

"Winning is about trampling over corpses…it is not something beautiful. It's brutal. If you want to make it to the top, then - steel yourselves."

A Small Overview Of Tokuchi's Whole Series Planning

Aim:

- Tokuchi used to be a gambler, who played one outs with the locals. His philosophy is very, very simple. Tokuchi believes in winning and domination, he elevates those two concepts above any other ideals or beliefs that the world around him could hold. He believes in the victors and their domination, his ideals are similar to the saying of Winston Churchill that "History is written by victors". Not a very lofty ideal, but that's what Tokuchi believes first and foremost, an ideal that Tokuchi submits himself to. So when he was challenged by Kojima and lost to him, Tokuchi who was sincere with his

beliefs and ideals submitted to the consequences of losing, but Kojima instead offered Tokuchi to join his Lycaons team. Tokuchi again submitted to Kojima's will and joined Lycaons as one of its members. There are few takeaways with the team. Lycaons was one of the most hopeless, weakest and dead team in the league, and all of its members weren't competent in what they were doing. So Tokuchi aimed to not only emerge as the victor in each of the team's opponents, not only elevate Lycaons to the top, not only elevate Lycaons publicity to the top. But he also planned to vitalise the team with hope, determination and competence, which are all the qualities Lycaons sucked at.
- In summary, Tokuchi wanted to have say-gex with Kojima, after complying to his demands.

Execution:

- This will cover the planning, but won't cover it entirely or holistically, as this is just to show how underrated Tokuchi's planning really is.
- **The first signing of One Outs' contract was to lure Saikawa out**. Tokuchi was a nobody in the field and the world of Baseball at that period of time, he had no fame or anything at that time, so Tokuchi obviously knew that a greedy filthy arse like Saikawa would never accept him into the team unless he gave Saikawa a bait. Tokuchi gave Saikawa an offer, which is the one outs contract. One Outs contract states that for every run that Tokuchi earns, Tokuchi must pay Saikawa 50 million yen. But if Tokuchi gets runs, Saikawa must pay Tokuchi 50 million yen. This is an extremely risky contract for Tokuchi of course, but this was to lure Saikawa into taking him in, as well as increasing his salary because Tokuchi knew for sure that he would absolutely cumberstomp any scheme Saikawa could think of.
- **The revision of One Outs contract was also planned by Tokuchi**, as he further instigated it through the Eagles match by easily emerging victorious in it. What? Why would Tokuchi instigate a riskier version of an already risky contract? There are some reasons for such a decision. First of all, vitalising Coach Mihara. Coach Mihara was an obedient dog of a person to Saikawa, Coach Mihara followed all the orders of Saikawa, even going to the lengths of sabotaging the same team that he was employed to coach. Tokuchi wanted to remove this trait of Mihara, and to take control over him through his incoming strategies. Well how did he anticipate that Saikawa would use Mihara in the contract? Simple, Tokuchi was aware that Mihara is an obedient dog to Saikawa, so Tokuchi knew that Saikawa would try to use that to sabotage Tokuchi's plays, so easy enough. Second of all, he wanted to increase his salary by using the rates as a medium, which is obvious enough, this might not be anticipated by Tokuchi, but whatever. Third of all, Tokuchi wanted Saikawa to define the runs as runs lost <u>in the game</u> and not just earned runs, why? Because Tokuchi wanted to use that as a loophole of the runs <u>in the game</u> to earn more salary for the next match against the Mariners, which I assume most

of you know what Tokuchi did over there. Fourth of all, Tokuchi wanted to accept a really risky offer like One Outs because he wanted to win the contract and scare Saikawa into accepting his next planned contract, the second One Outs contract.

- **Tokuchi executes his Old Mariners strategy against the Mariners.** This strategy had a lot of purposes. First of all, he wanted to increase his salary substantially, which is obvious enough on the surface but it also could be used as a contingency for bribery, which I will explain later. Second of all, this was the first step into scaring Saikawa to his bones, which Tokuchi would exploit to increase Saikawa's desperation. Third of all, he wanted to increase Lycaons rank in the league as a stepping stone for Tokuchi's aim to elevate Lycaons to the top. Fourth of all, Tokuchi wanted to damage the Mariners team in the long run. Tokuchi anticipated that the influential Mariners team would revitalise their team after losing to such a hopeless team such as Lycaons and would play in the Pennant race against Lycaons as well. So Tokuchi planned to break their team from the inside to prepare for the New Mariners game. In fact, his next match with Fingers as well as his previous match with Eagles also serves this plan, as all of the players included in the new Mariners team were the players that Tokuchi utterly humiliated in those matches. Preparation move to win in the Pennant race in the future, absolutely jaw-dropping planning.

- Tokuchi's match against Bugaboos: This is where Tokuchi's vitalisation of Mihara aim comes into play. Tokuchi skillfully uses Saikawa's One Outs contract where Tokuchi is forced to comply with the orders in Dugout as an exploit to change Mihara into an actual coach and contributor to Lycaons team, through his Swap strategy and reputation workings. Admittedly, not much long term effects were instigated or planned in the Bugaboos match other than vitalising Mihara and scaring Saikawa into desperation further. If I remember correctly, Tokuchi was not able to maintain Mihara's loyalty for long, so he just went with his contingency to bribe Mihara instead.

- Tokuchi's match against Blue Mars: The main purpose of this match was to force Saikawa into trying to sabotage Tokuchi by using the opposite team members and to prepare for his Lycaons ownership plan. Let's think back on Tokuchi's actions towards the cheaters. He threw bats at the pitchers and made one of the members of Blue Mars kneel and humiliate themselves before the crowd, which resulted in a bad image of Lycaons as well as backlashes from the audience. Tokuchi planned the backlashes. Because Tokuchi was planning to own Lycaons. He did not want publicity to accumulate for Lycaons, as that would mean more competition to buy Lycaons when time comes. More competition would mean the money to buy Lycaons would also increase. So Tokuchi purposefully reduced Lycaons popularity and increased the backlashes so as to prevent other companies from competing to buy Lycaons in the future. It was also to increase the desperation of Saikawa too of course.

- **The car accident trap set up by Saikawa was also planned by Tokuchi**, as that also contributes to Tokuchi's intent to increase the bad image of Lycaons. It was again

to accumulate Saikawa's desperation further and further, by showcasing how each of his traps and scheme wouldn't work on him.

- Tokuchi's match against Fingers: Here's the real deal, Tokuchi negotiated with Saikawa for another one outs contract, which was basically that Tokuchi had to manage three other players in the contract as well, who were: Muruwaka, Kurai, Sugadaira. The aims were to vitalise these three players into competent players, continue with New Mariners long term scheme by defeating and humiliating Fingers, manipulate Saikawa into increasing the rates out of desperation that Tokuchi accumulated over the previous matches and thus bankrupting Saikawa corporations out of business to progress to his Lycaons ownership phase. Through this scheme, he was able to ride Saikawa out of Lycaons, meaning one less trouble to deal with.

- Lycaons Ownership: Tokuchi finally progressed to the mid phase of his long term plan. One contingency that I wanna talk about is the Tronpoes contingency. Tokuchi knew that he needed someone to financially back him up while Saikawa was setting traps for him in the matches, so he negotiated with Tronpoes, another company which was interested in buying Lycaons. Tokuchi negotiated that he would need Tronpoes backing him up financially and sort, while Tokuchi would pluck as much money and public perception from Saikawa and Lycaons to lower the selling price of Lycaons, while Tronpoes too would put on negative perception regarding Lycaons to affect its selling price as well. But Tokuchi had a contingency to the contingency, Tokuchi anticipated that Tronpoes would betray Tokuchi and would sell off the Lycaons player to the other league, as Tokuchi deduced Tanabe, the power holder's intentions as well as the dynamics between the S-league and the P-league (Merging the two leagues, single league format), Tokuchi managed to get his hands on Tronpoes intended price set for Lycaons, so he covertly used his own salary that he accumulated that he got from Saikawa as a contingency to bet more money than Tronpoes, and thus winning Lycaons. There are wider intricacies regarding this and it could be longer, but I am just making a summary.

- Offer with Tanabe: Tokuchi finally gained the ownership of Lycaons after his prolonged battle with Saikawa and intense planning of the matches. But Tokuchi anticipated that Tanabe, who was scheming to merge the leagues into one using Tronpoes to buy Lycaons and sell them, would try and arrange a meeting for the Baseball Management Ring to collectively outvote Tokuchi into stepping down from the leadership of Lycaons. Tokuchi, using the argument that Saikawa was an incompetent manager who wasn't forced to step down by the baseball management ring, managed to convince them into accepting his offer. The offer was that if he manages to go in deficit and if the team ends up being more than 10 games away from the leading team in match records, Tokuchi will step down from being the manager. But if he passes the condition, he could stay as the manager for another week. Tokuchi even stated that he

will step down if he didn't win the pennant race against the New Mariners, as he already planned for their loss.

- Tokuchi's MVP tickets planning: Tokuchi then went on to introduce a new concept in the matches: The New MVP tickets. I will just paste it from the wiki, cuz I am too lazy to explain it. L-tickets. They're 3000 yen each, a 1.5x price increase. The team says there's no way anyone will show up at that cost, but Tokuchi explains the price of the 'L-ticket' only goes up if the Lycaons win the game. If they lose the tickets will be fully refunded. There are five slots on the back labelled 'MVP tickets'. The spectator can write down the names of whoever they thought played best. The MVP tickets will be collected at the end of the game and tallied; they're worth 200 yen each. The players will now be paid according to how many MVP tickets they get. In other words, the Lycaons will have a performance-based salary, decided by the audience. If the Lycaons lose, and the spectators refunded, the MVP tickets won't be collected and the players won't get paid. This had a lot of effectiveness. First of all, it lures the audience out into betting against Lycaons and increasing the sales, as there's a chance that their money would be refunded if Lycaons lost. Second of all, it enhances the players, as the audience decides the salary of the best performing players through the slots as well as with the consequence that losing a game would result in their salary being cancelled.

- The MVP ticket scheme and the other strategies employed in the match against Bugaboos lead to their overwhelming victory against them. This not only proved Lycaons as an immense threat, but it also showcased the real goal behind Tokuchi's MVP ticket, which was to enhance them. This also proved Tokuchi's competence as a manager, further driving Tanabe into a corner.

- Another long-term effect of this Ownership planning and L-ticket planning that nobody talks about is the instigation of Tanabe's New Mariners plan: Now why would Tokuchi need to instigate his New Mariners scheme further? Didn't he already prepare it in his match against the Old Mariners, Eagles and Fingers? Well, because Tokuchi merely just built the bricks, he needed someone to use the bricks for the building to stand and the person he found to use was Tanabe. Tanabe wanted to end Lycaons badly, because he wanted to merge the two leagues into one, his initial scheme using Tronpoes was ruined due to Tokuchi's Lycaons Ownership scheme, but due to Tokuchi's offer, Tanabe adapted his scheme. He revitalised the Mariners with the best members of each team in the P-league so that he could defeat Lycaons in the Pennant race and pluck Lycaons from Tokuchi. Tokuchi planned this as far back as in his match against the Eagles. The members gained were the Fingers' pitcher Kawanaka, the Fingers' batters, Amami and Kitaooji, and the Eagles' pitchers Yoshida and Mizuhashi. All of these players already played against Tokuchi and Tokuchi already prepared for them against the New Mariners. The basis of his prediction of players would be easy. Just identify the top pitchers and batters of the teams in P-league, which would then be easy enough to anticipate which players would be included in the match.

- Pennant Race against New Mariners: Tokuchi used his influence over Lycaons to introduce the press conference, to prepare for his two-faction strategy against the New Mariners, where he used his lip-reading tactic and sort to factionalise the team into two, booing for one and another. Tokuchi also used other strategies in this match like the low spinning ball and accumulating Brooklyn's desperation and anger. It's blatant why Tokuchi planned so extensively for the New Mariners team to be exactly what he envisioned, it's because he understood that the team was filled with holes, they did not harmonise with each other. The other aspect was the growing inferiority complex within the players which Tokuchi envisioned, Tokuchi knew that all of the members of the New Mariners were pro-elite players, who used to be the top aces of their teams (Eagles and Fingers), but when they were playing with other elite players together, it was inevitable there will be better players, which resulted in their growing inferiority complex and frustration that Tokuchi instigated using a number of tactics. Tokuchi's batting formation strategy (which was distorting Mariners' batting formation and conditioning them into what Tokuchi likes), Kawanaka strategy (Lowest Defense Percentage title possibly being passed over from Tokuchi to Kawanaka, as a threat to distort Kawanaka's thoughts), Counter baseball tactics (which he taught to his team extensively) and the factionalism strategy still running, were all planned by Tokuchi before the match was even conceived. With all of the advantages that Tokuchi planned, Lycaons won against the New Mariners, earning them as the winners of the Pennant race.

- I will just summarise Tokuchi's planning regarding the Japan Series in the bonus volume. Tokuchi went against a very competent team, All-Stars of S-league. His plan was to score 10 consecutive strikeouts to break Enatsu's previous record of striking 9 batters consecutively. Tokuchi, of course, managed to strategize the game into achieving this record, which turned all the attention and media on him. But attention and fame was not the motive behind breaking the record, Tokuchi's real aim was the Japan Series. Japan Series is a game where the top best champion teams of two leagues would face each other, to decide the best top team of Japan. Tokuchi intentionally broke the record, to not only switch all the attention of the media on him, but also to turn the attention of Gallarians (the top team of P-league) on him. Tokuchi knew that the Pennant Race between Lycaons and Mariners was still ongoing, so it would be difficult for Gallarians to prepare for both teams at the same time. But when Tokuchi astonishingly managed to break Enatsu's record, Gallarians decided to focus all their efforts on Tokuchi as his presence was far too threatening to ignore. They did manage to come up with a plan to counter Tokuchi's skills. However, all of it went down the drain, as Tokuchi did not even attend the match. As Gallarians only prepared against Tokuchi as the leader of Lycaons, they were completely clueless when matched against the presence of the other players. So they lost the match, and Lycaons secured their place as the best team in all of Japan.

- With this, Tokuchi managed to achieve the aim that he extensively planned for throughout the entire manga, which is to elevate Lycaons from a team of hopeless/hoeless nobodies to the best baseball team of Japan with the most sales at the top. Tokuchi finally cleared the debt that he owed to Kojima in their one outs game.

Conclusion

Tokuchi is severely underrated in planning, ranked below levels of Akiyama or Patrick Jane is insane. I am not saying Akiyama or Patrick Jane are bad in planning, but just that Tokuchi is tiers better. Tokuchi managed to scheme for several advantages several matches prior, he developed micro-macro elements plans for Lycaons and was an incredible visionary throughout the manga as well. But since Tokuchi's planning is more so "phase-based" planning, it would seem more like strategy than planning. However I can assure you that Tokuchi is leagues better in planning than strategy. On a side note, I want to mention that Tokuchi is incredibly overestimated in strategy, I just do not find it to be anywhere near his planning or manipulative skills, might be wrong. Anyways this small summary was to showcase a concise view into the sheer intricacies of Tokuchi's planning. So the message I want to get out of this work is "*Don't underrate Tokuchi's planning lil bro*".