

# E17 - Searching for the Answer

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**[00:07] Student**

E-Excuse me.

**SIGN** Club Application

**[00:11] Student**

We saw your article  
in the paper and your website!

**[00:13] Student**

You guys are the best! Please let us join you!

**[00:16] Nico**

Oh, uh... You want to join the team?

**[00:19] Nico**

Wait. Why are you asking me?

**[00:21] Student**

Aren't you the coach?

**[00:24] Nico**

What?

**SIGN** Run with the Wind

**[02:00] Yuki**

You can clear away all the ash you want,

**[02:02] Yuki**

but the road to anti-aging is long. Right?

**[02:06] Nico**

Shut up.

**[02:08] Musa**

I appreciate their enthusiasm, though.

**[02:11] Haiji**

I put up a note.

**SIGN** To individuals wishing to join the Kansei University Long Distance Track and Field Team The Kansei University Long Distance Track and Field Team is not currently recruiting new members. Please accept our apologies. We appreciate your understanding.

**[02:12] Haiji**

We'll continue rejecting applicants.

**[02:15] Haiji**

Aotake is full right now,

**[02:17] Haiji**

and I don't want to be influenced  
by any passing fads.

**[02:20] Haiji**

I don't have time to look after new members,

**[02:23] Haiji**

and I want to focus on the ten of us.

**[02:25] Haiji**

If anyone approaches you at school,  
politely turn them down.

**[02:28] All**

Okay.

**[02:31] Shindo**

We're drowning in interview requests, too.

**[02:34] Haiji**

Choose carefully from the offers  
and reject as many as you can.

**[02:36] King**

What? But we could be famous.

**[02:39] Nico**

Shouldn't you be looking for a job?

**[02:42] Musa**

I can only assume he's  
trying not to think about it.

**[02:45] Shindo**

What about Nippon TV?

**[02:46] Haiji**

We'll continue doing whatever  
we started before the qualifier.

**[02:49] Shindo**

Got it. Oh, right.

**[02:51] Shindo**

Can we discuss water station  
staff and volunteers later?

**[02:55] Haiji**

Of course.

**[02:56] Haiji**

I'm also thinking about checking  
out the course next weekend.

**[03:01] Haiji**

We can't run it, but it's  
worth just looking at it.

**[03:05] Haiji**

Keep your schedules open.

**[03:06] King**

Let's go to the hot springs on the way back.

**[03:08] Yuki**

What?

**[03:08] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Question.

**[03:10] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

We can't. We have plans that day.

**[03:13] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

We're playing soccer with  
some friends from language class.

**[03:16] Haiji**

Cancel your plans.

**[03:18] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

What? But they won't have enough players.

**[03:20] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

We'd be inconveniencing them.

**[03:21] Haiji**

There's still time. Find some substitutes.

**[03:24] Haiji**

Not even professionals  
can afford to run unprepared.

**[03:28] Haiji**

Besides, soccer? What if you got injured?

**[03:31] Haiji**

Hakone comes first. Don't forget that.

**[03:34] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Hey, listen.

**[03:35] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Is there any point in obsessing over it?

**[03:42] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

You've been tricking us, haven't you?

**[03:46] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

When you recruited us,  
you said we'd aim for the top!

**[03:51] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

That's impossible!

**[03:52] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Just look at our time! It's clear as day!

**SIGN** Shinsei University 10:15:21 Kanagawa International University 10:16:03 Kansei University  
10:16:43 Oka University 10:17:44 Yakuo University 10:19:52

**[03:54] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

No matter how hard we try, we're not  
strong enough to beat the seeded teams!

**[03:58] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

It's impossible for us to win!

**[04:01] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

You knew that and wheedled us  
anyway, didn't you?

**[04:06] Haiji**

You're right that I said we'd aim for the top.

**[04:10] Haiji**

But—

**[04:10] Both**

See? See?

**[04:13] Musa**

Wait. Calm down.

**[04:15] Musa**

Is it really impossible for us to win  
no matter how hard we try?

**[04:19] Yuki**

It's impossible.

**[04:21] Yuki**

The twins are right. Our time proves it.

**[04:24] Nico**

Especially in long distance,  
it's rare to see an upset.

**[04:29] Yuki**

Even Rikudo's second team  
is way better than us.

**[04:33] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

You guys knew.

**[04:36] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

That's not fair!

**[04:40] Prince**

But, depending on how  
you look at it, we're lucky.

**[04:44] Prince**

No matter how fast you are, only a  
handful of runners get to run at Hakone.

**[04:50] Prince**

But we made it through the qualifier.

**[04:54] Prince**

We get to run at Hakone, just like we wanted.

**[04:57] Prince**

There are plenty of people  
who'd be jealous of that alone.

**[05:01] King**

You're not wrong, but...

**[05:04] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

There's no point if we can't win!

**[05:06] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Yeah! There's no point in competing  
when you already know the outcome!

**[05:12] Kakeru**

Then you shouldn't be playing soccer.

**[05:14] Kakeru**

If you want to win, you should be training.

**[05:17] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

You think you're so great.

**[05:19] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

We're saying we can't find  
the motivation to do that!

**[05:21] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Yeah! How can you say that after  
you couldn't respond the other day?

**[05:26] Nico**

Enough, guys.

**[05:29] Kakeru**

If you guys can't run because you can't win,

**[05:33] Kakeru**

will you quit living  
because you'll die someday?

**[05:37] Kakeru**

Is that how it is? It is, isn't it?

**[05:39] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

What are you trying to say?

**[05:41] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Here he goes again.

**[05:43] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Kakeru's making ridiculous arguments again.

**[05:46] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

I'll never die. Never.

**[05:49] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Quibble, quibble. Here comes the quibbler.

**[05:52] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

To be or not to be? That's the question.

**[05:55] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

But I'll never die.

**[05:56] Kakeru**

Listen to me! What are you doing?

**[05:59] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Kakeru the quibbler will never die.

**[06:00] Yuki**

What are we doing right now?

**[06:07] Haiji**

I thought you had a question for me.

**[06:12] Haiji**

You're right that I mentioned the top,  
but I didn't mean we'd win.

**[06:18] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

What did you mean, then?

**[06:21] Haiji**

I'm searching for that answer, too.

**[06:24] Haiji**

I'm searching for the destination.

**[06:27] Haiji**

What it means to run.

**[06:31] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

This is stupid.

**[06:33] Musa**

Hey, wait.

**[06:35] Yuki**

Kakeru, it's your turn to do the dishes.

**[06:37] Kakeru**

Why?

**[06:38] Nico**

Just because. Learn to keep your cool.

**SIGN** Searching for the Answer

**[06:57] Shindo**

Haiji.

**SIGN** Chikusei-so

**[06:59] Shindo**

The twins aren't here.

**[07:01] King**

They actually blew us off.

**[07:03] Kakeru**

I'm sorry.

**[07:05] Kakeru**

It's because I couldn't answer them.

**[07:08] Kakeru**

On the way home from the qualifier,  
they asked me why we're running.

**[07:13] Yuki**

Yeah, but it's like not being able to tell  
someone what the meaning of life is.

**[07:19] Nico**

Nice quibble.

**[07:23] Kakeru**

We made it through the qualifier.  
We're running at Hakone together.

**[07:27] Kakeru**

Maybe we've already achieved  
the first goal we set for ourselves.

**[07:31] Kakeru**

But that wasn't the real top.

**[07:35] Kakeru**

I knew that, too.

**[07:37] Kakeru**

After all, I wanted to aim even  
higher with you guys.

**[07:41] Kakeru**

But I hesitated to answer them.

**[07:44] Musa**

Kakeru...

**[08:01] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

We haven't played soccer in forever.

**[08:04] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Yeah.

**[08:05] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

We've just been running this whole time.

**[08:08] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Yeah.

**[08:12] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Do you regret it?

**[08:14] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Choosing this.

**[08:17] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Nah.

**[08:18] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

We made these plans first.

**[08:21] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

You're right. We're running at Hakone.

**[08:24] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Now we just have to practice  
enough that they won't complain.

**[08:28] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Complain?

**[08:29] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Huh?

**[08:30] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

So who won't complain? Haiji?

**[08:35] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

The guys who didn't qualify?

**[08:38] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Oh...

**[08:41] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

I hope everyone shows up soon.

**[08:43] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

We got in the habit of waking up early.

**[08:46] Kakeru**

Joji! Jota!

**[08:50] Kakeru**

Let's go!

**[08:52] Both**

Who is that?

**[08:54] Kakeru**

Hakone!

**[08:57] Kakeru**

Everyone's waiting!

**[09:00] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

What's he doing?

**[09:01] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Who crashes a soccer game?

**[09:04] Kakeru**

Let's go to Hakone!

**[09:07] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Crap! Let's run!

**[09:09] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

But he's one of the best in the country!

**[09:10] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

He's running at us while smiling!

**[09:13] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Stay away!

**[09:13] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

It's no use! He's catching up!

**[09:14] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Jota! Don't give up!

**[09:33] Nico**

Nicely done.

**[09:34] Yuki**

There's no way you were outrunning him.

**[09:38] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

I can't run anymore...

**[09:41] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

I don't consent to this...

**SIGN** Section 1 Starting Line Yomiuri Shimbun Tokyo Office

**[09:50] Haiji**

This is the starting line.

**[09:52] Haiji**

The day of the race, the crowds  
on the sidewalk will be a hundred deep.

**[09:55] Haiji**

They'll build a huge stage out front,  
and cameras will be pointed at the runners.

**[09:58] Haiji**

It's a truly grand occasion.

**[10:00] Nico**

Will we have time to think about that?

**[10:03] Prince**

It's not for the sensitive.

**[10:05] Musa**

The wind between the buildings is fierce.

**[10:07] Shindo**

Our bodies will get cold quickly.

**[10:09] Haiji**

Twenty-one runners will  
begin running amidst the crowd,

**[10:12] Haiji**

thinking only of delivering their sash  
to their teammate waiting far ahead.

**[10:25] Haiji**

Let's keep moving.

**SIGN** Section 2 (Section 10) Tsurumi Relay Station

**[10:31] King**

Don't they stop all the traffic here  
and turn this into part of the course?

**[10:35] King**

That's amazing.

**[10:36] Yuki**

It's way too much pageantry  
for a bunch of college students.

**[10:39] Haiji**

It means it's worth just that much.

**[10:41] Haiji**

Our running should be worthy of that.

**[10:44] Shindo**

Got it.

**[10:47] Prince**

Have you gotten better at driving?

**[10:51] Yuki**

You're right.

**[10:52] King**

I couldn't believe it, but you have, haven't you?

**[10:56] Haiji**

It's not fair for me to only  
expect you guys to grow.

**[10:59] Nico**

Hey, cut that out.

**[11:00] Nico**

If you don't keep sucking at driving,  
we won't be able to make excuses anymore.

**[11:06] Haiji**

By the way, last year in this section 2,

**[11:08] Haiji**

Kofu's Iwanki and Rikudo's  
Fujioka put on a legendary sprint.

**[11:15] King**

The Glorious Section 2, huh?

**[11:16] Musa**

They call it the ace's section.

**[11:18] Haiji**

Kakeru.

**[11:21] Haiji**

Do you want to run it?

**[11:26] Kakeru**

No matter the section,

**[11:28] Kakeru**

as long as there's a road,  
I'll run as hard as I can.

**[11:33] Yuki**

Did you hear that?

**[11:35] Yuki**

He said as long as there's a road.

**[11:39] Kakeru**

Was what I said really that weird? Huh?

**[11:43] Yuki**

Oh, no. Your words were encouraging.

**SIGN** Section 3 (Section 9) Totsuka Relay Station

**SIGN** Shonan Bridge

**[11:54] King**

Yeesh.

**[11:56] King**

The sea breeze is strong.

**[12:00] Musa**

It feels nice.

**[12:02] Shindo**

Yeah.

**SIGN** Section 4 (Section 8) Hiratsuka Relay Station

**SIGN** Section 5 (Section 7) Odawara Relay Station

**[12:09] King**

Hey!

**[12:10] King**

We're finally here.

**[12:23] Nico**

It's steeper than I imagined.

**[12:26] Yuki**

Going up this will be hell,

**[12:28] Yuki**

but this means the downhill  
is no joke, either, right?

**[12:31] Haiji**

That's right.

**[12:32] Haiji**

Naturally, the strength of your  
legs are important in this section,

**[12:34] Haiji**

but your courage and  
intelligence matter, as well.

**SIGN** National Route 1 Summit Level

**[12:38] King**

Huh?

**[12:40] King**

This is the highest point?

**[12:42] King**

So the finish line isn't at the top.

**[12:47] Haiji**

We're almost at the finish  
line of the first half.

**[12:50] Haiji**

Let's enjoy the scenery while we can.

**SIGN** First Half Finish Line (Section 6 Starting Line) Lake Ashi

**[13:02] Musa**

Beautiful...

**[13:07] Yuki**

This is awesome.

**[13:09] Nico**

The air at Aotake doesn't compare to this.

**[13:12] Yuki**

That was mostly your fault.

**[13:16] Shindo**

I wonder what it'll be like  
the day of the race.

**[13:19] King**

There will be screaming crowds, right?

**[13:22] Prince**

Guys.

**[13:27] Prince**

In the parking lot...

**[13:30] Kosuke**

You're so eager. You're  
even previewing the course.

**[13:34] Kosuke**

I'm sorry I called you plebs once.

**[13:38] Haiji**

Should you be loafing around here?

**[13:41] Kosuke**

I'm waiting for Group B to arrive.

**[13:44] Kosuke**

I'm in Group A.

**[13:45] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

He's a regular?

**[13:47] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Yeah.

**[13:48] Kosuke**

Oh, yeah. That qualifier.

**[13:50] Kosuke**

It's amazing that you were  
neck and neck with Iwanki.

**[13:53] Kosuke**

I bet you could run the real thing right now.

**[13:56] Kakeru**

That's not true.

**[13:58] Kosuke**

So modest.

**[14:00] Yuki**

What are you guys doing?

**[14:03] Kosuke**

You're all here.

**[14:05] Kosuke**

We were just talking...

**[14:08] Kosuke**

...about what I'd do if I were a Kansei runner.

**[14:13] Kosuke**

I mean, no matter how much you  
practice, you only have ten runners.

**[14:17] Kosuke**

If even one of you caught a cold...

**[14:23] Kosuke**

And even if you run like crazy  
and finish in the top ten,

**[14:29] Kosuke**

your oldest runners will graduate.

**[14:33] Kosuke**

There's no point in earning a seed for  
next year if you don't have enough runners.

**[14:39] Kosuke**

Don't you wonder what you're running for?

**[14:45] Kosuke**

It must be hard to stay motivated.

**[14:48] Student**

Hey, Sakaki!

**[14:51] Student**

Group B is here!

**[14:52] Kosuke**

Got it!

**[14:55] Kosuke**

See you somewhere on the course.

**[14:59] Yuki**

You sure you guys aren't  
connected by a red string of fate?

**[15:02] Haiji**

In some ways, he's diligent.

**[15:05] Haiji**

Don't mind him.

**[15:06] Haiji**

Consider it progress that no one responded.

**[15:12] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

I can't!

**[15:15] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

I am bothered!

**[15:16] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Why didn't you talk back to him?

**[15:18] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Tell us why you run!

**[15:22] Haiji**

I told you, I'm searching  
for that answer right now.

**[15:32] Haiji**

Let's go somewhere else.

**[15:39] Haiji**

Sakaki was probably trying to say

**[15:42] Haiji**

that improving yourself by competing  
against strong runners from strong schools

**[15:46] Haiji**

is how an athlete should be  
and is a reason to run.

**[15:51] Haiji**

But is he right?

**[15:53] Haiji**

Can you say what we're doing is wrong?

**[15:58] Haiji**

It's true that we need every one of us.  
There's no arguing that.

**[16:03] Haiji**

I don't know what will happen  
next year or the year after that.

**[16:06] Haiji**

I'm sure those who empathize  
with us will follow.

**[16:09] Haiji**

All I can do is believe in that  
and run as hard as I can right now.

**[16:15] Haiji**

So there's no need to respond to him.

**[16:18] Haiji**

All we can do is acknowledge his points  
and move forward despite them.

**[16:24] Haiji**

Does that answer your question?

**[16:30] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

I don't know.

**[16:31] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

But...

**[16:33] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

We like what you have to say.

**[16:39] Nico**

Like, huh?

**[16:41] Prince**

That feels like enough to me.

**[16:43] Yuki**

Don't be swayed by your emotions.

**[16:45] Yuki**

Debate until you're satisfied.

**[16:46] King**

The twins aren't theorists like you.

**[17:10] Hanako**

You had a fight?

**[17:12] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

I wouldn't call it a fight.

**[17:14] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

I understand what he's trying to say, but...

**[17:16] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

I want to accept what he's saying,  
but it feels like he tricked us.

**[17:21] Hanako**

I know what you mean. Haiji is so calm.

**[17:24] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Yeah. We missed our opportunity  
to return to normal.

**[17:29] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

It's not like we were wrong, right?

**[17:34] Hanako**

I think you should believe him.

**[17:41] Hanako**

He's been patiently thinking for four years.

**[17:44] Hanako**

I can believe him because he's come this far.

**[17:49] Hanako**

Compared to all the time  
Haiji has spent on it,

**[17:51] Hanako**

our next two months will fly by in a moment.

**[17:57] Hanako**

And that moment could change your life,

**[18:00] Hanako**

even if you don't understand

anything right now.

**[18:03] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

You're right.

**[18:04] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

The last six months flew by, too.

**[18:07] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

A lot has happened.

**[18:08] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

The qualifier, the training camp,  
all the track meets.

**[18:11] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

And we met Hana.

**[18:14] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

She's been a huge help,  
like when Haiji collapsed.

**[18:18] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Oh, yeah. I remember that.

**[18:20] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

And she always comes to our practices.

**[18:22] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Yeah. She's a huge help.

**[18:23] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Without Hana, we wouldn't have made it this far.

**[18:25] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

And she's cute.

**[18:31] Shindo**

Hey.

**[18:32] Shindo**

Where did Haiji go?

**[18:35] Prince**

Huh?

**[18:36] Prince**

You're asking me?

**[18:39] Shindo**

I wanted to discuss the roadside  
placement of our members.

**[18:42] Shindo**

Oh, and the university's  
asking us to turn in our forms.

**[18:46] Shindo**

Whatever. Sorry to have bothered you.

**[18:50] Prince**

That was close.

**[18:52] Prince**

I almost asked if he wanted my help.

**[19:00] Musa**

It's shocking to know we can't win.

**[19:06] Musa**

But I was saved by Haiji's words.

**[19:10] Musa**

All we can do right now  
is run as hard as we can.

**[19:12] Musa**

He's right.

**SIGN** Congratulations Kansei University Long Distance Track and Field Team

**[19:14] Musa**

My anxieties have been  
eliminated completely.

**[19:18] Musa**

Is there still something bothering you?

**[19:21] Kakeru**

No. I agree.

**[19:23] Kakeru**

But it's frustrating.

**[19:27] Kakeru**

Sakaki made Jota and Joji anxious,

**[19:32] Kakeru**

but the only thing I can do is run.

**[19:34] Musa**

You're hard on yourself.

**[19:39] Musa**

Previewing the course made me realize

**[19:43] Musa**

that not you or Haiji, but / have  
to finish some section of it.

**[19:50] Musa**

I have to do what I can do.

**[19:53] Musa**

There are things only you can do.

**[19:57] Musa**

Believe in us and in yourself.

**[20:03] Kakeru**

I will.

**SIGN** Congratulations Kansei University Long Distance Track and Field Team

**[20:05] Student**

Hey, it's Kansei's Ekiden guys.

**[20:08] Student**

Oh, yeah. They were on the news.

**[20:11] Student**

They've got an exchange student?

**[20:14] Student**

I know. I wish they'd run an all-Japanese team.

**[20:17] Student**

The school's probably paying

for it to promote themselves.

**[20:22] Musa**

What are you going to tell them?

**[20:24] Musa**

I'm fine.

**[20:26] Kakeru**

But... it's ridiculous!

**[20:28] Kakeru**

We're all runners!

**[20:31] Kazuma**

Kurahara.

**[20:37] Kazuma**

It's been a while.

**[20:41] Kakeru**

Fujioka?

**SIGN** University Hospital

**[20:50] Nurse**

Kiyose. Kiyose Haiji.

**[20:57] Haiji**

Yes.

**SIGN** Next time: And Then, Morning

**SIGN** Next time: "And Then, Morning."

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