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The 2022 season promises to be an exciting one between Imabari and Kagoshima United, two consistently strong clubs in Japan's third division. Imabari is coming off a season where they finished third in the league table, just missing out on automatic promotion. Their high-pressing style and deadly counterattacks netted 75 goals last year, with Keita Suzuki leading the way with 25 goals. However, their defense was prone to lapses, conceding 42 goals. Imabari will be looking to shore things up at the back if they want to earn promotion this year. 隣

Kagoshima United has always prided itself on its stingy defense first mentality. Last season they conceded a league-low 27 goals and earned the second-best defensive record. Their scoreline rarely got out of hand, with a 1-0 or 2-1 final being common. While they finished fifth, just missing out on the playoffs, they only lost five games all season long. Their ability to grind out results is admirable, but some questioned if they had enough firepower up front, as 48 goals scored was middling. United will need to find another goal threat to pair with young star Hiromu Sato if they want to challenge for the title this year. ⚽

The two clubs have built up quite the rivalry in recent years, playing out some tightly contested matches. Their league fixture last season ended in a 2-2 thriller decided by an injury time equalizer. Both managers will have their teams well drilled and motivated heading into their matches. Imabari fans want to see an attacking style that can break down Kagoshima's staunch defense. Meanwhile, Kagoshima supporters crave the structure and grittiness their team brings that can stifle Imabari's potent attack. With two strong clubs, contrasting styles, and plenty still at stake in the title race, their fixtures are must-watch games. The 2022 season clash between these rivals promises edge-of-your-seat drama. 🍿 -

<https://mbscore.tv/match/imabari-vs-kagoshima-united-18778039>