

Major League System

- Chapter 16 - 16: Suspension (2)

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Yuki was busy contemplating what she needed to do today while sipping on some freshly brewed coffee. Her mind was occupied as she stared out the window, watching the surroundings begin to brighten as it got closer to dawn.

Seeing a shadow in the corner of her eye, she almost screamed in fright, turning towards him with a horrified look.

"Run... back soon."

Ken mumbled, walking past her half-asleep.

Yuki was still watching on in shock as she responded quietly, "Take care..."

It was only after a few minutes that her mind could fully comprehend what she had just seen. She quickly looked at the clock, then back at the door.

"Honey, Kenny is acting weird. This morning he was up at 5:10am and has just gone out for a run." Yuki said to her husband whom she had just called.

"HUH!?" The voice responded in utter shock.

Ken had always been a chore to wake up in the morning. Despite setting multiple alarms, he would still find a way to sleep through them, having to rely on his mother to wake him up.

Yet this sleeping machine had woken up at 5am of his own volition so he could go and run. While this could be considered a good thing by any standards, the humongous shift in the behavior of their son only caused the two parents to worry.

"He said that he was training for the upcoming baseball season. Do you have anything to do with this honey?" She asked, hoping to find a reason for his change of behavior.

Ken's father Chris Takagi was a reputable baseball scout for the professional baseball team; Yokohama Warriors. Yuki guessed that perhaps her husband had talked to their son and finally got him to train seriously.

If this was the case, then there was nothing that she had to worry about.

However after a few moments of radio silence, Chris replied. "I haven't spoken to him about baseball since the beginning of middle school. He quit training with me because my regime was too difficult."

He continued, "I remember he told me that he was going to become a pro without my help, even though I was the one who taught him how to pitch. Hopefully this is a sign that he's getting serious."

Yuki listened patiently, allowing her husband to speak. While she didn't know what had gotten into her son, she felt that she may be overreacting.

"I'll continue to monitor his behavior. I hope that he's not training to get into more fights." She said with worry.

If Ken had have heard that comment, he wouldn't know whether to laugh or cry. This was only the third day after regressing, yet his mother already thought that he was turning into a delinquent.

Fortunately, the person in question was currently in the midst of breathing heavily as he ran through the streets of his neighborhood.

By the time he arrived back home he felt like death. Every part of his body was screaming at him to rest, but thankfully his mind was still lucid enough to trump their complaints.

He needed to stretch and allow his muscles to cool down, otherwise he would likely be unable to walk tomorrow.

"I'm home..." he said, doing his best to speak while huffing deep breaths.

"Welcome home. Did you want some breakfast?" His mother asked, her earlier worry nowhere to be seen on her pretty face.

Ken could only shake his head vehemently in response. Just the thought of having food right now made his stomach turn. He knew that if he tried to force it down, it would quickly make its way back onto his plate.

He made a pointing gesture up the stairs and left without a word. Yuki stifled a laugh after seeing his current state, feeling her worries ease up a tiny bit.

Unaware of his mother's thoughts, Ken retreated back to his room and began to stretch his muscles. He decided to incorporate them into the flexibility regime that the system had provided considering his muscles were already warm.

He had managed to run the full 10km, but it was not pretty. Not only did he have to stop a few times, he even found out that the system did not count the distance he had walked towards the tally.

So despite the total distance covered being close to 12km, according to the system, he had only run 10.04km in that time.

'It's fine. Everything will get easier once I get accustomed to the distance.' Ken told himself.

After completing his flexibility regime and yoga poses, he felt considerably better. His sore and tired muscles seemed to be revitalized.

The only thing making him feel uncomfortable was the sweat soaked shirt that stuck to his back. He took it off and headed towards the bath, ready to have a relaxing soak before tackling his home study.

Around 40 minutes later, Ken emerged from the bathroom feeling like he had been reborn. His stomach growled in protest within earshot of his mother, as if it knew who to complain to.

"Go get changed and I'll fix you some breakfast!" Yuki's cheery voice rang out from the kitchen.

"Thanks mom!" he yelled out.

The rest of the day was filled with getting through the work that his teachers had compiled for the duration of his suspension. He would have to complete this schoolwork before being allowed to return to class.

While it was a bit boring, Ken's newfound discipline allowed him to complete the task rather easily. It also helped that his phone was one of the older flip phones without touchscreen, meaning he couldn't procrastinate like he used to.

He had managed to complete everything by around 1pm, which meant he had plenty of free time to kill.

Instead of booting up his old gaming console which was filled with games he had completed tens of times, he decided to head downstairs.

"Mom, can I please use the computer?"

While they were a well off family, that didn't mean he was spoiled with everything he wanted. His family had a communal computer which was for every day use.

"Okay, but only for an hour." She replied.

"Thanks!" he replied. It still felt kind of weird having to ask these sorts of things, especially after experiencing the life of an adult for over 6 years.

'Alright, let's type it into doogle.com'

Baseball 101 - Rules and regulations

It was time to increase his knowledge.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 17 - 17: Training Partner Acquired (1)

Ken continued his morning run and exercise routine throughout the next few days of his suspension, even doing so on the weekend. While he still looked like a zombie after getting out of bed at 5am, he had improved his running time considerably.

It was currently Monday morning and he was headed back to school for his first day back since being suspended. One thing he noticed since starting his training regime was that he was now full of energy throughout the day.

Perhaps this was also a result of his food intake increasing by a large margin. Due to his mom's cooking, his food was always balanced and full of nutrition.

As he made his way to class, Keisuke bumped into him and began to bombard him with questions.

"Dude! I heard you broke Sakamoto's nose and got suspended. Are you some kind of delinquent now?" He asked, nudging him in the ribs.

Ken scoffed in response, "The guy had it coming." He said simply, not wanting to go into further detail.

Keisuke complained a little after failing to get any more information, however he quickly changed gears.

"Coach Yoshida has started trialling some of our pitchers. I even heard that he's looking for a new Ace for this season. Does this mean you're kicked off the team after being suspended?"

His face was full of concern, fearing that his friend was being punished unfairly. After all, it was only his first offense after so many years of schooling.

Ken shook his head, "Nope I'm still on the team, but I won't be a pitcher this year."

"WHAT!?" Keisuke's jaw dropped exaggeratedly as he exclaimed loudly. The other students in the hallway locked their gazes onto him after the outburst, causing him to redden in embarrassment.

"What do you mean you won't be a pitcher?? You're one of the main reasons we were able to make it to the Kanto Tournament the past 2 years." He continued, choosing to whisper this time.

"Don't worry about it man. We might not make the Spring Tournament, but I think we have a chance at the Summer one." Ken said honestly. Seeing his class up ahead, he increased his pace, not wanting to continue this conversation any longer.

While he had already told Coach Yoshida about his injury, he didn't want to have to explain everything to all of his teammates. Ken just wanted to do his best and train to become a decent batter and 1st baseman in peace.

Keisuke's questions died in his throat as he saw Ken scuttle shamelessly into the classroom and close the door behind him, leaving him standing by himself outside.

"What is up with that guy?" He muttered, before eventually heading to his own classroom.

Ken sat down at his chair and finally let out a sigh of relief. He had forgotten how inquisitive teenagers could be.

Soon after he got settled, he saw Daichi enter the classroom. Yet he looked quite uncomfortable.

"Hey Ken... I'm sorry that you got suspended for me."

His head was lowered, not even able to look him in the eyes as he said his apology. It seemed that he had been beating himself up for the punishment Ken had to bear.

Ken felt a sense of warmth after seeing his best friend apologize, yet he couldn't allow that to happen.

"Hey man, don't sweat the small stuff. We best friends have got to stick together ya know." He said grandly, throwing an arm over Daichi's shoulders. If it wasn't for his long arms, he never would have been able to span the length of Daichi's wide shoulders.

"Best friend?" Daichi jumped at those words, not expecting such a declaration.

"Of course! Why? Don't you want to?" Ken crooned, before letting out a hearty laughter.

Daichi seemed to be at a loss for a while, however he eventually nodded, a bright smile creeping onto his baby face. Ken saw this and smiled widely.

This was the first time he had seen him smile like this since returning back to middle school. The face seemed to overlap with his memories of his best friend in high school, causing a sharp pang of guilt to appear in Ken's heart.

The sound of a door sliding broke the atmosphere. Everyone quickly got into their seats at the arrival of the teacher and awaited his instruction.

In usual school fashion, the periods dragged on, threatening to bore him to death. Thankfully they were saved by the lunch bell, which suddenly perked him up considerably.

Like usual, he decided to eat in the classroom with Daichi.

He pulled out his lunch box, showing an array of delicacies which instantly made his mouth water. Daichi too could only look on with jealousy at the assortment of food in front of his friend.

Yet he didn't complain, pulling out his lunch box with some leftover rice and a few errant vegetables.

"Man, don't you ever get anything but leftover rice and vegetables?" Ken asked between shoveling food into his mouth.

A wry smile formed on Daichi's face at the question. "It's only my mother at home so she does what she can while working most of the day." He responded.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 18 - 18: Training Partner Acquired (2)

"Oh." Ken felt a little bad, especially since he hadn't known this information in his previous life. Just what kind of friend had he really been to Daichi?

Without pushing on the issue, he grabbed a few of his side dishes and quickly placed them on top of his friend's rice before he could object.

"Don't worry about me, this is too much food for someone of my size." He said with a smile.

Of course he was lying. Now that Ken had upped his exercise, his body needed much more calories to sustain his growth. He would need to speak to his mother and ask for more food at lunch times.

Unaware of Ken's thoughts, Daichi stared at the side dishes piled onto his rice and felt like crying. What did he do to deserve such a friend?

They had only known each other for a few days, yet Ken had already treated him with more kindness than he had experienced in his whole lifetime. His tears fell silently as he began to eat the delicious side dishes he had been given.

He silently made a vow to be the best friend he could be to Ken. He would treat him as if he was his brother, no matter what happened in the future.

"Um, Ken. Weren't you talking about baseball the other day?" Daichi said after secretly wiping up his tears.

"Mmph" Ken looked up with his mouth full of food, staring at Daichi with disbelief.

He quickly swallowed his food, a look of excitement creeping onto his face.

"Yeah! I am... I mean was the Ace pitcher for Seiko. You should join the team and play baseball with us." He said.

Daichi had a few questions, but considering Ken did not elaborate, he chose to leave it be. He looked a little uncomfortable as he said his next words.

"I-I don't really know anything about baseball. I'd be too afraid to mess up." He admitted.

"Hehehe." Ken's face had a weird smile pasted all over it, making him look a little deranged.

"Don't you worry man. You can come and train with me for the next four weeks! By the time the spring tournament is in full swing, we'll both be in great shape."

Daichi felt a little doubtful, but Ken's enthusiasm eventually won him over. He already felt that Ken had shown him a lot of sincerity with his actions, therefore he would feel guilty if he didn't at least do this for him.

He nodded, "Okay, I'll be in your care."

"Great!" Ken couldn't help but exclaim loudly, causing the other students who were also having their lunch in class to turn around and look at him.

However, Ken did not care. He was currently over the moon with how his friendship was progressing with Daichi. Hell, this time last week it felt as if they would never return to how things were in his previous life.

Not long after, the lunch bell rang and class resumed.

Ken spent the rest of the school day in a great mood, now that he had gotten his friend back. He couldn't wait to begin training properly and join the baseball team as a first baseman.

The school bell rang, signifying the end of the school day. Thankfully, both Ken and Daichi were both not on cleanup duties today and could both head out straight away.

"Where do you live at the moment?" Ken asked as the two walked down the flight of stairs from their classroom.

Daichi responded, only for Ken's eyes to widen. "What!? That's only a few streets from my house." He said in shock.

"Perfect! That will make our training a lot easier." Ken continued, letting out an ominous chuckle.

Daichi felt his stomach tense up at the laugh, letting out a nervous laugh in response.

The two took the same train home and chat away like two old friends. Ken was continually surprised at some of the information he learned, letting him know how much of a crap friend he had actually been in his past life.

He vowed inwardly to make a better effort in this life, after all Daichi deserved it.

They arrived at Ken's house first as it was closer to the train station.

"Okay, I'll meet you on the corner at 5:10am tomorrow for our first training session." Ken said, grabbing his friend's hand tightly.

"T-T-Ten past 5!?" Daichi felt his body go weak at the statement. He usually only woke up at 7am before having some breakfast and heading off to school.

It was only now that he suddenly questioned if he had made the right decision to train with his new friend.

"Yup! Don't be late on your first day."

Without waiting for a response, Ken opened his gate and headed inside, leaving Daichi to question his decisions in the middle of the street.

The baby face Daichi remained in the same position for another 5 minutes, before making his way back home in regret.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 19 - 19: Training Commences (1)

The next morning, Ken was even more motivated to get out of bed. It was amazing how much having a training partner could assist in that regard.

He almost skipped down the stairs, saying goodbye to his mother and heading out the door enthusiastically. Yuki told him to take care as usual, feeling a little dazed at his change of attitude.

Usually her son was a zombie reincarnate as he forced himself out the door in the mornings for his run. However, this morning he seemed as if he was on his way to meet his sweetheart.

"Is he going to see a girl this morning?" She muttered quietly, taking a sip of her coffee.

Ken, blissfully unaware of his mothers musings, warmed his muscles up as he jogged towards the corner up the street. He breathed a sigh of relief after seeing Daichi already waiting for him, looking half asleep with his hair still messy.

"Morning sunshine!" He said with a bright smile, jogging over to his friend.

"M-Morning" Daichi replied, fighting back a yawn.

"Okay, we're going to try and run 10km this morning. I'll set the pace, just let me know if you can't keep up." Ken directed, jogging on the spot.

After almost a week of running 10km a day, he felt a little more confident about not making a fool of himself in front of his best friend.

Daichi paled after hearing the words 10 kilometers, yet he still nodded along.

The two began their run at a moderate pace, yet it wasn't long before Ken began to feel the sweat pour out of him. He could still hear the rhythmic breathing of Daichi behind him, so he did not turn around to check.

By the time they had hit the 5km mark, Ken decided to slow down a little and check on his friend. He turned around to see what he could only describe as a shriveled husk, shuffling his feet towards him.

It was an odd thing to see someone who was so clearly dehydrated, be so wet. Daichi seemed as if he had just gotten out of the Tokyo river after taking a dip with how drenched he was in sweat.

Ken stifled a laugh before suggesting to take a break.

"Did you want some water? I brought enough coins for the vending machine." He asked, catching his breath.

Daichi could only nod enthusiastically.

The two drank their fill and his friend seemed to look a lot better afterwards.

"I need to run another 5km, but you can head home if you like." Ken suggested, jogging on the spot to keep his muscles warm.

Every fiber of Daichi's body was screaming at him to agree and head home, however he shook his head in the end.

"N-No, I said I would train with you. There's no way I'm going back half-way." He said, his tone sounding full of resolution, even if his expression looked pale.

Ken flashed a smile, choosing not to say a word. He didn't want to poke fun at Daichi who was obviously trying his best. True friends would hold each other up, motivating one another to achieve much more.

They continued for the remaining 5km, after which they were both spent. Before they completely cooled down, Ken took them to a park where he went through the flexibility and yoga regime from the system.

Daichi originally felt a little reluctant to join in on the yoga, however mid-way through he suddenly felt his sore and tired muscles begin to relax, filling him with shock.

By the time they had finished, it was already 6:45.

"Head home and have a hot shower. Meet me at my house in 30 minutes" Ken said with a smile.

Daichi agreed, taking his exhausted self back home.

"I'm home!" Ken said enthusiastically, greeting his mom in the kitchen.

"Welcome home. How was your run?" Yuki asked, turning away from the eggs which were cooking in the pan.

"It was great, Daichi joined me this morning." He replied, taking his shoes off at the door.

"Oh, would you mind making some extra breakfast this morning? I already invited Daichi over before school. Oh and did you pack me more lunch like I asked?"

Yuki heard the demands and shook her head in exasperation yet there was a grin on her face. "Yes yes. Just hurry up and go clean up and get ready for school."

"Thanks mom you're the best!" Hearing confirmation, Ken all but skipped up the stairs and did as he was told.

While he was getting ready, he paused to open up the . It was currently the last day of the week-long mission, which meant he only had the sit-ups and push-ups remaining until it was completed.

He had thought about completing it this morning, however he was in no rush. Even if he did, there would be little time to explore the rewards that he was given, so he decided to complete them after school.

Even so, this past week of working out left him feeling as if he had made some progress in his fitness. Therefore he wanted to check if the system also reflected the changes.

PHYSICAL FITNESS: (Avg. D+)

Balance and Coordination: D

Agility: D

Strength: C-

Stamina: C-

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 20 - 20: Training Commences (2)

"Oh!" Ken exclaimed, seeing that his Stamina had increased by 2 grades from D all the way to C-. It seemed that the system was in tune with his body, meaning that he could see tangible results just by looking at his stats.

This in itself was a huge advantage over regular athletes who could only go by feel. Ken's mood was great as he got ready and headed back downstairs to wait for Daichi.

A few minutes later, his friend arrived and they all ate together. Daichi was a little shy at first but quickly opened up after seeing how warm and caring Ken's mother was.

"Daichi dear, you are welcome to come for breakfast every morning. Especially since you'll be accompanying Kenny for morning training from now on." Yuki said with a smile.

"Ah." Daichi felt a little embarrassed, turning his head to Ken, only to see him smiling widely and nodding .

"T-Thank you Mrs. Takagi" he said, fearing that he would offend her if he declined.

Not long after finishing breakfast the two took the train to school. It was another boring day of classes, yet the two still enjoyed each others company, talking about everything under the sun.

After school, Ken decided to head to the batting cages along with Daichi. One of his goals during these few weeks was to improve his batting tremendously, otherwise he would have no chance at becoming the 1st baseman.

SWISH

SWISH

SWISH

The sound of the ball shuttling past his swinging bat rang out over and over, filling him with growing frustration after each swing.

12 pitches, 12 misses...

His face reddened, feeling shame and embarrassment from his abysmal performance. It was as if the metal bat and the ball were polar opposites, never to make contact while he was in the batters box.

However, he merely smiled plainly and handed the bat and helmet to Daichi.

"I would love to give you pointers, but as you can see, I suck at batting." He chuckled, trying to put his nervous friend at ease.

Daichi looked pale as he put on his helmet and stepped into the cage. The pitching machine was set to 100km per hour, which was rather common for middle school.

"You can do it Daichi! Just hit the damn thing." Ken called out some words of encouragement before putting the coins in the machine.

After a few tense moments, the pitching machine spat out a fastball right down the middle. Surprisingly, Daichi's eyes widened as the ball approached and he swung with all his might.

DONG

The sound of the metal bat making direct contact entered everyone's ears as the ball was sent sky-high for a sac-fly.

Ken's jaw dropped after seeing his friend hit the ball so easily. Something he had failed to do in all 12 of his attempts in the cage.

Yet before he could speak, the next ball came flying out of the pitching machine, only to be smashed yet again by Daichi. This time the sound was even more exaggerated as it hit the center of the bat this time.

DONG

DONG

DONG

Ken could only watch in horror as Daichi continued to strike the balls with precision, only missing 2 out of his total 12 pitches. He had never expected that without any training, his friends raw talent and intuition would allow him to do this much.

Despite hitting them accurately, Ken could already tell that Daichi's batting form was terrible. The form was sloppy and lacked the power and destructiveness that Daichi in his previous life had attained.

It was pure talent and timing that had allowed Daichi to hit 10 out of 12 pitches, despite his batting form being atrocious.

"Wow! Looks like you're a natural." Ken exclaimed. He saw Daichi walk out of the batters cage with a small smile on his face, clearly proud of what he was able to accomplish.

"But, your form is terrible. My father comes back from a work trip tomorrow, I'll ask him to help us correct our forms." Ken said with an expectant smile.

"Your father?" Daichi tilted his head in question.

"Yeah, he's a baseball scout for the Yokohama Warriors. But he used to be a trainer back in the day." Ken said with a smile.

The two had a few more turns at the batting cages where the results were solidified even further. Thankfully Ken had managed to get bat on ball a few times during his last turn, otherwise he would have been too embarrassed to show his face back here.

Daichi on the other hand, continued to make contact with nearly every pitch.

When they returned home later, Ken made Daichi complete the remaining sit-ups and push-ups alongside him. If they were going to train together, then he may as well do the whole routine as well.

Daichi left around 6:30pm after Yuki had insisted he stay for dinner.

Afterwards, Ken walked up to his room with a smile on his face. He had heard the notification from the system once completing the final daily task.

It was time to check out the rewards.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.