] Ura**

There are so many pitching basics  
that you're utterly clueless about!

**[03:33] Ura**

Today, by some miracle, it all worked out,  
but baseball's not always so forgiving.

**[03:37] Ura**

Got that?!

**[03:38] Hik**

Yup!

**[03:42] Coa**

So, let's all go wolf down some  
barbecue to celebrate our first win!

**[03:47] Kids**

All right!

**[03:49] Kids**

I'm starving.

**[03:50] Kids**

Barbecue, barbecue!

**[03:53] Dai**

Uh, Manager?

**[03:55] Coa**

Yeah?

**[03:56] Dai**

The two of us have something we need to do,  
so do you mind if we skip?

**[04:00] Mut**

What?

**[04:00] Mut**

The two MVPs aren't joining us?

**[04:03] Hik**

Sorry.

**[04:04] Hik**

There's just something  
we really want to go do.

**[04:07] Coa**

I see.

**[04:08] Ura**

Oh, Manager?

**[04:11] Ura**

I'm off, too.

**[04:12] Tas**

What? You're going, too, Urabe?

**[04:15] Kid**

Man, what a downer.

**[04:20] Coa**

Well, it is what it is.

**[04:22] Coa**

Just be there for the pre-game practice on Saturday.

**[04:25] Coa**

Good job today!

**[04:35] Mom**

What's going on?

**[04:36] Mom**

You're not going with them to have barbecue?

**[04:39] Dai**

Yeah, we were thinking we could practice nearby for a bit.

**[04:43] Dai**

Today's game highlighted a lot of things we still have to work on.

**[04:46] Hik**

I asked him if we could.

**[04:49] Mom**

Oh.

**[04:50] Mom**

Okay, I'll go grab you guys a couple of boxed lunches.

**[04:53] Mom**

You can't do anything on an empty stomach.

**[04:56] Dai**

Yeah, that'd be great.

**[05:00] Dad**

Hikaru, want me to help you guys practice?

**[05:04] Dad**

I'm on commentary duty for tonight's game, but I'm free until two.

**[05:09] Hik**

Oh, we'll be fine with just the two of us.

**[05:13] Hik**

But thank you, Papa.

**[05:17] Dad**

All right, then.

**[05:18] Dad**

Make sure you head home

before it gets too late.

**[05:20] Dad**

Gunma's quite a distance.

**[05:22] Hik**

Right.

**[05:23] Dai**

Let's go, Hikaru.

**[05:26] Hik**

See you.

**[05:27] Tos**

Yeah.

**[05:32] Tos**

*I get it. Both of you have now  
tasted the joy of victory.*

**[05:37] Tos**

*Looks like you don't have to worry  
about Shigeno Jr. anymore, Goro-kun.*

**[05:43] Tos**

*Just like you and I did back then,*

**[05:46] Tos**

*the two of them have started  
chasing that white ball.*

**SIGN** BBQ Taiheitei

**[06:00] Kid**

I only managed a single hit today.

**[06:02] Kid2**

I didn't do great, either.

**[06:05] Kid3**

The outfielders didn't  
make any mistakes.

**[06:07] Kid3**

Maybe that practice game we had paid off.

**[06:09] Kid4**

Sticking around for three years  
paid off, too, didn't it?

**[06:12] Kid4**

Let's keep it up and  
win in the second round, too!

**[06:14] Kid3**

Nagai, what are you "keeping up" exactly?

**[06:17] Kid3**

You haven't managed a hit  
since before the practice game.

**[06:20] Kid4**

It's all good. I'll just get one next time.

**[06:25] Mut**

*Three years, huh?*

**[06:28] Mut**

*Must be nice. I don't have anywhere  
near that kind of experience.*

**[06:32] Mut**

*Daigo-kun and Hikaru-kun  
both got to play today,*

**[06:37] Mut**

*but I've been sat on the bench this whole time.*

**[06:42] Wait**

Welcome.

**[06:44] Mom**

Hello.

**[06:45] Dad**

Sorry we're late.

**[06:47] Mom**

Mind if I sit here?

**[06:51] Mut**

They're practicing right now, aren't they?

**[06:55] Mom**

Yes.

**[06:55] Mom**

I saw you giving it your all, too,  
cheering the team on the entire time.

**[07:00] Mut**

Oh, uh, yeah...

**[07:01] Mut**

But it was everyone else  
who got us the victory.

**[07:07] Mom**

Must have been kinda boring sitting  
on the sidelines the whole game, huh?

**[07:11] Mut**

Oh, n-no, it wasn't. Just cheering  
everyone on was a lot of fun for me.

**[07:16] Mom**

I used to play for the Dolphins, too.  
A long time ago.

**[07:19] Mut**

Really?

**[07:20] Mom**

I even played catcher for  
Daigo's father, Shigeno Goro.

**[07:24] Mut**

Seriously?!

**[07:26] Mom**

I just *know* that, through hard work and  
dedication, a girl can get her chance, too.

**[07:30] Mom**

Just keep doing what you're doing,  
and you'll be put in a game, for sure.

**[07:34] Mut**

Yes, ma'am!

**[07:36] Mom**

Oh, look. The meat's done.

**[07:38] Mom**

Quick, grab it!

**[07:39] Mut**

Ah, okay!

**[07:48] Dai**

Okay!

**[07:50] Dai**

If you can pitch from the stretch like that,  
you can prevent stolen bases.

**[07:54] Hik**

Yeah, I'm starting to get the hang of it.

**[07:57] Dai**

We've just got to work out our signs  
and how to deal with bunts.

**[08:00] Dai**

But let's take a breather.

**[08:12] Dai**

Oh, yeah, this place...

**[08:13] Hik**

Huh?

**[08:15] Dai**

We haven't been here since then.

**[08:21] (Flashback) Dai**

Nice catch!

**[08:24] (Flashback) Dai**

Hey!

**[08:26] (Flashback) Dai**

Tomorrow's practice session  
will be our battery debut!

**[08:31] Dai**

I really did think the practice game  
was going to be our battery debut.

**[08:35] Dai**

I was shocked when it wasn't.

**[08:38] Hik**

I know I told you in my letter,  
but I just couldn't say it to your face.

**[08:44] Hik**

I'm sorry. Really, I am.

**[08:48] Dai**

It's fine.

**[08:50] Dai**

Because of that moment,  
and because you weren't here,

**[08:54] Dai**

I was able to keep training hard  
so I could one day catch your pitches.

**[09:01] Hik**

It helped me, too.

**[09:03] Hik**

Because I went to Gunma and  
tried to forget about baseball,

**[09:07] Hik**

it made me realize just how much  
I wanted to play baseball.

**[09:12] Hik**

I was really happy we could  
showcase our battery today.

**[09:16] Dai**

And not just today!

**[09:20] Dai**

You and I are going to reach our goal!

**[09:24] Hik**

Yeah.

**[09:26] Hik**

That's right!

**[09:28] Dai**

Our goal is...

**[09:29] Hik**

...to become an invincible battery!

**[09:40] Ura**

They're all the damn same.

**[09:42] Ura**

Getting so worked up over one victory...

**[09:46] Ura**

Show a little interest in  
our next opponent, will ya?

**SIGN** Mifune

Dolphins

**SIGN** Nijigaoka

Beetles

**SIGN** Hiyoshi

Warriors

**[09:54] Ura**

Here we go.

**[09:56] Ura**

Huh? They're already in the final inning?

**SIGN** Hiyoshi

**SIGN** Nijigaoka

**[10:00] Ura**

Aw, man.

**[10:01] Ura**

I didn't get to see Nijigaoka's batters,  
and they're about to win.

**[10:15] Ump**

Out!

**[10:17] Ura**

What's up with that giant of a pitcher?

**[10:19] Ura**

He throws like he's playing catch.

**[10:25] Ura**

Not to mention, he looks hella old.

**[10:27] Ura**

How does a grade schooler look like that?

**[10:33] Guy**

Second!

**[10:37] Ump**

Out!

**[10:38] Ump**

That's game!

**[10:39] Nij**

Yeah!

**[10:43] Coa**

Nice pitching, Tamaki!

**[10:46] Coa**

Congrats on throwing a no-hitter!

**[10:48] Ura**

*What?!*

**[10:49] Ura**

*That guy threw a no-hitter?!*

**[10:53] Ura**

*Just who are these guys?*

**[11:00] Dai**

Nice ball!

**[11:10] Dai**

Hey, Sakura!

**[11:13] Dai**

Are you busy today?

**[11:14] Mut**

Not particularly.

**[11:17] Dai**

Then, come with me.

**[11:19] Dai**

I want to practice bunting,

but they're hard to do by yourself.

**[11:22] Dai**

Hikaru can't come over on weekdays.

**[11:26] Mut**

What's this? In the past, you'd try to shoo me away every chance you'd get.

**[11:31] Mut**

You see me as a convenient girl to run to when Hikaru-kun and his dad aren't around?

**[11:36] Dai**

Huh?

**[11:37] Mut**

Well, you *did* play the entire game and had some great moments, it's true.

**[11:42] Mut**

There's not much else a benchwarmer like me can do for you, is there?

**[11:47] Dai**

That's not what I was—

**[11:49] Mut**

C'mon, I'm joking!

I'm just messing with you!

**[11:51] Mut**

It's fine. Of course it's fine!

**[11:54] Dai**

Th-Thank you.

**[12:21] Dai**

Okay, I feel like I've got the hang of it now.

**[12:24] Mut**

Oh, really?

**[12:25] Mut**

*I'm the one dying here.*

*I've thrown nearly a hundred balls.*

**[12:30] Mom**

Good work, you two.

**[12:31] Mom**

I've brought you some cake, so why don't you two take a breather?

**[12:34] Mut**

Oh, yes! Thank you very much!

**[12:43] Dai**

Actually, you know what?

**[12:46] Mut**

Huh?

**[12:46] Dai**

You can throw pretty well, you can hit, and you're generally quite sporty.

**[12:52] Dai**

I think you should be  
given a chance in the team.

**[12:56] Dai**

Hikaru and I already got our chance.

**[12:59] Mut**

Oh, are you talking about  
what I said earlier?

**[13:02] Mut**

Oh, it's fine, it doesn't really bother me.

**[13:06] Mut**

I mean, I'd like to be given the chance to play,

**[13:08] Mut**

but cheering everyone on is fun, too.

**[13:12] Mut**

And...

**[13:14] Mut**

If I played, someone from the current  
starting lineup would have to sit out.

**[13:19] Mut**

It wouldn't sit right if some girl who'd  
joined right before the tournament...

**[13:23] Mut**

took someone's position.

**[13:27] Ura**

Oh, wow! You even have a pool.

**[13:29] Ura**

Why am I not surprised, rich boy?

**[13:31] Dai**

Huh?

**[13:34] Dai**

Urabe!

**[13:35] Ura**

I'm coming in.

**[13:37] Dai**

Uh, how do you know where I live?

**[13:41] Ura**

I asked the kids in your school,  
and they all knew.

**[13:45] Ura**

I mean, it's Shigeno Goro's house, after all.

**[13:48] Dai**

*Our private info isn't so private.*

**[13:51] Ura**

Anyway, I dropped by because  
I wanted to show you something.

**[13:54] Ura**

Look at this.

**[13:58] Ura**

I was out scouting yesterday.

**[14:02] Ura**

Scouting *what*, exactly?

**[14:04] Mut**

Is that the kind of girl  
you're into, Urabe-kun?

**[14:07] Ura**

Argh!

**[14:08] Ura**

Wrong picture!

**[14:10] Ura**

Not that one. *This* one.

**[14:14] Ura**

He's the ace for the Nijigaoka Beetles,  
our next opponents.

**[14:17] Ura**

His name is Tamaki.

**[14:18] Ura**

It didn't even occur to you clowns  
to find out who we're playing next,

**[14:22] Ura**

so I took it upon myself to check them out.

**[14:25] Ura**

Unfortunately, the game was pretty  
much over, so I didn't get much info.

**[14:32] Ura**

But what I did find out is that  
this beanstalk's Eephus pitch

**[14:35] Ura**

helped him throw a no-hitter.

**[14:39] Dai**

A no-hitter?

**[14:41] Ura**

That's right.

**[14:41] Dai**

What? And what did you say his pitch was?

**[14:44] Ura**

An Eephus pitch.

**[14:45] Mut**

What's that?

**[14:47] Ura**

It's essentially a slow ball.

**[14:50] Ura**

If they're letting the other team  
swing and still pulling off a no-no,

**[14:53] Ura**

it means their defense must be top notch.

**[14:56] Ura**

And we have to score against a team  
like that without our cleanup, Andy!

**[15:01] Ura**

Of course, we'll only need one run,  
because I'll be shutting them out!

**[15:05] Ura**

Anyway, since we don't have much time,

**[15:09] Ura**

let's get started, Shigeno.

**[15:11] Dai**

Get started with what?

**[15:13] Ura**

Are you braindead?!

**[15:15] Ura**

Battery practice, of course!

**[15:17] Ura**

You haven't even caught  
a single one of my pitches yet!

**[15:20] Ura**

We have to get used to  
each other's game and sync up!

**[15:23] Dai**

Y-Yeah, you're right. Sorry, sorry.

**[15:27] Dai**

*Huh. Urabe-kun's so hardworking.*

**[15:29] Dai**

*I like it. This is good!*

**[15:39] Dai**

*Crap.*

**[15:41] Dai**

*I'm wearing the mask, but I totally  
didn't think about our next opponent,*

**[15:44] Dai**

*or the fact that I have to  
get used to Urabe's pitches.*

**[15:47] Dai**

*I don't like Urabe,*

**[15:49] Dai**

*but his attitude towards baseball  
and his skill are leagues above mine!*

**[15:56] Dai**

Nice ball!

**[16:00] Ura**

All right. Now, let's introduce

Little Miss Bored Benchwarmer...

**[16:03] Ura**

Get in the batter's box.

**[16:05] Mut**

Who, me?

**[16:06] Ura**

Yes, *you*.

**[16:08] Ura**

Get in there, benchwarmer!

**[16:10] Ura**

If there's a batter between us,  
it'll be more like the real deal.

**[16:14] Mut**

Stop calling me benchwarmer!

**[16:16] Mut**

I have a name!

**[16:20] Mut**

I'm kinda scared. This is the first time  
I've had anyone pitching at me.

**[16:24] Mut**

Do you have a helmet?

**[16:26] Dai**

If you're worried, I can go get one.

**[16:27] Ura**

You won't need one.

Are you suggesting my control sucks?

**[16:31] Mut**

Jeez! You'd better not hit me!

**[16:33] Ura**

If you're not happy with just being  
a scarecrow, you can swing, too.

**[16:36] Ura**

Foul tips and the ol' swing and a miss  
make for good catching practice.

**[16:39] Mut**

Huh? I'm allowed to hit it?

**[16:42] Ura**

*What's that fool getting so excited about?*

**[16:44] Ura**

*I told her she could swing.*

**[16:47] Ura**

*As if a female rookie could hit  
one of my pitches in a million years!*

**[16:59] Dai**

Watch it! We'll get in trouble  
with the neighbors!

**[17:03] Mut**

I'm sorry.

**[17:05] Mut**

I can only really hit it straight.

**[17:09] Ura**

*What the hell?! Where did that self-assured swing come from?!*

**[17:13] Ura**

*She's way too good to be warming the bench!*

**SIGN** Mifune Batting Center

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

Hey!

**[17:22] Ura**

Hi, Manager. Sorry for calling you out here after you just got off work.

**[17:26] Tas**

You guys sure are dedicated, practicing your batting on weekdays.

**[17:30] Tas**

All right, show me.

**[17:32] Dai**

Oh, *we're* not the ones batting...

**[17:35] Ura**

You hear that, don't you?

**[17:39] Tas**

What's that noise?

**[17:42] Tas**

Who's that batting?

**[17:48] Tas**

Sakura?!

**[17:54] Tas**

Talk about a surprise.

**[17:56] Tas**

I had no idea you were such a good batter, Sakura.

**[17:59] Mut**

Oh, not really. I can't hit the ball very far.

**[18:04] Mut**

I can definitely make good contact, though.

**[18:05] Ura**

It's not just her batting, Manager.

**[18:08] Ura**

Oh?

**[18:09] Ura**

We hit some fungoes down by the river.

**[18:11] Ura**

Her arm's good and her legs are solid, so she'd have no problem playing defense.

**[18:15] Tas**

I understand.

**[18:16] Tas**

So what are you saying we should do?

**[18:19] Ura**

Put Sakura into the starting lineup as an outfielder.

**[18:22] Ura**

I think she should be near the top of the batting order as well.

**[18:26] Dai**

H-Hang on a second...

**[18:29] Dai**

What are you planning on doing with Hikaru in the next game?

**[18:32] Tas**

I was thinking about putting him in center field.

**[18:35] Tas**

Of course, I need to see how he does in the outfield at Saturday's practice first.

**[18:39] Ura**

Then, stick Sakura in right field or left field!

**[18:42] Ura**

You should definitely swap an outfielder out and put Sakura in instead!

**[18:47] Ura**

Our opponent, Nijigaoka, is a defensive team.

**[18:50] Ura**

With Andy out, we need a lineup that can score us runs.

**[18:57] Tas**

All right.

**[18:58] Tas**

I'll make my decision about the starting lineup after Saturday's practice.

**[19:02] Tas**

You guys should focus on your own preparations now.

**[19:06] Tas**

And head on home. It's getting dark.

**[19:15] Mut**

Hey! What did you do that for?!

**[19:17] Mut**

I never said I wanted to be in the starting lineup!

**[19:21] Mut**

Everybody else has been on  
the team since fourth grade!

**[19:24] Mut**

Swapping one of them out for me  
when I've only just joined?

**[19:28] Mut**

No way! I don't want to be the bad guy!

**[19:30] Ura**

What? Then, why did you  
even join the Dolphins?

**[19:34] Ura**

Isn't it obvious that you have to play  
your good players if you want to win?

**[19:39] Ura**

I'll come right out and say it.

**[19:41] Ura**

I *need* to win two more games  
so we can play the Touto Boys!

**[19:45] Ura**

Me and Andy together!

**[19:47] Dai**

Touto? You mean, the perma-champs?!

**[19:51] Ura**

And I can't do it without you guys helping me.

**[19:57] Ura**

For Andy's sake as well as my own,  
I simply *cannot* lose before we meet them.

**[20:01] Ura**

So focus!

**[20:05] Dai**

*I didn't know he had such high aspirations.*

**[20:24] Mut**

*Why... did I join the Dolphins?*

**[20:41] Tas**

Yes, nice.

**[20:42] Fuj**

Your pitches from the set position  
are good now as well!

**[20:45] Hik**

Thank you.

**[20:47] Tas**

With pitches like those, you can be our  
starting pitcher in the third round.

**[20:51] Fuj**

He could also come in as a relief pitcher  
in round two if Urabe's in bad shape.

**[20:55] Ura**

Pfft.

**[20:57] Tas**

All right, we're doing  
outfield defense drills next.

**[21:00] Tas**

Satou, Sakura, Nagai, Kishimoto!

**[21:02] All**

Yes, sir!

**[21:06] Tas**

Nagai, here it comes!

**[21:08] Nag**

Yes!

**[21:13] Nag**

Easy, easy!

**[21:15] Tas**

Kishimoto!

**[21:16] Kis**

Yes!

**[21:19] Kis**

All right!

**[21:21] Tas**

No surprises from Kishimoto and Nagai.

**[21:24] Dai**

Yes.

**[21:25] Tas**

All right, next. Satou!

**[21:27] Hik**

Thank you!

**[21:30] Tas**

Oh, sorry! I hit it too far!

**[21:37] Dai**

Nice catch!

**[21:40] Tas**

Good. All right, last one, Sakura!

**[21:42] Mut**

Yes!

**[21:55] Mut**

This is hard.

**[22:04] Mut**

*I'm okay with this.*

*This way, I won't be picked.*

**[22:07] Mut**

*I only joined the team because*

*I wanted to cheer for Shigeno-kun.*

**[22:16] Mut**

*So I can't take a position away from someone*

*who's here because they love baseball.*

**[22:26] Ura**

*That idiot!*

**[24:00] Dai**

Our opponent in the second round  
is the Nijigaoka Beetles.

**[24:03] Dai**

They're a defense-oriented team, built  
around their ace who pitches slow balls.

**[24:07] Dai**

On top of that, their manager used to coach  
the Dolphins and was a catcher as well!

**[24:13] Dai**

I'm starting to get a bad feeling about this.

**[24:15] Dai**

All right. I'm going to show them  
the pride of a new catcher!

***SIGN*** The Experience Level of the Catcher

**[24:19] Dai**

Next time: "The Experience  
Level of the Catcher."

**[24:22] Dai**

Run to the stage of your dreams!

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