1
BLUE LOCK
STORY BY muneyuki kaneshiro
ART BY yusuke nomura

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THE CREATURES KNOWN AS FIRST-CLASS STRIKERS...

WILL SUDDENLY APPEAR
IN THE PLACE...
...WHERE THE GAME
IS HOTTEST!

BLUE LOCK

PAPER (LEFT): FEELING THE WORLD'S WALL

PAPER (RIGHT): JAPAN'S NARROW DEFEAT

CHAPTER 1: DREAM

HUH?

WE'RE MAKING MONEY, SO WHO CARES?

IN THE END, SOCCER IS JUST BUSINESS.

JAPAN FOOTBALL UNION CHAIRMAN
HIROTOSHI BURATSUTA

LET'S JUST FIND SOME FOREIGN COACH WHO SEEMS GOOD OR A JAPANESE GUY...

...AND IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, WE'LL JUST FIRE THEM.

EVEN IF WE DON'T DO ANYTHING, JUST REPRE-SENTING JAPAN IS ENOUGH TO MAKE OUR BRAND PROFITABLE.

WHAT IF YOUR PROPOSED REFORM ENDS UP HURTING PROFITS?

CREAK ギッ

SOME PEOPLE MAY APPEAL AGAINST YOU.

CREAK ギッ

CREAK ギッ

MAYA...

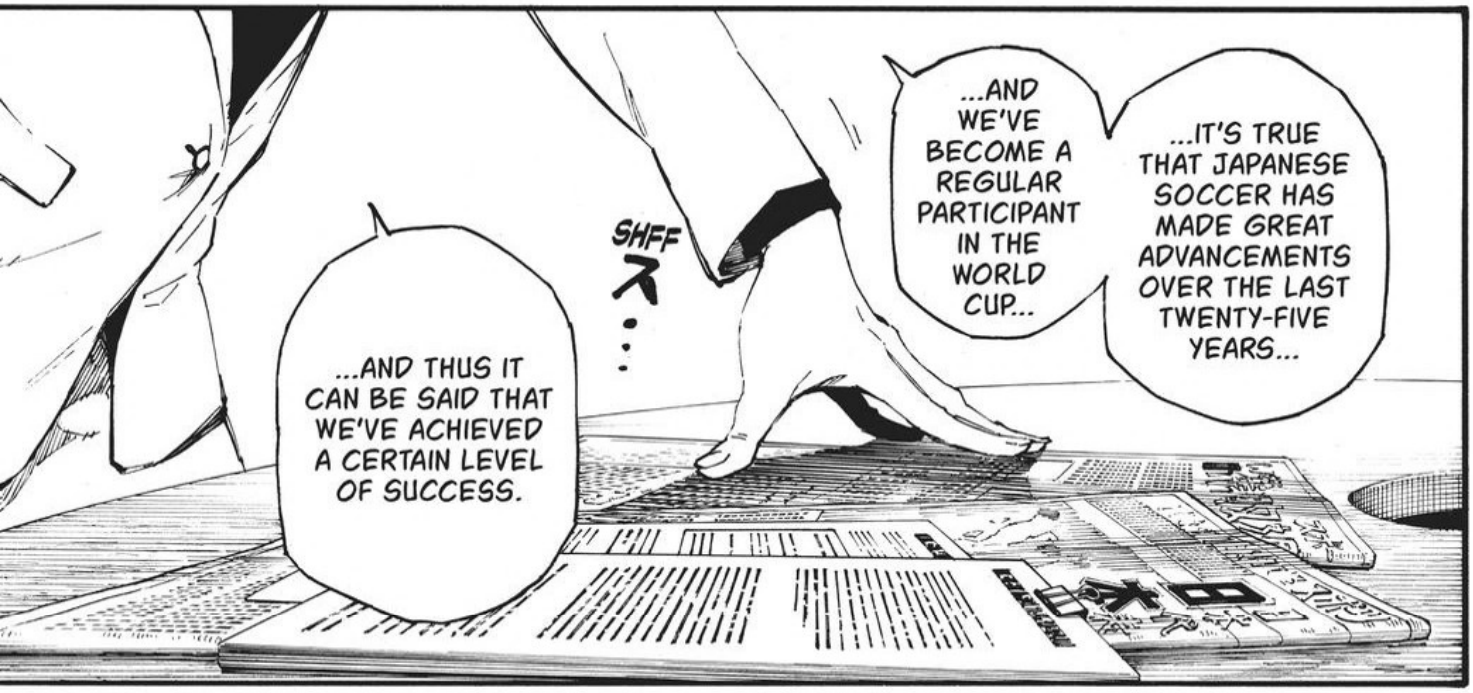
MAY A...

MAY APPEAL...

AH!

...

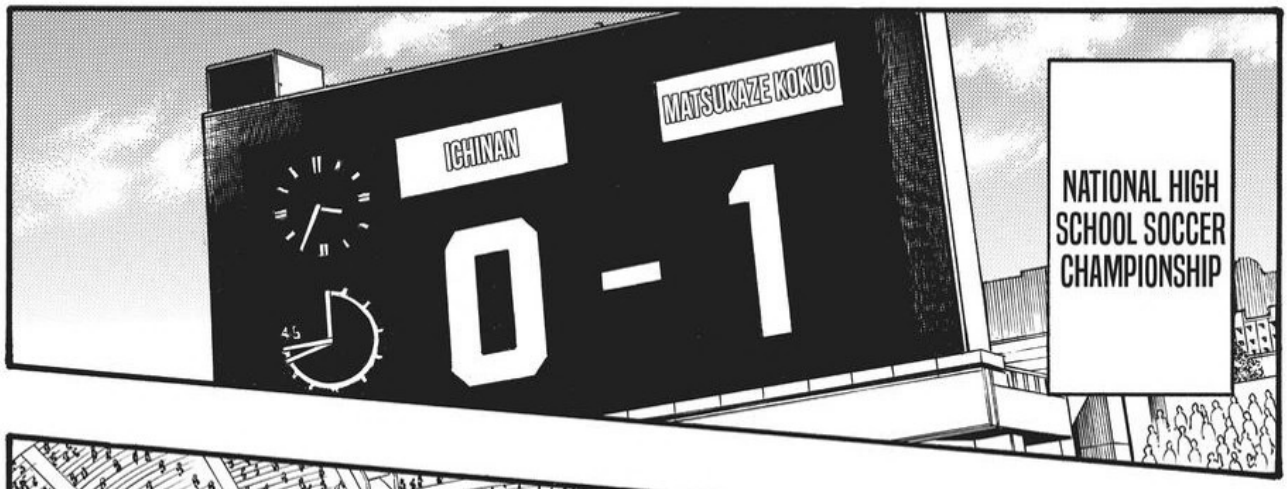
*MAYA YOSHIDA IS A FAMOUS JAPANESE SOCCER PLAYER.



...OF NEVER WINNING...
...THE WORLD CUP.
HUH?
ANRI-CHAN...
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE...
...THAT JAPAN CAN WIN THE WORLD CUP?!

SHE'S SO RUDE... AND LOOK AT THOSE CURVES...
IS SHE FOR REAL...?
HER CHEST IS HUGE, TOO...
"WE CAN WIN IF WE PLAY OUR OWN TYPE OF MATCH."
"JAPAN'S PASSING-STYLE SOCCER CAN BE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONALLY."
BEEP
IT'S BECAUSE WE KEEP SAYING THINGS LIKE THIS THAT WE NEVER MAKE IT PAST THE BEST SIXTEEN.
THEY'RE SO BIG...
IF YOU'RE SAYING ALL THAT, ANRI-CHAN...
...DO YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF PLAN?
OF COURSE I DO, YOU DAMN TANUKI.
THAT'S MY DREAM!

...JINPACHI EGO.
WHAM
THIS IS THE INDISPENSABLE COACH WHO WILL HELP US DESTROY AND REMAKE JAPANESE SOCCER...
PLEASE OBSERVE!
I WILL PRODUCE...
...PLAYERS WHO CAN LEAD THIS COUNTRY TO A WORLD CUP VICTORY!!



SAITAMA PREFECTURAL FINALS

SHIRT (WHITE): ICHINAN

SHIRTS (BLACK): MATSUKAZE KOKUO

ICHINAN H.S.
FORWARD
SECOND-YEAR
YOICHI
ISAGI

WE'LL GO TO NATIONALS IF WE WIN THIS!

NATIONALS!

NATIONALS!!

NATIONALS!

NATIONALS!!

WHICH WAY?!

WHERE IS HE GOING?!

WHICH WAY?!

WHICH WAY?!

WHSSH

COME ON...

HERE!!

I'M OVER HERE, DUMBASS!

FWAP

I'LL DECIDE IT WITH THIS SHOT!
ONE-ON-ONE WITH THE GOALIE!!

MATSUKAZE KOKUO H.S. GOALKEEPER
SHOHEI INA
I'M GOING...
...TO NATIONALS!!

ISAGI!!

I'M WIDE-OPEN!!

?!

AH... TADA-CHAN...

...

WE REALLY...

...NEED THIS POINT!

HE'S RIGHT...

IF I PASS...

...WE'LL GET THE POINT...

"ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE"!!

IT'S ALL OVER IF WE DON'T GET THIS!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ISAGI?!

COACH ?!

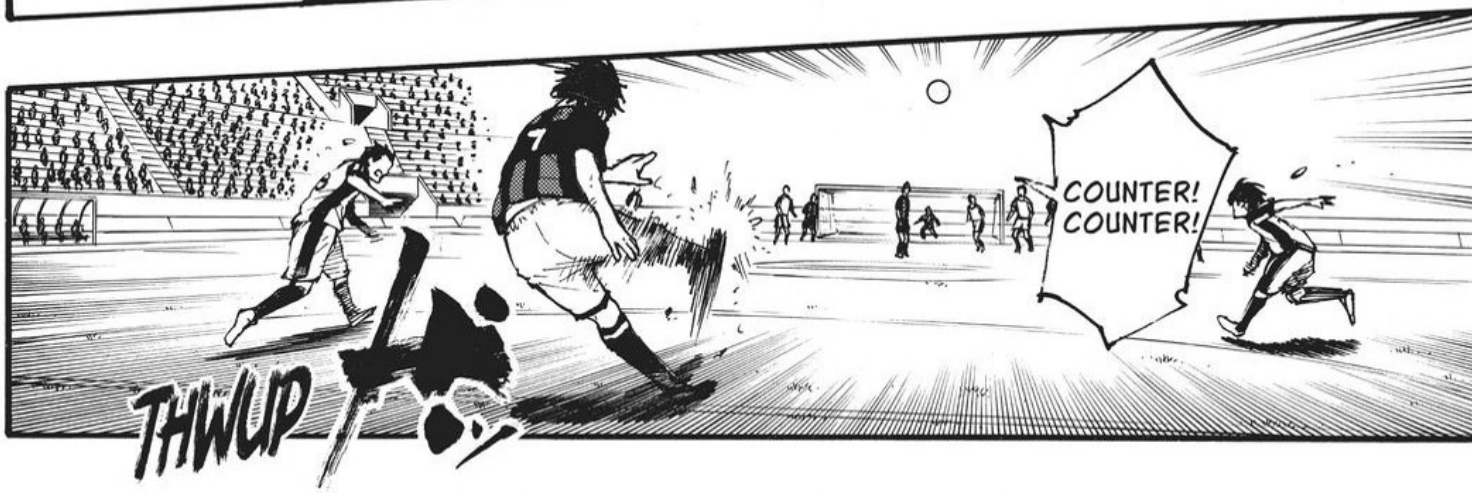
THAT'S RIGHT...

SOCCER IS...

TMP
AH!
ALL RIGHT!
THIS WILL TIE THE SCORE...
...A SPORT PLAYED BY ELEVEN PEOPLE...
11

KLONG

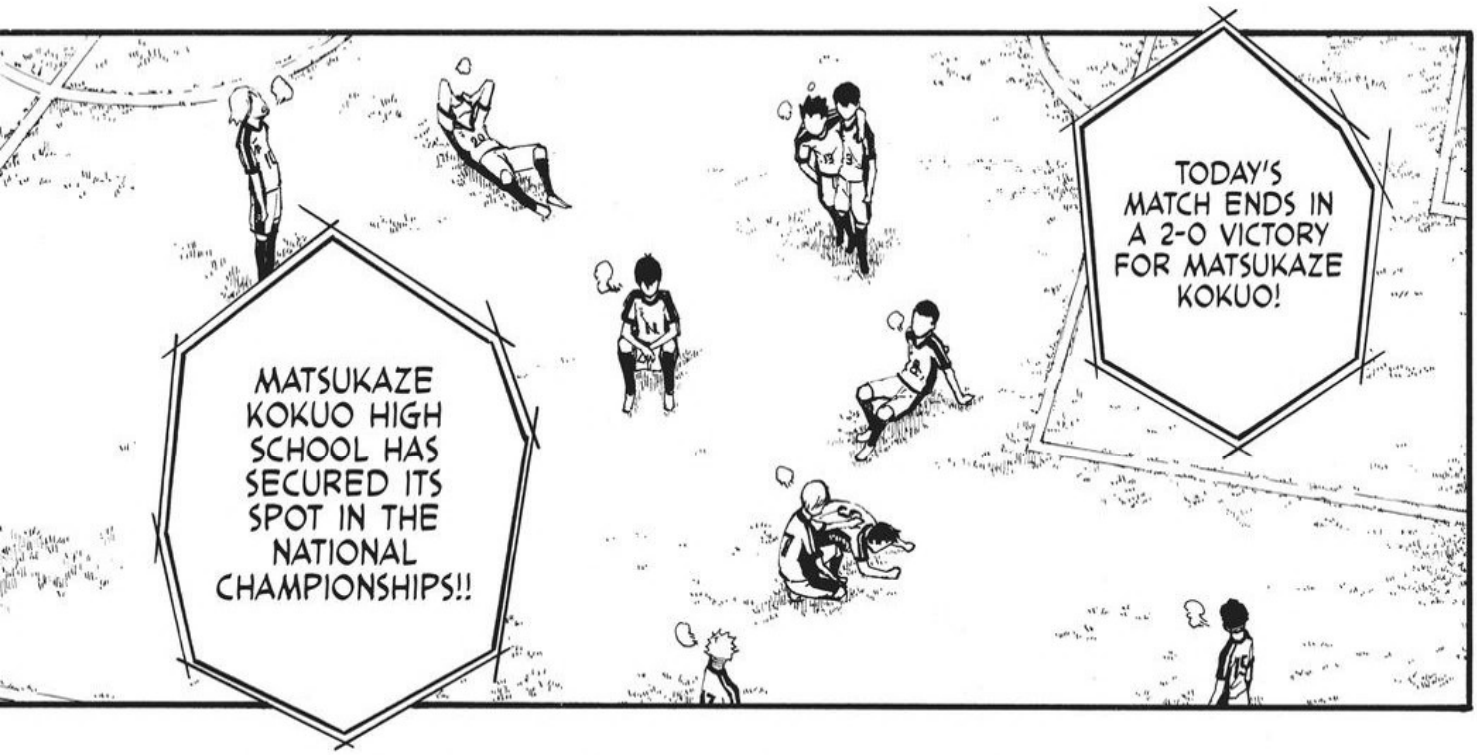
DAMN IT!!!
NO WAY?!
CRAP...


THWUP
COUNTER! COUNTER!

BREAK THROUGH, KIRA!!

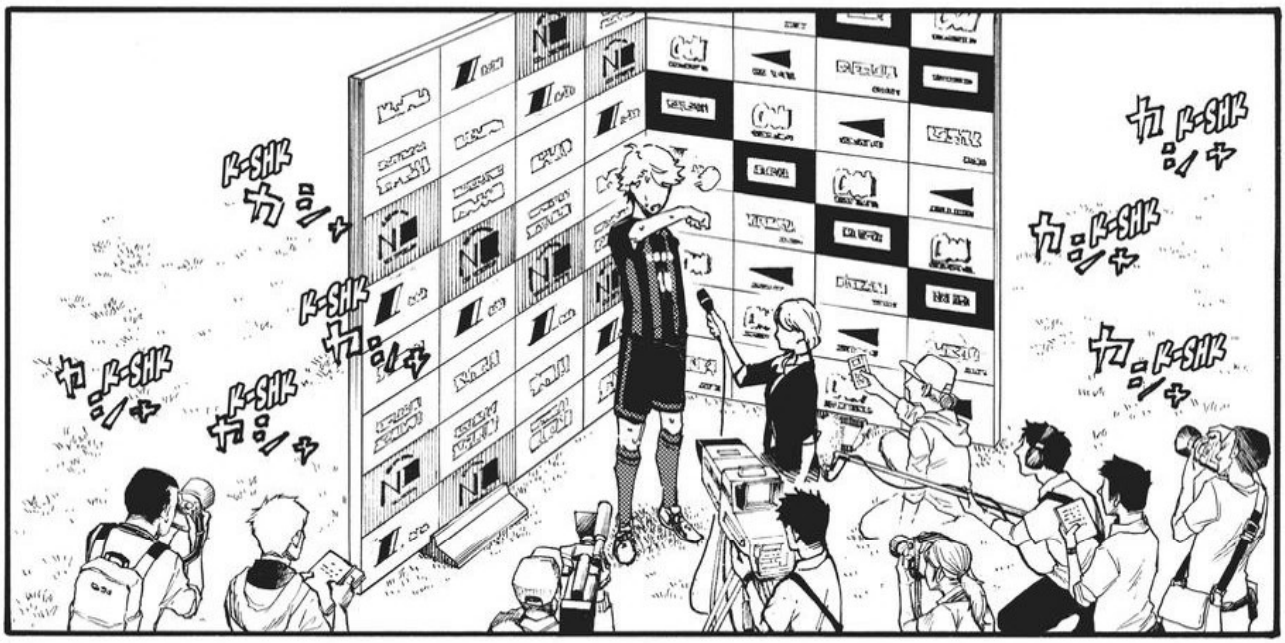
MATSUKAZE
KOKUO H.S.
FORWARD
SECOND-YEAR
RYOSUKE
KIRA

OH, NO...
WHFFT
FWEET
FWEEET
WE LOST.
0-2
IT'S OVER...


TODAY'S MATCH ENDS IN A 2-0 VICTORY FOR MATSUKAZE KOKUO!
MATSUKAZE KOKUO HIGH SCHOOL HAS SECURED ITS SPOT IN THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS!!

...

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, TADA-CHAN...
IF I HAD SCORED... IF I HAD JUST SCORED...
I'M SORRY EVERYONE...
UWAAAAAAAH...!!


カシャ
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カシャ
カシャ
...BUT HOW ARE YOU FEELING ABOUT BEING INVITED TO JOIN THE NATIONAL YOUTH TEAM?
KIRA-SAN, GOING TO NATIONALS MUST BE JUST A STEPPING STONE FOR YOU....

...BECAUSE I HAVE EVERYONE ON MY TEAM!
I'M ONLY HERE...

WELL...
THE ONE THING I CAN SAY IS...
RIGHT NOW, I'M FOCUSED ON WINNING NATIONALS WITH THIS TEAM.
松風黒工

EVEN THE WAY HE THINKS OF HIS FRIENDS IS FABULOUS!
EEEE! KIRA-KUN!

GATHER UP, ICHINAN!

YOU FOUGHT WELL.
IT'S FRUSTRATING, BUT THIS IS THE EXTENT OF OUR CURRENT ABILITIES.

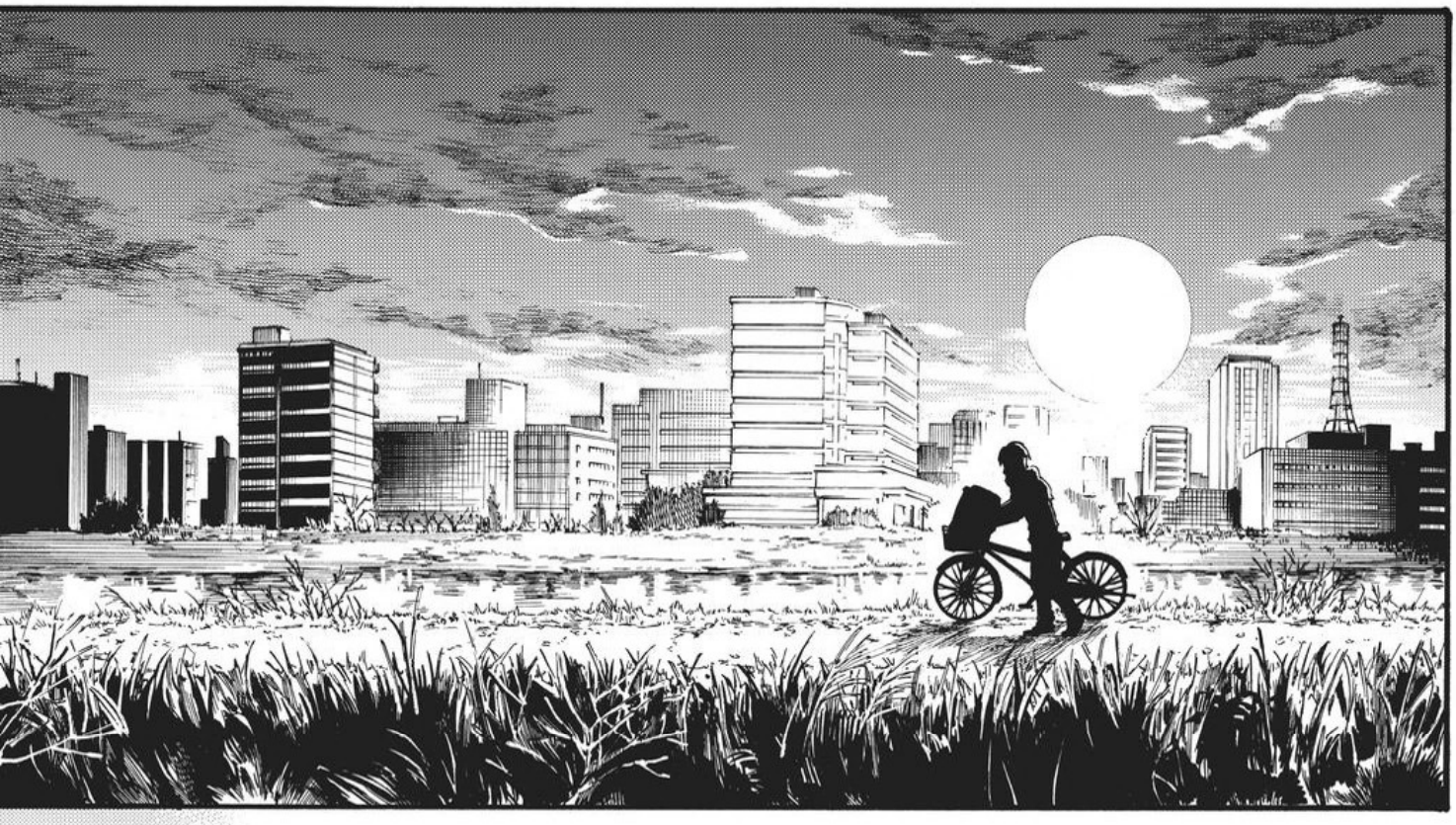
THE THIRD-YEARS ARE LEAVING AFTER THIS...
...AND SOME OF YOU MIGHT QUIT SOCCER AFTER TODAY...
...BUT YOU CAN BE PROUD OF ALL THE TIME YOU'VE SPENT FIGHTING TOGETHER.

I'M CONFIDENT THE DAY WILL COME IN ALL OF YOUR LIVES...
URGH...
ゼッ
SNIFF
OOH...
ズ
SNIFF
...WHEN YOU'RE ABLE TO THINK THAT THIS LOSS WASN'T FOR NOTHING...!

TO ME, ICHINAN'S SOCCER TEAM...
...
THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS LIFE THAT'S MEANINGLESS!

NO...
...IS THE BEST TEAM IN JAPAN!!!

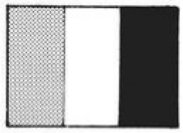
WE'RE JUST A TEAM THAT COULDN'T TAKE THAT LAST STEP TO NATIONALS.



IT SEEMS LIKE I WON'T BE ABLE TO BE...

A SUPER-STAR PLAYER LIKE YOU.

31 YEARS OLD
FRENCH FORWARD



EUROPE'S TOP-SCORING PLAYER OF 2018
NOEL NOA

...AND I ALWAYS ...

SO COOL...!

I JUST LOOKED UP TO YOU...

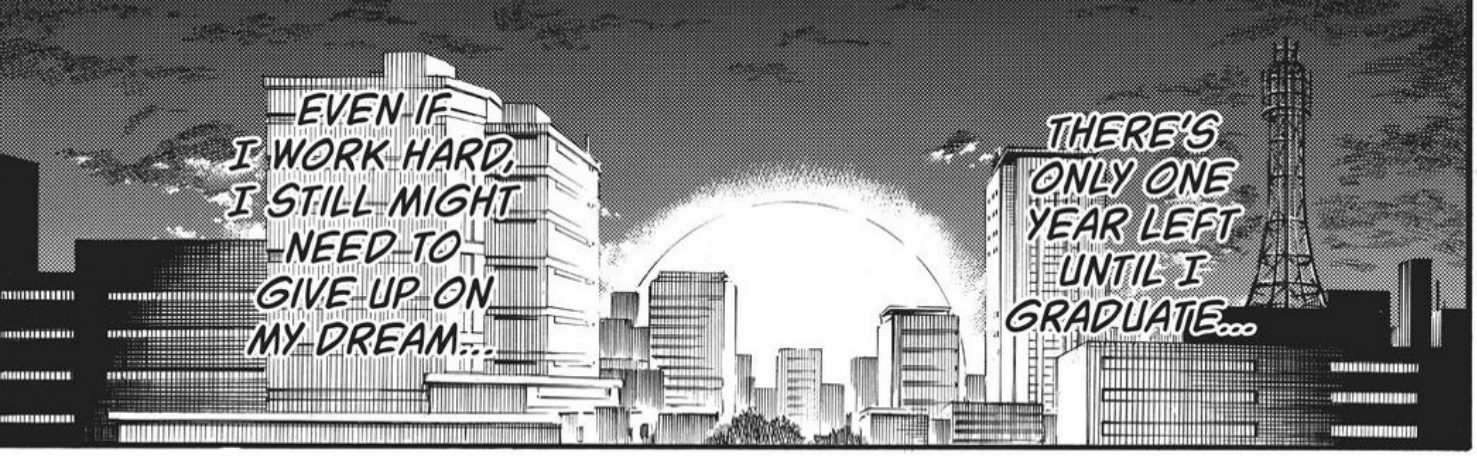
A DIRECT VOLLEY KICK! WHAT A GOAL!!

I WAS ENTRANCED BY YOUR PLAYS...

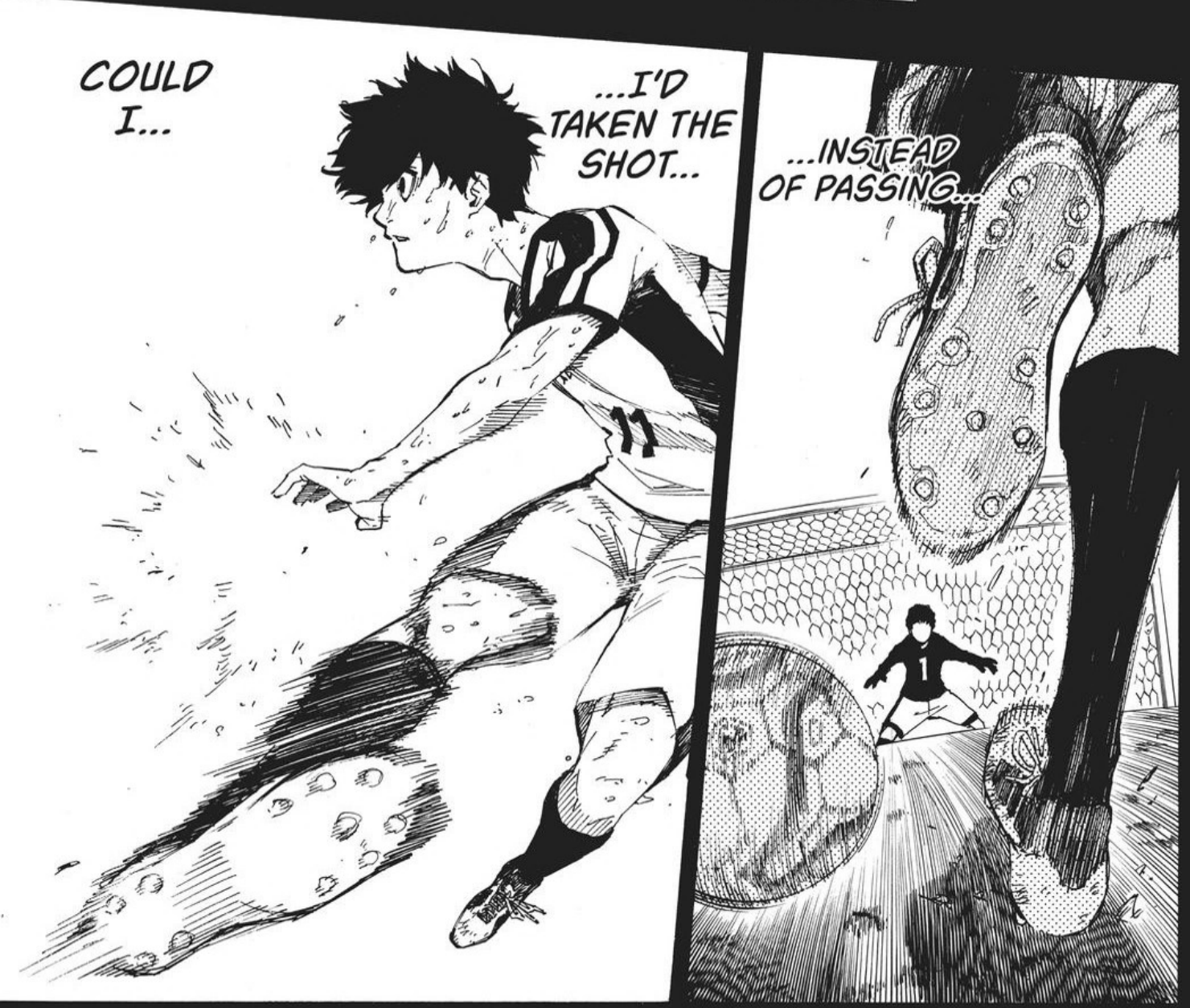
BUT NOW IT LOOKS LIKE MY DREAM WILL END WHILE STILL A DREAM...

...TO WIN THE WORLD CUP...

MY STUPID DREAM...


EVEN IF I WORK HARD, I STILL MIGHT NEED TO GIVE UP ON MY DREAM...
THERE'S ONLY ONE YEAR LEFT UNTIL I GRADUATE...

IF ONLY...


COULD I...
...I'D TAKEN THE SHOT...
...INSTEAD OF PASSING...

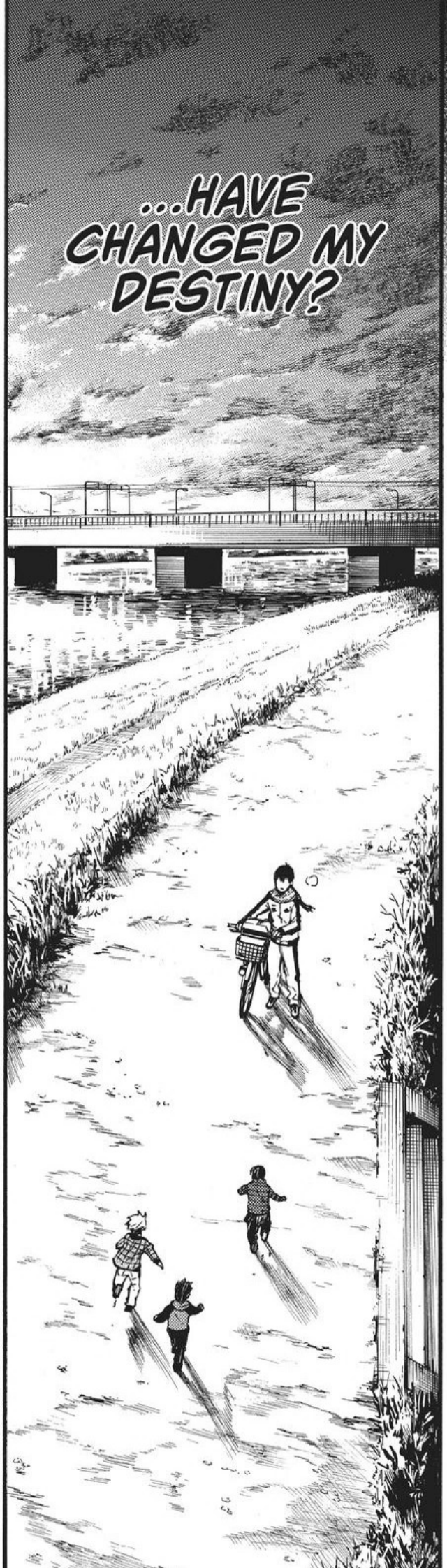
松風黒王
1

OUR TEAMWORK LOST...
NO HELPING THAT...
NO...
WHAT-IFS ARE POINTLESS IN SOCCER...

A PSYCHO!
I BET HE'S A PSYCHO!
HE MIGHT BE DANGEROUS...
WHISPER
WHISPER
THAT GUY IS TALKING TO HIMSELF...

YOU CAN'T WIN ON YOUR OWN...
RIGHT ...?
SOCCER IS A SPORT PLAYED BY ELEVEN PEOPLE...

YOU CAN'T WIN...
ONE FOR ALL...


...HAVE CHANGED MY DESTINY?

I WANTED TO WIN...

DAMN...

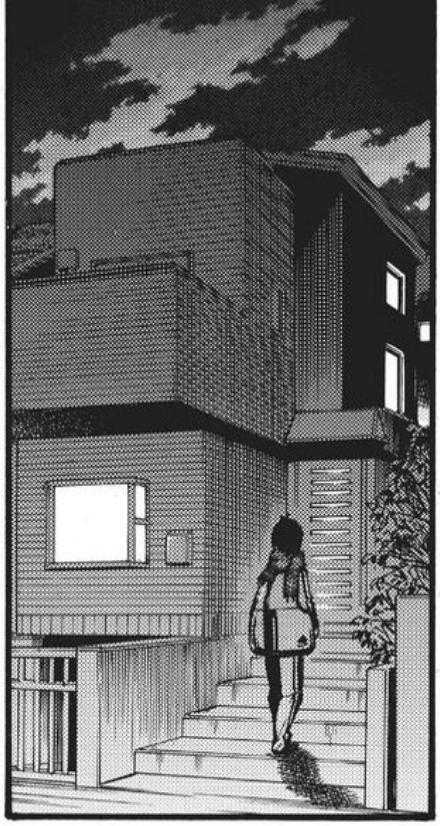
AAAAAAAAAAAAGH!!

RUN AWAY!!

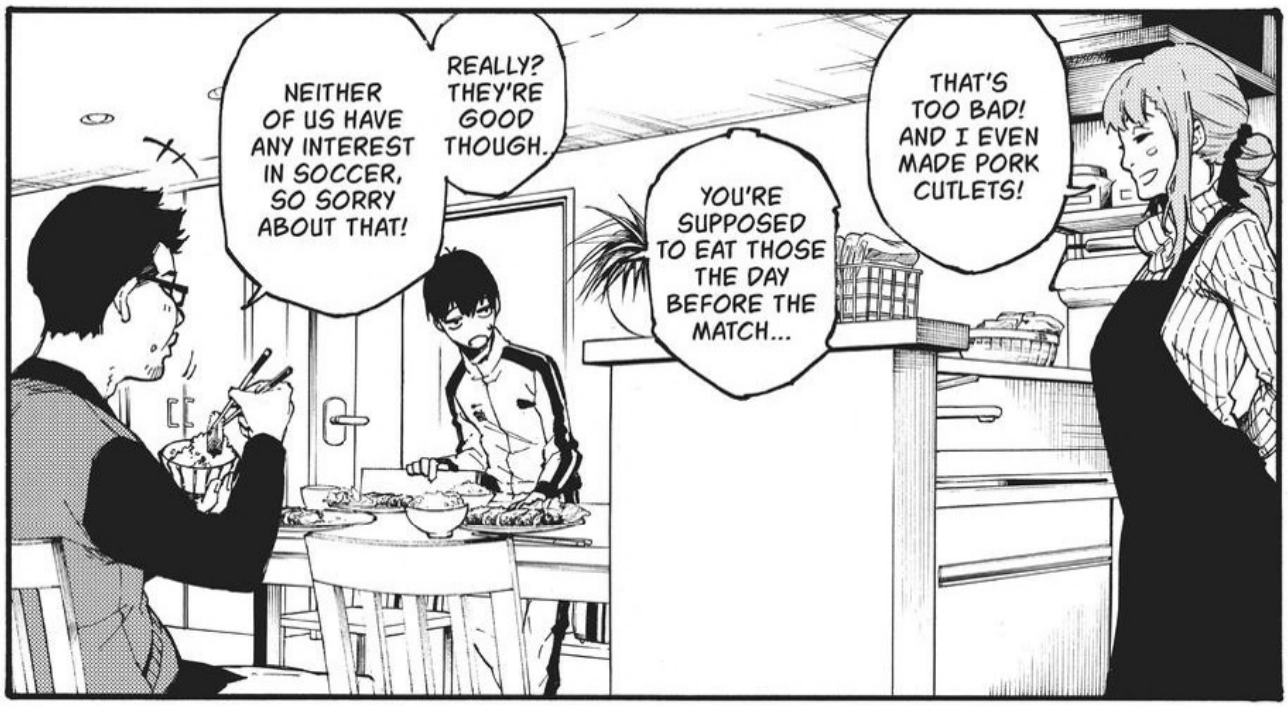
WAAH!!

JOLT

ガチャ
SLAM
I'M HOME...



WEL-COME HOME.
HOW WAS THE GAME?
WE LOST...
WE LOST...
WE LOST...
AND I'M HUNGRY.


THAT'S TOO BAD! AND I EVEN MADE PORK CUTLETS!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO EAT THOSE THE DAY BEFORE THE MATCH...
REALLY? THEY'RE GOOD THOUGH.
NEITHER OF US HAVE ANY INTEREST IN SOCCER, SO SORRY ABOUT THAT!

BY THE WAY, A LETTER CAME FOR YOU, YOCCHAN!
IT'S FROM THE JAPAN FOOTBALL UNION!

BUT WHY...
GULP
...ME?!
HUH...?
MUNCH もぐ MUNCH もぐ
HM? A SUMMONS?
WHAT'S IT SAY?
RUSTLE カサ...
...
YOICHI ISAGI-SAMA
YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED FOR A SPECIAL PLAYER TRAINING PROGRAM
SPECIAL PLAYER TRAINING?
BEATS ME!
...A GOOD THING?
SEEMS LIKE IT'S...

JAPAN FOOTBALL UNION
日本
フットボール連合
TO BE HONEST ...
...I HAVE NO IDEA WHY I WAS CHOSEN, BUT...
WHOA...
JAPAN FOOTBALL UNION 日本 フットボール連合

I HOPE THIS ISN'T JUST ONE OF TADA-CHAN'S GRAND PRANKS...
IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY DETAILS AT ALL...
IS THIS WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET?
TODAY'S MEETING
MEETING PLACE
TIME 0/0 (TUES.) 8 A.M.
PLACE 0000 (3RD FLOOR)

...I'M STILL HAPPY THAT SOMEBODY HAS NOTICED ME.

GLEAM キラーン
THANKS FOR THE MATCH THE OTHER DAY.
YOU KNOW ME, RIGHT?

!
HUH? AREN'T YOU ICHINAN'S ISAGI-KUN?
RIGHT ?
SO YOU GOT CALLED HERE, TOO!

AH...
IT'S RYOSUKE KIRA...!

YES... OF COURSE I DO! I JUST LOST TO YOU...
HUH?! RYOSUKE KIRA KNOWS WHO I AM?!
I TOTALLY REMEMBER YOU!
YOU'VE GOT AWESOME SOCCER SENSE!

TH...
THANKS...
NO WAY....!!
SERIOUSLY ...?!

I DUNNO IF YOU HAVE A HIGH-LEVEL VIEW OF THE GAME, OR JUST HIGH SOCCER IQ, BUT...
DURING OUR GAME...
...I WAS THINKING THAT YOU'D GIVE ME SOME CRAZY GOOD PASSES IF WE WERE ON THE SAME TEAM!

I'M HAVING A NORMAL CONVERSATION WITH RYOSUKE KIRA, THE GREAT YOUNG HOPE OF JAPANESE SOCCER!!
IS THAT SO?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY THEY WANT US TO GATHER HERE, THOUGH.
I TRIED CALLING BUT THEY WOULDN'T TELL ME.
WELL, LET'S GO!
RYOSUKE KIRA JUST PRAISED ME?!

LET'S GET ALONG, ISAGI-KUN!
YOU DON'T NEED TO TALK SO FORMALLY.
WE'RE THE SAME AGE, RIGHT?

HE'S ACTUALLY A GREAT GUY!
SURE...
I GUESS...
...THERE REALLY ARE TALENTED PEOPLE WHO ARE NICE, TOO...

ギッ
CREAK
I THINK THIS IS IT...

IF HE'S PRAISING ME...
...I MUST BE PRETTY AMAZING, HUH?

WHOA...
IT'S SO CROWDED...
I'VE SEEN SOME OF THESE GUYS BEFORE...
THAT'S SENNOU'S ACE, OKAWA.
HE'S HUGE...
WHOA...
THAT'S ISHIKARI, THE TALLEST HIGH SCHOOLER.
OH!
AND NISHIOKA, THE "MESSI OF AOMORI," IS HERE.
HM?
THE GUYS HERE...
...ARE ALL FORWARDS...?

COUGH
AHEM...
UH...
ER...
CONGRATULATIONS, YOU UNPOLISHED LUMPS OF TALENT.
SHOOM
BAM
ACCORDING TO MY PERSONAL JUDGEMENT, THE THREE HUNDRED OF YOU ARE...
...THE BEST STRIKERS UNDER EIGHTEEN.

MY NAME IS JINPACHI EGO.
I WAS HIRED TO GIVE JAPAN A WORLD CUP VICTORY.

ONLY ONE THING IS NECESSARY FOR JAPANESE SOCCER TO BECOME THE BEST IN THE WORLD:

I'LL SAY THIS PLAINLY.

VMM

THE BIRTH OF A REVOLUTIONARY STRIKER.

WITH THE THREE HUNDRED OF YOU HERE...

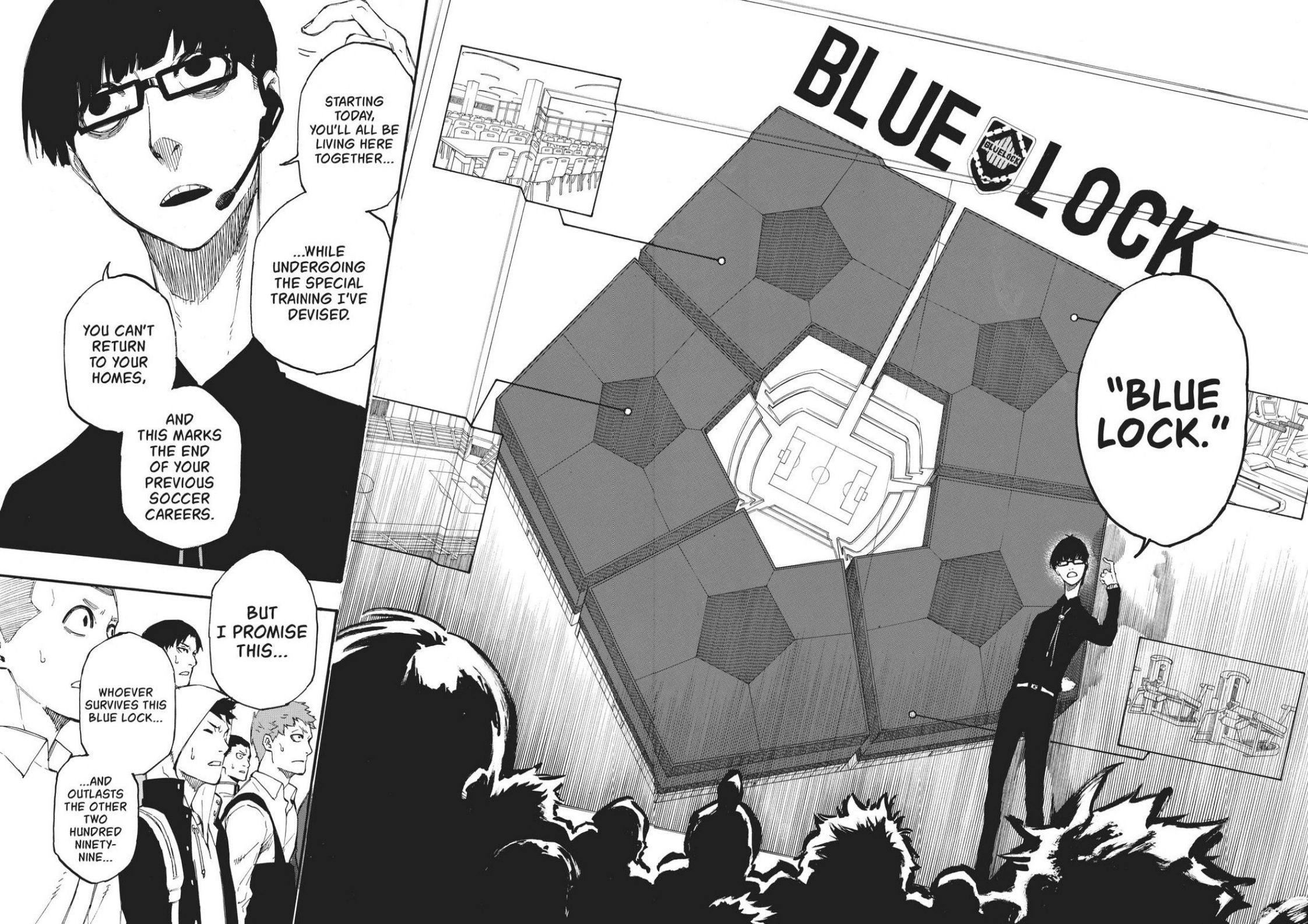
...I WILL CONDUCT AN EXPERIMENT TO CREATE THE WORLD'S BEST STRIKER.

?

?

LOOK.

THIS IS THE FACILITY CREATED FOR THAT PURPOSE...


STARTING TODAY, YOU'LL ALL BE LIVING HERE TOGETHER...
...WHILE UNDERGOING THE SPECIAL TRAINING I'VE DEVISED.
YOU CAN'T RETURN TO YOUR HOMES,
AND THIS MARKS THE END OF YOUR PREVIOUS SOCCER CAREERS.
BUT I PROMISE THIS...
WHOEVER SURVIVES THIS BLUE LOCK...
...AND OUTLASTS THE OTHER TWO HUNDRED NINETY-NINE...
BLUE LOCK
"BLUE LOCK."

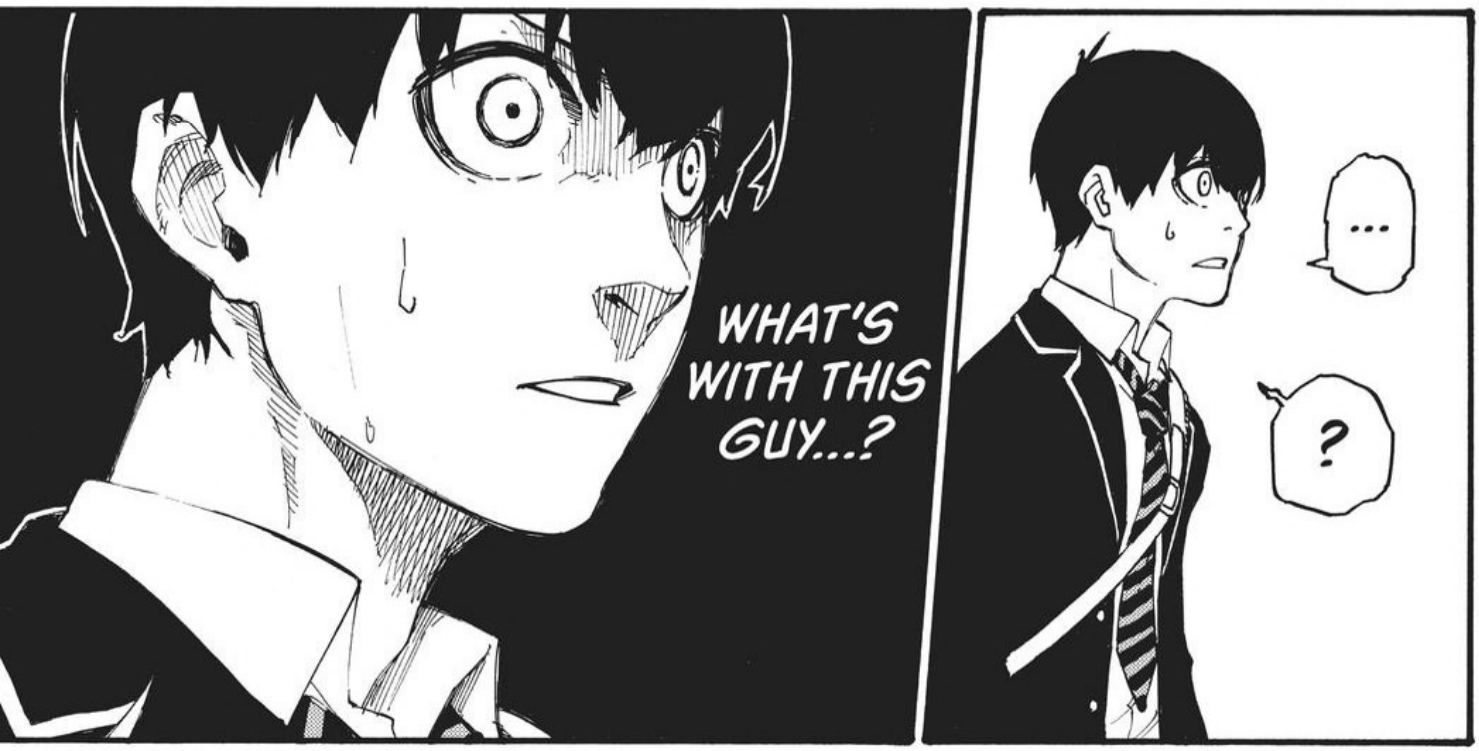
THE LAST REMAINING PERSON...

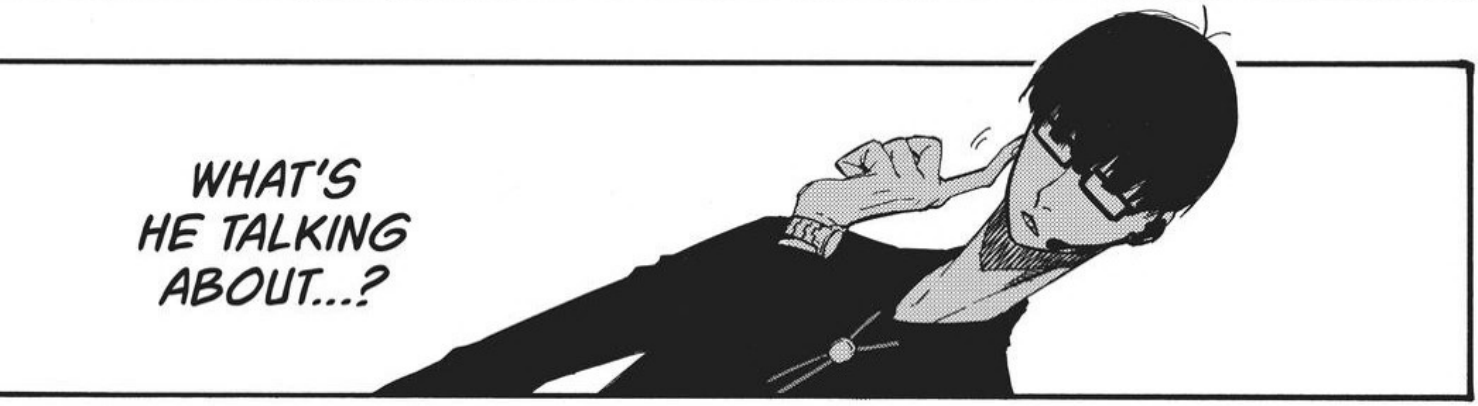
...WILL BECOME THE WORLD'S BEST STRIKER.

THAT CONCLUDES MY EXPLANATION.

THANK YOU.

GLEAM


WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...?
...
?


WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT...?

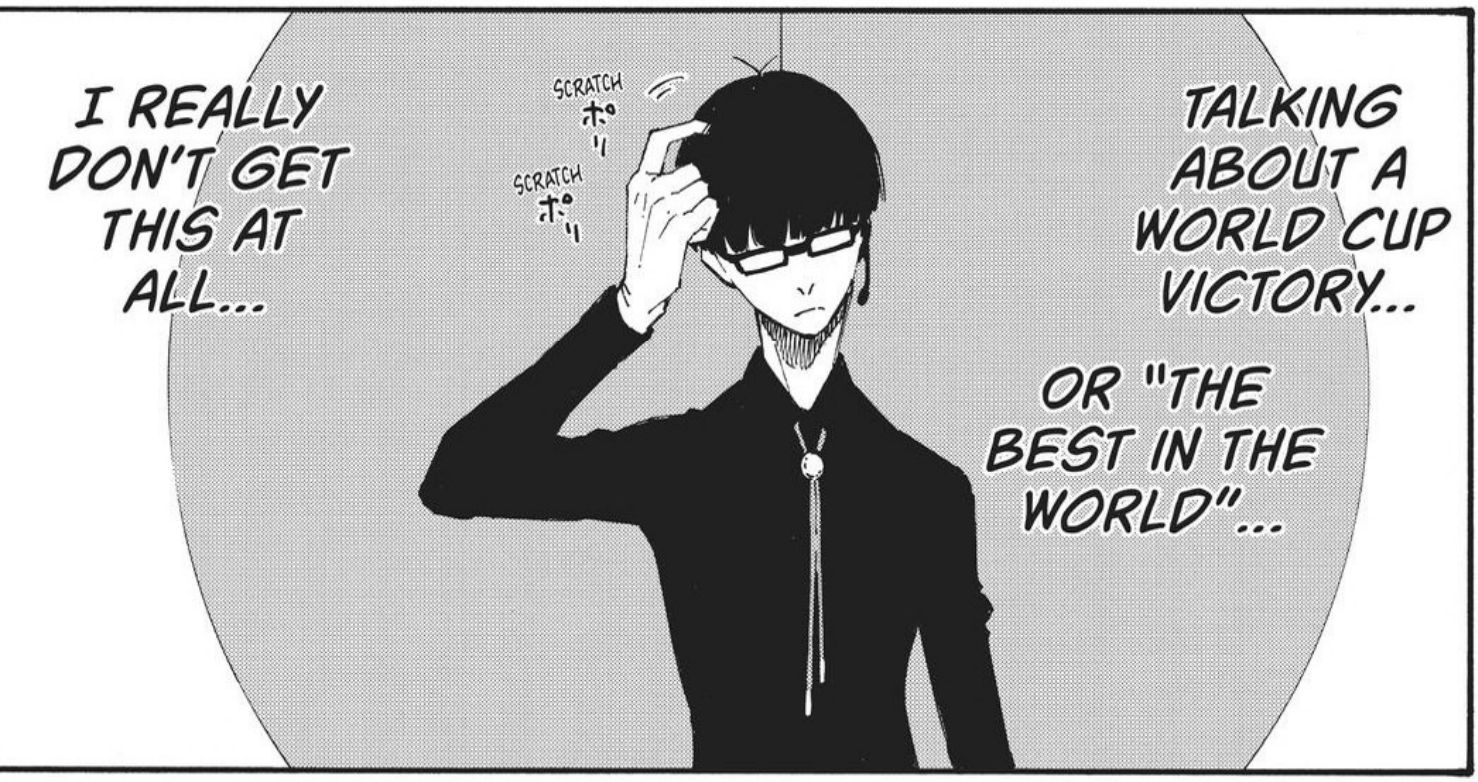
RYOSUKE KIRA!
!
I CAN'T CONSENT TO YOUR EXPLANATION.
UMM!
EXCUSE ME!

EACH OF US HAVE OUR OWN PRECIOUS TEAMS.
AND SOME OF US ARE PREPARING FOR NATIONALS.

RUNNING OFF TO SOME PLACE THAT MAKES NO SENSE...
I CAN'T...
...ABANDON MY TEAM TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT.

YEAH!
THAT'S RIGHT!
AND WHAT'S THAT STUFF ABOUT LIVING TOGETHER?
YEAH!
I'VE GOT NATIONALS, TOO!

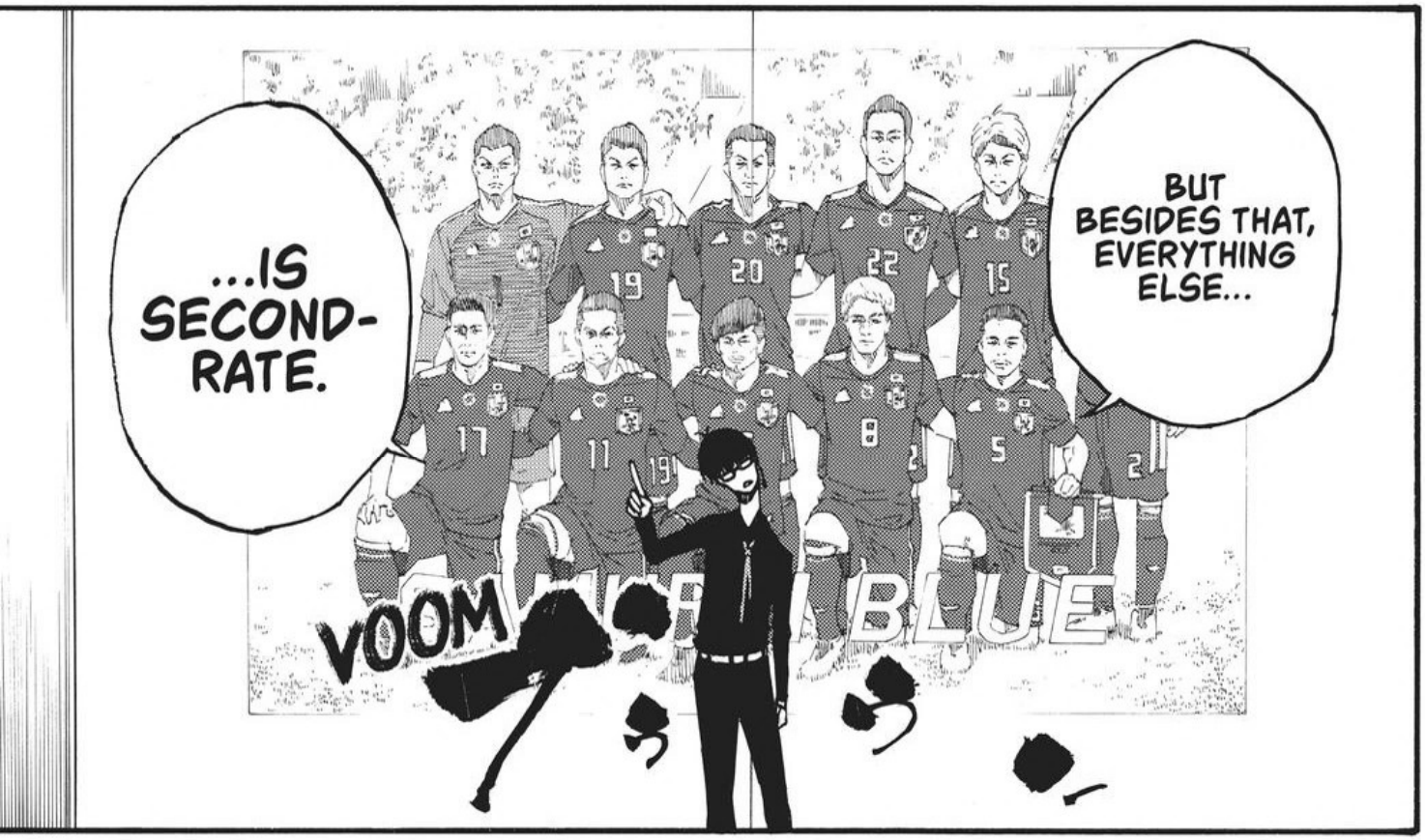
YEAH...
GATHERING US SOMEWHERE LIKE THIS OUT OF THE BLUE...
BRING OUT SOMEBODY LEGIT!
WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?!


I REALLY DON'T GET THIS AT ALL...
SCRATCH ポリ
SCRATCH ポリ
TALKING ABOUT A WORLD CUP VICTORY...
OR "THE BEST IN THE WORLD"...

YOU'RE ALL REALLY SICK, HUH...
I SEE...

THEN PISS OFF.
IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE, I WON'T STOP YOU.
YOUR TEAMS ARE PRE-CIOUS ...?
INSTEAD OF BECOMING THE WORLD'S BEST...
...YOU'D RATHER BE THE BEST HIGH SCHOOLER IN OUR COUNTRY'S SOCCER BACKWATER?
HUH?

LISTEN...
JAPANESE SOCCER'S TEAMWORK CAPABILITY IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD.
YOU CAN SAY IT'S A GIFT OF OUR COUNTRY'S PROPENSITY FOR CONSIDERING OTHERS.
?
?!
I GET DEPRESSED WHEN I THINK ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU CARRYING THE FUTURE OF JAPANESE SOCCER.
HUH?
UH...


...IS SECOND-RATE.
BUT BESIDES THAT, EVERYTHING ELSE...
VOOM
BLUE

JUST WHAT IS SOCCER?
LET ME ASK YOU...

"TREASURING OUR BONDS"?

"FOR MY FRIENDS' SAKE"...?

A SPORT IN WHICH ELEVEN PEOPLE COMBINE THEIR POWER...?

WRONG.

AND THAT'S WHY THIS COUNTRY'S GAME HAS ALWAYS BEEN WEAK.

I'LL TELL YOU... SOCCER IS...

...A SPORT IN WHICH YOU SCORE MORE POINTS THAN YOUR OPPONENT.

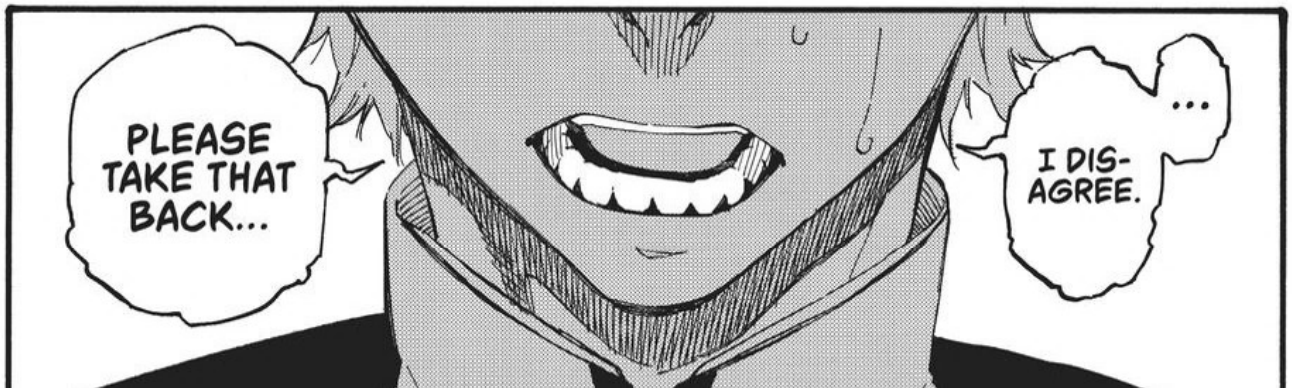
WHAT'S HIS DEAL...?

HE'S CRAZY...

WHOEVER SCORES THE MOST POINTS IS THE BEST.

WHFFT

IF YOU WANT TO PLAY AT "GETTING ALONG," THEN PISS OFF.



THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHERS...

PLAYERS LIKE HONDA... OR KAGAWA...

WATCHING ELEVEN PEOPLE BATTLE TOGETHER...

WE GREW UP WATCHING OUR JAPANESE TEAMS COOPERATE!

NONE OF THEM HAVE WON THE WORLD CUP, RIGHT?

THEN THEY'RE TRASH.

I'M TALKING ABOUT BEING THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

GUH...

GOT IT?

TAKE NOEL NOA, FOR EXAMPLE...

HE BEAT OUT MESSI AND RONALDO TO TAKE THE BALLON D'OR...

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE BEST STRIKER IN THE WORLD SAID?

"INSTEAD OF ASSISTING MY TEAMMATES TO WIN BY 1-0..."
NOEL NOA
"...IT FEELS BETTER TO PULL OFF A HAT TRICK AND LOSE 3-4."
YOU SEE?
"I DON'T CARE ABOUT MY TEAM."
"I JUST WANT TO STAND OUT."
ERIC CANTONA
CANTONA
7
ERIC CANTONA, THE GREATEST SOCCER PLAYER OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, SAID...

"THE WORLD'S BEST FORWARD, MIDFIELDER, DEFENSE, GOALKEEPER"...

AND THE GREATEST PLAYER OF ALL TIME...

"WHICHEVER YOU ASK ABOUT, THE ANSWER IS STILL ME."

...THREE-TIME WORLD CUP WINNER PELE, SAID...

PELE

...THAT.

HOW ABOUT IT? AWFUL, RIGHT?!

THEY WERE ALL REVOLUTIONARY STRIKERS!!

BUT THESE GUYS ARE NUMBER ONE!

WHAT JAPANESE SOCCER LACKS IS EGO.

ALL OF THEM ARE PEERLESS EGOTISTS.

IF YOU'RE NOT THE WORLD'S TOP EGOTIST...

...YOU CAN NEVER BECOME THE WORLD'S BEST STRIKER.

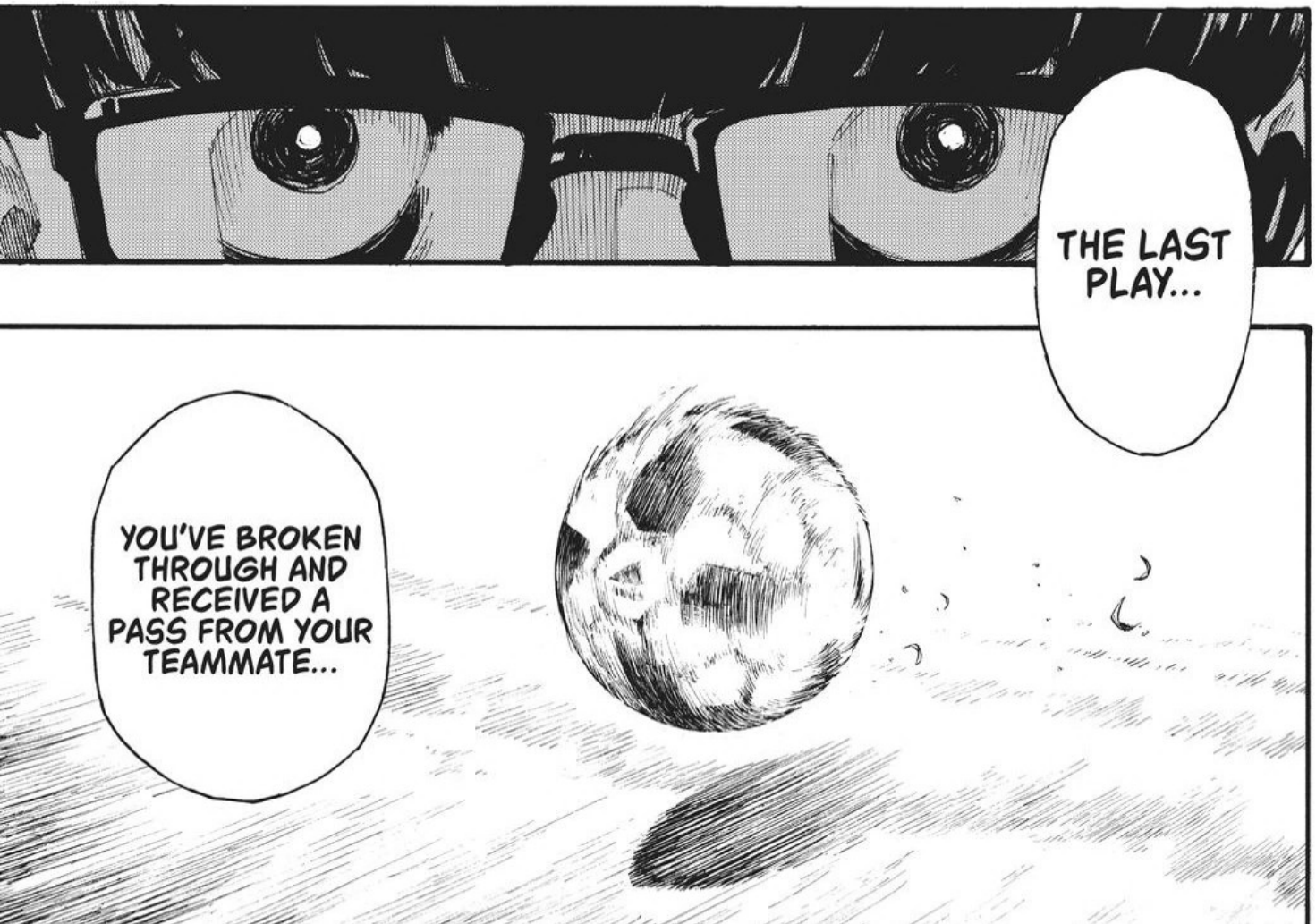
WHAT HE'S SAYING...HAS TO BE WRONG...

NOBODY'S EVER TOLD ME THIS BEFORE...

I'M JUST A NAMELESS STRIKER...
THE LONE HERO WHO WILL STAND...
...ATOP TWO HUNDRED NINETY-NINE CORPSES.
NOW, YOU LUMPS OF TALENT.
LET ME ASK ONE FINAL QUESTION...
NO WAY...
I DON'T HAVE ANY ACHIEVEMENTS TO SPEAK OF...

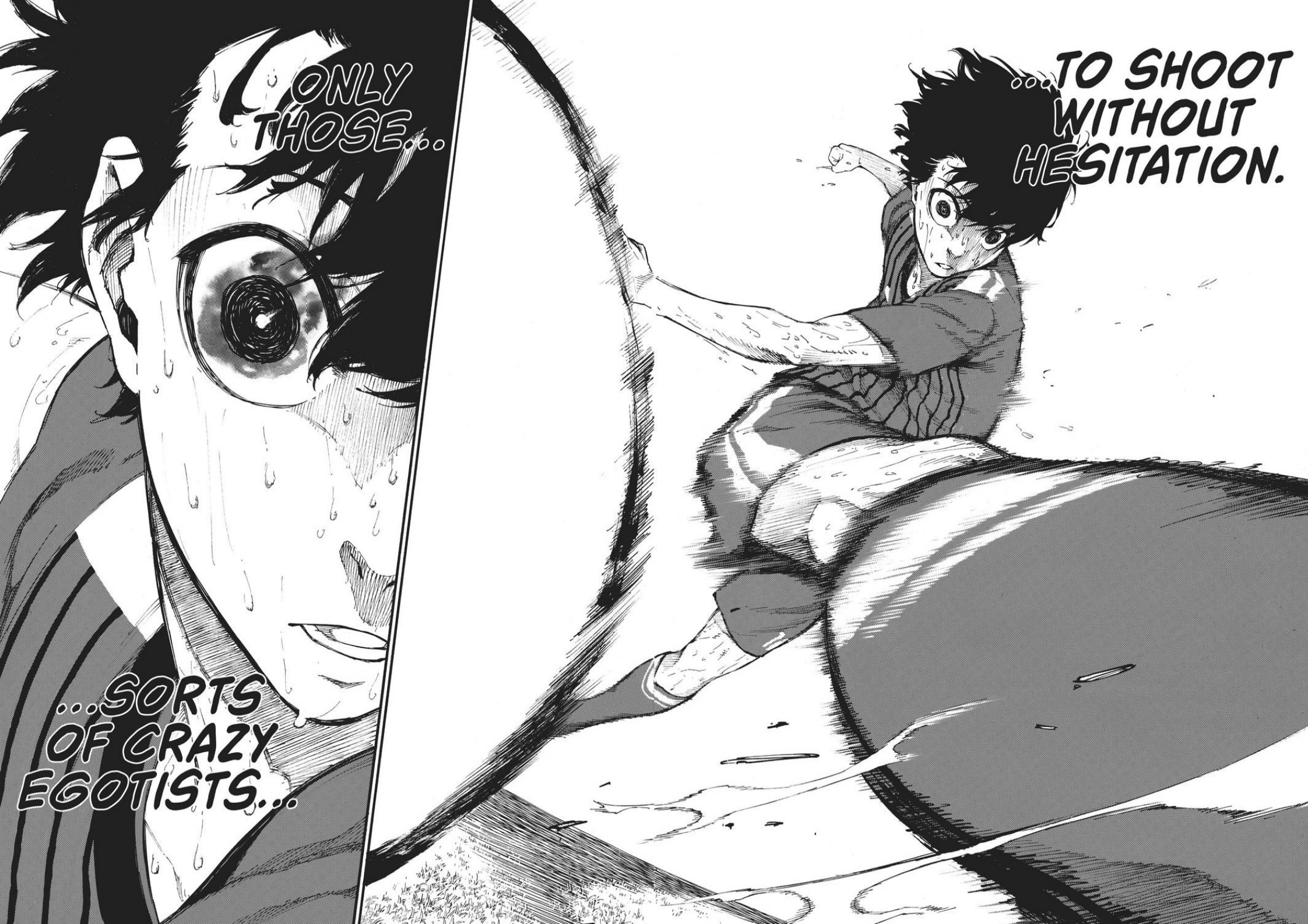
IMAGINE...
YOU'RE AT THE LAST MATCH OF THE WORLD CUP...
EIGHTY THOUSAND SPECTATORS...
YOU'RE ON THAT FIELD.

45
THE SCORE IS 0-0...
0 - 0
JAPAN
GERMANY
THE GAME HAS GONE INTO OVERTIME...


THE LAST PLAY...
YOU'VE BROKEN THROUGH AND RECEIVED A PASS FROM YOUR TEAMMATE...

ISAGI
11
IT'S A ONE-ON-ONE SHOWDOWN WITH THE GOALKEEPER...

astrolly
THERE'S A TEAMMATE TWENTY FEET TO YOUR RIGHT.
IF YOU PASS, YOU CAN ALMOST CERTAINLY GET A POINT...
BUT YOU GAMBLE YOUR NATION'S HOPES...
...AND THE ASSURANCE OF VICTORY...


ONLY THOSE...
...SORTS OF CRAZY EGOTISTS...
...TO SHOOT WITHOUT HESITATION.

SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
I'LL...
...SAY THIS ONCE MORE...
...MAY PROCEED AHEAD.

THINK OF EVERYONE BESIDES YOURSELF ON THE FIELD AS SUPPORTING ACTORS.

SOCCER IS A SPORT THAT EXISTS FOR YOU STRIKERS.

WHY...CAN'T I STOP SHAKING...?

ON THE FIELD...

...YOU'RE THE LEADING ACTOR.

DISCARD YOUR COMMON SENSE.

...TOLD ME ANY OF THIS...

NOBODY EVER...

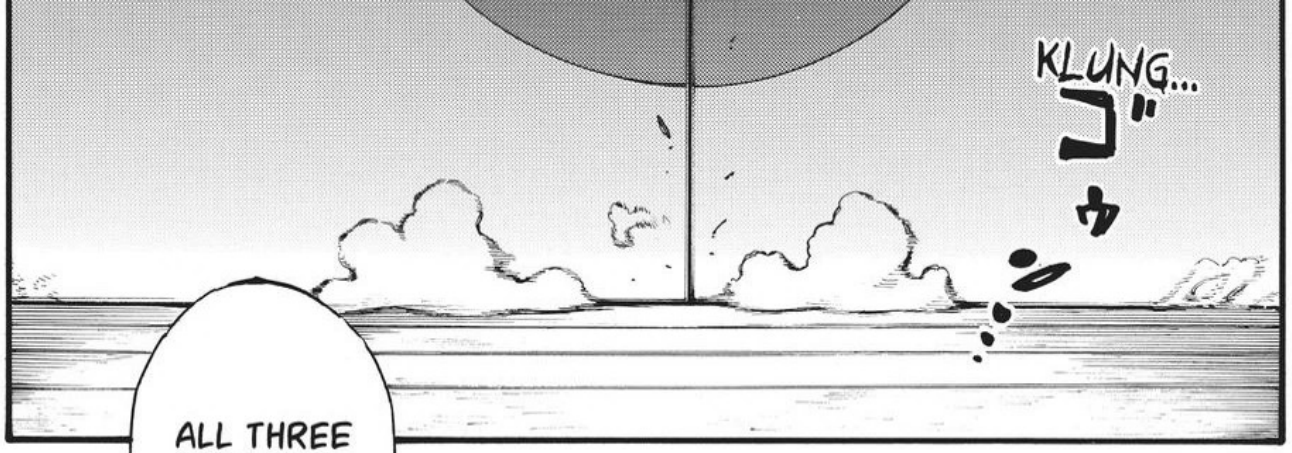
THIS GUY IS...
THAT'S...
...WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A STRIKER.
...GRIPPING MY FATE IN HIS HANDS...
REJOICE IN YOUR OWN GOALS OVER ALL ELSE...
...AND LIVE FOR NOTHING BUT THAT MOMENT.

I'M A STRIKER!!
HIGH SCHOOL
NAN

I'M GOING, TOO!
DAMN...!!
LET ME IN THERE!!
ISAGI-KUN?!
ME, TOO!!
AND ME!!
SOME-BODY ONCE SAID...

FIRST-CLASS STRIKERS...
IN THE WORLD OF SOCCER...
FIRST-CLASS...
GOALIES, DEFENDERS AND MIDFIELDERS CAN BE RAISED...
BUT STRIKERS ARE SOMETHING DIFFERENT ENTIRELY...

...WILL SUDDENLY APPEAR...
...WHERE THE GAME IS HOTTEST!
...IN THE PLACE...



ALL THREE HUNDRED...

...ARE PARTICI-PATING,

HUH...

I'LL ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT YOU SAY...

THERE'S NO GOING BACK NOW.

IT MIGHT...
...MEAN RUINING TWO HUNDRED NINETY-NINE LIVES...
I'M TRUSTING YOU WITH THE FUTURES...
...OF JAPANESE SOCCER AND THESE THREE HUNDRED BOYS.

THAT'S WHAT "BLUE LOCK" IS.
...BUT ONE GREAT STRIKER WILL BE BORN.

ANRI-CHAN...
SHALL WE START IT?
YES...
...

THE PLACE WHERE...
...THE GAME IS HOTTEST IN THE WHOLE WORLD...