

LASTChancePUBLICATIONS

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written

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エピソード 12

In Episode 11...

Crying looked down on the scene below him and smiled at his advantageous position...

The mysterious and deadly Crying engages Kaio in a duel for midfield but who is underestimating who?

Crying watched as the shot trailed towards its target, but then, just before it connected, the red Ranger's dodging pattern seemed to stutter and the shot flew past his helmet and into the dirt behind him, a miss.

And Chance and Silvers defensive job is made all the more difficult by the arrival of two enemy Rangers..

"Its JBC's attacking duo, Delacruz and Boockerr..."

"Saikaku na shi" Crying said aloud

Well this was surprising, he thought, a more interesting opponent it seemed. He saw through the scope that the Ranger had now shouldered his rifle and was aiming directly at his head, whilst still dodging. Crying readied himself to dodge behind cover should the shot come in. He began to track his opponents dodging once again, this time with a little more urgency.

"His movements are sublime to watch" he thought, *"He does Saikaku na shi justice, a shame he will die so easily."*

He squeezed the trigger again; the shot aimed and timed exactly to meet its location at the same time as its target's head. Once again the Red Ranger interrupted his pattern just enough to arrive a fraction of a second after the sniper shot, which sailed past and into the ground, a miss.

Crying was surprised once again, that was Saikakunashi dodging to perfection, the slightest effort to affect the biggest bonus to aiming. Yet no return shot came, the Ranger simply continued to aim his rifle and maintain his flawless dodging pattern.

"Excellent Form, or is it something more?" Crying wondered, *"Could this Ranger be..."*

He fired his third shot, again the shot missed.

He reloaded his weapon swiftly, not taking the time to move into cover as again no return shot arrived.

He was sure now, this was definitely him.

"Time to stop messing around, now there's a real opponent out there, one worthy of my skills."

Carefully he took aim and fired, this time the Ranger didn't affect his dodge at all and the shot connected directly. Now he expected a shot to come in, but the Ranger simply kept his rifle aimed and did not fire, he just continued his dodging pattern.

"Why don't you take a shot?" Crying shouted. "Fool. Well this shot will finish you.....Kaio, of The Four!"

Behind Kaio the Deploy point began to go into its spin, indicating that a deployment was about to take place. As Crying took aim for the fifth time Kaio's eyes snapped open and he pulled the trigger. The shot connected directly with Crying's helmet who immediately fell down behind the window and dematerialised.

Headwire and the attackers had completed their re-spawning and Headwire boosted over to Kaio's position as the attackers again headed for the base.

"I saw all of that that while I was re-spawning, you only hit him once!" Headwire said excitedly. Kaio was already on the move to a more defensive position, but Headwire persisted

"Hey! You only hit him once! Did you shoot him in that instant kill spot? Can *you* aim for that?! Hey, c'mon Kaio is that what happened?" Kaio stopped at the ridge of the cliff and looked back at the anxious Headwire

"Perhaps" he said; then he jumped down the other side of the cliff out of site.

"Where ya going?" Headwire called over the comms

"To check the Generator isn't being hacked, Chance thinks he saw someone head this way. The Techs should return any second to keep you busy" and at that moment Dante called over the comms

"Incoming Techs, Head get over here".

As Headwire sprinted towards the new enemy, past conversations with Kaio ran through his mind.

The Four sat at their usual table in the mess hall.

"Hey guys, I've heard from other Merc Rangers that there's a spot in the Helmet that, if hit with a sniper shot means instant shut down" said Headwire.

"I think you should worry more about not getting hit and less about aiming for a four percent target in their head" said Kaio, Chance and Silver sat back laughing again. Headwire's eyes widened and in a low voice he said to Kaio.

"I never said it was a four percent spot. You know about it...don't you" Headwire said, his eyes lighting up. Kaio didn't reply, his face showing no expression.

Kaio and Headwire sat outside the base, on one of the balcony levels, still in their Ranger suits,

"Come on Kaio there is a point in the helmet that if you hit it directly with a sniper shot it kills them out right, no second shot needed. A glitch with the suits that has never been corrected apparently, course I've never met anyone that has hit it or seen it done but I know it exists" said Headwire

"He must have hit that spot, there's no way that he got two hits on Crying without him getting behind cover." Then Headwire remembered the conversation he had had with Kaio before the battle, as they walked to the re-spawn chambers.

"Hey, Kaio I know form Ill's name, Kajiki, when translated from the old tongue means evasive prey. What does the form you are a master of mean? What does Saikakunashi mean?"

"Saikaku na shi, means" Kaio paused and looked at the young Ranger "Exact death".

. . .

At the red teams near-side Deploy-point Chance and Silver with their Tech support waited for their hidden enemies to attack.

Suddenly the area around them filled with smoke as the blue Rangers began their attack, each firing smoke grenades to cover their advance. Silver's Raptor turret started up, shooting into the air, searching for a target its Gunner couldn't see. Chance did not attempt to leave the smoke, knowing it was the safest place to be. He could hear rifle fire and shotgun blasts coming from where Cage and Dio had taken up defensive positions, he wished them luck. In a subtle move he produced his grenade launcher and fired two gas grenades off to his left. Then, amid the blasts of Raptor and shotgun fire he heard two Shock lance EM blasts.

"BAIL!" Chance shouted over the comms

The Raptor turret stopped firing as the two balls of energy connected with it. In a storm of electric lightning the Raptor exploded into flames.

As the smoke cleared two Rangers were standing in front of the red Deploy-point, in their hands they held Shock Lances. At their feet the bodies of the two red Techs, Cage and Dio, began to dematerialise. Chance could see that any remaining defences had also been destroyed. To his left the body of the first blue Tech was dematerializing but he could not see the second. To his right was the burning hulk of the Raptor; he could not see Silver anywhere.

"Nice move with the gas" one of the Rangers said on the open Channel of his Comms.

"Using gas to dissipate our smoke as well as to prevent us from reviving our teammate, has to be Captain Chance" said the other Ranger.

"Dela and Boockerr, it's been a long time" Chance replied at last.

"It has" replied Boockerr

"I heard you'd left JBC's employment?" Chance asked

"Well we'll see; contract negotiations are in progress shall we say" replied Delacruz.

"I'm pleased we could meet up again Chance. You have done a fine defensive job here, keeping our midfield from taking this Deploy, but we have finally grown tired of the long journey from our base to yours and decided we would rather spawn here. Your defense ends here" Boockerr said with a grim twist.

"I understand entirely" Chance replied with a thin smile as he gripped his shotgun, preparing for what would most likely be a short battle.

"What a polite meeting you're all having, may I interrupt?" came a voice from Chance's right.

All eyes turned to the wreckage of the Raptor. Silver, his armour scorched but otherwise unharmed, emerged from behind the flames.

"You destroyed my Raptor, now you've gone and pissed me off boys" He said looking at the Rangers. He stood just by the wreckage with his grenade launcher in hand.

"Ha" laughed Boockerr "A Gunner in midfield, well you don't see that much these days"

"No, not since Rangers started carrying these" Delacruz said as he slowly began to swap his Shock Lance for his Sniper rifle. It was well known that Rangers were the bane of Gunners on open terrain such as this. They could out maneuver the slower Gunner and their sniper rifles allowed them to engage at longer ranges whilst ignoring the Gunner's heavy shields. It was a very rare thing indeed to see a Gunner voluntarily perform midfield duties.

"Lads" said Chance "I think you will be pleasantly surprised. Silver here, well midfield belongs to him, and you are about to see why."

In episode 13 of 8 ways to lose...

"Those two Rangers were so fast and accurate, Silver being a Gunner wont last two seconds...."

"Silver is the last remaining midfield Gunner in employment" Chance began "For a good reason...."

The battle between Silver and JBC's famous attacking Duo begins....