

Avatar 1261

Chapter 1261: Forced Draw

Zhang Xinjie... playing in the group arena?

When everyone saw that Zhang Xinjie actually walked into the player booth, they had to accept this reality. But the live host? Even now, he still hadn't pulled himself together. He was still just staring blankly, completely forgetting to introduce Team B's player. To announce this person's name for the group arena, he... really wasn't used to it. It was even more unbelievable than Yang Cong's usage of Life-Risking Strike.

"Team B's third player in the group arena is... Zhang Xinjie?" Finally, the host made the announcement, but he still said it with a question mark. He still couldn't quite believe this.

Dead silence in the crowd, and then an explosion of noise. One player sitting in the diehard Tyranny fan section was staring in complete and utter shock, his mouth in the shape of an O, which only closed after a long while. His mood was slightly different from the shock of those around him. The instant he saw Zhang Xinjie come onstage, something whirred in his mind, and he thought of that winter two years ago, in Glory's tenth server. Just outside of the extremely low-level Frost Forest dungeon, that guy who controlled Lord Grim had said to this player: we don't need a Cleric.

And now, on the All-Star stage, the stage upon which the brightest stars of Glory shone, this phrase suddenly echoed in his ear again, floating back and forth nonstop: don't need a Cleric, don't need a Cleric, don't need a Cleric, don't need a Cleric, don't need a Cleric...

Last time, the one who was "don't need a Cleric'd" was him. His Cleric was called Endless Night.

And this time, the one who was "don't need a Cleric'd" was Zhang Xinjie, the Cleric called Immovable Rock, the top healer in all of Glory.

Endless Night suddenly felt that he had no regrets in his life. On this All-Star stage, even Vice-captain Zhang was "don't need a Cleric'd." What the hell was he still bothered about?

His character loaded in. Cleric Immovable Rock appeared on the group arena map, facing the half-health Ghostblade Carved Ghost.

If a Cleric really wanted to PK, they would have to rely on their powerful healing ability to maintain their health, and then use their few attacking methods to wear away the opponent.

In the Glory game, there was no shortage of Clerics who used this kind of method to PK. But in-game, both player skill and equipment quality was inferior. If Zhang Xinjie ran to the game to play in the Arena, no one would underestimate the battle ability of his Cleric.

However, if player skill and equipment quality were at the same level, a Cleric most certainly was not a bloody hurricane attacking class. This point could be seen from the Heavenly Domain challenge. Clerics and Paladins were very different from the other classes. It was clear that the Glory game had not designed these two classes to be powerful attackers. Those who stacked their points on the skill tree

toward attacks were far from mainstream and hadn't earned any recognition in the pro circle. 24 teams, every team had a healer class, none of which was that kind of deviant.

Zhang Xinjie's Immovable Rock was even less so. This sort of strict player would never waver from the path.

How would this match be fought? The ruckus still hadn't died down, but many people were already wondering.

As for the televised broadcast, it was very quiet. Li Yibo was really depressed! His earlier predictions of the team lineups had been based on the difference of healer against no healer, but who would have thought, Team B had a healer but didn't use it, instead throwing him onto the group arena. This season, he had been truly attacked so much that he was in the perpetual mad state of "can't feel happy without being face-slapped."

Commentator Pan Lin was also silent for a long time. It wasn't until the characters onstage started moving that he said in a strained voice, "Let's watch this match, with Void's Wu Yuce, against... Zhang Xinjie..."

The characters met, and began fighting.

Those who dreamed that Zhang Xinjie had some sort of ultimate sure-kill method were quickly disappointed. Zhang Xinjie's 1v1 Cleric just used the same little tricks that were popular in the game. Change position to maintain distance, recover health during breaks, sparse attacks to wear away the opponent.

Many high-end Clerics in-game could enrage many people to death. Could Zhang Xinjie do it?

The crowd originally had a lot of excitement and anticipation, but gradually, all of it faded away. Because judging from the content of this match, this was truly dull to an unprecedented extent, duller than any other match of previous All-Star Weekends, duller than any match in any season of the League.

Everyone suddenly had a single thought: If Glory battles were all like this, then they should just shut down the League as early as possible.

Fortunately, that wasn't the case...

They watched as Zhang Xinjie controlled Immovable Rock, recovered his health like a robot, occasionally had his rhythm torn by Wu Yuce, but then tenaciously got it back, and then repeated the above process.

The refreshing feeling was gone. The interest was gone.

The players who had more in-game experience had all seen this situation before. It was just that Zhang Xinjie's controls were more precise, and Wu Yuce's attacks were more ferocious.

In terms of attacks, the Cleric really only had so many options. Even Zhang Xinjie couldn't make many changes. He just followed the most common thought processes seen in-game, and then displayed them with a higher level of skill and technique. Faced against a more powerful opponent, the result was... this match looked like it was going to drag on endlessly.

One minute...

Two minutes...

Five minutes...

Ten minutes...

Zhang Xinjie was still very methodically controlling, wearing away. At the start of the match, Carved Ghost had 52% health remaining. Now, 11% had been whittled away, leaving 41%. And that had taken a full ten minutes.

During these ten minutes, Immovable Rock's health had also dropped. This Cleric battle style couldn't be too careless or wasteful. If he used up all his mana, then he would just be fish meat on a plate. But even under Wu Yuce's powerful offensive, Zhang Xinjie didn't ignore everything to fill up his health. He had a set rhythm to maintain the balance of the situation. After ten minutes, Immovable Rock's health had dropped 20%...

And so everyone took another look. Carved Ghost had lost 11% after starting at 52%, wasn't that also a twenty percent decrease? These two guys, they were actually playing at such a precise balance? They were actually going to have to play all the way until the end to determine victory?

To do so... Judging from their current speed, wouldn't that require... forty more minutes?

Those that realized this point instantly paled. The organizers and the television broadcasters were even more panicked. This 1v1 was going to last an hour? That was much too far above the estimated time duration. Were they even going to play the team competition afterward?

Here they panicked, there they panicked, but the two people onstage weren't panicked.

Zhang Xinjie's controls were as methodical as ever. Wu Yuce? He was always a very persistent and persevering person, someone who never gave up easily. Otherwise, the current Void Ghost Duo wouldn't exist.

These two people were actually giving it their all. But it would be many dozen minutes before victory was determined, and with just these repetitive actions. It was truly difficult for anyone to continue watching.

What to do?

A wave of people went to the background, and then the smoking area became overcrowded, and then ambient noise became louder and louder as people started chatting. Lights flashed all over the the crowd like stars in the sky, as a result of countless people starting to play with their phones.

With the team competition finale, the audience couldn't bear to leave, but they honestly could not continue to watch this match.

"We can't let them drag on until the end!" The organizers finally made this decision, which was quickly sent to the stage. The judge entered the match through the system and forcibly declared the group arena a draw. There would be no extra time, it was just a draw! If they added extra time, then by the rules that meant that both sides would have a bit of health added and then face off. Wouldn't that just result in a confrontation between these two guys again? That absolutely could not happen.

The judge stopped the game very arbitrarily. After a pause, the live audience exploded with a surge of applause. Not to Zhang Xinjie, nor to Wu Yuce. This applause was sent to the one with an extremely weak presence in Glory matches, the judge. In this moment, he was the most lovable person in the audience's eyes.

Wu Yuce and Zhang Xinjie could only accept this reality. When the two players stepped out of the player booths, the crowd, with mixed feelings, sent applause to them as well. They could at least respect their seriousness, their perseverance, and their calm acceptance of the forced draw of the match.

After this boring period passed, it was now time for the highest point of this three-day event. And this time, Team B didn't have a healer either. Without a doubt, the two sides would be attacking each other ferociously. Looking at the players left to the team round, they were all the top attackers in the entire Alliance brought together now.

"Coach Li, could you analyze and compare the strengths of the two teams for us?" Pan Lin said.

"The two teams are both composed of the very best of the best. It wouldn't be unexpected for either side to win. However, this is a never-before-seen situation where neither side has a healer. Today's team competition will be the highest-level aggressive match in the entirety of Glory. These two teams have gathered the most powerful attackers in Glory!" Coach Li said.

"You're correct," Pan Lin agreed. The two continued to talk until the team competition finally gathered together onstage.

From Team A were Zhou Zekai, Sun Xiang, Huang Shaotian, Yu Wenzhou, and Tang Hao, with Xiao Shiqin as the sixth player.

From Team B were Ye Xiu, Su Mucheng, Han Wenqing, Chu Yunxiu, and Wang Jiexi, with Yu Feng as the sixth player.

The two teams were making their final preparations before the map. Team A had the two Master Tacticians Yu Wenzhou and Xiao Shiqin. Earlier, many people were uncomfortable with how Xiao Shiqin had dealt with Yu Wenzhou, but looking at their direct interactions now, there didn't seem to be any difficulties. The two were discussing nonstop, occasionally shooting glances at Team B. After several close-ups, the camera switched to Team B, and it could be seen that the two of them were likely discussing Team B's player Ye Xiu.

Team B's player Ye Xiu seemed very relaxed. This other Master Tactician didn't seem like he was making any arrangements for his team as a whole. He only said a sentence to Han Wenqing, standing beside him.

"When the battle begins, try to stay away from me. I fear that my attacks will automatically be drawn to your body," Ye Xiu said to Han Wenqing, very seriously.

Chapter 1262: Scatter

The team competition that was about to begin was the highlight of the three-day All-Stars Weekend. Everyone knew clearly that the result or the quality of this game may not be the finest, but it was

definitely the most star-studded. Currently, there was no other event besides the All-Stars Weekend that allowed such a group of people to play together, whether it be alongside or against each other. This exhibition was well worth watching.'

Right now, the cheers in the crowd were directed more towards Team B, where Team Tyranny's players and characters were. However, even though this was Tyranny's home stadium, the hollering in support of Team A would not lose out much: many of the Glory Alliance's players with the most fans were all gathered on this All-Stars stage. Even though Team B had a slight home advantage, it was nowhere near enough to overwhelm Team A.

There was plenty of eye-candy prepared for this most important final match. The participating characters appeared one by one, and gave a little show for several minutes. However, no one was bored at the slightest; instead, this tease held back their energy. When the map finished loading and the match officially began, the crowd had entered a strange state of peace.

The map was specifically designed for the All-Stars match. There were mountains and rivers, trees and rocky outcrops, and street and buildings. It seemed to be an amalgamation of all the different maps used in Glory. In the very middle of the map, there was an arena made of limestone that looked thousands of years old. From an aerial view, it formed the Glory Alliance's logo as well as the number "10", to celebrate Season 10 of the Glory Alliance.

The players from both teams quickly spawned to much applause. Just seeing these famous characters form into teams was enough to get the viewers very excited.

Neither side seemed to want to beat about the bush. Since spawning, both teams charged towards the centre. Sending Zhang Xinjie to fight the group arena was a indication by team B that they wanted to fight Team A head on.

A fierce confrontation was originally the preferred strategy for Team A, who lacked a healer. But now, it was instead Team B who ditched their healer and took up this strategy. Could the players from Team A back off from a direct confrontation? Of course not! Who's afraid of who?

The match's pace was swift as soon as it commenced. Both sides rushed forward, past the scenery which became a blur in the background. Without a slow-moving healer, both sides' progress seemed very rapid. Finally, the opposition were within each other's sights.

There was no communication or command for formations, but the characters from both teams went into an arrangement that seemed to have been agreed on beforehand.

For Team A, the trio consisting of Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf, Huang Shaotian's Troubling Rain and Tang Hao's Demon Subduer formed a straight line and stood in front. Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer followed behind by only a few units. Yu Wenzhou's Swoksaar brought up the rear and concealed himself behind his teammates.

For Team B, Han Wenqing's Desert Dust was the spearhead in front with Ye Xiu's Lord Grim trailing a few steps behind. After them, Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain, Wang Jiexi's Vaccaria and Chu Yunxiu's Windy Rain formed a horizontal line at the back.

The two teams chose reversed formations. Team A's arrangement of three characters in front seemed to allow for more aggression. However, Team B were the first ones to start attacking. Even though there were three characters at the back for team B, they were all long ranged classes and team A entered their attack ranges first.

A maelstrom of cannon fire and magical energies erupted and rolled forward. The centre of the map where the Alliance's logo was located was immediately covered by bedazzling flashes of light.

Scatter!

The three Team A characters at the front suddenly changed directions as if it was pre-arranged. It looked like they were trying to go around the suppressive fire that was being laid down by Team B. But Team B would not let them off so easy. Their attacks closely followed the change in position, and they still managed to keep Team A out of attack range.

But as the three gave way, the second layer of Team A was suddenly at the forefront: Cloud Piercer!

Accelerate!

Cloud Piercer charged forward, guns blazing. He looked like a melee class character despite being a long-ranged Gunner class. Team A astonishingly used their three Gods at the front to draw their opponents' attention, all to allow Zhou Zekai to begin a solo assault. His attacks blanketed all the characters on Team B. The Sharpshooter's high attack speed was brought to the peak at this moment. Cloud Piercer grasped his dual pistols to begin launching his attacks, unleashing a countless flurry of bullets.

Blood splattered within Team B's formation. This wave of attacks came too quickly. It was fierce and covered a lot of ground.

But because the coverage of the attacks was wide, the bullets were spread out, so the damage output was reduced significantly. However, the higher-level skills of Chu Yunxiu's Windy Rain and Wang Jiexi's Vaccaria had casting time. Even though being shot did not deal much damage, their casts would be interrupted. As both their attacks were stifled, Team B's long-range zoning seemed to have been extinguished for the moment. There was no way Dancing Rain's attacks alone could suppress the three Gods, Sun Xiang, Huang Shaotian and Tang Hao, at the same time.

Dragon Breaks the Ranks!

One Autumn Leaf led with an ultimate skill to forcefully break into the opponents formation. In an instant, the Samsara fans went wild: this was the teamwork they were so used to seeing. After Sun Xiang joined Samsara, his duo play-style revolved around having him wreak havoc in the enemy's midst while Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer attacked from the outside. Countless teams were scattered by just this two, with their ability to bust apart an enemy team from inside and out. Even in the current situation with the best of the best as the opponents, it looked like Samsara's duo was still extremely potent..

Shattering the Lands!

After charging in with Dragon Breaks the Ranks, One Autumn Leaf followed up with another high-level skill. His body in mid-air and Evil Annihilation in his hands channeling magical battle spirit, he carried an air of invincibility about him as his spear shot down towards the enemy, like a God descending to smite mortals.

Scatter!

Team B suddenly scattered. Unlike the three-man scatter on Team A, all five players scattered and neatly formed a circle. And right in the middle of this circle was One Autumn Leaf...

One Autumn Leaf looked like he was descending from the heavens for one moment, but in the next, after Team B scattered, he suddenly looked like he was charging directly into the abyss.

Boom!

Shattering the Lands' magic created waves in the ground. At that moment, the ground within the skill's AoE folded up. However, not a single character was caught up in it. There were only skills in the AoE - not just from Shattering the Lands...

After dodging Shattering the Lands, the three ranged characters on Team B instantly followed up with a counter-attack. Everything happened quickly and precisely. Three ranged attacks landed on One Autumn Leaf who was still in the ending animation of his skill. There was zero chance to dodge. In fact, this hasty counter-attack was even coordinated. The three attacks were not simultaneous but chained, and they landed on One Autumn Leaf one after the other.

Although the damage wouldn't be increased, the status effects' duration was prolonged by chaining the attacks. In the short time frame where One Autumn Leaf was chain-stunned by the three attacks, Desert Dust and Lord Grim approached like the wind to flank him.

Ferocious Tiger Flurry!

Han Wenqing also led with a high-level skill. Desert Dust flew forward and One Autumn Leaf was greeted by his fist. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim couldn't display this sort of momentum, because even though they could be added to the Myriad Manifestation Umbrella, they would be too low level. Thus, Ye Xiu did not choose to do so but instead charged next to One Autumn Leaf only with the intention of creating a pincer. He was also there to provide protection, since the rest of Team A wouldn't just watch and let One Autumn Leaf get surrounded and eliminated.

Zhou Zekai, the current teammate and duo partner of Sun Xiang, reacted the fastest. Cloud Piercer's attacks could also arrive the fastest. Random Firing!

Random Firing was a skill that sprayed bullets in all directions. However, under Zhou Zekai's tyrannical control, he forcefully turned the bullets into a very targeted stream. This stream of bullets flew accurately at the two characters on either side of One Autumn Leaf.

Dodge?

It was impossible to dodge this rain of bullets unless they abandoned their attack on One Autumn Leaf. However, Team B had no intentions of doing so. Han Wenqing allowed Desert Dust to continue his Ferocious Tiger Frenzy as if he didn't see the flurry of attacks from Cloud Piercer's direction. Although he and Ye Xiu were archrivals of many years, he seemed to have complete trust that Ye Xiu would deal with the current situation. Therefore, Han Wenqing simply ignored the attacks from Zhou Zekai and focused on his own attacks.

Swish!

The Myriad Manifestation Umbrella opened up and sheltered Lord Grim and Desert Dust from Cloud Piercer's hail of bullets.

"Put your back into it, get a good trade in!" Ye Xiu called.

Blocking with a shield could only negate status effects. It could not completely negate damage, which was dependant on the weight of the shield and other particular stats.

The Myriad Manifestation Umbrella's weight was very light, but its attributes were still quite substantial. The Level 70 Myriad Manifestation Umbrella in shield form provided a 61% boost in defence as well as 34% damage absorption. These two abilities would take effect as soon as the shield met any attacks. But Glory's top Gunner, Cloud Piercer, obviously wouldn't stop trying to punch through Lord Grim's defences just because of these two abilities.

Lord Grim's health was still dropping. This kind of defence was just an exchange. Lord Grim's health for One Autumn Leaf's health...

The two characters who had an unbreakable bond with Ye Xiu were currently locked in such an exchange. One of the damage dealers happened to be Ye Xiu's biggest rival of all time, Han Wenqing. This scene could only be described as somewhat ironic. Team A, however, didn't just consist of Zhou Zekai. Huang Shaotian, the biggest opportunistic player of Glory, saw a great chance. Troubling Rain quickly appeared in front of the shield form Myriad Manifestation Umbrella. Right now, the Umbrella shield was completely blocking Lord Grim's field of view. Ye Xiu couldn't do much about this. If he stuck his head out to look, Zhou Zekai's marksmanship would deliver a faceful of bullets.

Troubling Rain used the cover provided by the shield form Myriad Manifestation Umbrella to deliver some pain!

Chapter 1263: Small Details and Techniques

Troubling Rain instantly got within melee range using the Myriad Manifestation Umbrella's shield form as cover.

"Careful!" Huang Shaotian heard Yu Wenzhou's voice. Yu Wenzhou's Swoksaar stood rather far away. From his point of view, he suddenly realized that Huang Shaotian being captured was an opportunity, but also a trap.

Huang Shaotian quickly controlled Troubling Rain to move sideways upon hearing Yu Wenzhou's warning. Since he had already gotten this far, he might as well continue attacking rather than retreat. He only needed to be careful of whatever was hidden behind the umbrella. After all, this was just a Blind Shield playstyle. If he took the initiative and moved first, how could he not dodge it?

He couldn't dodge it!

Troubling Rain had barely taken half a step when the Myriad Manifestation Umbrella closed up. Huang Shaotian didn't even have time to see the character behind the umbrella before his screen was filled by a blinding light. This attack couldn't get any closer. There was absolutely nothing he could do that could dodge an attack which was close enough to singe his eyebrows...

Laser Rifle!

Only the Best Partners Su Mucheng and Ye Xiu could achieve this kind of precision. Ye Xiu used the Blind Shield playstyle to hide Su Mucheng's long ranged attack rather than his own.

"You want to ambush me? How naive!" Ye Xiu laughed, as he watched Troubling Rain tumble away from the Laser Rifle.

"Just fight, stop talking so much trash!" Huang Shaotian yelled.

The whole stadium collectively shared a sweatdrop. Bro, you're the one saying this? Are you trying to say that you're the strong and silent type?

Huang Shaotian's ambush failed. Zhou Zekai also sacrificed dealing damage to coordinate with the ambush. Even though there was no friendly fire, shots didn't just pass through allies. Zhou Zekai couldn't have Cloud Piercer move around Troubling Rain, because that might have lead Ye Xiu to turn and reveal Huang Shaotian's position...

Huang Shaotian's ambush was ultimately fruitless. This moment was over in the blink of an eye, but it contained so many small details. Right now, the guest commentator Li Yibo, conducting the live TV broadcast, wanted to share his analysis with everyone. But who could spare the effort to listen to his explanation? The match had long left this moment behind.

The players on Team B couldn't idly watch and let Ye Xiu and Han Wenqing trade health by tanking the enemy's attacks. The moment Su Mucheng foiled Huang Shaotian's ambush, Chu Yunxiu's Windy Rain had already cast Heavenly Lightning Earthen Fire. It engulfed Lord Grim, One Autumn Leaf, and Desert Dust together. Tang Hao attempted to interrupt her cast, but he was intercepted by Wang Jiexi. Currently, Vaccaria and Demon Subduer were locked in a skirmish.

The viewers' eyes were in a blur. They did not know where to look. Out of the ten players on the field, it looked like Yu Wenzhou was the only one who had some free time. However, his presence couldn't be ignored.

Yu Wenzhou may have trouble keeping up with the pace of this explosive battle because of his crippled hand speed. However, he obviously had his own, slower style of play which still secured him a place as a God in the Alliance. In this kind of flashy battle, Yu Wenzhou wasn't at all useless. Rather, his crowd control skills as a Warlock was indispensable to his team and extremely disruptive to his opponents. In this game with no healer, where the fight was blood for blood, one successfully landed control skill might just cripple a character entirely.

On the other hand, Team B's five on the field plus Yu Feng as a sixth were all top damage dealers. As for crowd control, they could only rely on their observation and mechanics and share the burden. They couldn't compare to Yu Wenzhou, who could focus on observing the entire battlefield and act accordingly.

Now, Team A's strategy was pretty much on the tables. From the start, they wanted to give Yu Wenzhou plenty of space to let his Warlock control the battle. Thus, the other four characters had to handle more of the head-on fighting. However, Huang Shaotian was one of the four. This so-called expert opportunity seizer was different from a core attacker. In Blue Rain, he seldom filled the role of the spearhead

attacker. It used to be Yu Feng, and now, that position was passed to the fourteen year old Lu Hanwen, not Huang Shaotian.

This didn't mean Huang Shaotian was very bad at head-on type attacks. It was just that to him, being a head-on attacker simply did not fully display his talents and capabilities. He needed a certain amount of cover and waited for an opportunity before acting

Huang Shaotian didn't manage to seize this opening. However, the match had only just begun. Being able to create this opportunity for Huang Shaotian was already remarkable. This was because he had even fiercer teammates, who could provide cover for him.

Sun Xiang, Zhou Zekai!

This duo that had only existed for half a season at Samsara could probably be called the duo with the strongest offensive capabilities within the current Glory Alliance. Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf charged in and got himself surrounded. At first, this move seemed somewhat rash. However, with the ranged support from Zhou Zekai on the outside of the encirclement, Team B's flank did not have an easy time. Even though Huang Shaotian missed his chance to sneak up, the outstanding duo's skill was fully demonstrated. Team A didn't manage to get an advantage, but the battlefield was set for Yu Wenzhou's Warlock so that no one could suppress him.

Swoksaar began casting his curse. The spell would spell trouble for Team B if no one interrupted it. Su Mucheng quickly pressed forward, and Dancing Rain's cannon aimed at Swoksaar. However, Troubling Rain's silhouette quickly darted into her field of view and blocked her line of sight with Swoksaar.

An annoying screen tactic. This wouldn't stop the attack entirely, but rather bought a few moments for the ally behind him to finish his curse. This sort of tactic was what the opportunist Huang Shaotian was particularly adept at. His little obstruction stopped Dancing Rain from attacking, giving Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer time to close the distance between them. As he ran, he attacked continuously, pressing down on her with wild firepower.

The instant Zhou Zekai switched targets, a shadow flickered out from within Heavenly Lightning Earthen Fire.

"Old Ye!" It was as if Huang Shaotian's mouth would itch if he stopped talking. Sword light flew out from a Sword Draw.

Miss!

His attack was aimed according to where he thought his opponent would move to. The attack missed, and it didn't even affect Ye Xiu's rhythm. He slipped beneath the sword light from Sword Draw with a Slide Kick. The Myriad Manifestation Umbrella assumed its gun form mid-slide and aimed towards Swoksaar. A gunshot rang out.

Bang!

As the bullet flied out, Yu Wenzhou sighed helplessly. His hand speed might be slow, but his judgement and observation were top notch. He immediately knew that this bullet would arrive before his casting finished.

Yu Wenzhou cancelled the skill and moved aside to dodge. When he looked again, Lord Grim was almost in front of him..

So fast!

An unspecialized's swiftness in closing short distances was now well renowned within all of Glory. Ye Xiu had already demonstrated how troublesome this technique was in many matches. Chaining together two skills would make him seem like he was almost teleporting, as shown in the Rookie Challenge matches in day one of the All-Stars weekend. It was an astonishing sight to see.

And now, Lord Grim was able to instantly close in on Swoksaar, when he was still inside the Heavenly Lightning Earthen Fire just moments before. No melee class had movement skills this strong. On top of that, the unspecialized even had ranged attacking methods, allowing him to switch targets while moving. The opponent was hard-pressed to get away.

But just before Lord Grim was right next to Swoksaar, he came to a sudden halt.

Boom!

A burst of Shadow Flames danced a step in front of Lord Grim. Clearly, the sudden halt by Lord Grim was to avoid being engulfed in the Shadow Flames.

"How scary, you almost blew me up," said Ye Xiu.

"Didn't I miss though?" Smiled Yu Wenzhou. His crippled hands would definitely put him at a disadvantage if a melee character got close. And right now, the one who came marching was none other than Lord Grim, who attacked like a hurricane. Lord Grim would be able to bury him right there. But even though Yu Wenzhou was in this predicament, he did not panic in the slightest. He held an instant cast spell like Shadow Flames and cast it at the last second. This was the most dangerous option for him, but it was also the most difficult for his opponent to deal with. In the last moments of a charge, when the target was within arm's reach, anyone's guard would drop to some extent; the player would probably be thinking about what attack to use next. Yu Wenzhou's sudden attack at this moment was very tricky to guard against.

"I wouldn't be afraid even if I was hit by this skill," Ye Xiu said. Shadow Flames inflicted a status effect, whereby the target would take damage over time. Caster classes found this skills particularly troublesome, as each tick of damage would interrupt their casting. However, an unspecialized at melee range could use an array of instant cast skills. Shadow Flames' interruptions were irrelevant. The damage alone could be tolerated. However, Ye Xiu still had Lord Grim dodge, since he couldn't tell what curse Swoksaar had thrown out.

Another instant filled with countless small details.

Just a slight pause was enough to turn the tables. Huang Shaotian's Troubling Rain was already behind Lord Grim. Ye Xiu obviously couldn't just attack Swoksaar with reckless abandon. However, fighting Huang Shaotian with Yu Wenzhou right there would be very dangerous. His hand speed might be slow, but he was still extremely proficient at grasping opportunities. Ye Xiu wouldn't give him a chance to stir up trouble like that.

Lord Grim, who had just managed to get right next to Swoksaar, didn't attack even once. Instead, he quickly moved away.

Lord Grim shifted horizontally to dodge Troubling Rain's lunging sword, then turned tail and ran.

"Don't run!" Huang Shaotian yelled while chasing after him closely. On the other side, Zhou Zekai saw the situation and quickly turned to form a pincer with Huang Shaotian. However, Ye Xiu had Lord Grim dodge crazily. Various movement type skills were thrown out and comboed, to the point where even Huang Shaotian and Zhou Zekai combined couldn't suppress him momentarily.

The crowd was stunned.

Right now, Teams A and B each had a character that was the main attack target, and they happened to be One Autumn Leaf and Lord Grim. It seemed like Ye Xiu really owned characters with some interesting history.

How about the current owners of these characters? Their responses were the opposite of each other. One Autumn Leaf stood steadfast under Sun Xiang's control and welcomed the attacks head on; Lord Grim assumed deft poses and dodged attack after attack under Ye Xiu's control.

Chapter 1264: Unending Choices

The two teams, A and B, had each relied on a single person to pin their opponents in some form. An unrelenting offense was definitely a better way to disrupt an opponent than hiding around and dodging attacks. After all, if you faced your opponents head on like that, it wouldn't just be a one way beat down. When engaging your opponent, you'd still be a threat. If the other wavered even slightly, there was the chance that you could counter and crush them. As for dodging around, that made you passive and it would become harder to stick to an opponent and disrupt them. Your opponents could easily switch targets and ignore a troublemaker who ran around.

But the problem was that the character who was currently executing this pin was Lord Grim.

Unspecialized Lord Grim not only had ranged attacks, but also those methods of unexpectedly increasing his movement speed. Whenever he began to move, Team A's members would always go on high alert. No other class was such a comprehensive threat, to the point where Team A was currently using two top Gods, Huang Shaotian and Zhou Zekai to suppress him.

But even the combination of these two top Gods was having trouble dealing with the special class backed by Ye Xiu's cunning.

The disruption Sun Xiang was achieving was costing him blood! But for Ye Xiu? He ran, leaving dust in his wake, luring away two of Team A's most powerful characters with not a scratch. If this continued, then what would be the point of Sun Xiang's disruption? It was practically like they were offering him up to Team B to beat up.

"Cover me!" Yu Wenzhou called out. Huang Shaotian's Troubling Rain immediately sheathed his sword and returned to his position, standing guard at Swoksaar's side. Zhou Zekai also changed his pace in accordance. Cloud Piercer began to move faster. As a Sharpshooter, he didn't keep his distance from his

opponent, but instead pulled closer to Lord Grim, clearly hoping to strengthen the effects of his firepower to suppress him. If needed, he'd probably pull even closer and engage with Gun Fu.

Swoksaar began to cast, and it seemed like he planned on finishing this cast no matter the cost. He was even using Huang Shaotian's Troubling Rain as a meat shield.

Ye Xiu wasn't able to go and interrupt, what with Huang Shaotian lying in wait and Zhou Zekai advancing on him. If he persisted in trying to interrupt, he would definitely be completely trapped by these two.

It was just that, with three of Team A's characters focused on Lord Grim, two of Team B's characters became free to act. Su Mucheng and Chu Yunxiu, originally having been giving long-ranged support, turned their attacks this way upon seeing Ye Xiu stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Dancing Rain stepped forward in front of Windy Rain and whipped out a Gatling Gun, wildly spraying bullets as she covered for Windy Rain's spell.

Dancing Rain's bullets arrived, and no matter how amazing Huang Shaotian's mechanics were, he couldn't use his swordsmanship to cut down every bullet. However, if the bullets flew past him, even if just one hit, then it would interrupt Swoksaar's cast.

Thus, Troubling Rain shielded Swoksaar like a knight, taking a sturdy stance in front of the other. He dealt with what bullets he could, and if he couldn't, then he would block them with his body.

Thud thud thud!

Flowers of blood bloomed one by one on Troubling Rain's body, making him look exceptionally heroic. However... Gatling Gun was still a low level skill. Troubling Rain did look heroic, shielding Swoksaar with his body, and there was enough blood to set the scene, but in terms of actual damage, it wasn't even worth mentioning. To make sure the cast was finished, this was completely worth it.

However, being constantly hit by bullets, Troubling Rain's movements couldn't be smoothly controlled. There was still some level of stun from being hit by a bullet. With the consecutive hits, the small stuns linked up and the victim definitely wouldn't be able to move smoothly any longer. Thus, Windy Rain's spell was purposefully released just as Troubling Rain was most difficult to control. A Piercing Lightning shot forth.

"Oh shit!" A silent stutter of the heart wasn't Huang Shaotian's style. He had to yell out directly. Windy Rain had hid behind Dancing Rain and suddenly struck with this skill, at such a time...

How could he block it? He couldn't!

Piercing Lightning prepared to fly straight through the miniscule opening that Troubling Rain left under the effects of the consecutive attacks. Swoksaar had little choice but to cancel the cast he was executing.

Team A's plan seemed to have failed, but that was when Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf suddenly broke through his pin.

Was Han Wenqing unable to suppress Sun Xiang without support?

Of course not.

Han Wenqing's attacks weren't just thrown with reckless abandon. He would cooperate with the support he was getting to perfect his offense. However, Su Mucheng and Chu Yunxiu had suddenly pulled their support away just now. One Autumn Leaf, who was fighting several on his own, immediately found an opening. Sun Xiang had grasped that opportunity and broken out through that opening.

Was it a miscalculation of Su Mucheng and Chu Yunxiu's?

Evidently not.

This was yet another choice. To interrupt the Warlock's cast or to continue their support. They didn't split up and each take one choice because they knew that they wouldn't accomplish anything then. Thus, the two decided to interrupt the Warlock's skill. After all, a Warlock's CC would be crucial to changing the tides of battle.

Thus, the Warlock's skill had been interrupted, but Sun Xiang had escaped. He didn't, as people expected, immediately begin to counterattack Desert Dust, but instead chose to retreat. When Han Wenqing pursued him, he avoided the other and charged at Su Mucheng and Chu Yunxiu's characters.

These two characters were definitely not good with close combat, but if the two moved, Team B's formation would be disrupted. Team A had set trap after trap, considering all the details, and managed to back all the members of Team B into a difficult place.

What should they do?

No matter how difficult, they had to choose a choice of action immediately. Decisiveness was also one of the crucial characteristics a top level player possessed.

Dancing Rain raised her cannon and began to attack!

She didn't dodge and instead launched a direct offense at One Autumn Leaf while Chu Yunxiu's Windy Rain pulled away. These two female pros chose the third option out of to retreat or not to retreat. One retreated while the other didn't. It seemed like a wishy washy decision, but it would allow them to retain their positioning with one person stalling so that One Autumn Leaf would disrupt their formation too much.

It was a very clever and daring decision, and the two did well in deciding who would play what role. But they neglected to consider the players themselves. When One Autumn Leaf charged towards her and Su Mucheng hurriedly raised her cannon to attack, what lay in her heart was reluctance.

Because that was One Autumn Leaf.

Though it was just a character, it meant much more than that to Su Mucheng.

She had never considered that, one day, she would cross cannon against spear with this character. She knew that she had to maintain a professional attitude, but attitude wasn't the same as feelings...

Su Mucheng felt very conflicted, causing her mechanics to falter somewhat. One Autumn Leaf wasn't disrupted all that much, charging forth fearlessly. Chu Yunxiu startled. This was different from what they had anticipated. She wasn't ready to provide support for her yet!

A mistake!

Su Mucheng had realized her mistake just now, too, but there was no chance to make an attempt at saving the situation. One Autumn Leaf had arrived, glittering sparks of light drifting around him like broken stardust.

This was...

Su Mucheng and Sun Xiang had both noticed the abnormality in their field of view. This definitely wasn't something either of them could produce. This was...

From the air, a broom swiftly descended.

Vaccaria, Broom Tornado activated, swung his Stardust Extermination.

Chapter 1265: The So-Called Magician

Wang Jiexi!

Don't mention the players on the field, even the audience who had the omniscient view felt that Vaccaria's sudden violent arrival was shocking and bizarre. Truly, every single confrontation on field was a dazzling blur, from the cover of Ye Xiu's Lord Grim to his charging out from a Heavenly Lightning Earthen Fire. Even the slightest change could affect everything. The players of the two teams one by one entered a chaotic exchange of attacking and defending.

The nonstop changes were dizzying for the audience to watch, and in the process of this, Wang Jiexi and Tang Hao were the two players that hadn't entered the chaotic brawl. And so, the presence of these two players was overlooked to some extent. The ones more absorbed in the fight almost forgot that these two players were still fighting, until now, when Vaccaria suddenly plunged from the sky, with an arcing trajectory that seemed to trail stardust, and a Broom Tornado came down fiercely upon One Autumn Leaf's back.

Vaccaria had arrived!

Only now did everyone remember this person's existence, and they thought of the opponent he had been tangled with just earlier.

The live audience was fortunate, as the immersive projection system made a huge difference in watching the battle live versus watching the television broadcast. They had a full aerial view of the entire battle. But this time, even they had forgotten to pay attention to that area, until now.

The audience turned their views, the television broadcast cut to a different camera, the target: Demon Subduer.

And so, in the eyes of the audience, in the camera view of the broadcast, Demon Subduer, the number one Brawler of Glory, a character that had reached the peak thanks to Tang Hao's upgrade, was currently pathetically collapsed on the ground.

What in the world had happened?

Everyone was engulfed by curiosity to the extreme, and the pain of the television broadcasters was great, for the current battle was progressing quite ferociously, and there was no way for them to cut back and show a replay.

"Show it in a small screen!" one of the senior workers shouted.

Thus, those that were watching the broadcast could now see in the lower corner of their screen a smaller display, replaying the events that had just occurred for everyone to see.

No viewer objected to this, because they too were intensely curious as to what had transpired between Wang Jiexi and Tang Hao.

As for the live viewers? They couldn't see a replay with the projection system, but the display screens didn't interfere with what was currently going on as they too showed the replay for everyone.

Everyone watched... In reality, it wasn't very long, it was just from when Lord Grim helped cover Desert Dust to when Vaccaria sent One Autumn Leaf flying. This entire process hadn't taken very long.

And during that chaotic pile of fighting, what happened between Wang Jiexi and Tang Hao was actually very simple. It could be summarized in one sentence: Tang Hao was completely crushed by Wang Jiexi.

Although this sentence was short, the amount of information it contained was truly shocking.

Early on, everyone had acknowledged that Tang Hao was standing at the summit, someone who wouldn't lose to any God at the summit, past or present. But just now, in that brief period of time, he had been crushed.

Crushed meant that he had utterly no ability to defend or parry. Something like that absolutely should not occur to a top God.

The television broadcast didn't just immediately move on after replaying it once; they continued to use the small window to display it a second time. The live screens also didn't just replay it once, they even used split-screen to replay it again and again from different angles.

This wasn't Tiny Herb's home stadium, but period of silence, the live crowd exploded with home stadium-like cheers. And this was just for a mere replay, a replay of something that had already happened.

"This is..." In the broadcast, Pan Lin and Li Yibo had given up on their commentary of the match, and were instead searching for something to say about this past.

"This is the true Magician!" Li Yibo reached this conclusion.

Indeed, the unimaginable playstyle, the trajectories impossible to capture, the rhythms and changes like magic, these were the techniques used by Wang Jiexi in the past that earned him the title of Magician, and these were the techniques that he sacrificed for the sake of Team Tiny Herb.

Now, it could be seen that Wang Jiexi had not forgotten these techniques entirely. In this All-Star Competition, in this competition where he didn't have to take up many responsibilities at all, he very casually displayed this style. And so, Tang Hao, this Season 7 debutant, someone who had never

experienced the Magician style firsthand, a young player who had only seen the style in old recordings and data, was beaten down by it until he couldn't tell which way was north anymore.

People understood this point, and everyone was very clear, this wasn't a difference in skill. Tang Hao simply met something that he had never experienced before. It was just like all those players who, upon encountering Lord Grim for the first time, were thrown into confusion. In a 1v1, quite a few people had been wiped out by Ye Xiu. As of now, Tang Hao had yet to meet Lord Grim, and if he did meet him, he probably wouldn't be as helpless as many of those at the beginning of the season, since half a season had already passed, after all. However, he met Wang Jiexi here, the Magician Wang Jiexi, and although he had seen him before, he hadn't studied this style closely, because everyone knew that Wang Jiexi didn't play like this anymore. But who would have expected that in this All-Star competition, this guy suddenly revived his Magician playstyle!

Although the audience had some understanding of Tang Hao's encounter, they felt overall that this explosion of something that had been hidden for a long time was extremely refreshing. In an instant, Wang Jiexi became the star of the stage, and everyone began to pay attention to his performance.

And Tang Hao?

Of course, he was clear on why he would be beaten to this miserable extent, but with his personality, how could such a reason be acceptable enough to stabilize his heart? The instant that Demon Subduer was ultimately knocked onto the ground in a pitiful state, Tang Hao's rage was at its peak. He furiously controlled Demon Subduer to leap to his feet, turned his camera view, and saw on the other end that One Autumn Leaf had been violently hit just like him. Sun Xiang had entered the Alliance in Season 7 just like Tang Hao. The two could be said to be the brightest stars of the new generation, and at the same time were two people who had never personally experienced the Magician playstyle. The end result was unsurprising. After Vaccaria plummeted from the sky and sent One Autumn Leaf flying with a Broom Tornado, those traces of stardust continued to swirl around One Autumn Leaf's body, and very quickly, One Autumn Leaf was also sent awkwardly tumbling along the ground.

Two of Team A's Gods being knocked over like this one after another of course had a large impact on the current situation. Zhou Zekai hurriedly controlled Cloud Piercer to turn his fire, the bullets flying crazily toward Vaccaria, but they only struck the residual traces left by Stardust Extermination.

Zhou Zekai, a player from Season 5. In Season 5, Tiny Herb won the championship. At that time, Wang Jiexi had already completely shed his old style, so even Zhou Zekai hadn't personally experienced it. But he was at least closer to that era and had seen and heard more, so when Vaccaria turned and rushed toward him, Cloud Piercer wasn't instantly wiped out like Demon Subduer and One Autumn Leaf had been. Wang Jiexi's storm-like sweeping of Team A was interrupted here.

However, Zhou Zekai's situation wasn't looking too good either, as he too lacked the experience to counter this style. He could only rely on his own instincts and skill to deal with Wang Jiexi, but he couldn't change the current situation.

"Damn, Old Wang, you could just carry this battle by yourself!" Ye Xiu exclaimed. It seemed like a very ordinary statement of mocking and surprise, but those who were paying attention suddenly realized: even the viewers who had the omniscient view had overlooked Wang Jiexi crushing Tang Hao due to the

intensity of the match. Ye Xiu, this man, who was currently very busy on the battlefield, had actually managed to notice all of this?

The legend of the expert with eyes that could watch six directions at once, it was actually true!

"Stop talking nonsense!" Wang Jiexi replied coldly.

His saying this was of course a thousand times more powerful than anything Huang Shaotian could say. Would Team B miss seizing this opportunity before them?

Tang Hao was still trying to take revenge on Wang Jiexi, but he was cut off by Han Wenqing's Desert Dust. After Vaccaria pulled away Cloud Piercer's firepower and reduced the pressure, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was using all of his varied rapid-movement skills even as he complained about Wang Jiexi. One Autumn Leaf hadn't even managed to stand up when Lord Grim had already arrived in front of him and sent ferocious attacks toward this character who currently had the lowest health on the field. At the same time, echoing Lord Grim's attacks was the one who knew Ye Xiu best, Su Mucheng. Chu Yunxiu's Windy Rain was also casting spells at this moment, covering Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng's offensive, sending continuous map-affecting spells toward that duo from Blue Rain.

"Countless changes in an instant," this was the only way the situation could be described. In the blink of an eye, many people had already exchanged opponents. The only change that hadn't changed was that Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf was suffering the fiercest attacks on the battlefield. And this time, it was no longer because he was forced to do this for the sake of charging forward, it was because he had become the primary target of Team B. In a situation without a healer, with the skill of these players and the strength of their characters, the damage output was truly ferocious. But Sun Xiang's luck was fairly good, as the two people who were currently attacking him happened to be the two characters who were relatively weaker according to the statistics.

Lord Grim was probably the only All-Star character whose weapon had yet to reach Level 75, and was also the one with the least Silver equipment.

Dancing Rain's weapon was Level 75, but the upgrades of her other equipment were lacking compared to the all of the other All-Stars who'd been upgrading continuously for a year now. Sun Xiang struggled, but he was still able to keep One Autumn Leaf alive.

"What a shame, your damage output's a little weak!" After Yu Wenzhou was finally able to contain Misty Rain, Huang Shaotian's Troubling Rain broke through Windy Rain's blockade. He and his noise charged to Lord Grim's side.

"So damn noisy, I'll just leave this to you!" Ye Xiu shouted.

It was very clear to whom the first part of that statement was directed. Even people who didn't know the context could probably figure it out. But the second half? Leave it to you? Who was "you"?

The audience didn't understand, the commentator and honored guest were confused. But at this moment, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim suddenly escaped from his current situation, flying like the wind toward Yu Wenzhou's Swoksaar. Wang Jiexi's Vaccaria also drew a bizarre path in the air, one that even the Great Gunner's bullets had no way of chasing, as he flew toward the target: Swoksaar.

Aside from this, Dancing Rain's cannonfire and Windy Rain's spells were also targeting Swoksaar.

There seemed to be only one option left for Team B's "you."

Han Wenqing.

Desert Dust.

Another Ferocious Tiger Flurry.

Chapter 1266: The True Assassin

Ferocious Tiger Flurry!

Fierce, fast; accurate, steady.

The first punch knocked askew Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf. The second punch forced Huang Shaotian to stop his Troubling Rain and parry instead of rescuing Swoksaar. The third punch forced Demon Subduer, chasing up from behind Desert Dust, to dodge and retreat.

Only Han Wenqing could play such a shrewd and precise Ferocious Tiger Flurry, forcing these three top Gods to instantly stop and defend, parry, dodge.

It interfered with what they had each been planning to do. Even though it was just an instant, it was enough for Team B.

Yu Wenzhou, the one with the title of "crippled hands" in this professional circle. And now, he had to face Lord Grim, the unspecialized with an incomparably rapid attack rhythm, the Magician, whose unpredictable changes were incredibly difficult to grasp, as well as the Launcher and the Elementalist, the mightiest AoE attackers...

He didn't panic, he still maintained his calm, but calm was not a panacea. Although he swiftly and clearly judged the situation on the field, this didn't necessarily mean that he had a way of solving it.

By this point, Team B's strategic planning was entirely clear. Ye Xiu was Team B's metronome. Every step he took directed Team B's attack direction and rhythm changes as a whole. And Wang Jiexi was the one who ultimately set the scene. He used his long-sealed Magician playstyle to instantly throw Team A into chaos, creating many gaps in their team coordination. At this time, Team A was full of openings to attack. If these couldn't be seized, then these people wouldn't be called the top Gods at the summit of Glory.

So at the end, the firepower transferred to Yu Wenzhou. Four attackers, two close-range, two long-range, against a Warlock, a Warlock who in terms of hand speed had absolutely no way of keeping up with anyone on the battlefield.

"You guys are too cruel..." All Yu Wenzhou could do, perhaps, was smile bitterly and raise a slight objection to these fierce players.

Han Wenqing couldn't hold off those three people forever, but just this slight delay helped his four teammates gain the opportunity to focus on one target. What kind of fury could they unleash? Adding

onto the fact that Yu Wenzhou's defensive ability was a bit weak, Swoksaar's fall would only take a matter of seconds.

Huang Shaotian's Troubling Rain was the first to break free of Desert Dust's interference.

Rescue!

This was his instinctive judgment and reaction to seeing Swoksaar suffering from that powerful offensive. Troubling Rain had already stepped forward, but at this moment, Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer suddenly turned fire, sending bullets toward Desert Dust.

Troubling Rain's steps suddenly stopped.

A trade!

He instantly understood Zhou Zekai's intentions. In a situation without a healer, saving Swoksaar now was already basically impossible. It would be better to focus his attacks onto Desert Dust. Whether they could besiege their opponent enough to save their own teammate, or complete the trade, both were acceptable outcomes.

Huang Shaotian immediately halted his instinctive reaction. The fact that Swoksaar was surrounded didn't cause him in the slightest to impulsively charge in. After all, he was the most brutal opportunist in Glory. From a certain standpoint, he was in reality very cold, ruthless, and tenacious, because only like someone like that could he seize the deadliest opportunities.

His sword light flashed toward Desert Dust. Team A's players instantly completed a surrounding formation toward Desert Dust. A 1v3 was impossible on this sort of beautiful stage; Han Wenqing had already performed to the best of his ability, and now, he was being counterattacked to the strongest possible degree.

But Tyranny's captain would never back down from any challenge.

One against four? So what.

Even if facing a hundred thousand enemies, he would not bend!

Desert Dust did not dodge or hide; he retaliated, he attacked.

Team B's four players didn't reveal any intent of rescuing him. This was the rhythm of completing a trade. But would this trade be successful?

A dazzling display of attacks roared forth, Swoksaar's and Desert Dust's health bars plummeted down, but which was faster? The viewers couldn't tell at first, but in an instant, the exchange was just about complete. Swoksaar's health was dropping faster!

There was nothing they could do about that.

Yu Wenzhou himself was already inferior in terms of controls, and the Warlock class had low defense and low health, as well as poor survivability against close-range attackers. This sort of situation was much more difficult for him to face. For Han Wenqing, on the other hand, the Striker class was a powerful close-range attacker, and Reinforced Iron Bones once activated could greatly increase defense.

If it had to be called a little unfair, that would be the fault of Han Wenqing's stubbornness. In a situation like this, many other players would probably be a bit more flexible, more compromising.

Team B took the initiative, and their attack rhythms were faster by just that step. Team A had to be complimented for their ability to keep up so well that the speeds were difficult to distinguish. Plus, in terms of damage output, Team B had four people and had the advantage in that respect as well.

But ultimately, Swoksaar still fell first. Team A's attacks instantly became even more crazily fierce.

Fall!

The final attack landed, but a white light flashed upon Desert Dust's body. He didn't fall!

"Damn couldn't you take it a little easier do you think I'm Zhang Xinjie!!!" Ye Xiu shouted. This flash of white light had of course come from Lord Grim's instant-healing Cure skill, but like he said, he wasn't Zhang Xinjie, Lord Grim didn't have as powerful and specialized a healing ability as Immovable Rock, and he couldn't instantly bring up Desert Dust's health very far. Preventing Desert Dust from falling with that final attack was already the limit of what he could do.

The four from Team B who had taken care of Swoksaar now came to rescue. Lord Grim healed, and Vaccaria, Dancing Rain, and Windy Rain, those three powerful characters, were already firing.

Retreat for now, or force the kill?

Team A once again faced a difficult decision. Team B had surrounded them and were attacking ferociously. If they didn't retreat, this was the rhythm of everyone falling.

And so Team A chose to retreat, as after all this was a battle with no healer. Sacrificing too much health to kill a target wasn't worth it, and the remaining attacking party at low health could be swiftly defeated. Even though Team B had Lord Grim, the unspecialized's healing ability was truly just a drop in the bucket. There was no way for him to heal Desert Dust to any significant point, and under a powerful barrage of attacks, he likely couldn't even complete another life-saving heal at a critical point.

Team A's characters retreated and scattered, but these were only three characters. Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer was a Sharpshooter and had been attacking from a long-ranged position. Team B had shifted targets to save Han Wenqing from the encirclement, but their attack range couldn't catch Cloud Piercer's position. It seemed that Zhou Zekai wanted to keep attacking to deal with Han Wenqing once and for all, and that was exactly what he was doing.

And just as Cloud Piercer prepared to continue his fierce shooting, Lord Grim flashed before him.

In the end, Team B didn't let Team A squeeze through this gap. Zhou Zekai didn't have the chance to fire before he was interrupted. The rest of them immediately gave Ye Xiu a helping hand, and Cloud Piercer seemed to have become Team B's next target.

But no one, including his own teammates on Team A, expected what happened next: Huang Shaotian's Troubling Rain, just after escaping from Team B, immediately turned around and charged back.

Shadow Steps!

Troubling Rain instantly split into seven images, opening the path with Triple Slash, numerous silhouettes darted forward, target: Desert Dust!

The cheers of the crowd seemed to have fallen silent...

Team B killed Swoksaar and returned to save Desert Dust. One wave of high excitement had just barely passed and they were already regrouping and preparing for the next offensive. Everyone's hearts had just barely relaxed from the nervousness when, all of a sudden, Huang Shaotian shot forward like a cold arrow.

This opportunity seized was truly... too fierce...

The silhouettes flashed, Troubling Rain's sword finally pierced through Desert Dust. That tyrannical King of Fighting, who never backed down in the face of hundreds of thousands of enemies, didn't fall under the powerful encirclement of four enemies, but fell under the cold blade of an assassin.

Huang Shaotian, Troubling Rain. Even though he wasn't of the Assassin class, he was a true assassin.

"Holy fuck!"

The viewers felt their hearts go cold, and all sorts of swears came out in the live stadium. Some were from the sheer shock of this sudden attack, some were from unhappiness at Desert Dust's fall as a result of it. This, after all, was Tyranny's home stadium, and Desert Dust was the highest God in their hearts.

But no matter what, once he fell, there was no way he would be revived. In an instant, the two teams were now equal again. It looked like the players also needed time to process all that had happened just now. Eight characters carefully moved position, facing each other, but for now none of them launched a new offensive. And so Ye Xiu, with nothing else to do, gave the four characters of Team B some Heals to let them slowly recover their health.

"Damn, are you brave enough not to use healing? Even if your stupid skills help heal they can't heal that much unless you instantly use them at a key moment, do you think that's useful at all do you do you? How much damage do you think one slash of my sword can do? It can completely ignore whatever healing you try to do did you know that? Can't you focus on attacking and not do these sort of stupid complicated cheap tricks that destroy the quality of the match and bring down the standard level of this showdown?" Huang Shaotian hollered.

In the live audience, in front of the televisions, countless people's mouths twitched.

This guy's chattiness was a huge obstacle affecting his popularity! That unexpected attack had shaken countless hearts. How many people were still engrossed in that sudden moment! The television broadcast had again split the screen for replay, and the display screens in the stadium gave the same treatment they had for Wang Jiexi's earlier performance - multi-angle replay.

But just at this moment, Huang Shaotian's own passionate voice was dubbed over, and it was all some nonsense. Everyone was thrown out of the moment okay? Everyone's moods weren't the same anymore, okay? The television broadcast will turn off your replay, okay? Can't you be cool for a bit longer, okay, okay?

No one had the strength to complain anymore. Someone like this, why did he have to have a bad habit like this? Was there truly no perfect existence in this world?

Two teams, eight people, waiting there as though they had arranged a meeting. But, in the closest player exchange area, the sixth players of the two teams had already loaded in.

Team A, Xiao Shiqin, Life Extinguisher.

Team B, Yu Feng, Blossoming Chaos.

Chapter 1267: Season 7's Two Rookies

No matter how little an unspecialized healed, health was health. Letting Lord Grim continue healing non-stop would still recover a good amount of health. As a result, if the two sides just stared at each other, Team B would hold the advantage because they were more than willing to just wait and let Lord Grim slowly heal them. But Team A? There had to be a breaking point.

However, the first to attack was still Team B. It seemed like Team B wasn't planning on drawing support from Lord Grim's healing capabilities to gain the upper hand. They only stopped because their rhythm had taken a pause. With neither side possessing a dedicated healer, the two teams strived to deal the most damage in as short of a time as possible, so when they didn't hold back their usage of skills. They wouldn't try to maintain a constant cycle of skills like in a prolonged battle. After experiencing this intense wave of attacks, the skill cooldowns on both sides became somewhat imbalanced. What seemed to be a break was, in reality, time for their skills to come off cooldown.

At this moment, the unspecialized Lord Grim, this annoying existence, once again stood out.

In terms of DPS, Lord Grim might be the weakest among everyone. His equipment wasn't great, and his skills were all low-level skills. However, the issue of an imbalanced skill cycle didn't matter for him. The vast majority of low-level skills had short cooldowns, and he had so many of them too. He didn't need to care about waiting for skills to come off cooldown.

While the others were waiting for their cooldowns, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was as lively as ever. He healed Team B, while also sending a few attacks towards Team A. He was awfully busy.

Team A all felt annoyed, especially Sun Xiang. His One Autumn Leaf currently had the lowest amount of health on the field. Previously, if Lord Grim and Dancing Rain had a higher DPS, or if Huang Shaotian's Troubling Rain hadn't rescued him in time, he might have already fallen. His team didn't have a healer either. Since his character didn't have any special equipment, the automatic health recovery could be ignored. Thus, One Autumn Leaf's health remained critically low.

As a result, Ye Xiu's harassment was mainly focused on him. Whenever Ye Xiu fired a few shots or pretended like he was going to charge in for the kill, Sun Xiang always tensed up.

It might seem like his character was still on the field, but from a certain perspective, he could be considered as dead. Anyone could see that Team B could easily end him with a single wave of attacks. If it was that obvious to even the viewers, then the competitors would obviously try to exploit it. One Autumn Leaf used to be Team A's front-line attackers, but now he had been shifted to the team's rear.

Team B just had to have someone like Lord Grim, who could spam skills endlessly to harass One Autumn Leaf.

This was simply forcing Team A to hurry and act! It would obviously be advantageous for Team B to stall, no?

No one could understand. On the broadcast, Pan Lin and Li Yibo were even more reserved and cautious. They didn't dare make any hasty conclusions.

Team A couldn't just keep bleeding. Even if One Autumn Leaf was nearly dead, he could still be used. If they let Ye Xiu's Lord Grim keep harassing him, the entire team would be dragged down trying to protect One Autumn Leaf. They might as well try and attack. In any case, Team A and Team B were in similar situations. Team B's skill cooldowns hadn't completely refreshed yet either, so it wasn't like Team B was any stronger than them right now.

Team A was just about to pick the impossibly annoying Lord Grim as their target, when Team B suddenly launched their attack.

Team B was clearly forcing Team A to hurry and act, but by the time Team A was ready to move, Team B was one step ahead of them. This this this... are they just playing around?

The viewers felt like this sort of playing was a bit ridiculous, but they didn't know the destruction that Team B had done to Team A's rhythm. Huang Shaotian's assassination on Desert Smoke had succeeded, leading to the two teams separating to readjust themselves. Team B received Lord Grim's better than nothing heals, but Team A? They received Lord Grim's annoying harassment. Unable to wait any longer to fully carry out their goals, Team A was forced to fight again. However, it was Team B who took the initiative and attacked first.

Even though this brief fight wasn't as intense as before, it was still filled with countless details. At first glance, these details couldn't be seen, but soon the effects surged forth onto the field.

Sun Xiang couldn't play as boldly as before, so One Autumn Leaf's original role in Team A was lost. In the end, Sun Xiang's role fell to Tang Hao, the rookie in the same generation, a God whose sudden rise sharply differed from Sun Xiang's slow ascent.

When Sun Xiang joined the Alliance, he was a talented rookie who had received much attention. He had obtained numerous opportunities in Team Conquering Clouds, allowing his talent to shine. Afterwards, he joined the powerhouse Team Excellent Era and directly inherited the Battle God One Autumn Leaf after Ye Xiu's retirement. As if loved by the heavens, he didn't even hit a Rookie's Block. Everything seemed to be smooth sailing for him. But then, Team Excellent Era encountered a shocking setback and was relegated, the greatest miracle in all of Glory history. It was even more miraculous than Happy beating them in the Challenger League.

Sun Xiang had started high but left low. Fortunately, he wasn't dispirited by the setback. Excellent Era disbanded and Samsara, the champions, threw him an olive branch. From this point, Sun Xiang was also a very lucky person. When Sun Xiang came to Samsara, he seemed to have matured a lot after his setback at Excellent Era. The Zhou Zekai and Sun Xiang duo became the most terrifying offensive force in the Alliance.

As for Tang Hao? His journey was the opposite of Sun Xiang's.

His first season in the Alliance was no different from ordinary rookies. He experienced all of the bitterness and hardship felt by rookies, surviving his first rookie year. Then, their captain Zhang Jiale unexpectedly retired, and the team suddenly turned into a fly without a head. All of a sudden, the other rookie of the same generation, Zou Yuan, was pushed onto the stage and directly inherited the number one character, Hundred Blossom's core, Dazzling Hundred Blossoms.

Zou Yuan's fate was worthy of being envied, but no one would have thought that the one to stand out from Hundred Blossoms wasn't Zou Yuan, but Tang Hao.

The junior succeeds the senior!

This was the declaration that Tang Hao had made in that year's All-Star Weekend. It was also the true feelings in his heart. He didn't have the same luck or opportunities as Sun Xiang or Zou Yuan. Everything he obtained came from his own hard work, fist by fist.

For the junior to succeed the senior, the number one Brawler, Lin Jingyan, wasn't the only one he had to surpass. That season, Team Hundred Blossoms still had their core character, Dazzling Hundred Blossoms, but who was their true core? It was Tang Hao and his Brawler Delilo, a character who had just been a substitute character in the team.

Tang Hao was proud because everything he had accomplished was worthy of being proud of. No one had doted on him, and the team hadn't provided him any resources or support, yet despite these circumstances, Tang Hao pushed his way from an unremarkable rookie to the team's core on his own. And today, he was the leader of Team Wind Howl, the number 8 most popular All-Star.

Was Tang Hao satisfied?

Of course not?

He wanted to become the MVP in the Alliance. He wanted the championship cup that everyone yearned for. Everyone standing on this stage were all potential obstacles to this goal. All of them were targets to succeed.

But just a moment ago, he had unexpectedly been crushed by Wang Jiexi's Vaccaria in an instant.

He had truly been unable to defend against Vaccaria's attacks. The so-called Magician was actually this freakish? Just a while back, from the data he had looked at, Tang Hao felt that it was a pity Wang Jiexi no longer played with this style. When Wind Howl fought against Tiny Herb, he had even provoked Wang Jiexi when they met in the group arena.

Wang Jiexi obviously ignored him. Tang Hao gradually pushed this playstyle of the past to the back of his mind. Who would have thought that in this widely-watched All-Stars stage, Wang Jiexi would suddenly use it and with a sharpened blade too. Or to be more precise, it wasn't a blade but a broom... a broom didn't sound as scary as a blade though.

Shock, humiliation, a shred of fear, and... excitement caused him to tremble.

The junior succeeds the senior!

Tang Hao's gaze locked onto Wang Jiexi's Vaccaria. He was ready to payback the humiliation he received many folds. Magician? He had been caught off guard last time, but this time, he could definitely do it.

Come!

Tang Hao was waiting impatiently for Team B to attack. The only person in his line of sight was Vaccaria.

Vaccaria sat on his broom. Vaccaria floated in the air. Vaccaria flew at an extremely low altitude.

Vaccaria was coming!

What? He's not coming at me?

"Where do you think you're going!" Tang Hao shouted and immediately had Demon Subduer move forward to intercept him.

"And where do you think you're going?" A voice rung in his ears like a clap of thunder.

That sound is too close. An enemy?

Of course it was an enemy.

Lord Grim suddenly charged towards Demon Subduer, but he was actually ignored. Demon Subduer continued to move in a different direction.

"Young people these days are too arrogant!" Ye Xiu said. Lord Grim attacked madly.

Shit!

Tang Hao messed up again. His mind had been completely preoccupied with Vaccaria and that strange Magician playstyle. He had tunneled so hard on Vaccaria that he hadn't even noticed Lord Grim calling out to him.

By the time he regained his senses, he was already up in the air. Lord Grim's skills battered him endlessly. He... was crushed again.

Tang Hao collapsed at the first blow. The players on both teams were all astonished, but since an opportunity had appeared in front of them, Team B wasn't going to let it pass.

Team A's offense had been led by Tang Hao, but Tang Hao was instantly blown away. The implications were too obvious.

Dragon Breaks the Ranks!

But at this moment, One Autumn Leaf, with his critically low health, charged forward bravely towards Lord Grim.

He wasn't of much use anymore. He couldn't fight too fiercely. Perhaps waiting for an one-shot opening like Huang Shaotian had done wasn't a bad choice. But right now, Tang Hao was being beaten up. Huang Shaotian and Zhou Zekai were being suppressed. The two had no choice but to go out and rescue Tang Hao like tinkermen, but before they could act, Sun Xiang made up his mind and acted first.

He couldn't do much right now. If he could sacrifice himself to save Tang Hao, that would be a worthy trade.

Chapter 1268: This Isn't What You're Good At

One Autumn Leaf, the character personally raised by Ye Xiu and brought into the Alliance, the character that became Excellent Era's foundation and earned the title of "Battle God"... This character suddenly and viciously cut into Ye Xiu's field of view.

Dragon Breaks the Ranks, what a familiar skill, how long has it been since I've last used it?

For the briefest of moments, Ye Xiu couldn't avoid feeling a pang of melancholy, but it was only for a moment. Right afterwards, Lord Grim dodged Dragon Breaks the Ranks, and didn't hesitate at all before attacking the character he was the most familiar with. How many times had he encountered One Autumn Leaf as an enemy after leaving Excellent Era? Ye Xiu couldn't be bothered to keep track anymore.

When Sun Xiang controlled One Autumn Leaf to charge at Lord Grim, he had hardened his heart to die while doing so. He believed that in order to swiftly deal with him, his opponent would definitely let go of Tang Hao's Demon Subduer, if only for a moment.

When Lord Grim's attacks arrived, he did his best to parry the strikes, hoping to use the opportunity to create more space. But after this valiant effort, what he met was not just the assault of Lord Grim, but instead the attacks of anyone who was in range from Team B, none of whom missed this opportunity. Dancing Rain, Windy Rain, and Vaccaria all attacked him.

Was it worth it?

Sun Xiang thought to himself, One Autumn Leaf only had so much health left. A few casual attacks would be able to finish him off, was there a need for such exaggerated fanfare? Especially Wang Jiexi, who had turned around and changed his movement just to charge at him, were they trying to KS each other or something?

Dancing Rain and Windy Rain's attacks were both long-ranged, and Sun Xiang had no way of retaliating against the two. But Vaccaria had surprisingly charged towards him, so Sun Xiang had One Autumn Leaf welcome him instead.

But Vaccaria's body suddenly dipped down and changed directions, flying towards One Autumn Leaf at a low altitude. This situation!

Sun Xiang hurriedly changed his camera angle, and saw that Vaccaria, who had just brushed past him, was actually charging towards Demon Subduer.

This guy switched targets... way too fast, right?

As he stared agape, One Autumn Leaf had already received a fatal blow, becoming the third character to fall in this team competition.

As a result, in terms of numbers, Team A was finally at a clear disadvantage. With the situation being a 3v4, and none of Team B's 4 characters being in great danger of dying, the advantage in numbers became very obvious.

To make matters worse, Sun Xiang letting One Autumn Leaf make a valiant last stand was in order to give Tang Hao an opportunity to seize the initiative, but it seemed as if the results were very debatable.

Tang Hao had really been beaten dizzy.

After facing Wang Jiexi's fierce barrage of attacks, all he could think of was the Magician's playstyle. Right afterwards, Ye Xiu's unspecialized, Lord Grim had charged up and focused another flurry of attacks on him. In order to save him, Sun Xiang sacrificed the life of One Autumn Leaf, resetting the battlefield, but as soon as that happened, the unspecialized Lord Grim was swapped out for the Magician again.

With these two opponents irregularly swapping in and out in front of him, Tang Hao felt a head-splitting migraine coming on.

Was this a 1v1?

No, in Tang Hao's eyes, this already felt like a 1v2, for the two opponents would change in the blink of an eye. At one moment, it was the unspecialized, at another moment, it was the Magician. One of them was so fast that it was dazzling, while the other had unimaginable variations in his playstyle.

Who are these people?

Tang Hao, the junior who had succeeded the senior, suddenly felt completely perplexed.

Once again, faced against Wang Jiexi's Vaccaria, Tang Hao played very poorly. Originally, he had been psychologically prepared to go up against the Magician once more, but this preparation had been shattered beforehand by Ye Xiu's Lord Grim.

"This fellow is already a mess," Huang Shaotian said to Zhou Zekai.

"Yeah..." Zhou Zekai indicated his agreement.

Tang Hao may have been somewhat helpless against Wang Jiexi's Magician playstyle, but after being beaten by it once, he shouldn't have been beaten so soundly the second time. If the Magician playstyle was so tyrannical that it could oppress God-level players, would Wang Jiexi still need to change his playstyle? He could just single-handedly slaughter his way to a championship title. Evidently, by relying on these bursts of attacks, Ye Xiu and Wang Jiexi both explosively fought Tang Hao one after the other, and eventually shattered his fighting spirit.

"Should we still save him?" Huang Shaotian asked.

"..." His question only earned Zhou Zekai's silence.

Huang Shaotian suddenly had a headache. What could he do? At the end of the day, the guy next to him just had to be this taciturn person. In terms of communication through words, it seemed as if they could only go this far!

"Let's go take down Ye Xiu!" Huang Shaotian shouted, as Troubling Rain's sword swept towards Lord Grim. He was already too lazy to waste time on Tang Hao's predicament, that would just be too passive. Their team was already at a clear disadvantage, and if they were to be lead by the nose by Team A the whole time, they would just be whittled down one-by-one till the end. At this time, they could only respond by taking daring risks and erupting with full force against the enemy.

Troubling Rain's sword was flourished, but even faster was Cloud Piercer's bullets. It seemed as if by the time his sword flashed, the sound of Cloud Piercer's bullet had also rung out.

The character that the bullet flew towards was indeed Lord Grim.

"Good kid, you thought the exact same thing as me! Let's kill him!" Huang Shaotian shouted.

"..." Unfortunately, Zhou Zekai had never wanted to have any verbal communication with his team, but the coordination of his skills was always outstanding. Troubling Rain effortlessly dashed over to Lord Grim's side. Su Mucheng and Chu Yunxiu attempted to intercept him, but Zhou Zekai had Cloud Piercer's bullets arrive at the most appropriate place at the most appropriate time, causing their attacks to have no effect on Huang Shaotian.

"..."

"I really couldn't tell that you were such an expert in providing covering fire as well!" Huang Shaotian loudly praised before shouting, "Old Ye, watch my sword!"

Sword light flashed downwards, carrying a cold killing intent.

His relationship with Ye Xiu was quite good, but that was only off-stage, what about during matches? He would definitely try to kill Ye Xiu as fast as possible, with no other emotions involved. He was already irritated by Ye Xiu showing off in the individual competition, but it was uncertain whether he could take revenge by winning this team competition. The situation on Tang Hao's side was already hopeless, and Zhou Zekai... he had already successfully covered Huang Shaotian from the attacks of three characters, showing off his abilities to the maximum, could anything more be expected of him? He only hoped that the kid would be able to completely follow the tempo of his attacks next!

In the midst of a rain of bullets, a sword light shone through!

Zhou Zekai coordinated with Huang Shaotian, focusing their attacks on Lord Grim. Wang Jiexi was dealing with Tang Hao, and even though Tang Hao's condition wasn't good, in a 1v1, it was unlikely that he'd be beaten down in a matter of seconds or minutes. Even as he cut a sorry figure, Tang Hao still retained a last trace of clear-headedness, helping him continue to fight back.

Aside from them, there was Su Mucheng and Chu Yunxiu left. The two of them were long-ranged attackers, and when cooperating with Ye Xiu, it was a 3v2 scenario. Originally, the two of them had assisted Ye Xiu in counterattacking Troubling Rain, but now, Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer had severely restricted them. The majority of the attacks were aimed at Lord Grim, but once in a while, some attacks would be directed towards the two of them, causing a great amount of trouble for them each time. If it wasn't interrupting their attacks, it was disturbing their coordination. Between the two of them, Chu Yunxiu had a harder time. Most of her spells had a cast time, and under Cloud Piercer's unpredictable harassment, there was surprisingly not a single big spell that could be casted, causing her to be helplessly suppressed.

"This guy is truly terrifying..." Chu Yunxiu said to Su Mucheng.

"Yeah..." Su Mucheng had no way of disagreeing. Zhou Zekai's mechanical skills had already surpassed that of most other players.

"Not bad not bad, very well done hahaha, this is the tempo of victory!" Huang Shaotian shouted as he hacked away with his sword.

If this continued, victory or defeat would be hard to determine. If these two could be as fast as Wang Jiexi, first getting rid of Lord Grim, then turning their fire towards Vaccaria, what would the situation be like? Everyone was currently considering this possibility.

"The tempo of victory?" At this moment, Ye Xiu laughed and said, "How come I can't see it at all?"

The Myraid Manifestations Umbrella shook and a Sky Strike flew out!

Huang Shaotian didn't back down, and Troubling Rain simply used a Falling Phoenix Slash to knock down the Sky Strike.

Lord Grim's body conveniently crouched down, and when Falling Phoenix Strike's power had been expended, he straightened up and sent out a Knee Attack.

Troubling Rain had already taken a step back, and his sword flashed as he executed Headwind Strike.

Under Huang Shaotian's control, this Headwind Strike's sword arc had extended half a body unit, creating a dense cluster of sword energy.

At this moment, Zhou Zekai suddenly made a sound. "Ah!"

"What did you say "ah" for?" Huang Shaotian was very excited, surprisingly, this person actually still knew how to speak.

"Uh..." Zhou Zekai hesitated and couldn't say what he wanted to, but the Myraid Manifestations Umbrella in Lord Grim's hand had already opened up, completely blocking all the sword arcs from Headwind Strike. Once the attack was blocked, the umbrella was folded back, but it didn't fold inwards. Instead, it folded outwards, directly turning into a spear before striking out.

Hit!

The distance between them was too narrow, and this Dragon Tooth was just too fast, leaving Huang Shaotian with no opportunity to dodge.

Dragon Tooth had a stun effect, so after being hit by Dragon Tooth, the next few combo hits would be unavoidable. Zhou Zekai frantically intensified his attacks to suppress Lord Grim, but at this moment, Chu Yunxiu's Windy Rain had finished the cast for a high-level spell, and together with Dancing Rain's attacks, they blotted out the sky as they attacked Troubling Rain.

Zhou Zekai managed to stop Lord Grim's attack, but he had absolutely no way of controlling the other two on the field. He wasn't Nezha, the god with three heads and six arms.

Huang Shaotian immediately figured out that when Zhou Zekai said "ah", it was possible that he had already noticed a problem, and the problem was, in all likelihood, Huang Shaotian's problem, but... he was completely unaware of the situation.

"Grasping the tempo of attacks is still something that I do best, Huang Shao!" A voice filled with laughter travelled over as a violent sword light slammed down. Within the swordsman classes, only the Berserker could possess such a reckless momentum.

Hundred Blossom's Yu Feng, Berserker Blooming Chaos, entered the field.

On the other side, the click clack sounds of machinery rang out. Xiao Shiqin's Mechanic, Life Extinguisher had also finally reached the battlefield.

At the same time, Huang Shaotian finally realized the subtle meaning in Yu Feng's words, because back in Blue Rain, the person who was the arrowhead of the formation and who lead the team's tempo was Yu Feng. And Huang Shaotian, the true core of Blue Rain, instead drifted away from the formation, waiting to seize an opportunity.

To put it another way, Huang Shaotian's speciality was seizing opportunities and coordinating with others, and not having other people follow his attacking tempo. In this way, he was very different from most other core players.

So just now, it was clear that there was a slight error in his judgement. When he attacked, it could be that his timing was slightly off, or his positioning was slightly off, but in short, it interfered with Zhou Zekai, messing up their perfect attacking tempo. As a result, Huang Shaotian was immediately counterattacked by Ye Xiu, and shortly after, Zhou Zekai's suppression over the two ranged players had been broken.

"This... really something that I'm not good at. It's a shame that you're also my opponent now." Huang Shaotian said to Yu Feng.

Chapter 1269: Personal Grudge

"Haha, and you have the face to celebrate about your tempo!" That was when Ye Xiu cut in.

Huang Shaotian was enraged, immediately remembering how when he had cheered "this is the tempo of victory", that guy had spoken up with a seemly random "can't tell". It was clear that Ye Xiu understood Huang Shaotian's playstyle and predicted that his and Zhou Zekai's partnership would eventually go wrong, so he didn't rush things. In the end, Huang Shaotian had messed up the tempo practically the moment after he yelled about the tempo of victory. Even Zhou Zekai had voiced a "huh?" in response to him. It was obvious how much his judgement had failed him.

What tempo of victory? This was the tempo of slapping himself in the face!

"Everyone stop moving! It's time to settle a personal grudge, 1v1 me!!!" Huang Shaotian suddenly roared.

Everyone was stunned. The characters turned their view, like they were looking around at each other.

Then, Dancing Rain unhitched her cannon from her shoulder, Windy Rain lowered his raised staff, and Cloud Piercer sheathed his revolves back in the holsters inside his trench coat. Yu Feng, who had finally arrived, looked around for a while before stabbing his sword into the ground. Even the others in Team B had stopped. He was Huang Shaotian's old teammate too, so he had to give him face.

This time, it was the audience that had their eyes wide in shock.

What the hell was this?

This was the team competition! But everyone really did stop and let these two duel each other. This, this... they were so... not serious! This All-Stars competition was the most unorthodox ever; a Cleric had gone to the group arena, now they were having a one on one duel in the team competition... What... What kind of team competition was this?

But... it really was interesting!

Silence enveloped the stadium for a moment before excitement erupted through the crowd. This All-Stars Competition was really something. So what if it wasn't strict and serious? There were ten of those each week, and sometimes, people just wanted to see such an unorthodox match!

All the characters had stopped over here. As for the other side, Xiao Shiqin's Life Extinguisher had just arrived and originally wanted to go and help Tang Hao. After looking at what was happening here, he wasn't sure what to do anymore.

"What about them? Are we going to let them duel one on one as well?" Xiao Shiqin asked. Wang Jiexi and Tang Hao were still entangled in a fierce battle!

No one paid him any attention. The other characters over here had formed a circle around Lord Grim and Troubling Rain, turning into spectators.

Xiao Shiqin looked around in shock before his Life Extinguisher eventually ran over to stand in the circle with his Mechanical Box.

"You sure this is what you want? After you die, your team will be down two people," Ye Xiu warned the other.

"Bah! You're the one that's gonna die," Huang Shaotian replied.

"What? With the tempo that you're going at?" Ye Xiu struck.

"Fuck off, fuck off, fuck off!" It hit Huang Shaotian's weak point.

"Fine!" Ye Xiu had Lord Grim take a step forwards.

Huang Shaotian took a deep breath, sending a kill emoji as Troubling Rain hiked up Ice Rain, preparing to turn and charge forwards

"Wait!" Ye Xiu suddenly yelled.

"What?!" Huang Shaotian raged. He had just hyped himself up just now.

"Referee, can you hear me, referee?" Ye Xiu called out.

After a moment of silence, a system message popped up in the global channel. "What?"

The audience burst into laughter. This was a system message! They couldn't believe that the referee would send a system message filled with such emotion. How interesting.

"Can I request that the voice function be turned off temporarily?" Ye Xiu asked.

"Go die!" Huang Shaotian yelled, He didn't show any more mercy. Troubling Rain whipped forth sword-light, starting with a Sword Draw.

Ye Xiu didn't back down, using a Slide Kick to slide under the sword-light before launching an offensive.

However, Troubling Rain had already jumped up with a Falling Light Blade, stabbing down towards the sliding Lord Grim.

Lord Grim was reclined, yet the Myriad Manifestations had already changed to spear form, stabbing up at Troubling Rain with Dragon Tooth. Spears were longer than swords. No matter how you looked at it, it was Troubling Rain who would be hit first.

However, Huang Shaotian was truly worthy of being called a top expert. Faced with this situation, he sent his sword straight at the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella, the two attacks becoming a parry.

Clang!

The two Silver weapons clashed and Troubling Rain landed behind from there, sword-light flickering once more with an Immortal Guides the Way.

This skill was a knockback attack, but Lord Grim was lying flat on the ground. He obviously couldn't be knocked into the ground, so under these circumstances, knockbacks would cause a small stun. Ye Xiu knew this and Lord Grim rolled to the side. Immortals Guide the Way's sword-light slashed down, sending chunks of earth flying. Lord Grim rolled to a stand, a grenade already thrown. Troubling Rain raised his returning sword-light and with a boom, the grenade exploded into light and fire between them.

Everyone watched them anxiously, not wanting to miss even a moment. Neither of them had much health left. Just once chance would be enough for either of them to claim victory. A pro player's offensive didn't just end with one attack. When one skill hit, there would be many more follow-ups to maximize damage. Currently, the two played extremely cautiously, knowing that a single hit could mean the end.

The smoke from the grenade hadn't even dispersed when Lord Grim snatched the initiative to attack. Shadow Cloak streaked out of the smoke like a ghost, but Huang Shaotian was well acquainted with Ye Xiu's antics. Naturally, he would move to counter it. The instant the Grenade exploded, he was already jumping back to make Troubling Rain dodge.

The Shadow Cloak hit thin air and Huang Shaotian couldn't help but feel triumphant for a moment. He was about to speak, when the earth beneath his feet loosened.

Underground Tunneling Technique!

Lord Grim suddenly leaped out from the earth, causing many to cry out in surprise.

Huang Shaotian's amazing reaction speed was clearly reflected by this event. This strike was not at all within his expectations. But through his fast reaction speed and immense hand speed, Troubling Rain still managed a backwards jump to dodge, and even send out a slash with his sword as well.

Unfortunately, activating a skill in such a short time was impossible, so this was only a normal attack.

Lord Grim jumped up with the Underground Tunneling Technique, knocking the slash aside. His other hand swung up, sending a strike at Troubling Rain's face.

Sand Toss!

The blind this skill dealt was very annoying. Huang Shaotian hurriedly turned his character's head part way, but he knew that the other would try to grasp this chance while he was looking away. His sword was already slashing down, activating Triple Slash and sending his character into motion.

The Sand Toss didn't manage to blind Troubling Rain, and Triple Slash didn't move him too far. Huang Shaotian's Triple Slash was a two step movement in a small area. Under the flickering of the sword-light, Troubling Rain used it to arrive behind Lord Grim with the first two slashes and then sent out the final slash.

Lord Grim didn't bother to turn. The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella already on his shoulder. With a whoosh, the umbrella was opened and the slash landed on the shield.

However, shields wouldn't completely block the damage. With the slash colliding with the shield, Huang Shaotian felt that he had gotten a small advantage.

Was he going to go on the offensive?

That was the thought that suddenly surfaced in Huang Shaotian's mind. Lord Grim didn't have as much health as him. After all, he had been subject to Zhou Zekai and Huang Shaotian's combined offensive before, almost entirely relying on his shield to reduce damage. If he had been fiercer and had managed to bring his DPS high enough, then he and Zhou Zekai might have been able to kill him.

Just as the thought flashed by, still in the ending lag of Triple Slash, Lord Grim jumped back without even putting the umbrella away.

"You're such a crafty bastard!" Huang Shaotian cursed. With that jump, the umbrella shield was practically on top of him. Troubling Rain didn't have any space to move anymore! He had to be careful of the unspecialized quick offensive after the umbrella was closed.

Wait, something's wrong!

How come...

Huang Shaotian suddenly realized, shocked, that his Troubling Rain... was Dizzy!

What the bloody hell? Huang Shaotian abruptly came to a conclusion.

"Shield Attack, huh..." Someone in the circle of spectators said. Everyone turned to look; it was Vaccaria.

"How come you've come over?" As Xiao Shiqin asked his, he turned Life Extinguisher's view.

"I'm done with the battle," Wang Jiexi replied.

As expected, over there, Tang Hao's Demon Subduer had vanished, clearly having been killed.

As for the duel over here? The outcome was set. Huang Shaotian had only trash talk left, his words filled with rage and dissatisfaction.

Jumping backwards with an umbrella hitched on his shoulder, was he trying to take up Troubling Rain's room to attack? Of course it wasn't that nice. This was a fucking Shield Attack, a Knight's Shield Attack that would apply a Dizzy effect!

Huang Shaotian hadn't realized at first because, one, Shield Attack wasn't a low level skill, and two, with that thing open, he had thought of it as an umbrella. He knew it had the effects of a shield, but he hadn't taken it as a proper shield. In addition, it was a backwards jump after settling the umbrella on his shoulder. Who could have expected Shield Attack to be hidden in there?

After making Troubling Rain dizzy, Lord Grim steadily poised himself to strike before giving Troubling Rain a beating. Without much health left, Troubling Rain finally fell amidst Huang Shaotian's cursing.

Now, Team A only had two people left, Zhou Zekai and Xiao Shiqin, who had only arrived and done nothing but spectated.

As for Team B? They weren't that healthy, but all five were still alive. There was little suspense to the results of the match now. After Wang Jiexi had dealt with Tang Hao, Wang Jiexi had chosen a position to spectate that Xiao Shiqin understood immediately. Wang Jiexi was in a position where he could immediately coordinate with Ye Xiu and form a pincer attack on his Mechanic.

"So, that's it then?" Xiao Shiqin looked around, saying.

"What on earth did we even come here for?" Yu Feng asked Xiao Shiqin. They had arrived, then watched the two duel and then... there wasn't any more to it.

"What about you two duel too?" The others suggested teasingly.

"Nah!" Xiao Shiqin clearly had little interest.

"Yeah, let's not." Yu Feng didn't seem willing either.

"Then let's finish this!" Wang Jiexi said as Vaccaria swung his broom towards Life Extinguisher. Xiao Shiqin responded instinctively, immediately dodging and counterattacking. Then it was a two on five and after a short battle, Team B won without pressure.

Both the audience at the venue and those watching the broadcast were still thinking back to the All-Stars Competition after it ended. The final two on five wasn't interesting, but before that, there was so much to see.

The TV broadcast team was left in a rather awkward position though. In the end, the Team Competition, the climax of the All-Stars Competition, had lasted not even five minutes.

"Only five minutes?" The audience, who only noticed this afterward, were amazed. These five minutes had really been filled with too much content!

Chapter 1270: The Most Experienced Player

This concluded the official events of the All-Star Weekend. Although the audience felt that it was very fulfilling, when they checked the time, they suddenly felt like they hadn't gotten enough. Wasn't it kind of a shame that the high point of the three day event ended that quickly?

But the winners had already been determined, and the players of Teams A and B had already walked out of the player booths. They didn't go offstage, but mingled amongst each other. For this sort of performative match, most people didn't care too much about victory. Otherwise, how would there be that scenario of everyone crowding around to watch two people 1v1 each other.

But only most people didn't care. There were always people who did care, very much.

Tang Hao...

When he came out of the player booth, his face was pale. In the Rookie Challenge of Season 8 All-Star Weekend, Tang Hao defeated Lin Jingyan. This battle could be considered the battle that established him as a God, cementing his position as a top player. But in this All-Star Weekend, in the team competition, he had been beaten down so pathetically.

The images of the battle flashed through his mind. In front of him, the God-level players of all the other teams were all relaxed and chatting with each other, but Tang Hao just couldn't relax.

It wasn't that he couldn't accept a loss. But how come his loss was so ugly, so pathetic? The cheers of the crowd seemed like mocking laughter to Tang Hao.

The players didn't immediately come offstage, but a reporter from the esports channels carried his camera and flew toward the stage. This team competition ended too quickly, far out of their expectations, entirely disrupting their planned program schedule. They'd purposely left an extra large block of time empty for the All-Star event, since they didn't want time restrictions to disrupt the broadcast of this once-a-year special event. But in the end, the team competition was over in five minutes. Fortunately in the last battle of the group arena, Zhang Xinjie with that Cleric PK had used up a good deal of time, otherwise this All-Star Competition would have ended even earlier.

Sending a reporter onstage now was so that they could do some live interviews, use up a bit more of the broadcast time.

These interviews hadn't been planned in advance, but these God-level players were used to being chased by reporters for interviews. Today's competition hadn't posed much of a burden, anyway, so most of them weren't in any low spirits. The reporter that rushed onstage immediately saw Zhang Xinjie and Wu Yuce discussing something together, and he headed toward them first.

"Hello, vice-captains!" the reporter greeted.

These two paused in their conversation and looked at him.

"Are you discussing that group arena battle from just earlier?" the reporter asked.

"Yes," Zhang Xinjie nodded.

"What do you two think?"

"If it hadn't been stopped, I should have had a slight health advantage at the end and I should have won," said Zhang Xinjie.

"That's only in your planned, ideal conditions," Wu Yuce immediately retorted. It looked like the two of them had been discussing the question of who would have won that battle.

"The plans would have become reality," Zhang Xinjie said.

"You never know what will happen in a battle," said Wu Yuce.

"I'd try my hardest to minimize the unexpected," said Zhang Xinjie.

"Hard to say." Wu Yuce shook his head.

"Perhaps we should give it another try," Zhang Xinjie said.

"Forget it... I'm not too interested in that kind of battle," Wu Yuce said. He'd already avoided having to play out such a dull battle, of course he didn't want to repeat it. After all, it would never happen again.

Zhang Xinjie didn't press either. He only shook his head in regret, seeming quite unsatisfied with his inability to verify the result.

To the side, the reporter didn't interject. He simply recorded all of this to the camera as is. Let everyone experience the unaltered interactions of the Gods after a match. Seeing that these two didn't have any more to say, the reporter began to search for a new target. Those who had had strong performances in the match would of course attract him more easily.

Wang Jiexi!

The reporter's eyes brightened. Wang Jiexi seemed to be giving a lesson to Tiny Herb player Gao Yingjie, and the reporter immediately rushed forward.

"Use your best, most comfortable, most familiar method to perform, that's enough," said Wang Jiexi.

"But Captain, what you've been using all this time, is that your best, most comfortable, most familiar method?" Gao Yingjie suddenly asked.

Wang Jiexi was silent for a while, and then he shook his head. "That is why I hope that you can. Have more confidence, don't be easily shaken. You're more suited to this team than I am. Believe in yourself!"

Seeing Gao Yingjie nod, the reporter took this chance to interject.

"Hello, both of you," he greeted.

"Captain Wang's performance in this team battle really gave us quite a shock! We never would have expected you to suddenly revive your old style. Are you planning to go back to your style again?" the reporter asked.

"Of course not," Wang Jiexi smiled, and then looked at the stage and player booths behind him. "It's good enough to be able to relax here."

"Maybe if Tiny Herb had the Magician, they could earn even better results?" the reporter said.

Wang Jiexi continued to smile, but he didn't say anything. The reporter knew that he was rejecting this view, he just didn't say so out loud. The Magician Wang Jiexi hadn't won anything for Tiny Herb, but after he changed, Tiny Herb had obtained two championships. The person in front of him knew a hundred times better than him what style suited Tiny Herb better, and his own opinion was just himself trying to be smart. As he thought about this, the reporter looked at Gao Yingjie, and asked, "Then what about Little Gao? Will we have a chance to see him become a magician?" This time, the reporter was asking with a joking tone.

"Maybe! If it's on this stage." Gao Yingjie was now better at dealing with the media, and he answered the question quite well. He hadn't rejected the possibility entirely, but he said "on this stage." Yes, on the All-Star stage, what wasn't possible?

After obtaining another conversation, the reporter turned his head, saw Ye Xiu not too far away, and quickly rushed up to him. This God's performance was also very strong, and he rarely accepted interviews. Even though he didn't reject them completely after his return, he was still very low-key. Whatever he could avoid, he would try to avoid, and it was no easy feat to obtain a live interview.

"God Ye Xiu!" The reporter saw that Ye Xiu wasn't talking to anyone right now, and charged forward.

"Hm?" Ye Xiu looked at the reporter.

"The team competition was incredibly exciting. Was it your plan to leave the Cleric out of the team competition?" the reporter asked. This is what they had guessed offstage, because earlier they'd seen that argument at Team B, with Ye Xiu apparently at the center. They didn't know that was Team B trying to pick the most energy-saving arrangement, but looking at the final line-up, they thought that it was possibly Ye Xiu's idea to put the Cleric in the group arena, causing everyone to oppose him.

"Of course not!" But Ye Xiu answered with this. "I just gave a random suggestion."

"Hahaha..." The reporter laughed dryly. When Ye Xiu said "of course not," he had actually thought there were some other hidden factors at play, but in the end, it really was just this.

"Why would you propose such a suggestion?" the reporter then asked.

"Obviously so we could have a more exciting and aggressive battle!" Ye Xiu said, very seriously.

Instantly, the nearby Team B players who heard this all looked at him.

This guy, he could really talk! When they'd made this plan, everyone liked this arrangement only because it would allow the match to finish faster!

"Haha, the battle really was very exciting. There were a lot of highlights!" the reporter said.

"Well, of course. After all, everyone here is an outstanding player," Ye Xiu said.

"And you? How would you evaluate yourself?"

"Me? I'm probably the most experienced player here in this circle, right?" Ye Xiu said.

The interview was broadcast on television, but it was also shown on the display screens in the stadium. Tyranny fans obviously had no kind feelings toward Ye Xiu, but they did have to have a reason to boo

him. They couldn't find any points to complain about with his earlier, very standard answers to the reporter's questions. But with these words, Tyranny's fans were instantly upset.

You're the most experienced player? At least add a "one of the" okay! Over there is our Captain Han! A player from the first generation just like you! No, technically, he's even more experienced than you! You still have a year and half gap in the middle!

The stadium came alive with boos, which prompted the reporter. Looking at the players around him, quite a few people were looking this way after hearing this answer. The reporter immediately asked, "Then what about Tyranny's Captain Han Wenqing?"

"Old Han? He can't compete with me!" Ye Xiu said, brimming with confidence.

The booing increased. Even the gathered Gods had "you jerk can't you stop bragging" expressions as they continued to watch.

"Why is that? You're both players from the first generation, and Captain Han Wenqing..."

"Has he played in the Challenger League?" Ye Xiu directly interrupted the reporter with his explanation.

Silence.

Played in the Challenger League? Fuck, you're counting that a experience? Everyone was shocked, but if they were really talking from this standpoint, then indeed, Han Wenqing's experience was slightly inferior. But everyone was glad not to have that sort of experience. Playing in the Challenger League, that absolutely wasn't a joyful experience for a top-tier God, but this guy actually made treasure out of this trash, counting this as part of his accumulated experience. Is there anyone else like you shamelessly increasing their own level like this?

BOOOO!

This time, it wasn't just the Tyranny fans. The rest of the audience, even some of the players offstage, the Gods onstage, they were all booing Ye Xiu.

Ye Xiu smiled bitterly, waving his hand as he said to the reporter, "They're just jealous."

Jealous your ass! The reporter felt unwell, and even the cameraman had shaken unstably. The reporter chuckled awkwardly. He felt like his head had crashed, and he couldn't think of what direction to go next with the interview.

Fortunately, from the shock Ye Xiu had provoked, he'd picked out a target.

Han Wenqing, the captain of Team Tyranny Han Wenqing, the boss of this area, the one who "lost to" Ye Xiu in experience because he hadn't played in the Challenger League.

"Captain Han, regarding Ye Xiu's words just now... Do you object?" the reporter asked, rather directly. After all, the two of them had been death enemies for ten years.

"His accomplishments in the Challenger League are indeed worthy of pride," said Han Wenqing.