

# E19 - The Moment of Release

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**SIGN** Hakone

**SIGN** Tokyo-Hakone Round-Trip College Ekiden Race

**[00:05] Announcer**

The time is 7:59.

**[00:07] Announcer**

The Tokyo-Hakone Round-Trip  
College Ekiden Race will begin shortly.

**SIGN** Hakone Ekiden

**SIGN** Tokyo-Hakone Round-Trip College Ekiden Race

**[00:14] Announcer**

Which university will write  
a new page in history?

**SIGN** Kansei University

**[00:19] Announcer**

Twenty-one runners wearing sashes  
will wrap themselves in a gust of wind

**[00:24] Announcer**

as they run down Hakoneji Road.

**[00:26] Announcer**

Will that wind be a headwind or a tailwind?

**SIGN** Tokyo-Hakone Round-Trip College Ekiden Race

**[00:30] Announcer**

Who will be the first to return to Otemachi?

**[00:34] Announcer**

They are starting now towards honor and glory!

**SIGN** Run with the Wind

**SIGN** Section 1

**[02:13] Announcer**

The Tokyo-Hakone Round-Trip  
College Ekiden Race

**[02:15] Announcer**

allows no room for carelessness  
once again this year.

**[02:18] Announcer**

The runners have maintained

a slow pace since the start of the race.

**[02:21] Announcer**

They're averaging 3:07 per kilometer over the first three kilometers.

**SIGN** Broadcast Car

**SIGN** Broadcast Car

**[02:26] Announcer**

For the past few years, we'd been seeing high-paced starts under three minutes.

**[02:30] Announcer**

What do you think of this?

**SIGN** New Year Sports Special Hakone Ekiden

**[02:32] Analyst**

Everyone's looking for their opportunity.

**[02:35] Analyst**

They rival each other in ability.

**SIGN** Section 1

**[02:37] Analyst**

More than speed, they must be emphasizing strategy.

**[02:46] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Come on.

**[02:47] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Run where we can see you, Prince.

**[02:50] Nico**

Wait! He might be doing it on purpose.

**[02:54] Prince**

A windbreak?

**[02:56] Haiji**

That's right.

**[02:57] (Flashback) Haiji**

Each section of the Hakone Ekiden is long.

**[02:59] (Flashback) Haiji**

The situation changes moment to moment.

**[03:02] (Flashback) Haiji**

To ensure you don't fall behind during the second half,

**[03:05] (Flashback) Haiji**

conserve your stamina during the first.

**[03:07] (Flashback) Haiji**

Use everything you can.

**[03:10] (Flashback) Prince**

Conserve my stamina, huh?

**[03:12] (Flashback) Prince**

I hope I'm allowed to do that.

**[03:15] (Flashback) Haiji**

You will. I'm sure you will.

**[03:22] Prince**

*What is he? A prophet?*

**[03:25] Haiji**

*How is he doing?*

**[03:26] Tazaki**

*He's doing well.*

**[03:27] Tazaki**

*He's coming up on ten kilometers.*

**[03:29] Tazaki**

*It's a truly dry affair.*

**[03:32] Tazaki**

*This is no different than going for a drive.*

**[03:34] Haiji**

*Got it.*

**[03:35] Haiji**

*If you see any change in Prince,*

**SIGN** Yamanote

**[03:38] Haiji**

*could you offer him words of encouragement?*

**[03:40] Haiji**

*Tell him...*

**SIGN** The Moment of Release

**[03:56] Student**

*Kashiwazaki!*

**[03:57] Student**

*This kilometer's exactly three minutes!*

**[03:59] Student**

*Keep your pace!*

**SIGN** Rokugo Bridge

**[04:08] Announcer**

*The runners have made it 17 kilometers now.*

**[04:12] Announcer**

*The incline of Rokugo*

*Bridge lies in their path.*

**[04:14] Analyst**

*If they exhaust themselves here,*

*they'll pay for it later.*

**[04:19] Analyst**

*They'll have to stand firm.*

**[04:27] Announcer**

*They're moving! The runners are on the move!*

**[04:29] Announcer**

*The quiet journey so far is being*

*disrupted by major change!*

**[04:31] Announcer**

*Yokohama, Eurasia, Teito, and other*

*universities are increasing their paces!*

**[04:43] Prince**

*But I don't like inclines.*

**[04:55] (Flashback) Haiji**

Even if the runners around  
you begin to move, don't panic.

**[04:59] (Flashback) Haiji**

Just keeping up with them until Rokugo  
Bridge earns full marks from me.

**[05:03] (Flashback) Haiji**

You'll be able to pass the sash to Musa  
without much of a difference in time.

**[05:08] (Flashback) Prince**

I see. The real race is Section 2 and onward.

**[05:11] (Flashback) Haiji**

Are you unhappy with that?

**[05:13] (Flashback) Prince**

Not at all. I'm only an amateur.

**[05:16] (Flashback) Prince**

I'll finish the race quickly, so I  
can get back to my comics sooner.

**[05:21] (Flashback) Prince**

That's all.

**[05:27] (Flashback) Prince**

Things might have gotten a little easier.

**[05:29] (Flashback) Haiji**

Prince.

**[05:33] (Flashback) Haiji**

Sorry for forcing you to do this.

**[05:46] Prince**

*If I give up, the race is over.*

**[05:50] Prince**

*All those who succeed have worked hard.*

**[05:55] Prince**

*I am strong!*

**SIGN** Tsurumi Relay Station

**[06:07] Announcer**

The air at Tsurumi Relay  
Station is heating up

**[06:10] Announcer**

as the sashes will be arriving soon.

**[06:13] Announcer**

This year's Section 2 will be a fierce race

**[06:16] Announcer**

featuring athletes running  
10,000 meters in 28 minutes.

**[06:19] Announcer**

And we can't discuss Section 2

without mentioning this man:

**[06:23] Announcer**

Iwanki of Kofu Academy.

**[06:26] Announcer**

*We're all very excited to see how  
he'll run in his fourth Hakone Ekiden.*

**[06:31] Announcer**

*We'll also be watching Kansei  
University's exchange student, Musa.*

**[06:37] Announcer**

Musa is a truly unique runner.

**[06:40] Announcer**

He's a government-sponsored  
engineering student,

**[06:42] Announcer**

who had no running  
experience until last spring.

**[06:47] Announcer**

Thank you.

**[06:49] Announcer**

Kansei University is taking on the  
Hakone Ekiden with only ten runners,

**[06:51] Announcer**

and each runner is exceptionally unique.

**[07:01] Iwanki**

I enjoyed the qualifier.

**[07:03] Iwanki**

I'm disappointed we won't get to race again.

**[07:07] Kakeru**

Don't worry.

**[07:08] Kakeru**

He won't let you take it easy.

**[07:10] Kakeru**

Not our ace.

**[07:27] Shindo**

Hey, Musa.

**[07:28] Shindo**

I just saw you on TV.

**[07:30] Musa**

*I was surprised.*

**[07:32] Musa**

*Did I look weird?*

**[07:34] Shindo**

Not at all.

**[07:36] Shindo**

Musa, once this is over, let's go see the snow.

**[07:40] Musa**

Snow?

**[07:42] Shindo**

*Yeah. It really snows in my hometown.*

**[07:45] Shindo**

*The world becomes white  
as far as the eye can see.*

**[07:48] Shindo**

*You've never seen that, have you?*

**[07:50] Musa**

I haven't.

**[07:52] Musa**

*I'll imagine us having  
a snowball fight while I run.*

**[07:57] Shindo**

Sounds nice.

**[07:58] Shindo**

*Talk to you later.*

**[07:59] Musa**

Later.

**[08:06] Yuki**

You can't afford to be worrying  
about the others.

**SIGN** Section 1 20km Point

**[08:34] Tazaki**

Prince!

**[08:35] Tazaki**

Message for you from Haiji!

**[08:37] Tazaki**

"There's something I never got to tell you!"

**[08:41] Tazaki**

"Come to Tsurumi even if  
you have to crawl!" That's all!

**[08:49] (Flashback) Prince**

That's not what I want to hear.

**[08:53] (Flashback) Prince**

Joe and Hanamichi, Ippo and Sakamichi.

**[08:57] (Flashback) Prince**

Sango Jugo, Hinata, and Yawara.

**[09:00] (Flashback) Prince**

Sena, Goro, Tsubasa, Ryoma.

**[09:04] (Flashback) Prince**

It's no use. There's no end to them.

**[09:09] (Flashback) Prince**

I like protagonists, but I also  
like the people who lead them.

**[09:14] (Flashback) Prince**

They're all tough, but of course they are.

**[09:18] (Flashback) Prince**

They don't want to be shown kindness.

**[09:22] (Flashback) Prince**

An athlete wants to win.

**[09:36] Announcer**

Total Uni is the 16th to pass their sash.

**[09:38] Announcer**

They're 40 seconds behind first place.

**[09:40] Official**

Kansei University!

**[09:41] Announcer**

Behind them are Nihonbashi  
Tech and Jonan Bunka.

**[09:42] Official**

Kansei University to the relay line!

**[09:54] Prince**

*I hate this.*

**[09:56] Prince**

*I really hate running.*

**[10:01] Prince**

*I got dragged into this*

**[10:04] Prince**

*and suffered for it.*

**[10:08] Prince**

*But if I hadn't run with them...*

**[10:13] Prince**

*If I hadn't made it here...*

**[10:17] Prince**

*I...*

**[10:21] Prince**

*I would've hated myself more!*

**[10:27] Haiji**

Prince!

**[10:32] Musa**

Prince! I'm here!

**[10:36] All**

Prince!

**[10:43] Prince**

*There's someone waiting for me there.*

**[10:47] Prince**

*Just thinking about it makes me so... so...*

**[10:53] Prince**

*I...*

**[10:59] Haiji**

Prince!

**[11:01] Haiji**

I take back what I said.

**[11:04] Haiji**

Prince.

**[11:06] Haiji**

Thank you.

**[11:08] Officials**

Non-participants, stay off the course!

**[11:13] Prince**

I pass.

**[11:17] Both**

Yes!

**[11:19] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Nice!

**[11:22] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Yeah!

**SIGN** Section 2

**[11:34] Musa**

*The pace sudden quickened  
as soon as we entered Section 2.*

**[11:39] Musa**

*I have to keep up.*

**[11:42] Musa**

*Prince got the sash this far.*

**[11:45] Musa**

*I promise I'll take it to Totsuka.*

**[11:57] Musa**

*Wow...*

**[12:02] Tazaki**

I told him! I know I did!

**[12:05] Tazaki**

I told him to restrain himself  
around the five-kilometer mark!

**SIGN** Yokohama Station

**[12:09] Tazaki**

Maybe Musa didn't hear me.

**[12:12] Haiji**

Tell him again at ten kilometers.

**[12:14] Haiji**

He's going too fast.

**[12:16] Tazaki**

Got it.

**[12:18] Kakeru**

He's averaging 2:48 per kilometer.

**[12:21] Kakeru**

He won't last until the end.

**[12:23] Haiji**

He got carried away.

**SIGN** Gontazaka

**[12:42] Musa**

*Why can't I catch up?*

**[12:45] Musa**

*My legs won't move.*

**[12:47] Musa**

*They won't move.*

**[12:48] Student**

Musa! Musa! Musa!

**[12:53] Student**

You're 18th right now.

**[12:55] Student**

There's a cluster of seven up ahead.

**[13:01] (Flashback) Haiji**

People build it up by calling it the  
Glorious Section 2, the section of aces,

**[13:04] (Flashback) Haiji**

but don't listen to them.

**[13:06] (Flashback) Haiji**

Plenty of schools think  
other sections decide the race.

**[13:11] (Flashback) Haiji**

Let's think of Section 2's 23 kilometers

**[13:12] (Flashback) Haiji**

as one part of a longer race  
the ten of us build together.

**[13:16] (Flashback) Musa**

Okay.

**[13:18] (Flashback) Haiji**

Bravely, calmly, and without fail.

**[13:21] (Flashback) Haiji**

Only you can do it.

**[13:25] Musa**

*18th. In other words,  
even I could pass two runners.*

**[13:31] Musa**

*Bravely, calmly, and without fail.*

**[13:36] Announcer**

*This is Broadcast Car 2.*

**SIGN** Section 2

**[13:37] Announcer**

*Iwanki's pace remains constant.*

**[13:39] Announcer**

*Perhaps he exhausted himself  
competing against Manaka's Inawa,*

**[13:42] Announcer**

*who caught up to Rikudo to reach first place,*

**[13:44] Announcer**

*but he can't catch Tokyo Sport.*

**[13:46] Announcer**

*The burst of speed  
at the start of the section*

**[13:48] Announcer**

*is throwing off even the strongest athletes.*

**[13:51] King**

Why aren't they showing Musa?

**[13:54] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

It can't be helped.  
The race for first is crazy.

**[13:57] King**

Yeah, but don't you wanna see him?

**SIGN** 1 Manaka 2 Rikudo 3 Boso 4 Tokyo Sport 5 Kofu Academy 6 Yokohama 7 Kino 8 Shinsei 9 Kanagawa 10 Nihonbashi Tech 11 Eurasia 12 Do 13 Jonan Bunka 14 Tokyo Academy 15 Ake 16 Kitakan OP Student Association 17 Kansei 18 Yamato 19 Teito 20 Saikyo

**[14:01] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

King, how's your job hunt coming?

**[14:04] King**

Huh?

**[14:05] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

I thought I'd relieve the tension.

**[14:08] King**

Then choose your words more carefully.

**[14:10] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Okay...

**[14:16] King**

I haven't been doing it.

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

Huh?

**[14:19] King**

When would I have had the time?

**[14:21] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

What? Then what are you going to do?

**[14:25] King**

I don't know!

**[14:28] King**

What are my parents going to say?

**[14:31] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Then why don't you run next year?

**[14:33] King**

I won't be able to look for a job again!

**[14:35] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

You're right.

**[14:39] King**

Next year? Are you...

**[14:43] Official**

Get ready! They're coming!

**[14:45] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Oof.

**[14:47] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

King, wanna warm up together?

**SIGN** 19km Point

**[14:59] Musa**

*I thought I reduced my pace.*

**[15:09] Musa**

*Running is strange.*

**[15:11] Musa**

*Speed alone isn't enough to win.*

**[15:13] Musa**

*You have opponents and teammates.*

**[15:15] Fan**

You're almost there!

**[15:17] Fan**

You can do it!

**[15:18] Musa**

*Someone's voice gives you strength.*

**[15:21] Musa**

*And that's how I run!*

**SIGN** Totsuka Relay Point

**[15:34] Announcer**

Kofu Academy's Iwanki leaves four years of passion on Hakoneji Road

**[15:37] Announcer**

as he arrives at the relay line!

**[15:42] Announcer**

He failed to win his section,

**[15:44] Announcer**

but he displayed his usual unchanging running style

**[15:46] Announcer**

in a turbulent Section 2, nonetheless.

**[15:59] Haiji**

Marvelous.

**[16:01] Haiji**

You were extremely fortunate to have been able to run with him.

**[16:05] Kakeru**

Yes. His running is the embodiment of strength.

**[16:09] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Musa!

**[16:21] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Over here!

**[16:25] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Thanks, ace.

**[16:33] King**

Musa!

**[16:34] King**

14th. You were 14th.

**[16:37] King**

You passed seven guys.

**[16:40] King**

Whoa! Whoa!

**[16:43] Announcer**

*The temperature is currently 5.7 degrees.*

**[16:46] Announcer**

*The sunlight and sea breeze, together,  
chip away at the runners' stamina.*

**[16:52] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Musa was amazing.*

**[16:54] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*It makes me want to do the same thing.*

**[16:57] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*King seems to be taking  
the race seriously, too.*

**[16:59] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*We even locked eyes.*

**[17:02] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*He practically told me  
he'd be running next year, too.*

**[17:06] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Next year, huh?*

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

*Sorry, King.*

**[17:10] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*This is probably the end for me.*

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

*Joji, my younger brother, is a part of my soul.*

**[17:30] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*We slept together, played together,  
and went to school together.*

**[17:34] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*No one could tell us apart.*

**[17:37] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*They seemed troubled when we spoke to them,*

**[17:41] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*and we'd do things to distress them further.*

**[17:47] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*But we're two different people.*

**[17:51] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*I'm Jo Taro. He's Jo Jiro.*

**[17:56] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*We have plenty of differences.*

**[17:58] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Favorite foods, the locations of  
our moles, the girls we've dated.*

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

*Our personalities...*

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

*...and our talents.*

**[18:09] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*I'm sure of it. Joji's the better runner.*

**[18:13] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Even if there's no difference now,  
Joji will become way faster than me.*

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

*He'll see worlds I can't see.*

**[18:21] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*After all, you love to run.*

**[18:26] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*He'd sometimes train by himself before dawn.*

**[18:29] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*How can he run like that?*

**[18:36] (Flashback) Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Bro, can you watch my form?*

**[18:40] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*When we were together, the conversation  
would always turn to Kakeru.*

**[18:45] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Joji, you finally found your very own rival.*

**[18:51] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Your very own goal.*

**[18:53] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*It's time for us to follow different paths.*

**[18:56] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Go. Follow it far, far away.*

**[18:59] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*It doesn't matter how many years it takes.*

**[19:02] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Win. Beat Kakeru.*

**[19:04] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Become a stronger runner than him.*

**[19:07] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*I'll be rooting for you.*

**[19:11] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*It's finally time for me to release  
that precious part of my soul.*

**[19:18] Announcer**

*Kansei University first-year  
and older twin brother, Jo Taro*

**[19:21] Announcer**

*is running with a light step.*

**[19:23] Announcer**

*He's re-passed Tokyo Academy,  
and even passed Shinsei.*

**SIGN** Shonan Bridge

**[19:29] Announcer**

*He has Jonan Bunka and  
Nihonbashi Tech in his sights.*

**[19:34] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Two more. No...*

**[19:40] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*I'm pumped.*

**[19:42] Hanako**

Jota!

**[19:46] Hanako**

Jota!

**[19:50] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Hana?*

**[19:53] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*What's she doing here?*

**[19:55] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Wasn't she watching  
the starting line at Otemachi?*

**[19:56] Hanako**

You can do it!

**[20:04] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Could it be?*

**[20:06] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*No, but—*

**[20:08] Tazaki**

What?

**[20:10] Kakeru**

What's he looking at?

**[20:13] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*Does she like me?*

**[20:17] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

*What? Seriously?!*

**[20:24] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Bro!

**[20:30] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Oh, wow!

**[20:32] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

He's so strong during the actual event.

**[20:35] Announcer**

*Kansei's showing a menacing final spurt.*

**[20:38] Announcer**

*With the explosive sprint  
of a short-distance runner,*

**[20:41] Announcer**

*he's climbed two ranks.*

**[20:42] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Joji!

**[20:44] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Hey!

**[20:47] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Hana!

**[20:48] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Huh?

**[20:49] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

I think...

**[20:54] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

...she likes me.

**[20:57] Twin (Jota or Joji)**

Seriously?!

**SIGN** Congratulations Takashi on Running in the Hakone Ekiden

**[22:40] Narration**

Next time, "Even If I Break."

**SIGN** Next time: Even If I Break

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