

# E9 - Mismatched Runners

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**[00:03] Haiji**

No one here is running half-assed!

**[00:08] Kakeru**

Excuse me.

**[00:09] Haiji**

Kakeru. We're not done talking.

**[00:12] Kakeru**

Prince.

**[00:16] Kakeru**

If you're only able to achieve  
the same time at the next meet,

**[00:22] Kakeru**

will you quit the team?

**[00:27] Prince**

What?

**[00:28] Kakeru**

Please. For the team.

**SIGN** Run with the Wind

**[02:06] Both**

No way!

**[02:08] Jota**

He said that?

**[02:11] Haiji**

That kind of talk is ineffective.

**[02:14] Haiji**

I told you.

**[02:17] Jota**

Is he serious?

**[02:20] Haiji**

It's true that he went too far, though.

**[02:24] Joji**

Well, he is fast.

**[02:27] Haiji**

He also said that because he's  
taking running at Hakone seriously.

**[02:33] Haiji**

Prince, you don't need to worry about it,

**[02:35] Haiji**

and I don't want the two of you  
to have any weird biases.

**[02:38] Haiji**

Don't tell anyone else.

**[02:40] Both**

Okay.

**[02:42] Jota**

We know he's not a bad guy.

**[02:45] Joji**

But he can be really irritable.

**[02:48] Prince**

I was so upset, I was up all night reading.

**[02:53] Joji**

You mean comics, right.

**[02:55] Prince**

Yes, I mean comics.

**SIGN** Mismatched Runners

**[03:04] Haiji**

There's rice left over.

**[03:06] Haiji**

Someone besides Kakeru isn't eating.

**[03:09] Prince**

I wonder how it'll actually go.

**[03:12] Prince**

Do you think I can achieve  
the required official record?

**[03:18] Haiji**

Your time is improving.

**[03:27] Haiji**

I enjoy running with you. I really do.

**[03:33] Haiji**

Running next to you makes me feel like  
I can reconsider what it means to run.

**[03:40] Haiji**

Right foot forward, left foot forward.

**[03:43] Haiji**

Slowly increasing your speed.

**[03:45] Haiji**

You used to walk,

**[03:47] Haiji**

but before you know it,  
it looks like you're running.

**[03:51] Haiji**

I'm re-experiencing the excitement of running.

**[03:55] Prince**

I don't think I understand.

**[03:58] Prince**

But I think I understand what  
it means to do something together.

**[04:05] Prince**

We read the same comics  
together at the same time.

**[04:09] Prince**

We count down to start reading.

**[04:12] Prince**

There's a moment our waves become synchronized.

**[04:17] Prince**

We start turning the page simultaneously.

**[04:23] Prince**

The temperature in our rooms definitely  
increases by one—no, two degrees.

**[04:28] Prince**

Even if we don't share our thoughts,

**[04:32] Prince**

it feels like we've thoroughly  
discussed the content.

**[04:38] Haiji**

I see.

**[04:40] Haiji**

I don't think I understand.

**[04:42] Prince**

Of course you don't.

**SIGN** Kansei University

**[04:46] Shindo**

What?

**[04:47] Shindo**

Did he really say that?

**[04:49] Jota**

Didn't he say that to Prince?

**[04:51] Joji**

Yeah. He asked Prince to quit the team.

**[04:56] Jota**

Yeah.

**[04:57] Musa**

Quit the team?

**[05:00] Yuki**

He can't suddenly achieve an official record.

**[05:04] Joji**

Right?

**[05:05] Yuki**

Then it's decided.

**[05:07] Yuki**

Prince is the first dropout.

**[05:10] Musa**

No, wait. Nothing's been decided yet.

**[05:13] Musa**

Haiji would never accept that.

**[05:16] Shindo**

What did Haiji have to say about it?

**[05:19] Jota**

Uh...

**[05:21] Jota**

Don't worry about it.

**[05:23] Joji**

Don't have any weird biases.

**[05:26] Both**

Don't tell anyone else.

**[05:30] Jota**

Wait, wait, wait!

**[05:31] Jota**

Joji, you mentioned it first!

**[05:32] Joji**

It wasn't me! It was you!

**[05:34] Yuki**

You guys are such idiots.

**[05:41] Nico**

You don't have to do  
anything to get hungry, huh?

**[05:45] Haiji**

There you are.

**[06:23] Nico**

Stop following me!

**[06:27] Haiji**

You tried to hide in the last  
place I'd look for you.

**[06:30] Haiji**

It got a little cold during  
the time it took to find you.

**[06:35] Haiji**

Come on. Eat up.

**[06:37] Nico**

I don't want it!

**[06:38] Nico**

It doesn't look good for a grown-ass man  
to accept a lunch from another grown-ass man!

**[06:44] Haiji**

Don't worry about how it looks.  
My presentation is perfect.

**[06:48] Nico**

That's not what I meant!

**[06:49] Haiji**

I knew something was off.

**[06:52] Haiji**

I could tell not enough rice was missing.

**[06:55] Haiji**

When I checked, I found exactly one serving hadn't been eaten.

**[06:59] Nico**

You sure are looking closely.

**[07:01] Haiji**

Of course I am.

**[07:02] Haiji**

I consider the volume and nutrition everyone needs when preparing meals everyday.

**[07:11] Nico**

Seriously?

**[07:13] Haiji**

Seriously.

**[07:15] Nico**

Since when?

**[07:16] Haiji**

Since I started cooking all our meals.

**[07:21] Nico**

That was four years ago.

**[07:24] Haiji**

Has it been that long?

**[07:27] Haiji**

Don't panic.

**[07:30] Haiji**

You don't have to push yourself so hard.

**[07:32] Haiji**

You'll probably get it eventually.

**[07:35] Nico**

You won't say I definitely will, huh?

**[07:38] Haiji**

Eating this will change my point of view.

**[07:42] Haiji**

Come on. At least take your mind off it with this.

**[07:46] Nico**

You're making it worse.

**[07:52] Jota**

Go, go!

**[07:52] All**

You can do it!

**[07:53] All**

That's it!

**[07:54] All**

You can do it!

**[07:56] Jota**

Oh, wow!

**[07:57] Joji**

Yuki's time has improved a ton.

**[07:59] Shindo**

Everyone's time might improve.

**[08:02] Musa**

Yeah.

**[08:03] Joji**

Bring it home!

**[08:04] All**

A little more!

**[08:05] All**

You can do it!

**[08:07] All**

Yuki, final spurt!

**SIGN** Kurahara Kakeru 5000m Time

**[08:19] Haiji**

It's going well.

**[08:22] Haiji**

It's only been three weeks,

**[08:25] Haiji**

but because you all stuck  
to the training schedule,

**[08:28] Haiji**

we're starting to see results.

**[08:31] Haiji**

Tomorrow's track meet will be a good  
opportunity for a second chance.

**[08:36] Haiji**

Right now, we're working hard  
to get into the Hakone Ekiden.

**[08:40] Haiji**

Without even one of us, we can't get there.

**[08:42] Haiji**

We don't have any substitutes.

**[08:44] Haiji**

Let's all attend tomorrow's track meet,  
so we can all participate together.

**[08:49] Haiji**

I'll now announce the members who will  
be participating in tomorrow's track meet.

**[08:53] All**

What?

**[08:54] Jota**

Huh? What? It's not everyone?

**[08:58] Haiji**

It's everyone. We'll all go.

**[09:00] Haiji**

Running isn't everything.

**[09:05] Haiji**

Running in tomorrow's track meet will be Musa,

**[09:09] Haiji**

Shindo,

**[09:10] Haiji**

Jota, Joji,

**[09:12] Haiji**

and Yuki.

**[09:13] Haiji**

Those five.

**[09:16] Haiji**

The remaining members  
will be going to the meet, as well.

**SIGN** Kikui University

**SIGN** 42nd Kikui University Track and Field Meet

**SIGN** No

unauthorized  
access to field  
Kikui University

**[09:52] Jota**

They're not here.

**[09:54] Jota**

What's that strong team called?

**[09:56] Joji**

Rikudo Uni.

**[09:57] Jota**

That's it.

**[09:59] Jota**

I didn't notice at the Tokyo Sport track meet,

**[10:02] Jota**

but matching uniforms are nice.

**[10:06] Jota**

When a bunch of guys wearing the same  
color uniform are grouped up together,

**[10:09] Jota**

it makes them look really strong.

**[10:12] Joji**

Yeah. And Rikudo's pure white  
uniforms enhance the effect.

**[10:16] Jota**

It's like they're telling everyone  
how strong they are.

**[10:20] Jota**

In contrast...

**[10:24] Joji**

When we're not wearing our uniforms,  
you can't tell who we are.

**[10:27] Jota**

Yeah.

**[10:30] Haiji**

You five, start jogging.

**[10:33] Haiji**

It won't be as hot as the weather report said.

**[10:36] Haiji**

We've got a chance.

**SIGN** 42nd Kikui University Track and Field Meet

**SIGN** No

unauthorized  
access to field  
Kikui University

**[10:39] Announcer**

All athletes participating in the 5000m race,

**[10:41] Announcer**

please gather at the starting line.

**[10:45] Announcer**

All athletes participating in the 5000m race,

**[10:47] Announcer**

please gather at the starting line.

**[10:51] Shindo**

It's our second time, but I'm still nervous.

**[10:54] Musa**

It's because it's our second time.

**[10:56] Yuki**

Practice should be just as hard.

**[11:00] Musa**

Will we ever get used to this?

**[11:02] Shindo**

We probably shouldn't.

**[11:06] Yuki**

Nicely said.

**[11:07] Jota**

I'm taking the inside.

**[11:09] Joji**

Then I'll create space in front of you.

**[11:11] Joji**

Pass me if you think you've got it.

**[11:14] Jota**

Okay.

**[11:15] Jota**

This kind of feels like a game.

**[11:17] Joji**

Huh? Isn't this a game?

**[11:19] Jota**

No, like a soccer game.

**[11:21] Joji**

Oh, yeah. We used to swap positions all the time.

**[11:24] Jota**

Our opponents couldn't tell us apart.

**[11:29] Jota**

I think I like games.

**[11:32] Joji**

Me, too.

**[11:34] King**

I'm pretty nervous.

**[11:36] Nico**

They'll be fine. They're the elite team.

**[11:42] Kakeru**

*I'm running. I'm going to run.*

**[11:45] (Flashback) Haiji**

I registered in advance.

**[11:48] (Flashback) Kakeru**

Then what have I been training for?

**[11:51] (Flashback) Haiji**

To run at Hakone.

**[11:52] (Flashback) Haiji**

You already got your official record.

**[11:55] (Flashback) Kakeru**

That's not what this is about!

**[11:57] (Flashback) Kakeru**

You should understand better than anyone

**[12:00] (Flashback) Kakeru**

how it feels not to be able to run when you want to!

**[12:09] (Flashback) Haiji**

I do understand.

**[12:11] (Flashback) Haiji**

I know you want to run more than anything.

**[12:14] (Flashback) Haiji**

And that you don't see what running is about.

**[12:16] (Flashback) Kakeru**

What?

**[12:18] (Flashback) Haiji**

Stop. Take in the view.

**[12:21] (Flashback) Haiji**

Then slowly start running again.

**[12:24] (Flashback) Haiji**

Be like Prince and Nico-chan Senpai.

**SIGN** Why?

**[12:37] Prince**

I don't think I've narrowly escaped.

**[12:41] Prince**

If anything, you could say

I've got no way out now.

**[12:45] Kakeru**

That was...

**[12:47] King**

Oh, right. I heard you said something to Prince.

**[12:51] King**

You're a first-year, right?

**[12:53] Nico**

King.

**[12:56] Kakeru**

That was...

**[12:58] Kakeru**

It was the heat of the moment.

**[13:01] Prince**

So you take it back.

**[13:03] Kakeru**

I don't. I'm taking this seriously in my own way.

**[13:08] Nico**

You finally said what's really on your mind.

**[13:14] Nico**

I'm not blaming you.

**[13:20] Prince**

I can't believe I'm watching a track meet.

**[13:22] Prince**

I wouldn't have imagined this a month ago.

**[13:44] King**

Watching them from here

makes you realize how fast they are.

**[13:47] King**

To achieve an official record,

your pace for each lap needs to be...

**[13:51] Nico**

Faster than 1:19.

**[13:56] King**

Last time, running took so much of my energy

**[13:59] King**

that I couldn't afford to worry about my time.

**[14:22] Prince**

They're starting to spread out.

**[14:31] King**

Wow! The twins are hanging on!

**[14:34] Nico**

They might actually do it.

**[14:39] Haiji**

Musa, this is the moment of truth!

**[14:41] Haiji**

Calm down and hold that pace!

**[14:42] King**

How many seconds per lap did you say?

**[14:45] Nico**

Huh? Uh, one minute... um...

**[14:49] Nico**

I forgot.

**[14:50] King**

Hey, you were smug when  
you immediately answered earlier!

**[14:53] Nico**

Shut up! It's your fault for not remembering!

**[16:03] All**

Go! Go!

**[16:07] All**

Aotake!

**[16:09] All**

You can do it!

**[16:10] All**

Go!

**[16:12] All**

Aotake!

**[16:13] All**

Keep it up! Keep it up!

**[16:16] Haiji**

Final lap!

**[16:17] Haiji**

Final lap!

**[16:19] Haiji**

Final lap!

**[16:22] Haiji**

Final lap!

**[16:25] All**

Go! Go! Go!

**[16:28] All**

Keep it up!

**[16:59] King**

That was close.

**[17:02] King**

I thought you were gonna make it.

**[17:05] Yuki**

You're unbelievable.

**[17:06] Nico**

Wasn't that your best time, Yuki?

**[17:09] Nico**

You didn't achieve an official result,  
but it wasn't bad, at all.

**[17:13] Yuki**

When I think about how I have to run again,

**[17:16] Yuki**

it makes me want to puke.

**[17:19] Haiji**

That was close.

**[17:21] Shindo**

I waited too long during the middle.

**[17:23] Shindo**

I could've gone sooner.

**[17:26] Shindo**

I realized I'm not someone  
who can win a sprint.

**[17:31] Haiji**

You sound like a long-distance runner.

**[17:35] Joji**

I laughed.

**[17:39] Jota**

Me, too.

**[17:40] Joji**

During our final lap, Haiji...

**[17:53] Joji**

We couldn't hear what you  
were saying, but we saw you.

**[17:58] Jota**

Just as we were thinking,  
"Stop! It's embarrassing,"

**[18:01] Jota**

we actually started running faster.

**[18:03] Musa**

I know what you mean.

**[18:05] Musa**

Support is really, truly essential.

**[18:13] Musa**

Just thinking that these two  
were saying something to me

**[18:18] Musa**

made my vision blurry.

**[18:21] Musa**

Thank you.

**[18:22] Both**

What?

**[18:24] Musa**

I could see you.

**[18:26] Musa**

You were saying something, weren't you?

**[18:29] Joji**

Musa's got really good eyes.

**[18:32] Jota**

Yeah. He can see Aotake  
from the top of the Skytree.

**[18:36] Yuki**

Don't lie.

**[18:39] Prince**

He was calling everyone's names.

**[18:42] Kakeru**

S-So were you.

**[18:45] Prince**

I was just barely speaking.

**[18:47] Prince**

He was shouting.

**[18:49] Kakeru**

That's not fair.

**[18:51] Prince**

I was so embarrassed  
to be standing next to him.

**[18:53] Prince**

I didn't know what to do.

**[18:59] Nico**

He's a good guy at heart, too.

**[19:02] Kakeru**

Hey.

**[19:04] Haiji**

Everyone who ran and everyone  
who cheered, you guys did a great job.

**[19:10] Haiji**

Because of your efforts,  
everyone's times improved considerably.

**[19:13] Haiji**

This is a huge step forward.

**[19:17] Haiji**

We've got our own way  
of doing things. Have faith.

**[19:23] Haiji**

We'll have plenty more chances.

**[19:26] Shindo**

Yes, sir!

**[19:27] King**

You scared me.

**[19:29] Yuki**

Well, it's not my style to end on a loss.

**[19:33] Nico**

Oh, yeah? Should we run home, then?

**[19:36] Both**

No way.

**[19:39] Yuki**

I wish I could've been a spectator this time.

**[19:44] All**

Cheers!

**[19:52] Haiji**

How was it?

**[19:53] Kakeru**

Huh?

**[19:54] Haiji**

Watching from the outside.

**[19:56] Haiji**

Did you see anyone running half-assed?

**[20:01] Haiji**

I didn't see anyone.

**[20:04] Haiji**

Everyone was going as hard as they could.

**[20:06] Haiji**

Not just us. Everyone running was.

**[20:14] Kakeru**

I understand what you're trying to say.

**[20:17] Kakeru**

When they failed to achieve official records,

**[20:21] Kakeru**

I was as disappointed as if it were me.

**[20:25] Kakeru**

I felt for the first time the earnestness  
of the people cheering around me.

**[20:30] Kakeru**

That's why I understand  
what you're trying to say.

**[20:33] Kakeru**

But I still don't think we can do it.

**[20:39] Kakeru**

Even if everyone achieves an official record,

**[20:43] Kakeru**

Hakone is...

**[20:55] Kakeru**

Haiji?

**[20:56] Kakeru**

Haiji!

***SIGN*** Our Speed

**[22:40] Narration**

Next time: "Our Speed."

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Revision #1

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