

= Yoichi Hiruma =

Yoichi Hiruma ( Japanese : 日輪 義一 , Hepburn : Hiruma Y?ichi ) , commonly referred to just as Hiruma ( ヒルマ ) , is a fictional character in the anime and manga series Eyeshield 21 , created by Riichiro Inagaki and Yusuke Murata . In the series , he is the captain of the Deimon Devil Bats , a high school American football club founded by him and two other students . Due to the lack of interest in the sport , Hiruma uses blackmail and threats to recruit players to Devil Bats . Hiruma witnesses Sena Kobayakawa 's running abilities and forces the boy to join the team as the running back as soon as he can . Hiruma has appeared in other media from the series , including video games , original video animations ( OVAs ) , and light novels .

According to Inagaki , Hiruma was created to be a " devil @-@ hero " , or a kind of anti @-@ hero . Due to this , Murata , the manga 's illustrator , tried to give Hiruma a demonic appearance . In the OVA , released before the anime 's start , he is voiced by Shin @-@ ichiro Miki . However , in the 2005 Japanese anime television series , he was replaced by Atsushi Tamura , who was chosen by the manga series creators due to his voice , which they believed was perfect for the role . His voice actor in the English adaptation is Derek Stephen Prince . Hiruma has been well received by publications for manga and anime . Numerous pieces of merchandise in Hiruma 's likeness have also been released , including decals and statues of ceramic and resin .

= = Development and voice portrayal = =

Riichiro Inagaki , the writer of Eyeshield 21 , has said that he developed Hiruma as a character that does not follow the Japanese concepts of emphasis on sportsmanship and effort in the game ; instead , Hiruma is " only concerned with winning " . Inagaki intended to make an " anti @-@ hero " or , as he refers to the concept , a " devil @-@ hero " . Yusuke Murata , the artist , chose to portray Hiruma as looking " close to being a demon " , since he heard from Inagaki that Hiruma had " the personality of a demon . " Murata has noted that the Devil Bats logo " bears a strong resemblance to Hiruma " . Inagaki also stated that Hiruma 's name is a homage to the British former Formula One driver Damon Hill .

He was voiced by Shin @-@ ichiro Miki in the first anime adaptation of the Eyeshield 21 manga , a 2003 Jump Festa OVA titled The Phantom Golden Bowl . The subsequent television adaptation , however , did not use Miki ; rather , Atsushi Tamura was chosen . Though the animation studio administrated casting , the studio asked Inagaki and Murata for their opinions . The two both felt that Tamura was a " perfect fit " due to " his voice and his style " . In the English dubbing , the role was voiced by Derek Stephen Prince .

= = Appearances = =

= = = In Eyeshield 21 = = =

Seven years prior to the start of the series , a ten @-@ year @-@ old Hiruma snuck into an American military base , where he witnessed a group of soldiers playing American football . He soon learned the sport 's rules and managed to successfully gamble on the winning teams , accumulating a large amount of money . He entered Mao Junior High , where he met Ryokan Kurita , who encouraged Hiruma to create his own team . In order to establish an American football club , Hiruma created an information network to acquire blackmail , allowing him to threaten the vice principal of Mao into allowing the establishment of the club . Gen " Musashi " Takekura also decided to join , and the three new friends made a pact to reach the Christmas Bowl ? the high school football league championship . They decided to join the Shinryuji Naga , but because Kurita could not pass the Shinryuji exam , Hiruma and Musashi went to Deimon High School , and with Kurita established the Deimon Devil Bats .

At the beginning of the series , Hiruma and Kurita , now in their second year of high school ,

attempt to recruit new members to the Deimon Devil Bats . At first their only successful recruit is Sena Kobayakawa , as Hiruma witnesses his incredible running speed and agility and forces him to be the team 's running back . Hiruma additionally hides Sena 's identity by making him wear an eyeshield and adapt the moniker " Eyeshield 21 " . Hiruma , through intimidation , blackmail , cyber terrorism , and other similar methods , plays a crucial role in the development of the young Devil Bats team . Hiruma 's insight and strategic mind , especially his knack for devising trick plays and his psychological games , are critical in the Devil Bats ' various matches . His demonic façade is also seen through by the team manager , Mamori Anezaki , whom he shares a deep understanding with despite constant bickering and teasing .

After winning the Christmas Bowl , Hiruma is selected by the Ojo White Knights ' Seijuro Shin to be one of Team Japan 's two quarterbacks for the International Youth American Football tournament due to his knack for trick plays . Hiruma quickly settles in as the main strategist on the team . Even before this , Hiruma spies on Team USA to acquire information on the ace American players , who are considered by far the favorites to win the tournament . In typical fashion , Hiruma refuses to permit players on the team out of sympathy rather than merit , including his Devil Bats teammates , but does agree with the decision to hold a final tryout as a method of enlisting bench players . Two years later , Hiruma , now in college , is part of the college 's American football team , Saikyouda , opposing some of his former teammates ( students at other colleges ) as they compete to play in the Rice Bowl ? the game between the best college American football teams .

= = = Appearances in other media = = =

Hiruma has made several appearances outside of the Eyeshield 21 anime and manga . He appears in both of the original video animations produced for the series , helping the Deimon Devil Bats defeat the Uraharajuku Boarders in a tournament called the Golden Bowl in the first original video animation , and leaving his teammates on a desert island so they train in the second . Hiruma also appears in all Eyeshield 21 games , which usually feature the original manga story , except for Eyeshield 21 : Devilbats Devildays , which features exclusive stories . He also appears in the crossover games Jump Super Stars and Jump Ultimate Stars as a supporting character .

= = Reception = =

The character of Hiruma has been well received by manga readers , and as the series continued he went on to become one of the most popular characters among the Eyeshield 21 reader base , having consistently placed near the top of the Weekly Shōnen Jump character popularity polls of the series . In the first poll he placed second , behind Sena , but in another two he ranked first . He was also chosen by the readers as the character who would win an " Evil Showdown " against Agon Kongo , as well as the best quarterback in the series . In an interview , Atsushi Tamura said about Hiruma : " I look just like this guy " ; and stated that he " think [ s ] there is a lot of other people who want to do the Hiruma 's role " . Several pieces of merchandise based on Hiruma have also been released , including decals and statues of ceramic and resin .

Several publications for manga , anime , video games , and related media have commented on Hiruma 's character . Chris Beveridge from Mania.com stated that " the outlandish nature of Hiruma with his guns blazing gets old very quickly " and considered it a " downside " to the series . On the other hand , Ain 't It Cool News ' Scott Green said that " impish Hiruma starts out as a unique star . " Mania.com 's Jarred Pine noted that Hiruma is " so completely over @-@ the @-@ top and out of left field that I couldn ' t help laughing " and that his " rude , crude , and completely unpredictable " behavior " makes his character so damn enjoyable " . Pine concluded that Hiruma 's personality was " instantly memorable " and his " unpredictable nature " was responsible for making the story " so enjoyable " . The contrast with " Sena 's hard effort and Hiruma 's trickery and devilish nature " was also praised by Pine . Writing for Anime News Network , Carlo Santos praised Hiruma 's character design as " imaginative " with his " lanky " and " demon @-@ like appearance " and additionally commented that " despite his sheer ruthlessness , it 's hard not to laugh as Hiruma enthusiastically

resorts to blackmail in recruiting students for the team ". Erin Finnegan of Anime News Network also noted the " demonic @-@ looking " aspect of Hiruma , saying he is " like a predecessor of Ozu from The Tatami Galaxy with a love of football " . Anime News Network 's Zac Bertschy called Hiruma the " most fun " character insofar , making note of his " brash , menacing and ultimately passionate " personality and that " in a sense , Hiruma turns the ' kindly old coach @-@ come @-@ mentor who helps the hero along ' cliché on its ear " .