Haikyuu!! interview

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Tsukishima Kei

"He first appeared in the 2nd one-shot as a cool and clever 2nd-year blocker. His basis remained the same in the serialised version, but I made him a 1st year and gave his sarcasm a power-up. He's the opposite of Hinata. That's why - even before getting serialised - he's the character I most want to draw making a victorious fist pump."

Name origin: 月島 蛍

"His last name has 'moon' (月) to contrast Hinata's 'sun' (日). But I named him 'firefly' (蛍) because he can emit light on his own."

Yamaguchi Tadashi

"His first appearance is in the serialised version. He was completely Tsukishima's follower at the start and I hadn't thought about him flourishing like he does in the current arc at all yet (laughs)."

Name origin: 山口 忠

"He's 忠 (loyalty), like a loyal dog!"

T/N: Furudate uses the word 忠犬, which literally means 'loyal dog', but it's also how you write 'Hachiko': a famous loyal Japanese dog. Yamaguchi and Hachiko even share the same birthday, November 10th.

Hinata Shouyou

"I took care he wouldn't become a character I had nothing in common with. Although Hinata has a certain, how to put it, madness or unusual passion, he usually has the straight-man comedy role* and he can read the atmosphere. When I drew one of those little scenes when Hinata makes a quick retort to Kageyama, I felt "ah, Hinata turned out good, huh.""

T/N: *For those familiar with manzai: he refers to the tsukkomi role.

Name origin: 日向 翔陽

"I gave him this name with the image of "sun" and "flying" in mind.

T/N: 日 and 陽 mean sun. 翔 means flying.

Kageyama Tobio

"I actually created Kageyama before Hinata. He hasn't changed very much since I first created him. I felt "ah, Kageyama turned out good, huh" - like with Hinata - when I drew about him being a passionate setter yet being an idiot."

Name origin: 影山 飛雄

"I gave him this name with the image of "strong shadow" and "flying" in mind.

T/N: 影 means shadow and 飛 means flying.

T/N: The Haikyuu!! guidebook includes comments by Furudate-sensei about Karasuno. (3/8)

Sawamura Daichi

"He's been around since the first one-shot. In the beginning he was simply a composed person. He looked in his thirties on the outside ánd on the inside (laughs). But because I felt that wouldn't be enough to unify the bunch, he became someone who's scary when angered in the first series draft. I usually draw him as "the tolerant Daichi-san", like how Hinata sees him, but I try to make him look relatively unrefined when he interacts with the other 3rd years".

Name Origin: 澤村 大地

"His surname simply came to me. I decided on his name without much trouble because I finished his character first. I personally like the way "Daichi-san" sounds."

Sugawara Koushi

"Sugawara's first appearance is in the serialisation. I didn't have a clear image of him in the beginning, but I slowly fleshed him out, as a person who can see things in a way Kageyama can't. He seems a "good person", but I first felt "Sugawara turned out good, huh" when I drew him picking on Tanaka. Also, he's probably always making up bad puns in his head."

Name Origin: 菅原 孝支

"At my previous work place, I had a senpai who got called "Suga-san". I somehow really liked the way that sounds. I named him Sugawara to be able to call him "Suga-san". His grandmother or grandfather probably named him."

T/N: The Haikyuu!! guidebook includes comments by Furudate-sensei about Karasuno. (4/8)

Azumane Asahi

"He came into being because I had a story about the ace and the libero that I wanted to write. When I first started the series, I vaguely pictured him as the mischievous type, but he turned into "the glass heart ace" to contrast with Nishinoya who I created at the same time."

Name Origin: 東峰 旭

"Because I finished the story and scene first - which doesn't happen often - I made his name contrast to Nishinoya's name: the morning sun which rises from the eastern peak!"

Nishinoya Yuu

"He came into being the same way Azumane did. He's ridiculously strong-hearted. In my high school days, our team's libero was good and really cool. I also put that feeling of respect into his character."

Name Origin: 西谷夕

"The evening sun that sets in the western valley! But I still think the name Yuu doesn't fit Nishinoya!"

T/N: The Haikyuu!! guidebook includes comments by Furudate-sensei about Karasuno. (5/8)

Tanaka Ryuunosuke

"He was already present in the first one-shot like Sawamura, and he hasn't changed much since the beginning like Kageyama. I guess he's gotten somewhat softer. When Tanaka entered the story, my editor said "I see, Tanaka is a tsundere, huh", and I learned "I see. This is what people call 'tsundere'." He's influenced by my ideal of what kind of senpai I'd like to be."

Name Origin: 田中 龍之介

"He's Tanaka because he's Tanaka-ish! I tried to give him a really cool name and that ended up being Ryuunosuke!"

Ennoshita Chikara

"His first appearance is in the serialised version. Like Yamaguchi, I hadn't thought about his future role at all yet. He somehow played a big role in the extras and I think his image as 'the Don of the 2nd years' wouldn't have happened if it weren't for the extras."

Name Origin: 縁下 力

"I gave him this name with the image of succeeding greatly in the future."

T/N: 縁 means 'bond', 下 means 'below' and 力 means 'power'.

T/N: The Haikyuu!! guidebook includes comments by Furudate-sensei about Karasuno. (6/8)

Kinoshita Hisashi

"His first appearance is in the serialised version. I hadn't decided on anything about him until the 3rd/4th volume, but I feel a sense of affinity to him because he's someone who "ran away once because training was too grueling but came back" like me, the author. He currently hasn't participated in a single match. I'm thinking a little about Kinoshita's stance towards "club activities" but I'm fretting about whether I should incorporate this in the main story or not."

Name Origin: 木下 久志

"Grandfather or grandmother probably gave him this name."

Narita Kazuhito

"His beginnings are the same as Kinoshita's. The idiots stand out among the 2nd years. He became someone who can study like Ennoshita because I wanted to include 2nd years who can study properly."

Name Origin: 成田 一仁

"I named him this way because it sounds oldest-son-ish and because I personally like the character 仁 (virtue)."

T/N: The Haikyuu!! guidebook includes comments by Furudate-sensei about Karasuno. (7/8)

Shimizu Kiyoko

"I created her with the image of a "capable secretary" in mind who does her work in a matter-of-fact manner. But that doesn't mean she's cool, in fact I draw her as being not very good with words. There are many things I haven't drawn about her in the main story yet. I want to draw more about her little by little."

Name Origin: 清水 潔子

"I like the way 'Kiyoko' sounds. I managed to name her without much trouble."

Yachi Hitoka

"I created her this way because I wanted to introduce someone with a "new point of view". Creating a character with an "extremely negative way of thinking" turned out suprisingly easy and I think she comes off very human. I created her as someone who doesn't overlap with Kiyoko-san at all."

Name Origin: 谷地 仁花

"I gave her the image of earth and plants because Kiyoko-san is 'water' (水).

T/N: 谷 means 'valley', 地 means 'earth' and 花 means 'flower'.

T/N: The Haikyuu!! guidebook includes comments by Furudate-sensei about Karasuno. (8/8)

Takeda Ittetsu

"I drew a teacher in his fifties in my first draft, but I made him younger because I was told "He's too plain…". He looks timid and uncool at first glance, but in reality he's a very earnest teacher. There's no doubt about him being someone who wears jersey pants that wrap around the ankles."

Name Origin: 武田一鉄

"I named him 一鉄 (one iron) with the idiom of 頑固一徹 (very tenacious) in mind."

T/N: 一鉄 and 一徹 are both pronounced 'ittetsu'.

Ukai Keishin

"I created him as an inexperienced but learning and improving coach. The coach I drew in my first draft was moody and had the feel of a "great general". I was vaguely aware I had randomly come up with him, but my editor clearly pointed out "I can feel the author's doubts in this character." I thought "He's right!", remade the character and came up with Takeda-sensei and Ukai."

Name Origin: 烏養 繁心

"Training crows and connecting hearts, exactly as it says."

T/N: 烏 = crow, 養 = train, 繋 = connect, 心 = heart.

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