



## Whistle!, Vol. 4

*Daisuke Higuchi*

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## **Whistle!, Vol. 4** Daisuke Higuchi

Everybody has a dream, and for junior high school student Shô Kazamatsuri, that dream is simple: he wants to get off the bench and play soccer. An inspiration to everyone he meets, the indefatigable spark plug won't quit until he becomes the best soccer player he can be!

After playing an incredible and inspirational match against their cross-town rivals, the gang at Josui Junior High is now fielding queries from players who want to join their team. One of these hopefuls is Yuki Kojima, the team's pretty manager. She's not only cute and sweet but she's also an awesome soccer player to boot. Slowly but surely, Shô is surrounding himself with a bunch of all-star athletes...now all he has to do is find a coach!

## **Whistle!, Vol. 4 Details**

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## From Reader Review Whistle!, Vol. 4 for online ebook

### Ben Truong says

*Whistle!, Vol. 4* continues where the previous tankobon left off and contains the next nine chapters (27–35) of the on-going manga series.

I was quite confused when I started reading this tankobon. From the previous tankobon, I thought Shigeki Sat? scored the second goal against Musashinomori and tied the game at the very last moment. However, I was quite mistaken, the shot that Shigeki Sat? took went wide and had it not been for Sh? Kazamatsuri head-butting the ball in – the game wouldn't have been tied. Just as they scored the goal, there was still time left in the game for Musashinomori to score on an open goal – making the final score 3-2 in Musashinomori's favor.

Despite their lost, Sakura Josui soccer team had a surge in popularity and even gotten themselves a new manager in Yuki Kojima. However, after realizing the training regime required for staying on the team, most of them quit en masse, because they didn't love the game, but thought it would make them popular with the girls. They tried to break into the storage locker to destroy equipment for revenge, but masked soccer avenger stopped them.

Souj? Matsushita was asked to coach the Sakura Josui Soccer Team by Y?ko Katori, but declined the offer, because of a sin he committed in the name of soccer years ago. It wasn't until Y?ko Katori mentioning to T?go Amamiya, the coach of Kokubu Soccer Team who requested a practice game with Sakura Josui about trying to give Souj? Matsushita the job as coach did things turn around. T?go Amamiya and Souj? Matsushita had a history and after their discussion, Souj? Matsushita finally accepted the role as coach of Sakura Josui Soccer Team.

Two characters of note are introduced in *Whistle!, Vol. 4*: Daichi Fuwa, who is a second year student and Yuki Kojima, the manager for the Sakura Josui Soccer Team.

Daichi Fuwa is known in Josui as a genius, but many find him dangerous and eccentric. He is nicknamed the Crusher, because he crushes people's pride by outdoing them and saying what they have done wrong, not realizing that he's either hurting or irritating others. His way of speaking is very blunt and direct. Though he's a genius at almost everything he does, the only thing he doesn't understand are the basic of socializing and the meaning of just having fun.

He meets Sh? Kazamatsuri when the latter thought he was going to commit suicide by jumping into a river and tried to intervene. Sh? Kazamatsuri introduces Daichi Fuwa into the world of soccer and so he decides to join the soccer team as goalkeeper in order to investigate why Sh? Kazamatsuri loves soccer so much.

Yuki Kojima is a second year student who became a manager taking care about the Sakura Josui Soccer Team right after their astonishing game against Musashinomori. It was later revealed that she was the guardian angel of the soccer team who would stop anyone who would bring harm to the team. She loves soccer so much – perhaps just as strongly as Sh? Kazamatsuri, but is prevented in playing, because no girls are allowed on the team. Instead she has to sit on the side-lines and watch vicariously through the boys' team. She is allowed in the summer soccer retreat that Shouj? Matsushita planned.

Daisuke Higuchi has written and illustrated this tankobon. For the most part I really liked the story, Higuchi

is a tad too verbose in some of her dialogue, but it's not too prevalent, albeit still noticeable. I was a tad confused in the beginning, but I'm not sure if this is Higuchi's doing, the translator, or the original editor who decided to split the tankobon in this manner. It was interesting to read the history between T?go Amamiya and Souj? Matsushita and their past relationship. The illustrations are rather good as well and it emphasizes the text rather well.

All in all, *Whistle!, Vol. 4* is a wonderful continuation of the series that seems really intriguing and I can't wait to read more.

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### **Natalie says**

What I love about volume four is that Josui loses to Musashinomori. Fans of The Prince of Tennis watched main character Ryoma and the Seigaku tennis team come back from any and all deficits; Sho is more relatable and human for experiencing loss. Props to Daisuke Higuchi for letting his characters struggle!

After the tough loss against their rivals, Josui undergoes a number of changes: they find a coach, a new goal keeper, and a new player in the female Yuki. I love Sho's speech about Yuki is a player (and not a girl); the fact that gender doesn't matter is a powerful sentiment and pleasant to read.

Downsides of the manga are its melodramatic bits: Togo's self-injury and Sho's Mary-Sue qualities detract from the story with their sheer improbability. Perhaps things like Sho accidentally falling off the bridge with Fuwa is meant to be comedic; while it garners a snort of amusement, the plot doesn't deal with the dark consequences: they could have drowned, been injured, etc. It remains lighthearted, a quality that is both this story's strength and weakness: the humor breaks up the serious soccer scenes but also keeps the story child-like.

This is a great sports series so far - though it tends to fall on the optimistic/childish side at times, Higuchi allows his characters to develop and grow by struggling with their losses.

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### **Stephanie Kurisunkal says**

I wasn't surprised that Yuki was the mysterious guy!

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### **Sinta Nisfuanna says**

kalau kau tidak menghadapinya sendiri  
kalau kau tidak berusaha gigih,  
kalau kau tidak bisa melewatinya,  
kau tidak akan bisa keluar dari kesulitanmu

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