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ブルーロック

BLUELOCK

原作 金城宗幸 muneyuki kaneshiro × 漫画 ノ村優介 yusuke nomura

SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

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ブルーロック
BLUELOCK
原作 金城宗幸 × 漫画 ノ村優介

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OF FOOTBALL...

IN THE WORLD

HOWEVER, THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID OF STRIKERS.

IT IS POS-SIBLE TO PRODUCE ELITE GOALKEEPERS, DEFENDERS AND MIDFIELDERS.

AFTER ALL, A FIRST-RATE STRIKER IS ONE...

MOST CRITICAL MOMENT.
WHO APPEARS IN FOOT-BALL'S
ブルーロック
BLUE LOCK

BLUELOCK

JAPAN'S NATIONAL TEAM LOSES IN THE 16TH ROUND.

THE 2018 WORLD CUP.

CHAPTER 1: DREAM

OKAY...

ONCE AGAIN, IT IS CLEAR THAT JAPAN IS AT AN IMPASSE WHEN IT COMES TO OUR WORLD CUP PERFORMANCE.

UNLESS WE WANT A REPEAT OF THIS PERFORMANCE NEXT TIME, I RECOMMEND WE DEVELOP A PLAN...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, PRESIDENT?

ANRI TEIERI

New member of the Japan Football Association (JFA)

AFTER ALL, FOOTBALL IS NOTHING BUT BUSINESS.

HUH?

OUR PROFITS ARE GOOD, SO WHAT DO WE NEED TO CHANGE?

HIROTOSHI BURATSUTA

President of the Japan Football Association (JFA)

SO LONG AS WE MAINTAIN THE JAPAN NATIONAL TEAM'S BRAND, WE'LL BE FINE REAPING THE PROFITS GENERATED BY IT.

WHY DON'T WE JUST GET OURSELVES ONE OF THOSE FOREIGNER COACHES TO GIVE THE TEAM THAT SPARK AMIDST ALL THOSE JAPANESE PLAYERS?

THEN, IF THE TEAM GETS ON A LOSING STREAK, WE'LL FIRE THE GUY AND BLAME IT ALL ON HIM.

"KAZU MIURA!"
"KAZU IS OUT!"
DO THAT ONE THING LIKE OKA-CHAN!
BUHA HA!
DO YOU GUYS REMEMBER OSIM~~?!

IT SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN A HIGHER STANDARD...
AS A COUNTRY REPRESENT-ED IN EVERY WORLD CUP TOURNA-MENT...
...CERTAINLY, THE JAPAN NATIONAL TEAM'S BEEN AT A STANDSTILL FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS...

IF THIS SITUATION REMAINS THE SAME, JAPAN WILL NEVER...
AND YET,
I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR MY WORDS NOW!

WE WILL NEVER WIN...

THE WORLD CUP.

HUH?

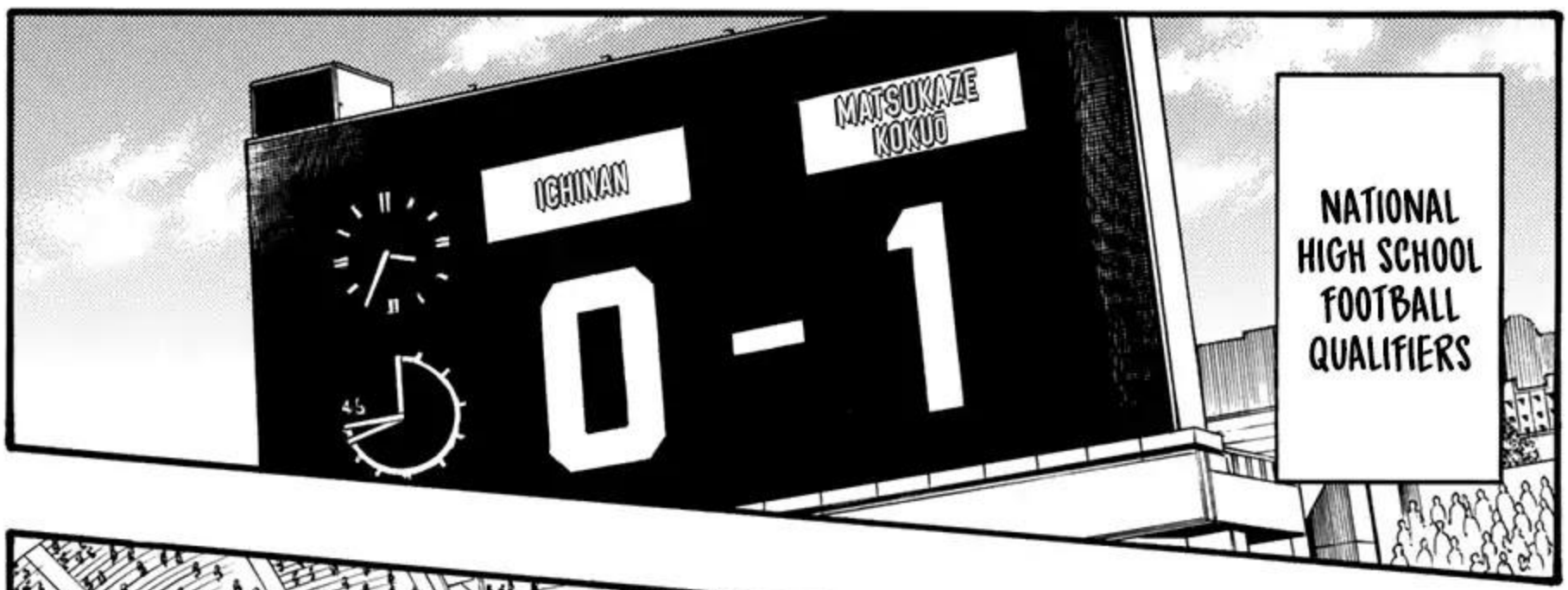
ANRI-CHAN, DON'T TELL ME...

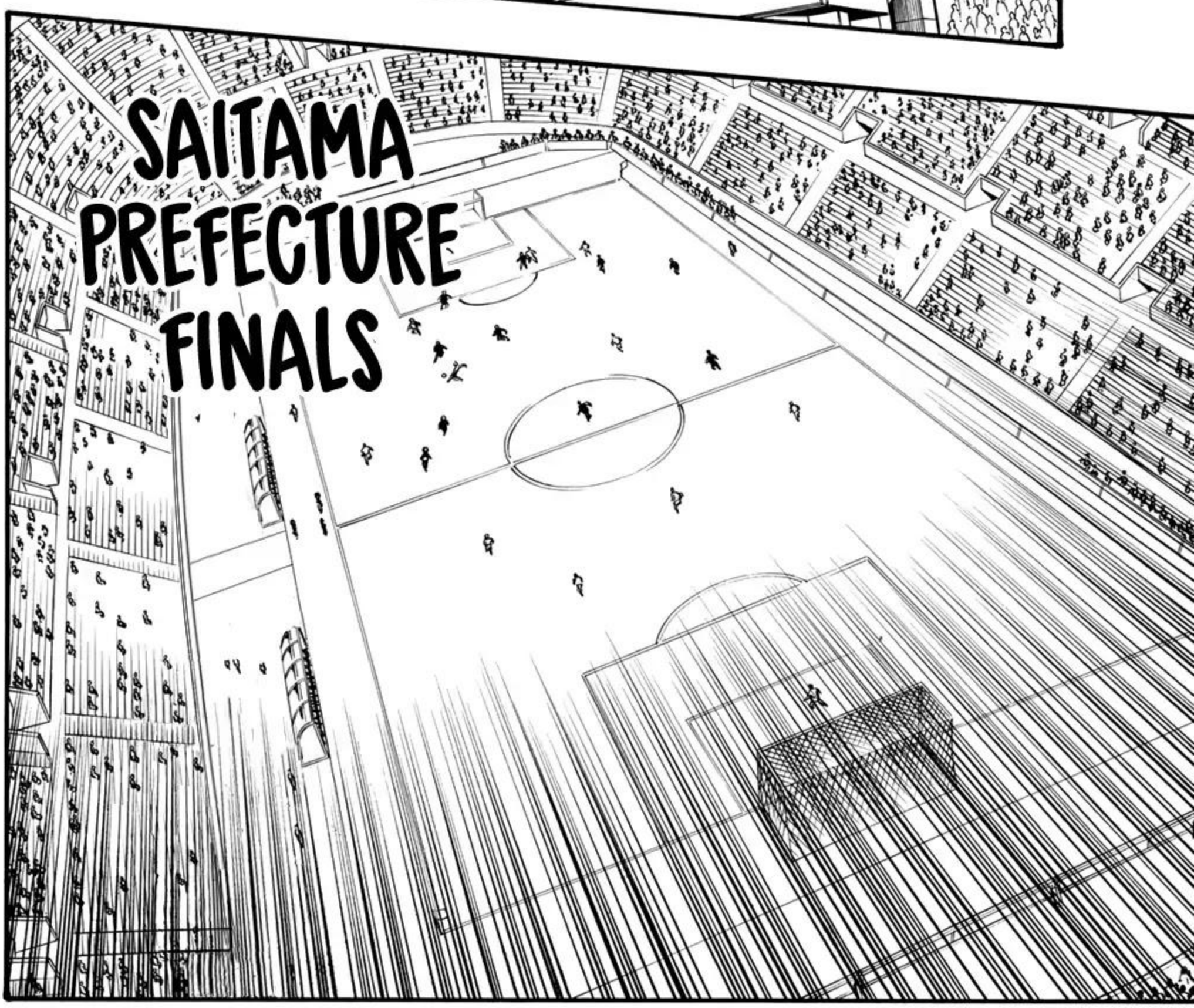
YOU REALLY THINK THEY CAN WIN?

JAPAN, WINNING THE WORLD CUP?!

She's got a big mouth, huh? Like those tits...
Is this girl serious...? But check out those tits.
"JAPAN'S PASSING PLAYSTYLE WILL CARRY US TO THE WORLD STAGE"?
"WE WILL WIN IF WE KEEP DOING OUR BRAND OF FOOTBALL"?
Pi
WE KEEP SAYING THESE THINGS, BUT SENTIMENT WON'T ADVANCE US PAST THE ROUND OF 16.
OBVIOUSLY I DO, YOU GREEDY FOX.
IT IS MY BIGGEST DREAM TO SEE JAPAN WINNING THE WORLD CUP!
I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF THEM...
AND YOU MIGHT SAY THAT, ANRI-CHAN...
BUT DO YOU HAVE A PLAN TO CHANGE THIS?

JINPACHI EGO!
HE WILL BE THE COACH TO BREAK DOWN THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE CURRENT NATIONAL TEAM
NOW LOOK AT THIS!
IT IS UP TO US TO CREATE...
THE ULTIMATE PLAYER THAT CAN LEAD JAPAN TO ITS FIRST WORLD CUP!


ICHINAN
MATSUKAZE KOKUO
0 - 1
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL QUALIFIERS


SAITAMA PREFECTURE FINALS

ISAGIII!!
THIS POSSESSION'S YOUR LAST CHANCE!!
GOOOO, ISAGI! GO, GO!!

松風高
9
一難
11
松風高
7
9
11
7
ノス
ワクティック

ICHINAN HIGH SCHOOL SECOND-YEAR FORWARD
YOICHI ISAGI
潔 世一
IF WE WIN, WE'RE GOING TO NATION-ALS!

NATIONALS!
NATIONALS!
NATIONALS!
NATIONALS!

I HAVE TO SHOOT! I'VE GOTTA SHOOT!

1 ON 1 WITH THE GOAL-KEEPER!

Matsukaze Kokuō High School Goalkeeper

SHŌHEI IN

THE!

NATION-ALS!

ISAGI!!!

PASS IT, I'M OPEN!!

!?

IF I PASS...

SCORE THAT ONE GOAL...

WE'LL PROBABLY

ONE FOR ALL, AND ALL FOR ONEEEEEE!!

IF YOU SHOOT IT, IT'LL BE THE END!!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, ISAGI?!

COACH?!

THAT'S RIGHT...

FOOTBALL IS...!

OH!
A'IGHT!
NOW IT'S A-TIE...!
A SPORT PLAYED WITH 11 PEOPLE...!

DAM-MIT!!
WHAT?!
SHIT...
COUNTER, COUNTER!
GO FOR IT, KIRA!!

松風黒王
10
10
17
17
MATSUKAZE HIGH
KOKUŌ SCHOOL
SECOND-YEAR FORWARD
RYŌSUKE KIRA
吉良 涼介

WHAT THE...?

一難

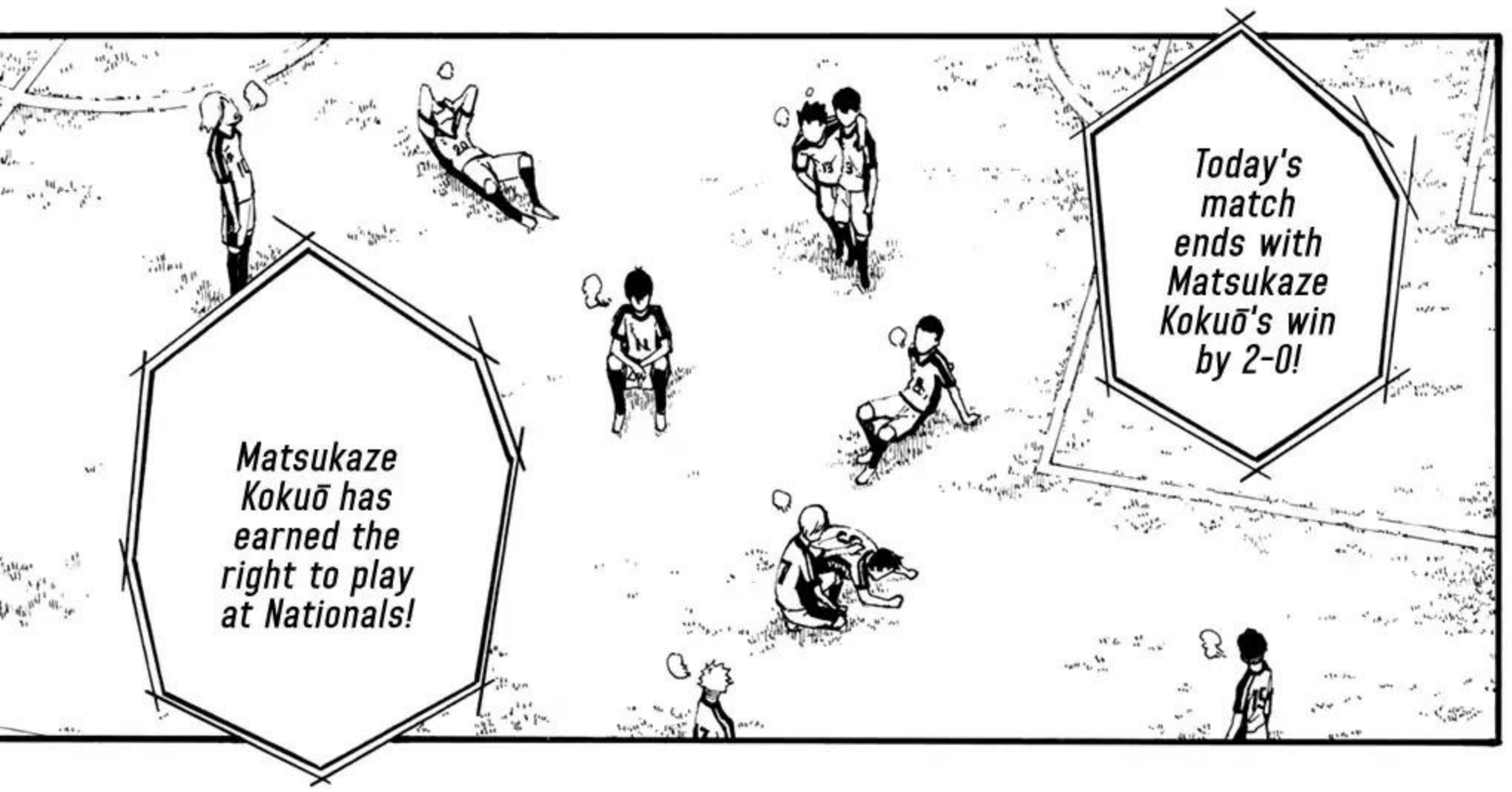
バ

ピー

WE LOST.

0-2

IT'S OVER.


Today's match ends with Matsukaze Kokuō's win by 2-0!
Matsukaze Kokuō has earned the right to play at Nationals!

...

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, TAMA...
IV ONLY I'D ZCORED... IV ONLY I ZCORED...
I'B SOWWY, GUYZ...

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING ABLE TO PLAY FOR JAPAN'S U-18 NATIONAL TEAM?
WHILE I'M SURE WINNING THE QUALIFIERS FOR NATIONALS IS JUST ONE MORE STEP FOR YOU,

IS FROM HAVING A CAPABLE TEAM BEHIND ME THAT I CAN DEPEND ON.
THE REASON FOR ALL MY SUC-CESS...

WELL,
BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY ONE THING...
RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT MY SIGHTS SET ON WINNING NATIONALS WITH THIS TEAM,
松風黒王

I also like how he cares about his team-mates...!
Kya— Kira!

AS MUCH AS IT HURTS, THIS IS THE END OF THE ROAD FOR ICHINAN HIGH.
YOU DID WELL.

GATHER ROUND, TEAM!

BUT YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF THOSE DAYS YOU FOUGHT TOGETHER AS A TEAM.
AND FOR SOME OF YOU, YOUR LAST TIME PLAYING FOOTBALL...
IT'S THE LAST MATCH FOR OUR THIRD-YEARS...

BUT DON'T EVER THINK IT WAS MEANINGLESS... AND REMEMBER IT FONDLY...!
GH...
ズ
ぎっ
YOU WILL REMEMBER THIS DEFEAT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES...
GH...

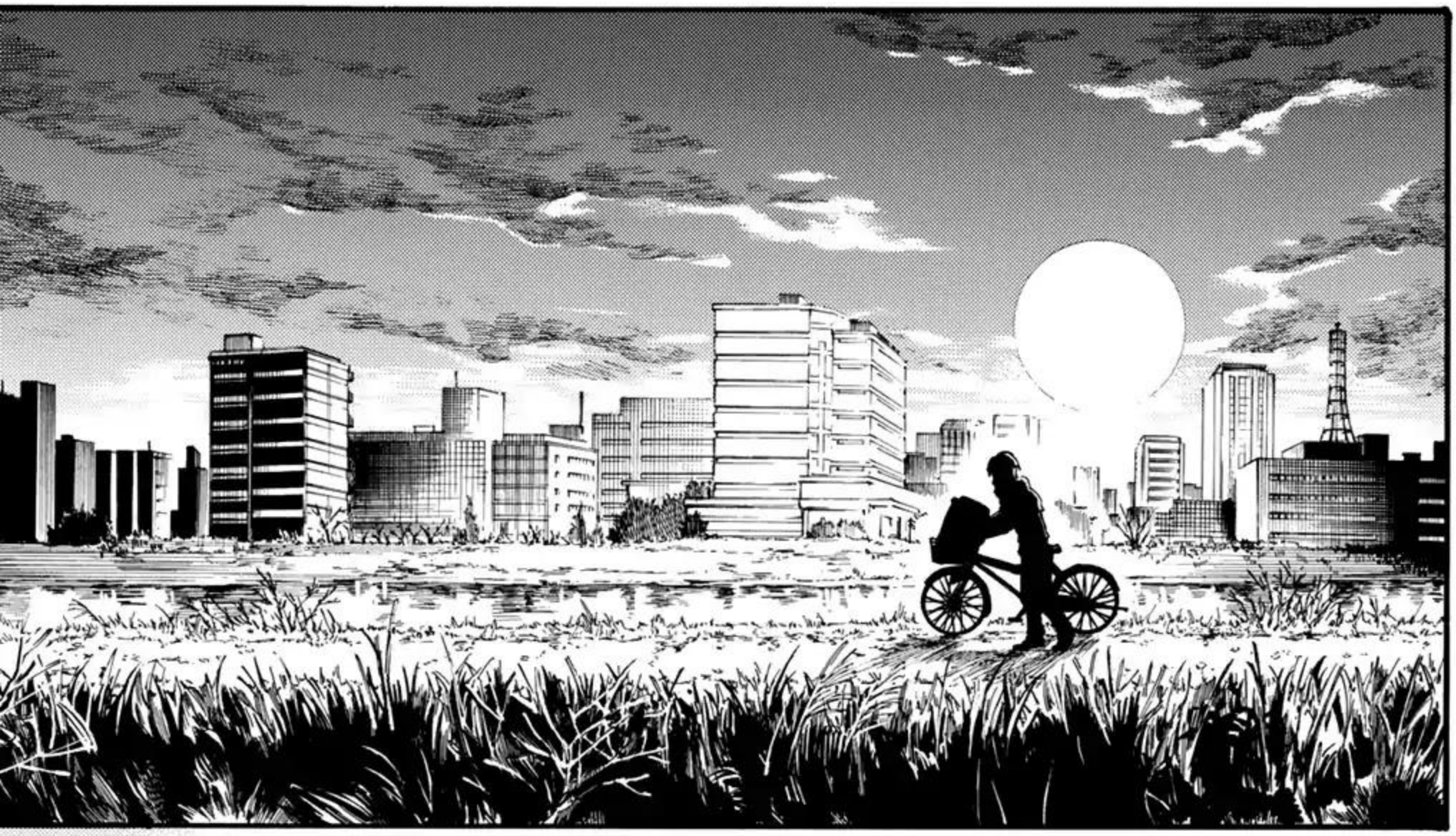
TO ME, ICHINAN HIGH WILL ALWAYS BE...

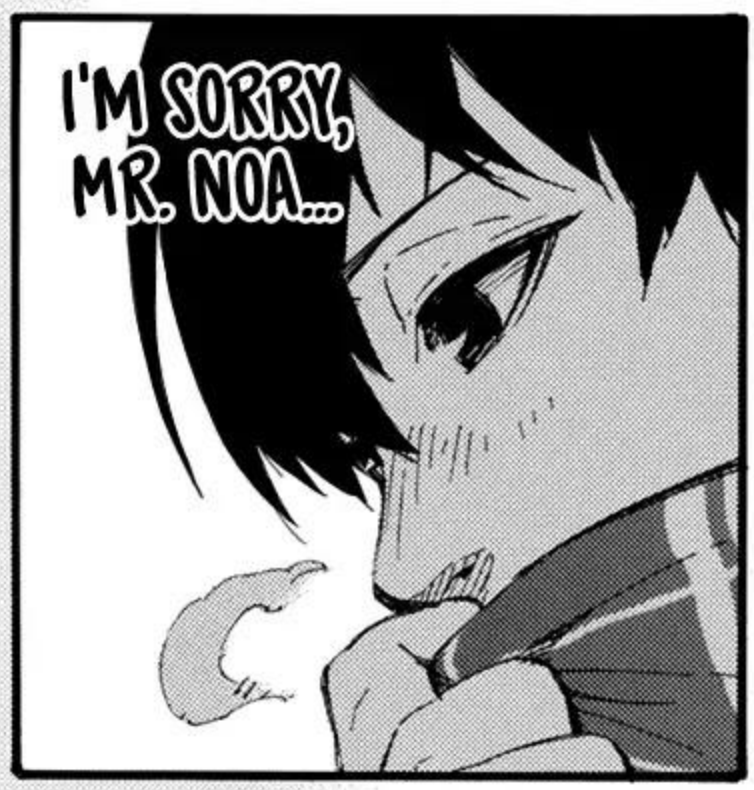
THERE'S NOTHING MEANINGLESS IN LIFE!

NO...

THE BEST TEAM IN ALL OF JAPAN!!

WE'RE JUST SOME TEAM THAT FELL ONE STEP SHORT OF PLAYING AT NATIONALS.





TO BECOME A GREAT HERO LIKE YOU.

IT LOOKS LIKE I WON'T BE ABLE...

31 years old
Forward for
France's National Team

EUROPE
Best Player of the Year
2018
NOEL NOA

FOR SO LONG.

So cool!

I STROVE TO BE LIKE YOU...

Direct play! What a fantastic goal!

I WAS ENTRANCED BY YOUR PLAYSTYLE...

You're too good for middle school!

SO I PLAYED AND PLAYED FOOTBALL.

Nice goal, Isagi!

Can't stop Yo-chan!

Shoot! He's passed 5 of us!

One for all, and all for one!!

Don't you dare think football is just won with one player alone!

Ichinan High is a team with its sights set on the Nationals with all 11 players together!

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE MY DREAM WILL BE JUST THAT, AND NOTHING MORE.

JAPAN'S NATIONAL TEAM'S ACE STRIKER...

I THOUGHT THAT ONE DAY, I WOULD BECOME...

ISAGI

11

OF WINNING THE WORLD CUP...

I EVEN HAD THE SILLY DREAM...

AND IF I KEPT PLAYING FOOTBALL SERIOUSLY, I'D STILL HAVE TO GIVE IT UP IN THE END...

I HAVE ONE YEAR LEFT UNTIL I GRADUATE...

MAYBE...

WOULD I...?

IF I HAD SHOT THE BALL...

IF I HADN'T PASSED IT BACK THEN...

松風黒王

WE DIDN'T LOSE BECAUSE I CHOSE...

TO GO FOR TEAM PLAY...

NAH...

WHAT-IFS ARE POINTLESS IN FOOT-BALL...

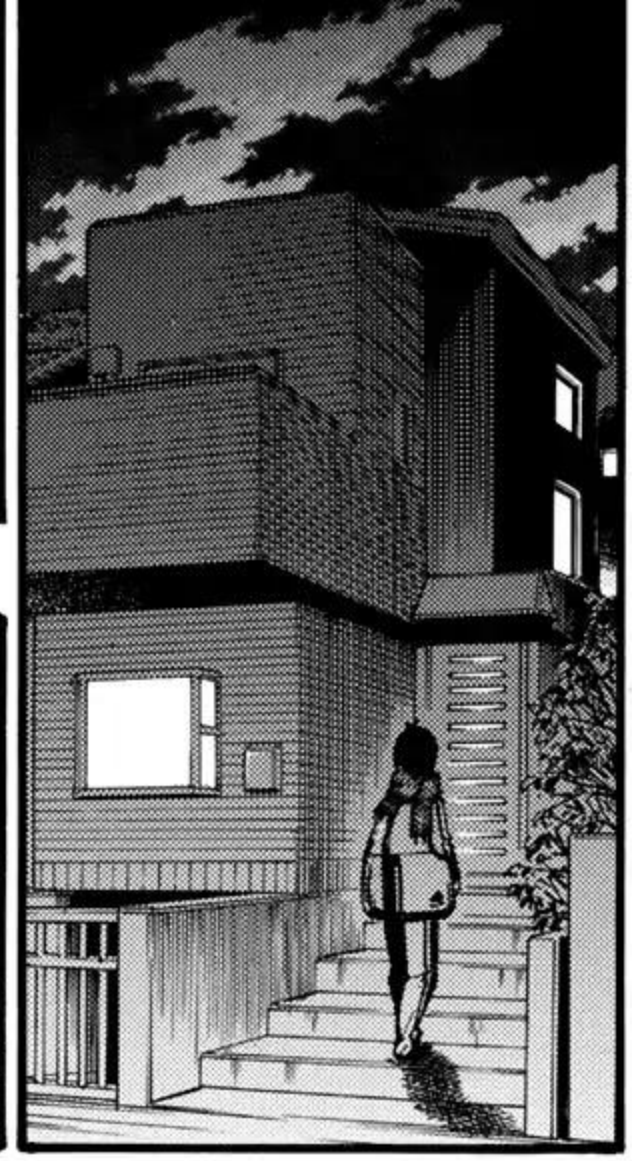
WOULD MY FATE HAVE CHANGED THEN?

I WANTED TO WIN...!

FUCK...!

hhhh

I'M HOME...!



WE LOST.
WE LOST.
WE LOST.
I'M HUNGRY YY!
HOW DID THE GAME GO?
WEL-COME BACK!

SORRY, BUT MA' AND PA' DON'T REALLY KNOW THAT MUCH 'BOUT ALL THAT FOOTBALL STUFF!
OH, IZZAT SO?
WE JUST HAD THAT YESTERDAY...
THAT'S TOO BAD! I EVEN MADE TONKATSU TODAY!

FROM THE JAPAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIA-TION!
BY THE WAY, YO-CHAN! THERE'S A LETTER FOR YOU ...

もっもど

WHA...?

HM? SELECT-ION?

WHAT'S IT SAY?

カサ…

...

Mr. Yoichi Isagi,

Selection for a Player Improvement Project

"PLAYER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT"...?

WHY...

gulp

AM I...?!

WHO KNOWS!

ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING?

BUT WAIT,

JAPAN FOOTBALL UNION
日本
フットボール連合

I HAD NO IDEA WHY THEY HAD CHOSEN ME, BUT...

おお...

HON-ESTLY...

JAPAN FOOTBALL UNION 日本 フットボール連合

I WAS HAPPY THAT SOMEONE HAD SCOUTED ME...!

キラーン

NICE TO MEET YOU, BY THE WAY!

DO YOU REMEM-BER ME?

!

OH? AREN'T YOU ISAGI FROM ICHINAN HIGH?

YOU ARE, RIGHT?

SO THEY CALLED YOU HERE, TOO!

OH...

IT'S RYŌSUKE KIRA!

WELL, I DEFINITELY REMEMBER YOU!

I HAD A HUNCH THAT YOU WERE QUITE THE PLAYER!

RYŌSUKE KIRA KNOWS WHO I AM?!

WHAT?!

AH, YES...

OF COURSE! WE LOST AGAINST YOU AND ALL...

AH...

THANKS...

ARE YOU KIDDING ME...?!

IS HE SERIOUS...?!

YEAH, I THOUGHT YOU HAD IMPRESSIVE FIELD PERSPECTIVE AND A HIGH FOOTBALL IQ...

I THOUGHT "IF THIS GUY AND I WERE IN THE SAME TEAM, I'M SURE I'D GET SOME AMAZING PASSES!"

I NOTICED IN OUR MATCH EARLIER...

HERE I AM, JUST TALKING LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL WITH JAPAN'S YOUTH FOOTBALL STAR, RYŌSUKE KIRA!

YEAH, SAME.

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET.

I TRIED CALLING, BUT THEY AIN'T PICKING UP EITHER.

RIGHT, LET'S GO!

DID I JUST GET PRAISED BY RYŌSUKE KIRA...?!

SO LET'S ACT LIKE IT, YOICHI!

AND HEY, NO NEED TO BE SO POLITE!

WE'RE IN THE SAME YEAR, RIGHT?

WOW...
THAT'S A LOTTA GUYS...!
I THINK I RECOGNIZE A FEW FACES FROM HERE...

THAT'S ŌKAWA, THE ACE FROM SENNŌ...
AND THAT'S ISHIKARI, THE TALLEST PLAYER IN HIGH SCHOOL.
A giant...
He's huge...
OH,
I SEE NISHIOKA, THE "MESSI OF AOMORI", IS HERE TOO.

HM?
DON'T TELL ME EVERY-ONE HERE...
IS ACTUALLY A FORWARD?

Tch

TEST,

ONE,

TWO.

CONGRATU-LATIONS, YOU UNPOLISHED GEMS.

ALL YOU UNDER-18 STRIKERS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN SOLELY BASED ON MY CRITERIA AND BIASES TO BE HERE TODAY.

ALL 300 OF YOU.

I AM JINPACHI EGO.
MY JOB IS TO MAKE JAPAN A TEAM CAPABLE OF WINNING THE WORLD CUP.

ザワ
ザワ
ザワ

NO WAY...
NAH...
YOU KNOW HIM?
WHO'S THAT GUY?

THE WORLD CUP?
BUT HOLD ON, WHAT DID HE SAY?

JAPAN ONLY REQUIRES ONE THING TO BECOME THE STRONGEST POWERHOUSE IN FOOTBALL.
I'LL PUT IT IN SIMPLE TERMS.
ドーン

I WILL FORGE THE BEST STRIKER IN THE WORLD THROUGH A CERTAIN PROJECT.

AND THAT IS THE CREATION OF A REVOLUTIONARY STRIKER.

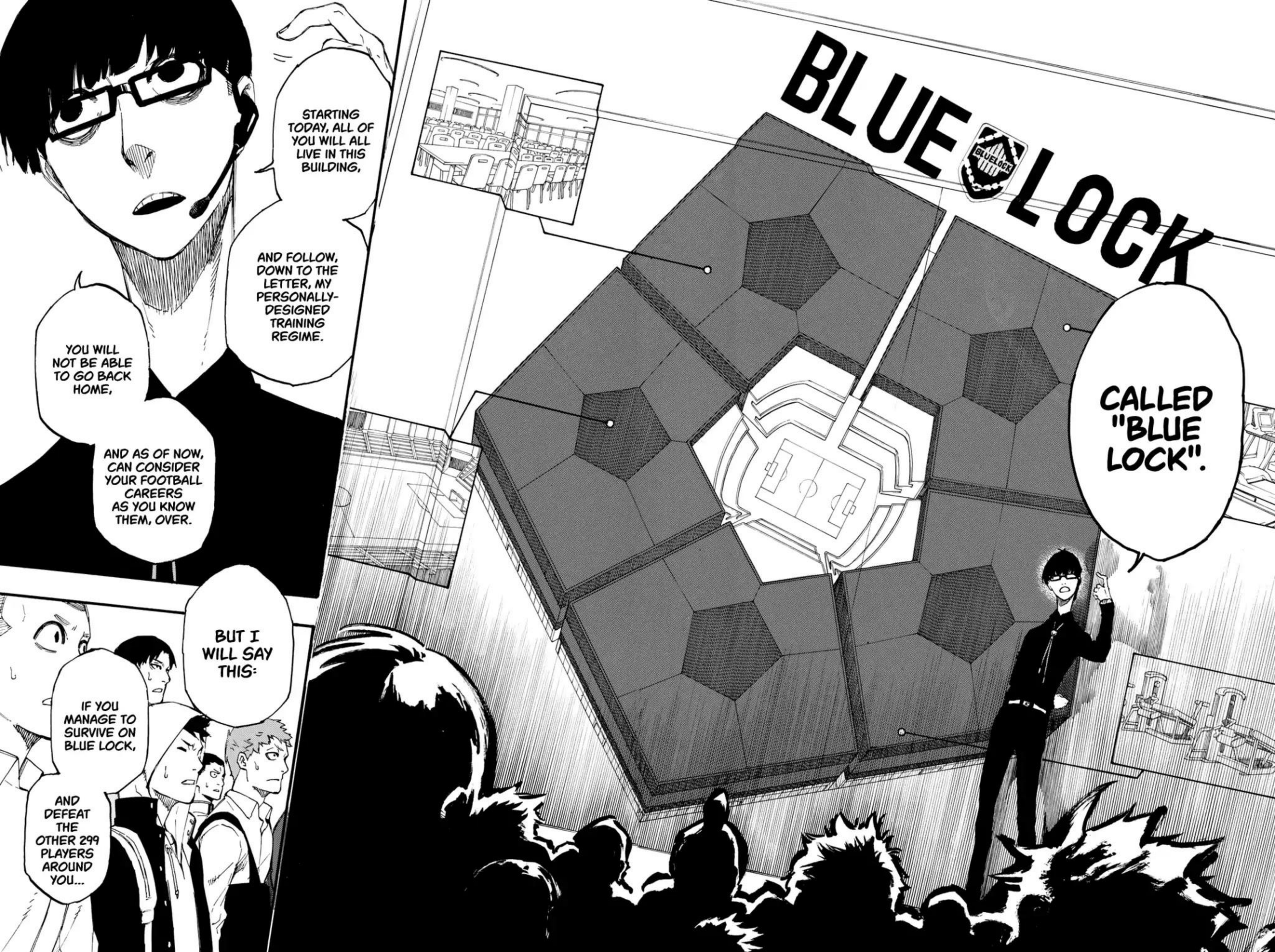
FROM YOU 300 PLAYERS GATHERED HERE TODAY.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, WE HAVE BUILT THIS FACILITY...

LOOK HERE.

?

?


STARTING TODAY, ALL OF YOU WILL ALL LIVE IN THIS BUILDING,
AND FOLLOW, DOWN TO THE LETTER, MY PERSONALLY-DESIGNED TRAINING REGIME.
YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GO BACK HOME,
AND AS OF NOW, CAN CONSIDER YOUR FOOTBALL CAREERS AS YOU KNOW THEM, OVER.
BUT I WILL SAY THIS:
IF YOU MANAGE TO SURVIVE ON BLUE LOCK,
AND DEFEAT THE OTHER 299 PLAYERS AROUND YOU...
BLUE LOCK
BLUELOCK
CALLED "BLUE LOCK".

YOU, THE LAST PLAYER STANDING...

WILL HAVE BECOME THE BEST STRIKER IN THE WORLD.

NICE TO MEET YOU ALL.

THAT IS ALL FOR THE DETAILS.

!

WHAT...
DID HE...?
...
?

WHAT DID HE
JUST SAY...?

RYŌSUKE
KIRA!
!
I CAN'T
AGREE WITH
WHAT YOU
SAID JUST
NOW.
HEY!
SORRY,
BUT...

FOR MOST OF US, OUR TEAM IS OUR MAIN PRIORITY...

PARTICULARLY THOSE OF US WHO'LL PARTICIPATE AT NATIONALS.

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN ACCEPT THOSE KINDS OF TERMS.

I...

I WILL NOT THROW AWAY MY OWN TEAM.

YEAH!

YEAH!

AND WHY DO WE HAVE TO ALL LIVE TOGETHER...!

THAT'S RIGHT...!

I'M ALSO PLAYING AT NATIONALS!

BRINGING US ALL HERE SO SUDDENLY...

YEAH...

LET'S SEE SOMEONE WE KNOW!

WHO THE HELL'RE YOU, ANY-WAY?!

AND BECOMING THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

ポリ

ポリ

WE CAN'T ACCEPT JUST LIKE THAT... ALL THAT TALK ABOUT THE WORLD CUP...

ALL OF YOU ARE REALLY FUCKED IN THE HEAD, HUH.

I... SEE.

GET LOST, THEN.
IF YOU'RE THINKING OF LEAVING, GO RIGHT AHEAD.
YOU'D RATHER BE A HIGH SCHOOL CHAMP IN THIS SHITHOLE OF A COUNTRY...?
YOU'D REALLY CHOOSE YOUR TEAMS OVER BECOMING THE BEST STRIKER IN THE WORLD...?
YOUR TEAMS ARE WHAT NOW ...?
HUH?

YOU GET IT?

JAPAN IS THE BEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHEN IT COMES TO ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS IN FOOTBALL,

WHICH MOST PEOPLE ATTRIBUTE TO OUR INNATE NATIONAL CHARACTER.

?

!?

WHEN I LOOK AT ALL OF YOU, I CRINGE AT THE THOUGHT OF JAPAN'S FOOTBALL FUTURE.

WHAT?

HUH...

WE'RE SECOND-RATE.

BUT BEFORE YOU GET ANY IDEAS, IN EVERYTHING ELSE...

WHAT IS FOOTBALL TO ALL OF YOU?

I WANT TO KNOW SOME-THING...

"OUR BONDS ARE IMPORT-ANT"?

"I WILL PLAY FOR MY TEAM-MATES"?

A SPORT WHERE YOU TRY TO SCORE GOALS IN TEAMS OF 11 MEMBERS...?

WELL, THAT'S WRONG.

THAT WAY OF THINKING IS EXACTLY WHY JAPAN LACKS FOOTBALL SKILLS.

I WILL SHOW YOU WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT...

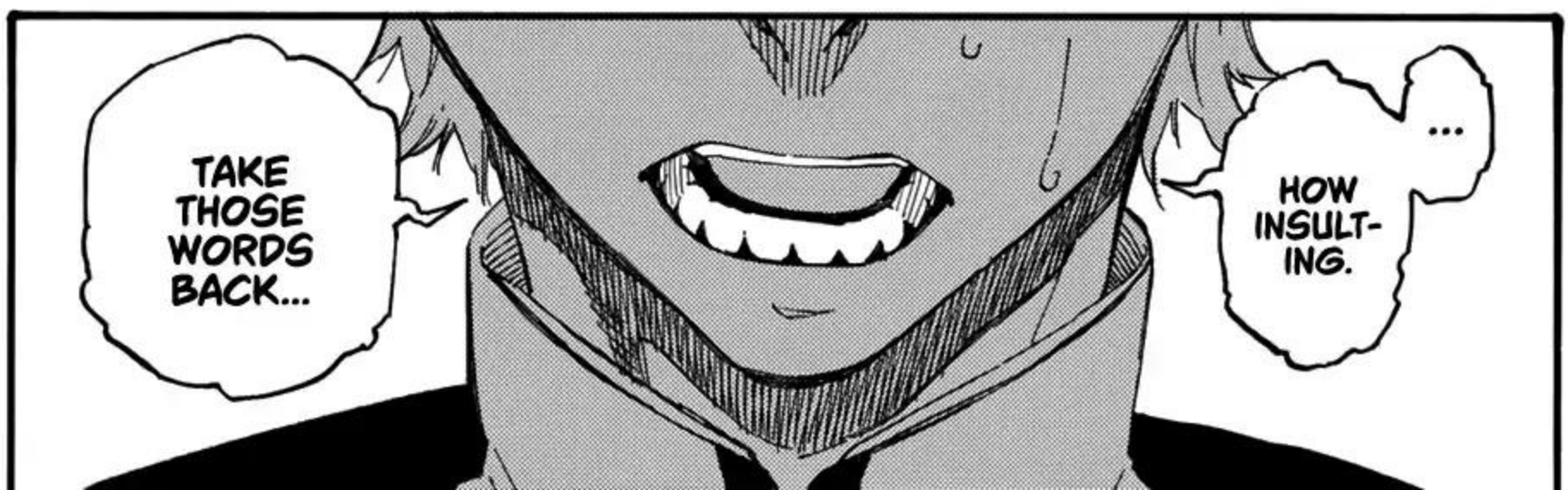
FOOTBALL IS, AT ITS CORE, A SPORT ABOUT SCORING GOALS EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF YOUR TEAM-MATES.

WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...?

HE MAKES NO SENSE...

THE BEST PLAYER IS THE ONE THAT SCORES THE MOST GOALS...

IF YOU WANT TO PLAY PRETEND FOOTBALL INSTEAD, THEN GET LOST ALREADY.



THEY ARE OUR STARS!

YOU'RE WRONG.

...

HMM...?

KA-GAWA...?

HM?

HONDA...?

AND MANY OTHERS...

PLAYERS LIKE HONDA, OR KAGAWA,

ALL OF THOSE WHO SHAPE THE JAPAN NATIONAL TEAM'S LINEUP...

THE VALUE OF TEAM PLAY INSTILLED IN THE NATIONAL TEAM IS THE SAME THAT'S A PART OF US!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT TRASH.

YOU MEAN THE SQUAD THAT HAS YET TO WIN A SINGLE WORLD CUP?

AREN'T I TALKING ABOUT BECOMING THE BEST TEAM IN THE WORLD?

GH...

COME ON.

HE'S TALKED ABOUT AS IF HE'S BEST STRIKER IN THE WORLD...

LET'S TALK ABOUT NOEL NOA, FOR EXAMPLE.

HE MANAGED TO WIN THE BALLON D'OR OVER ASTOUNDING PLAYERS LIKE MESSI AND CRISTIANO RONALDO.

NOEL NOA

AND IN HIS WORDS, "I FEEL BETTER LOSING 3-4 AFTER SCORING A HAT-TRICK,

THAN WINNING ONLY BY 1-0 WITH AN ASSIST"

AND,

ERIC CANTONA

"WHEN THE SEAGULLS FOLLOW THE TRAWLER,

IT'S BECAUSE THEY THINK SARDINES WILL BE THROWN INTO THE SEA".

ONE OF THE BEST FOOTBALL PLAYERS OF THE 20TH CENTURY, ÉRIC CANTONA, SAID THIS:

"THE BEST FORWARD? THE BEST MIDFIELDER? THE BEST DEFENDER? THE BEST GOALKEEPER?"

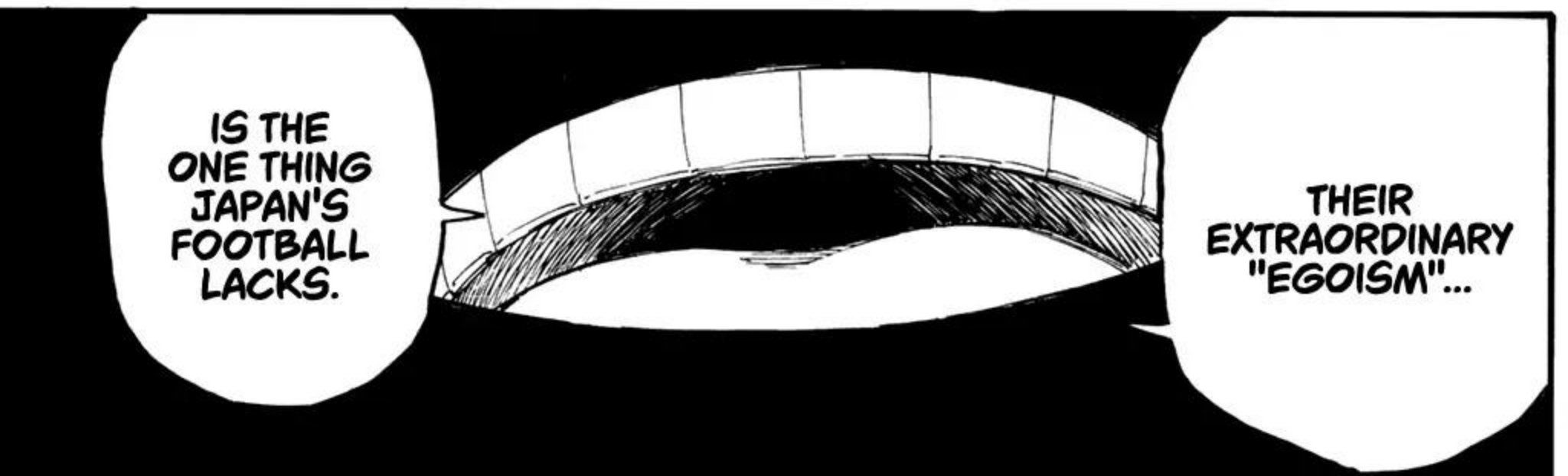
"TO ALL OF THOSE QUESTIONS, I ALWAYS ANSWER: THAT IS ME".

SO!

PELÉ, ARGUABLY THE BEST FOOTBALL PLAYER IN HISTORY,

AND WINNER OF THREE WORLD CUPS, ONCE SAID:

PELE



UNLESS YOU HAVE THE EGO TO MATCH.

YOU WILL NOT BECOME THE GREATEST STRIKERS IN THE WORLD.

I FEEL LIKE WHAT HE'S SAYING MUST BE... WRONG...

BECAUSE... UNTIL NOW, NO ONE'S EVER TOLD ME THIS...

I'M JUST A RANDOM STRIKER...

ALRIGHT, YOU UN-POLISHED GEMS...

LET ME ASK YOU ONE LAST QUESTION.

FROM THE CORPSES OF 299 PLAYERS...

ONE HERO WILL RISE IN ALL HIS GLORY!!

IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...

SOME NO-NAME GUY LIKE ME WOULD NEVER...

IMAGINE THIS...

YOU ARE AT THE VERY FINALS OF THE WORLD CUP...

PLAYING UNDER THE EYES OF 80,000 SPECTA-TORS IN THE STADIUM...

YOU ARE ON THAT VERY FIELD...

THE SCORE? 0-0.

IT'S THE STOPPAGE TIME OF THE SECOND HALF...

45

0 - 0

JAPAN

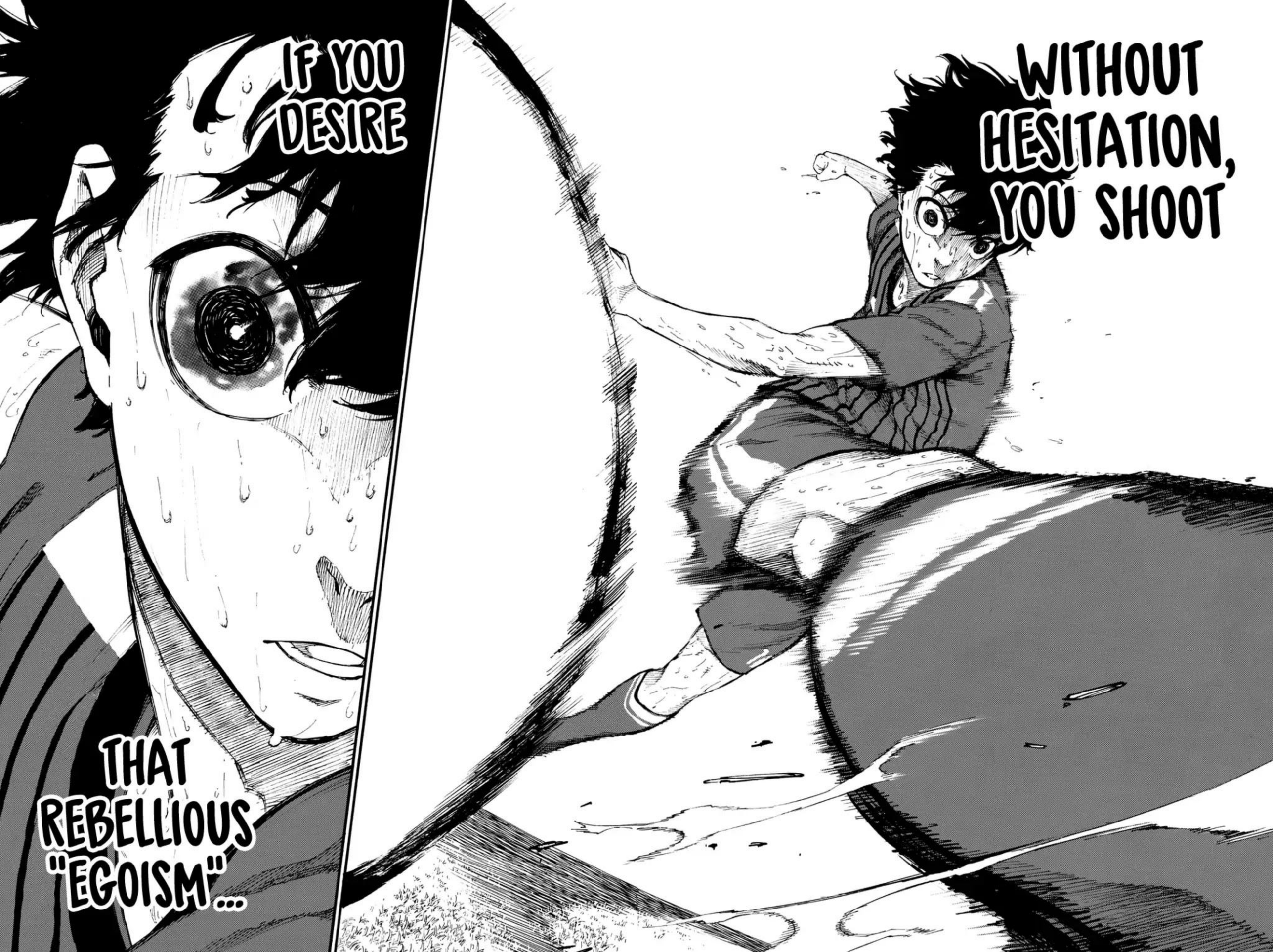
GERMANY

THE VERY LAST PLAY.

A TEAMMATE HAS MANAGED TO PASS THE BALL TO YOU...

ISAGI
IT'S 1 ON 1 WITH THE GOAL-KEEPER.

astrolly
THERE'S A TEAMMATE SIX METERS TO YOUR RIGHT.
IF YOU PASS IT TO HIM, YOU'LL PROBABLY SCORE THAT GOAL...
THE HOPES OF ALL OF JAPAN LIE ON YOUR SHOUL-DERS...
YOU ARE AT A TURN-ING POINT AT THE WORLD CUP FINALS...


IF YOU DESIRE
WITHOUT HESITATION, YOU SHOOT
THAT REBELLIOUS "EGOISM"...

THEN STEP THROUGH THE GATE.
I'LL SAY IT ONCE MORE,
LOUD AND CLEAR...

THINK OF LITERALLY EVERYONE ELSE ON THE FIELD AS SUPPORTING YOU.

FOOTBALL IS A SPORT TO DEVELOP YOU ALL AS STRIKERS.

I HAD ALREADY LOST, BUT... THOSE WORDS MADE ME SHIVER...

YOU ARE THE STAR.

WHEN YOU'RE ON THE FIELD,

THROW AWAY YOUR COMMON SENSE.

TOLD ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT BEFORE...

NO ONE HAD EVER...

THIS GUY...

YOUR GREATEST JOY IS SCORING POINTS, AND NOTHING ELSE.

NOW THAT'S...

A "STRIKER", DON'T YOU THINK?

YOU LIVE FOR THE EXCITEMENT OF THAT VERY MOMENT.

IS CHANGING THE SHAPE OF MY FATE...

I AM A STRIKER!
HIGH SCHOOL
ICHINAN

I'M GOING TOO!!
I'LL GO TOO!!
ME TOO!!
I'LL FUCKING GO THEN ...!!
FUCK...!
ISAGI ...?!
IT WAS SOMETHING HE HAD SAID.

AFTER ALL, A FIRST-RATE STRIKER IS ONE...

IN THE WORLD OF FOOTBALL...

IT IS POSSI-BLE

TO PRODUCE ELITE GOALKEEPERS, DEFENDERS AND MIDFIELDERS.

HOWEVER, THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID OF STRIKERS.

MOST CRITICAL MOMENT.
WHO APPEARS
IN FOOTBALL'S

ゴォォ

300...

EVERYONE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE...

IT SEEMS.

FROM NOW ON, I WILL FOLLOW YOUR EVERY ORDER.

SO THE GEARS HAVE STARTED TO TURN.

...PER-HAPS,
WE'LL HAVE TO SACRIFICE 299 PLAYERS FOR THIS...

THE FUTURE OF JAPAN'S FOOTBALL IS IN THOSE 300 PLAY-ERS...
I WILL LEAVE THIS IN YOUR HANDS, MR. EGO.

THAT'S THE ESSENCE OF BLUE LOCK.
BUT THAT WILL CREATE ONE TRUE STRIKER ABOVE THEM ALL.

MISS ANRI...
THEN LET US BEGIN,
IT IS...
...

THIS WILL BECOME...
FOOTBALL'S MOST CRITICAL MOMENT.

BLUE LOCK NOTES!

HELLO! WE HAVE THOUGHT OF ADDING PAGES LIKE THIS AT THE END OF SOME CHAPTERS, TO KIND OF CLARIFY A FEW REFERENCES THE AVERAGE READER MIGHT NOT GET.

THIS IS ACTUALLY A PLAY OF WORDS WITH

"惜しむ"
O-SHI-MU
(TO REGRET)

AND

オシム ← KATAKANA
O-SHI-MU
(OSIM)

THIS WHOLE SEGMENT IS A REFERENCE TO A PART OF JAPAN'S NATIONAL TEAM'S HISTORY.

FIRST OF ALL, "OSIM" IS ACTUALLY **IVICA OSIM**, WHO COACHED JAPAN'S NATIONAL TEAM FROM 2006 TO 2007.

OSIM'S SHORT-TERM WAS INTERESTING ENOUGH THAT A BOOK WITH HIS QUOTES BECAME A BEST-SELLER IN JAPAN. HE HATED COACHING JAPAN'S NATIONAL TEAM WITH A PASSION, HAD A STROKE AT HIS HOUSE, WOKE UP FROM THE COMA A MONTH LATER AND WAS REPLACED AS HEAD COACH FOUR DAYS AFTER WAKING UP.

HIS REPLACEMENT WAS "OKA-CHAN", A.K.A. TAKESHI OKADA. OKADA HAD ALREADY BEEN JAPAN'S HEAD COACH AT THE WORLD CUP IN 1998 (JAPAN WAS THE 31ST OUT OF 32), BUT HE WAS CALLED AGAIN TO MAKE JAPAN QUALIFY FOR THE WORLD CUP IN 2010. HE NOT ONLY SUCCEEDED AT THIS, BUT HE ALSO **LED THIS TEAM TO A 9° SPOT** (TYING THEIR BEST ONE AT 2002'S).

WHY IS HE MENTIONED HERE THEN? WELL, **THE WORLD CUP OF 1998 WAS THE FIRST TIME JAPAN HAD EVER MADE IT INTO THE BIG STAGE. A BIG PART OF IT WAS KAZUYOSHI MIURA,** WHO YOU MAY REMEMBER AS THE OLDEST PLAYER IN ACTIVE RIGHT NOW (52 YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING) OR THE INSPIRATION FOR TSUBASA OZORA / OLIVER ATOM. AS IT JUST SO HAPPENS, **MIURA HAD SCORED 14 GOALS (!) BACK AT THE ASIAN QUALIFIERS AND WAS THE STAR OF JAPAN'S NATIONAL TEAM... BUT OKADA DIDN'T CALL HIM FOR THE WORLD CUP DUE TO PERSONAL STRIFES BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM. THEREFORE, "KAZU IS OUT!".**

ON ANOTHER NOTE, WHILE PLAYERS LIKE MESSI, C. RONALDO, PELÉ OR CANTONA ACTUALLY **EXIST... NOEL NOA DOESN'T.**

HOWEVER, IF YOU HAD TO SAY WHO HE'S BASED ON, THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE A MIX BETWEEN LUCA MODRIĆ AND ANTOINE GRIEZMANN.