

Avatar 1311

Chapter 1311: Improvement

"If he can't try?"

Han Wenqing's words stunned everyone.

"Then... he can only endure and perfect this style," Zhang Xinjie completed Han Wenqing's analysis.

Thus, everyone fell silent. As for why he can't try, that was a problem gossips would definitely be interested in. However, as Happy's opponent, it wasn't necessarily important. They only valued the consequence: what kind of player would Mo Fan grow into?

"When we go back, we should take another look at this player's battles!" Zhang Xinjie decided.

As for the match, it was Mo Fan who claimed the final victory. Just as the match finished, Song Qiyong charged out of the booth and rapidly approached Happy's player booth.

"Is this little guy so persistent post-match? That's even worse than Zhang Xinjie!" Fang Rui commented.

"You think Mo Fan will pay him any attention?" Wei Chen asked.

"Uh... that'll depend on if Mo Fan can understand his intentions or not. If he does, then I don't think he'll refuse?" Fang Rui guessed.

Just as he said this, Mo Fan also came out from the Happy player booth. He didn't even look at the other side, walking directly towards the steps that led off the stage.

"Hey!" Seeing this, Song Qiyong called out, breaking into a run and eventually catching up with Mo Fan.

Mo Fan looked at him strangely, confused.

Song Qiyong didn't have the sturdiest of constitutions. After sprinting for a few steps, he was left panting for breath.

"I... How can you play like that?" Song Qiyong said.

Mo Fan frowned, clearly not understanding what Song Qiyong was trying to express. Thus, he ignored the other and turned to leave.

Song Qiyong didn't block his way, panting as he hurried over to Mo Fan's side. "What on earth was that tempo of yours? Why don't you continue with your offensive? With your skill level, isn't that better?" Song Qiyong said.

This time, Mo fan understood him. He didn't stop walking, turning his head to look at Song Qiyong, saying, "I can't."

"Why can't you?" Song Qiyong persisted.

Why couldn't he?

This question had Mo Fan deep in contemplation, but he wasn't able to formulate a response to that. In the end, he gave Song Qiyang an infuriating answer: "Because I can't."

"What do you mean, because you can't? Hey hey, everything has to happen for a reason, no? Is it because you have to use such a tempo? What is forcing you to maintain it?" Song Qiyang continued to pursue the question.

Mo Fan's frown deepened, but he didn't know how to answer. He wanted to get rid of this annoying person as soon as possible, and his footsteps subconsciously quickened.

"How come you're not speaking anymore? Oh, is it a team secret? Uh, we're opponents, so I really shouldn't ask so much, but I think there's a lot of improvements and adjustments that are worth making to your style!" Song Qiyang exclaimed.

By then, they had arrived at Happy's player bench. Mo Fan quickly walked to his own seat. Song Qiyang had followed him here, but, helpless, he knew that he couldn't go and sit at Happy's bench. Plus, his last words had been heard by everyone in Happy, all of them looking back at him with no idea what to do. They had been joking that Song Qiyang was chasing after Mo Fan for the chance to touch his hand, that he was even more strict and formal than Zhang Xinjie! They hadn't expected that he had been clinging to Mo Fan, trying to talk about something like this.

"Kid," Ye Xiu spoke up, "You're right in saying that his style needs improvement. However, you're the same, hm? You have much to improve, too."

"I'll do my best, but he..." Song Qiyang didn't seem like he was willing to give up.

"He'll also do his best. I look forward to your next match against one another," Ye Xiu smiled.

"Thank you, senior, for your guidance." Then, Song Qiyang actually bowed to Ye Xiu.

"Ah, there's no need for that..." Ye Xiu hurriedly went to stop him, but there was no way he would make it on time. The entire venue exploded at once, whistling, jeering.

"Look... That's why I didn't want you to do that!" Ye Xiu said helplessly. No matter what reason Song Qiyang had for bowing to Ye Xiu, the Tyranny fans would immediately be pissed off!

"It was deserved." Song Qiyang refused to be swayed. The reactions of the audience didn't make him regret his actions at all. Once he had said that, he returned to Tyranny's player bench. It was, instead, the veterans of Tyranny who were nervous.

"What happened? What did Ye Xiu say to you?" Zhang Xinjie asked.

"Don't take anything that guy says to heart; it's all trash talk, got it?" Zhang Jiale said in absolute seriousness.

"He only said that I had much to improve on," Song Qiyang explained.

"Huh? How come it sounds so... nice?" Zhang Jiale was confused and glanced over at Happy. He saw Ye Xiu looking over, too, and smile, waving, when he saw Zhang Jiale look around.

Zhang Jiale decisively turned his head away, face dark as he said, "Try to not interact with him, alright? Look at how sly and evil his smile is."

Song Qiying looked back, puzzled. How come he couldn't see anything that resembled slyness or evil?

"Alright, go and rest. Don't worry too much about the result of the loss," Zhang Xinjie said to Song Qiying.

Song Qiying nodded, returning to his seat, yet his mind was still on the loss just now. How come he absolutely had to use such a tempo? That was the question that had caught his curiosity.

By then, the third player on both sides had gone up already. For Happy, it was as always, Su Mucheng and her Dancing Rain, while Tyranny sent Zhang Jiale and his Dazzling Hundred Blossoms.

"It's time for us to get a point!" The two Gunners attacked as Zhang Jiale made his proclamation. In the end, Zhang Jiale achieved his goal of gaining a point, defeating Su Mucheng and gaining a point in the individual competition for Tyranny.

Afterwards, Happy sent out Fang Rui, Steamed Bun and Tang Rou for the group arena. As for Tyranny, it was Qin Muyun, Bai Yanfei and Han Wenqing. The two sides exchanged blows, fighting all the way until the fifth round where Tyranny, eventually, claimed victory.

"The instability of this Bao Rongxing is truly quite the headache! When he's in his element, he can accomplish miracles, but when he's not, it's like he's sleepwalking." The determinant of the group arena was clear as day: Steamed Bun. His performance wasn't so good this time, and he was defeated easily by Bai Yanfei. Tang Rou was unable to turn the tides against one and some players and Tyranny gained another two points.

The one on one portion of the match came to a close, and Tyranny was, for now, in the lead 3 to 2. The team competition was decided today's victor.

"You can take careful note of Zhang Xinjie's playstyle in the team competition. If I recall correctly, he's your idol, right?" Ye Xiu told An Wenyi while they prepared for the next match.

This young person, standing in the line of fire, was still holding Happy's health up match by match. In the previous round, Happy had beaten their opponents 10 to 0, but the team competition had been focused on a vicious, relentless offensive. As a healer, he was more on the defensive end, so An Wenyi had limited space to perform last round. But now, the time for battle had come once more. Tyranny... An Wenyi was once a fan of this team. But after joining Happy, he had slowly begun to see Happy as home, while his feeling for Tyranny cooled. In the first half of the season, when they fought Tyranny, An Wenyi had felt a little weird, but this time he was very calm.

Zhang Xinjie? An Wenyi glanced over at Tyranny's player bench. Zhang Xinjie sat there, posture straight, as he rested his mind with closed eyes.

"I've seen plenty of his matches," An Wenyi replied. There was no way he wouldn't have thought of looking to a God for ways to improve. An Wenyi was well acquainted with watching Zhang Xinjie's matches to learn from him.

"Watching recordings and learning through actual battle are very different. Remember to pay attention!" Ye Xiu said.

"I will." An Wenyi would've loved nothing more than to become the ultimate healer overnight, and he wouldn't miss any chance to improve. Being able to personally experience the skill of the number one Cleric Zhang Xinjie was a rare chance, something that only happened twice per season.

Soon enough, it was time to start the match.

For Happy, it was Ye Xiu, Su Mucheng, Fang Rui, Qiao Yifan and An Wenyi with Tang Rou as the sixth player, the same line up they had used against Samsara.

As for Tyranny, it was Han Wenqing, Lin Jingyan, Bai Yanfei, Qin Muyun and Zhang Xinjie, with Song Qiyong as the sixth player.

"Tyranny is still persisting in their rotation. Zhang Jiale only participated in the individual match and isn't in the team competition lineup," Pan Lin noted after seeing Tyranny's lineup. In this season for Tyranny, even Han Wenqing was no longer a set feature of the core team. The three veterans, he, Lin Jingyan and Zhang Jiale, hadn't appeared in the team competition together for a long time.

Other teams rotated in order to counter their opponent. However, Tyranny's rotation seemed to just be for rotation itself. They had persisted like this for half a season. At first, their performance was subpar, and people had been uncertain about them. However, their performance slowly stabilized, and the doubtful voices petered out. Even so, Tyranny's performance this season was nothing compared to last season. As for this rotation, it was less like strategy and more like reducing strain on their older players so that they could keep up. After realizing this, all that was left were sighs and mourning.

The team competition ended in Tyranny's victory.

Though Zhang Jiale hadn't been fielded, their team was experienced and cunning enough. The flaws of Happy's An Wenyi were magnified whenever they met a strong team, especially since they were against Tyranny and their number one Cleric. In the data for the two Cleric's performances, An Wenyi had lost humiliatingly.

"Ay..." An Wenyi sighed. He was rather numb to defeat now, and going against Zhang Xinjie directly this match, the other's performance had An Wenyi's self-doubt multiplying.

When the two teams shook hands post-match, An Wenyi's head was bowed low. Now, every defeat of Happy's had his hand in it. He was probably that "useless teammate"* in the eyes of his opponents. He didn't want to face that sort of judgement.

"You have a very good grasp of timing." It wasn't until he heard someone say this to him when they shook hands that he lifted his head.

"I finally understand why Happy insists on keeping you," Zhang Xinjie, the number one Cleric that he had idolized for so long, was saying to him in person.

Chapter 1312: Another Target to Research

An Wenyi was stunned. Just as he wanted to reply, Zhang Xinjie was already leaving to shake hands with the next member of Happy.

It sounded like a casually spoken formality, but if it came from Zhang Xinjie, then it wasn't just a courtesy. This strict Tyranny vice captain would only say something like this if there was enough proof to back it up.

Happy hadn't been stingy in the support and trust they gave him. An Wenyi was incredibly moved by this and had worked hard to repay them. However, there was always that voice of doubt. That voice of doubt grew louder and louder with each defeat.

He was too rational, to the point where the care his team showed him couldn't penetrate the darkness in his heart.

However, Zhang Xinjie, the player he idolized, one known for his meticulousness, had said the words he had most needed to hear at a time he needed them most.

The darkness in his heart cleared as easily as that. This was, perhaps, so-called serendipity.

He could do it! Because if even Zhang Xinjie thought so, then there was no way it could be otherwise!

An Wenyi's mind was filled with these voices. He raised his head, facing each member of Tyranny with a smile, shaking their hands.

Happy had been defeated by Tyranny 2 to 8. This live broadcasted match didn't have many spectacular scenes to savor. The broadcasters regretted their decisions because the other Blue Rain versus Samsara match was unusually fierce, eventually ending in Blue Rain's victory of 7 to 3. After Samsara had lost to Hundred Blossoms, they had another loss added to their score. Additionally, the lead they had on the second ranked team had been reduced to under twenty points. Samsara's image of invincibility had finally loosened after their second loss.

However, though this match was spectacular, the most unexpected match was the Thunderclap's home game against 301 Degrees. The score ended in 1 to 9, Thunderclap being crushed. More importantly, their team, one that rivaled Samsara in strength, had been defeated once again.

The reason?

Yang Cong of 301 Degrees had used Life-Risking Strike again to take out Xiao Shiqin's Life Extinguisher.

From Happy to Tyranny and now Thunderclap, this was the third time Yang Cong had struck with Life-Risking Strike, taking out a vital member of the opposing team and giving his team the victory.

Yang Cong, who originally didn't play such a style, had used it so crazily after switching styles. In five rounds, he had used Life-Risking Strike three times, and even more terrifyingly, he had succeeded all three times. This use rate and success rate was suffocatingly impressive.

Something else that should be taken note of was that apart from Round 19, where the assassination of Little Cold Hands had been all up to Yang Cong, in Round 20 against Zhang Xinjie's Immovable Rock and this round against Xiao Shiqin's Life Extinguisher, Bai Shu had been critical in both situations.

What style did this guy have, and how was he so good at cooperating with 301 Degrees' players? No one in the Alliance had the answer, and each team had all looked towards England's Super League for reconnaissance on Bai Shu's ability. Everyone had sensed that 301 Degrees was on the rise. Don't just look at how they were only ninth on the current rankings, but 301 Degrees had recently all been pitted against strong teams, yet were still rising through the ranks. On the other hand, teams like Wind Howl were against mid-lower tier teams, and only then did they seem unstoppable. If they were to meet a strong team and fall, then they might be tossed out of the top eight with a pursuer like 301 Degrees behind them.

301 Degrees...

Suddenly, they had become an unknown enemy. All the teams were researching them, including Happy. However, at Happy's current strength, it was difficult to obtain information from England's Super League. There was pitifully little videos they could find from searching the web. In the end, after looking all over, using VPN and cracking their devices, they had finally managed to connect to a video hosting service over in England and found info on the team Bai Shu was once a part of: the England Super League team, Sprout.

Then, watching this team's videos, they were rather shocked.

In that team, Bai Shu used a Knight called Bough. Apart from this Knight, there were two Assassins in this team. In the team competition, these two Assassins appeared together, and not in rotation. However, these team competitions were different from the Glory Pro Alliance. In the England Super League, team competitions were a 6v6.

The style Sprout employed was the one 301 Degrees was currently using: Assassin's Life-Risking Strike. Bai Shu's Bough had an important role in this team, covering for the two Assassins and ensuring that their Life-Risking Strike would hit. After watching the battle recordings, it was clear that Bai Shu wasn't only an expert at covering and supporting, but also doing all sorts of CC on the target when the Assassins were preparing to use Life-Risking Strike. In addition, he'd even help deal the finishing blow to a weakened opponent when the Life-Risking Strike wasn't enough.

His awareness, methods, habits, none of it was something that could be summarized easily and quickly. They had to spend a lot of time to research. The big teams all felt depressed! Wasn't there enough to research from scratch this season?

Ye Xiu's unspecialized Lord Grim, Fang Rui's dirty Qi Master, and now 301 Degrees was joining in, too, bringing in an expert that no one understood.

There was nothing that could be done. No matter how troublesome, they still had to do it. However, Team Happy's luck could be considered the best. The next time they'd meet 301 Degrees would be Round 38, the last match of the season. They had plenty of time to research Bai Shu and 301 Degrees, after Bai Shu's recruitment and Yang Cong's switch in playstyle.

For Happy, what was more of a headache, was the problem of their healer. After losing to Tyranny in the twenty-third round, the hate against An Wenyi continued. Even Chang Xian, who always supported Happy, was expressing concern.

"He has talent. We believe in him." These words were no longer enough. The people needed to see proof in their performance.

In Round 24, Happy's away game was against Team Parade.

With Happy's current performance, no one thought that a lower ranked team like Parade would be enough to test An Wenyi's skills. It'll probably be just like when they beat Radiant 10 to 0, covering their healer's weakness with powerful offensive.

But in this team competition, Happy was met with trouble.

"Did you think you could crush us like you did with Radiant? Don't be so arrogant!" Parade's captain, Grappler player Wu Shuai yelled imposingly into the chat.

Around eight minutes after the battle started, Team Parade's formation was still very whole, but Team Happy's One Inch Ash had already been wiped out. Happy was currently at a one player disadvantage and Parade was launching a fierce offense, trying to defeat another of Happy's members before their sixth player arrived.

It was all that guy's fault!

The match wasn't being live broadcasted on TV, so the fans were mostly watching on TV. Previously, in the 1v1s, Happy had lost a point in the individual matches, taking a lead of 4 to 1. However, from the start of the team competition, they hadn't been able to grasp the initiative. Parade was very accurately aiming for Happy's weakness: Little Cold Hands.

Strategy, class, map choice, all of it was precisely planned. In the end, Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash had fallen to Parade, desperately trying to cover for Little Cold Hands. When they saw this scene, Happy's supporters felt a ball of rage burn in their hearts.

If it wasn't for him, the team wouldn't have had to retreat and fall to a disadvantage.

If it wasn't for him, Qiao Yifan would've been better able to set up his Ghost Boundaries!

If it wasn't for him, Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash wouldn't have lost so much health.

It was him, it was all him!

"Even I can do better than him!!" Many fans slammed their keyboard in rage. And now, after killing One Inch Ash, Parade was targeting Fang Rui's Boundless Sea.

"Fuck! They might as well not have a Cleric!" In the online stream, the comment section was filled with such jeers.

This was something none of Happy's members could see. All they knew was that the situation wasn't looking good for them at all. They also knew that if they lost this round, the last barrier protecting An Wenyi from criticism would fall. Though the team could have faith in him as usual, what about himself? After defeat after defeat, each a blow to his self confidence. If this time, they lost to Parade because of his mistakes, then it would probably be a critical strike. Could he still hold on after something like that?

"Hey, great healer An! We're attacking your Boundless Sea, you know? Can you still manage to keep him alive?" The captain of Team Parade continued to trash talk in the chat, unafraid of revealing their intentions. They had planned it this way anyways.

"Don't panic, it's not as bad as he says," Ye Xiu sent into the team chat.

"Understood." Surprisingly, he gained such a reply.

Ye Xiu was stunned.

This was a simple reply, but if An Wenyi could still type, then that means he hadn't panicked at all. He had kept his calm, observing the battlefield and waiting for the time when he would be needed. Meanwhile, he could easily find time to respond to Ye Xiu when he wasn't needed.

"Very good!" Ye Xiu, based on this conjecture, had given a response to An Wenyi's reply.

The audience all thought that it was An Wenyi who had dragged the entire team down. However, in Ye Xiu's eyes, An Wenyi hadn't made any serious mistakes this match. The one who had performed poorly was Qiao Yifan. He was too nervous, too set on covering Little Cold Hands that he had worked himself into a mess, desynchronizing with the pacing of the team.

"Is there any need to heal Boundless Sea?" Ye Xiu mocked back in the public chat as he charged forward.

Chapter 1313: Just in Time

"He's coming!" Wu Shuai yelled into the Parade chat. Their focused offense on Boundless Sea was just because they wanted to lure Lord Grim over.

Wiping out Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash? This result wasn't something that satisfied them. Though they acted confident, in reality, Happy - even lacking one player - still threatened them greatly. However, if they could send Lord Grim out of the running, then their victory would be certain.

Their encirclement of Boundless Sea was to lure Ye Xiu over into trying to save him: their true target was Lord Grim.

"Prepare!" Wu Shuai ordered. Parade's team members clearly weren't properly trying to beat Boundless Sea, all waiting for a chance to lunge in the other direction!

"There's a plot!" This naturally wouldn't escape the Master of Dirty Play, Fang Rui, and he quickly sent a warning in the Happy chat.

"Worry not!" Ye Xiu replied as Lord Grim continued his advance.

"Switch!" Wu Shuai ordered, and Team Parade surrounded their target.

In an instant, it wasn't Boundless Sea in the encirclement, but Lord Grim.

"Scared yet?" Fang Rui hollered in the chat. This time, it fell to him to save Lord Grim. However, Team Parade hadn't truly formed an encirclement around him, but they did around Lord Grim, and it seemed much stronger.

Would they be alright?

Fang Rui wondered in his heart, observing Team Parade's formation and trying to find a chance to team-up with and break Ye Xiu out. That was when, with a boom, someone was sent flying out of Parade's sturdy encirclement with a Falling Flower Palm from Lord Grim, and the latter broke out easily.

"Haha, a paper mache encirclement?" Fang Rui would never miss out on a chance to mock his opponents.

"What happened?" Wu Shuai yelled angrily into the team chat. He naturally wouldn't send this into the public chat and draw jeers from his opponents.

"How come my skills are on cooldown!?" the one sent flying by Lord Grim yelled.

"No, not cooldown, they've been sealed! Sacred Fire? When?" that person added.

Sacred Fire?

The people watching the live stream all froze. When was Sacred Fire used?

The Parade members on the battlefield had already turned their gazes to Little Cold Hands. Their teammate naturally wouldn't lie to them. Did Little Cold Hands strike just now?

No one knew...

In that moment, they had completely ignored Little Cold hands, as if the Cleric were nothing but air.

"It was probably Lord Grim!" Someone suddenly called out.

"You're right!" The entire team suddenly seemed to realize something. Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestations Umbrella could have all sorts of skills set into its different forms. He must have set a Sacred Fire into the weapon's Priest class form. That guy was a sly bastard like that, always switching the skills he had on his weapon so that he could mess with everyone.

"Good job!" Ye Xiu sent that praise into the team chat, because this Sacred Fire really did come from Little Cold Hands. It was just that he had timed the activation so well that just as Ye Xiu struck out, when his opponent was about to defend, a Sacred Fire began to burn under Ye Xiu's surprised gaze, sealing that member of Parade's skills. The skill he was about to use to block Lord Grim never came, allowing him to break through with a simple Falling Flower Palm.

"Again!" Team Parade, believing that they had already found the crux of the problem, turned and pursued Lord Grim.

Sky-Piercing Strike!

However, Fang Rui's Boundless Sea had already arrived to help, pushing his palms out and shooting forth a blast of qi. Parade's membered rushed to dodge it, their formation completely destroyed by now. Then, a missile descended, mushroom cloud rising. The Parade characters in each area getting blasted off their feet. Their offensive had been shattered.

With their offensive gone, Happy was free to launch their own. They might be one head short for now, but they wouldn't let this opportunity pass them by.

Shining Cut, Slide Kick, Knee Strike!

Lord Grim activated three skills in rapid succession, arriving in front of a character in the blink of an eye and sending them flying.

Pulse Break: Break Strength! Break Intelligence!

Fang Rui's Boundless Sea shot by, jabbing the character twice. The target's stats immediately plummeted. At the same time, a ring of light descended and Little Cold Hands' Holy Commandment blanketed them just in time.

With all these damage increasing statuses, if they didn't attack now, then when should they?

Ye Xiu, Fang Rui, and Su Mucheng all used their own methods to deal as much damage as they could to this poor character. Their target had no way to stop their remaining health from decreasing, and it dropped like a rock.

Having been knocked completely out of it, the members of Parade hurriedly adjusted themselves to counterattack and save their teammate. However, the three members of Happy didn't seem to be able to take their eyes off their target, ignoring all the attacks that came their way and continuing their crazed barrage of attacks.

Were they planning on wiping him out first?

They would choose to do that with a numbers disadvantage? That was a huge challenge for their own healer! However, wasn't Happy's healer the worst in the Alliance? Could he really hold this situation steady?

Parade had planned on simply ignoring An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands, but with the current situation, they couldn't just let the guy heal as much as he wanted - even if his healing was crap!

"Interrupt!" Wu Shuai yelled.

"Interrupt what?" The team members were confused.

"Their healer!" Wu Shuai was vexed. They needed him to explain such a simple arrangement?

"Where... is the healer?" The members of Parade continued to voice their confusion.

"Huh?" Wu Shuai turned his view in a full circle, but he really couldn't find Little Cold Hands.

"Where'd he hide?" Just now, everyone had been so focused on dodging the blasts. Plus, they hadn't thought much of Little Cold Hands either, to the extent that no one had noticed where the guy had hid.

"Fuck!" Wu Shuai yelled in rage. If he sent someone to search, then that would just be wasting time. It would be better if they didn't bother for now.

"Save him first!" Wu Shuai ordered. They continued to launch their attacks at the three attackers, but those three really were stubborn, persisting with their offense.

Their attacks struck that poor character while Team Parade's attacks struck them.

"Focus on Lord Grim!" Wu Shuai hollered. If they successfully made such a trade, then it was really worth it! Don't run, please don't run!

Lord Grim really didn't run. He simply made sure that Parade's attacks wouldn't disrupt his own. Damage? He just took it. Parade instantly became more enthusiastic. They had finally taken out a significant chunk of Lord Grim's health, when a light suddenly washed over him and erupted, turning all of their screen white.

This was a Great Heal, a Great Heal that crit. Instantly, Lord Grim's health skyrocketed. Though it didn't completely negate all of Parade's efforts, what it healed made Parade feel powerless.

"Where's that damn Cleric!?" Wu Shuai roared. Their underestimation of Little Cold Hands was destroying them.

"Did no one notice? Open your eyes wider!" Wu Shuai demanded.

Thus, when Little Cold Hands' heal came over once more, someone finally noticed where the holy light of the cross was coming from.

"Nine o'clock!" The member of Parade that had found Little Cold Hands yelled.

"Go and grab him!" Wu Shuai said, finally sending someone to deal with Little Cold Hands.

Seeing that he had been exposed, An Wenyi had Little Cold Hands run without hesitation.

However, the current garb that Little Cold Hands had on wasn't the movement speed equipment he had during the Challengers League. After focusing all his stats on healing, Little Cold Hands' movement speed began to display the weakness that was typical to healers. Run, where could he run to?

An Wenyi had barely ran anywhere, when he heard the sound of approaching footsteps. His pursuer was using skills to catch up to him, and it didn't take long before the other had caught up.

"I've caught him!" The Parade member excitedly reported. Yet that was when Little Cold Hands suddenly came to a halt and turned around, as if having given up.

What the hell was this? The Parade member felt a moment of suspicion rise in his heart when, boom! His character was sent flying.

Dragon Breaks the Ranks!

Happy's sixth player, Soft Mist, had arrived.

"Just in time." An Wenyi even had the time to type!

"Nice train driving," Tang Rou complimented back. A train was a gaming term that referred to luring a large group of mobs into a specified position for attack. The more precise the positioning, the better the train.

"Let's go!!" Tang Rou, having finally arrived at the scene of battle, was in high spirits. She ignored the person she had knocked flying and charged towards the battlefield over yonder.

Shattering the Lands!

Soft Mist announced her arrival with a high-level skill, jumping high into the air. Her spear Dancing Fire Flowing Flame making a red trail through the air as it fell with its wielder, a blazing Soft Mist.

Boom!

Shattering the Lands, shaking the very foundations of the earth, Soft Mist's appearance was too sudden, her attacks swiftly finding a new target. She knocked someone into the air and then, in the blink of an eye, had landed with a Shattering the Lands over here. Parade's members fumbled to respond, dodging out of sync. This strike had once again destroyed their formation.

"Wipe out this one first!" Ye Xiu called out. Tang Rou didn't bother with a typed response, using her actions to show that she understood. Dancing Fire Flowing Flame swinging at its target's weak points.

"Interrupt the healer!" Ye Xiu gave another order. Currently, they had completely taken the upper hand. If they didn't wipe this guy out of the game, then they'd have wasted this chance.

Then, Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng repeatedly switched targets in synchronization, using ranged attacks to interrupt the healer's support. Tang Rou and Fang Rui focused completely on DPS and An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands had run over too, regrouping with the others.

Finally... their target fell, and Happy dismantled Parade's lead.

"The healer!" Ye Xiu made a swift decision. Currently, it was Happy that had the advantage in numbers on the field.

The entire team lunged for their opponent's healer at once.

Wipe him out!

Happy's members surrounded Parade's healer, tossing attacks over in rapid succession. At the same time, they paid careful attention to Team Parade's attempts at support. Parade struck left and right but couldn't rescue their healer. With the healer under siege, they couldn't recover health, and the characters that came to try and provide support took heavy damage.

At first, everyone thought that Happy was trying to wipe out the other's healer, but looking closer, they realized that they had actually kidnapped their healer and were slowly chipping away at the health of the rest of their members.

"Attack their healer!" Realizing that they couldn't continue like this, Wu Shuai hurriedly gave new orders. Parade's members immediately charged at Little Cold Hands.

"Heh, didn't you say our healer was useless? Is this trade worth it?" Ye Xiu mocked.

Chapter 1314: Team MVP

Ye Xiu's mockery caused Parade's Captain Wu Shuai feel his heart skip a beat.

This exchange really was imbalanced. Happy's healer was such trash! But aside from this, what else could they do right now?

You couldn't afford to hesitate in a match! Wu Shuai was very decisive when he needed to be, so even though his heart jolted, he didn't waver. He continued to lead his team members to charge towards Little Cold Hands.

An Wenyi didn't waste any time. As soon as he saw people rushing toward him, he cast a Great Cure on his own Little Cold Hands, pulling his health very high. Then, Parade began their attack. But when Wu Shuai looked over at Happy's progress on the other side, he wanted to cry.

This wasn't a problem of whether this trade was balanced! This trade might not even be completed in the first place! Happy was progressing much faster in killing off their target.

"Bring him away!" Wu Shuai hurried to direct. As they attacked, they tried to pull Little Cold Hands away, to buy themselves more time to kill him off.

"Not fast enough." An Wenyi, the one who couldn't control a situation even when putting his all into a battle, actually found the time to type words right now, even when he was being surrounded and attacked from all sides.

Indeed... they weren't fast enough.

Wu Shuai didn't lack judgment, he just wanted to put his all into striving for this goal. But when An Wenyi said this, he understood that Happy had calculated everything. Anything that he did was futile.

It ends here.

Wu Shuai understood very clearly that this match was going to be decided right here.

Wu Shuai sighed and watched as their team's healer finally fell. And Little Cold Hands? Even after being surrounded, the character still had a third of her health left!

What if we copied them?

Wu Shuai suddenly had another thought, to try and learn from the way Happy had surrounded Parade's healer. But before he could give any orders, a Satellite Beam was already falling from the sky, a spinning pillar of light that expanded. Parade's members instinctively began to dodge, and their encirclement was broken just like that.

There was no way. They had no healer anymore.

Wu Shuai discovered what the difference was between their current situation and that of Happy earlier. At that time, Happy had their healer helping out, while Parade's healer had been cut off in the encirclement. That was why they could play to wear them out. But now, even if they locked Little Cold Hands in an encirclement, they didn't have a healer to support them anymore, and stubbornly trying to maintain this encirclement would only use up even more of their health.

There was really no way.

Wu Shuai once again felt that they were at the end, and this time he finally didn't experience any new breakthroughs. By the time Parade's sixth player arrived, they were at a disadvantage in terms of numbers, and they still didn't have a healer. They couldn't turn the situation around. Wu Shuai actually

began to feel a sense of longing for that Little Cold Hands, the one deemed by the entirety of Glory to be worst pro Cleric.

Right now, even if they only had a Cleric like that, would they lose? Absolutely not!

They were unwilling, but they could only fall. In the end, Parade couldn't defeat Happy in the team competition and lost in a bitter 1-9.

In the post-match press conference, the reporters asked Wu Shuai for his feelings about this match. He said the standard polite words, but as he talked and talked, he gradually began to think seriously.

Where was the match point of this team battle?

The beginning had gone so smoothly, they'd easily killed off one of the opponents. With that kind of lead, how come they fell over like a toppled mountain by the end?

Wu Shuai pulled himself back to the match, in that moment when they had killed off Happy's Phantom Demon One Inch Ash, pretended to surround Boundless Sea, lured in Lord Grim, surrounded him. But then Lord Grim, with a thrust of his palm, casually escaped from the encirclement that they had prepared so carefully. And the reason was that the character supposed to intercept him was unexpectedly hit by a Heavenly Fire and became unable to use any skills.

It had happened so quickly during the match, there wasn't any time to analyze it. Parade just thought that it was a skill that Lord Grim had put on the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella, but was that really the case?

Wu Shuai recalled that moment in detail. Lord Grim was surrounded, and then he immediately tried to rush outwards. Sacred Fire was a skill that required reciting lines. Where did he have the time to stop and cast?

It was Little Cold Hands.

It was An Wenyi.

Yes, that was correct, that was exactly how it happened...

And then Happy counterattacked, scattering their formation, and the match situation was instantly flipped around.

The match point was when Lord Grim instantly broke through their encirclement. And that had been the result of that Cleric, who'd been looked down upon by them - no, looked down upon by the entire Glory circle! If it weren't for his move then, no matter how high Ye Xiu's skill was, he couldn't have immediately pushed open a road with one palm. Parade's brothers weren't noobs, after all!

That guy was really lucky.

When Wu Shuai thought this problem through, this was his final conclusion. Ultimately, he still didn't believe that An Wenyi had such ability. He still felt that that player was just a blind cat that'd run into a dead mouse. But since he'd already thought to this point, he couldn't help but think more about Little Cold Hands' performance this match. And after doing so, he discovered that that player had appeared again and again at the crucial points of the match.

We... lost to that Cleric?

"Impossible!" Wu Shuai suddenly said aloud.

"What's impossible? What did you say was impossible just now?" The reporters had been listening to another player from Parade answer a question, but when they suddenly heard this word from Wu Shuai's mouth, they immediately turned their attention toward him.

"Happy's Cleric isn't so simple," Wu Shuai said.

"Hehehe," the reporters all snickered. What was he saying? He couldn't beat Happy, so he didn't even agree what Happy's weak point was anymore? How petty! With your strength, it was no big surprise that you weren't able to beat Happy, do you really need to make excuses like this?

Wu Shuai's words didn't incite any excitement from the reporters. They continued their interviews, until Parade's conference was over and Happy's began. And then, the first sentence they heard from Ye Xiu's lips was praise for An Wenyi.

"Today's victory was all thanks to An Wenyi's outstanding performance."

An Wenyi?

Outstanding performance?

Putting these two phrases together, how come it felt so conflicting? Could they really be written together? The reporters felt a bit dizzy.

"What? Did no one notice?" Ye Xiu asked, extremely surprised, as he watched all the reporters exchange glances. He added, "Did you watch the match?"

"Of course," the reporters all answered.

"Did the stats for this match come out yet?" Ye Xiu suddenly asked the Alliance worker at the side.

"They're out," that person answered.

"Who was the team competition MVP?" Ye Xiu asked.

"An Wenyi." The Alliance employee gave the answer from the stats.

"Huh?" The gathered reporters were shocked.

Ye Xiu grinned. "I'm glad that the Alliance was watching the match seriously."

The reporters were greatly embarrassed. An Wenyi was the MVP of this match? The reporters forgot the interview and all began discussing with each other, but everyone only had a fuzzy impression of An Wenyi's performance in the match. Before they watched the match, they were already in a certain mindset. Matches should be enjoyed, but they didn't have that mindset toward An Wenyi, so much so that even though they were Glory specialists, they hadn't even realized the MVP of this team competition.

Without being able to figure out the why, this press conference couldn't continue. The reporters could only bring out a few scripted questions, like asking An Wenyi about his view of his performance today.

"I did the right things at the right times," An Wenyi said.

"Oh? Could you give us some detail?" the reporters asked.

"You... you should just rewatch the match!" An Wenyi was a bit speechless. They wanted him to use words to describe his performance? It wasn't that he was disdainful, he was... rather embarrassed, because those were all his highlights. He couldn't just open his mouth and say "at that most critical moment, good thing I used my Sacred Fire" or whatnot. He was An Wenyi, not Wei Chen.

The press conference ended inconclusively like this. By the end, the reporters still had questions in their hearts. They didn't understand how An Wenyi became the hero of this match. After the conference finished, they all immediately revisited the match, and now that they were in the mindset of looking for highlights, these specialists quickly realized what they had missed during this match. This was too unprofessional.

"An Wenyi found his footing?" the reporters wondered.

An Wenyi, whom the entire Glory circle viewed as dragging down his team, suddenly became the team MVP. Wasn't this change just too dramatic?

The reporters of the various media were all already imagining the articles to write about An Wenyi. The match between Happy and Parade originally wasn't anything interesting to report on. But now that An Wenyi had become the MVP of this match, this topic was really quite incredible.

As for those looking for thrilling headlines in this round, Samsara's home game against Tiny Herb and Tyranny's home game against Blue Rain were both top-level confrontations.

In the end, both matches ended with the home team's victory, both 7-3. Tiny Herb's win streak in the group arena was finally broken in this round. Of all the consecutive win records in this season, only Ye Xiu's individual win streak had yet to be sniped.

In this round, Wind Howl, who'd been swaggering with their recent win streak against weak teams, finally ate a loss. And this time, their opponent absolutely couldn't be called a strong team.

Miracle!

One of the new teams this season played their home game against Wind Howl and ultimately defeated them 7-3. In the confrontation between previous Excellent Era players, it was actually the seemingly lower, lagging members of Miracle that obtained victory.

Wind Howl was the team that defeated many weak teams to appear strong. But after this loss, their standing on the rankings immediately changed. Right now, they were seventh place with 148 points, followed by Hundred Blossoms only one point behind them. After that, ninth place was the recently-strong 301. After defeating Royal Style 8-2 in their home game this round, there were now only 7 points between them and the playoff zone.

But this time, 301 didn't use the fierce Life-Risking Strike again.

Chapter 1315: Terror and Despair

Team Wind Howl, after failing to complete a transfer during the winter transfer window that would solve their problems, entered the second half of the season.

Even though they had sustained repeated losses against strong teams in the first half of the season, Wind Howl was still firmly strong against the mid and low-tier teams. This allowed people to maintain a thread of faith in them.

But now, Team Miracle.

Even if this team did better than expected, that only meant that they had a certain amount of strength. With a score of 102 points halfway through the season in 12th place, they couldn't really be called strong. This was the typical score of a mid-tier team.

But now, Wind Howl had lost to this mid-tier team.

This was tantamount to tearing away their last piece of clothing. Could Wind Howl get results? That question mark was becoming bigger and bigger. In the post-match press conference, Wind Howl's Captain Tang Hao was furious, severely reprimanding his team for not working hard enough.

But could Wind Howl's problems really be solved just with hard work?

Things weren't that simple! Hard work couldn't solve everything in Glory. Aside from hard work, you have to have the correct method, and today's Wind Howl lacked not hard work, nor the determination to pursue victory, but rather the method for obtaining victory, especially in the team competition.

Originally, Wind Howl's key to victory was their dirty playing. Now, they had thrown away this key, but they hadn't found a new key that could continue to open locks. All the locksmiths were struggling away, but no matter how they tried, they just couldn't unlock that door to victory.

"Come on, work hard, get your spirits up, we can't lose!" These sort of morale-boosting sentiments couldn't solve the problem at the core.

What should Wind Howl do?

In this week's edition of the Esports Weekly, Wind Howl actually became the subject of the headline. After everyone finished discussing how weak An Wenyi was and how strong Bai Shu was, Wind Howl's strength as a team became the new topic everyone cared about.

Wind Howl themselves were suffering nonstop the protests of their fans. Wind Howl urgently needed a match where they could prove their strength. And so, their chance arrived in Round 25, with their home game against Samsara.

Was it a bit too extreme... aiming for them as a proof of strength?

Wind Howl's players felt the urge to eat their account cards.

"This is our best chance." Their captain Tang Hao, however, appeared fearless before them.

"What could prove our strength better than defeating Samsara?" said Tang Hao.

"Get your spirits up everyone, use this battle to show everyone who we Wind Howl really are." In the prep room before the match, Tang Hao mobilized his teammates.

But Wind Howl's players were truly somewhat numb to these sort of words by now.

Onstage, individual competition, three battles, loss loss loss.

The stadium resounded with boos. This was only the individual competition, and they were already getting wrecked?

Tang Hao's face turned livid. But what else could he do? He didn't know anymore...

Soon enough, the group arena ended. Now, not only were there boos, members of the crowd were already leaving the stadium early. They didn't even want to watch the important team competition anymore, and used their early departure as their strongest form of protest against the team.

After the individual competition was over, Wind Howl was 0-5.

Following that match with Happy, would they be swept 0-10 again this match? That time, at least, was Happy's home game. But this time, they were being swept by the away team. It was truly a slap to the face.

After the team competition, the cheers and shouts for Samsara were already louder than those for Wind Howl. What made Wind Howl lose even more face was that some of the cheers for Samsara were actually from Wind Howl's fangroup. What kind of disappointment and anger was this? The team competition finally began...

Meanwhile, on another battlefield...

"Again..." The audience members were dumbfounded as they watched Radiant's healer, 2 minutes and 34 seconds in the team round, slain by one knife of 301's Assassin Scene Killer.

Life-Risking Strike!

Even more fearsome was that this time, Scene Killer didn't die right after using Life-Risking Strike. He was actually protected by Bai Shu's Knight Tide. After that, 301's healer, the Paladin 007 piled on a series of healing skills, instantly pulling Scene Killer's health back...

An Assassin that had successfully used Life-Risking Strike to kill the target, actually didn't die?

Everyone was stunned. This was absolutely the first time this had ever happened in Glory history.

This Team 301 Degrees, to what extent would they perfect this assassination style?

Radiant's strength couldn't match 301's. After losing their healer, the rest of the team fell like a mountain toppled over, and the match was quickly decided. 301 earned a large victory this round, full points with a 10-0.

Shortly after, the match between Wind Howl and Samsara was also decided. Samsara lived up to expectations and defeated Wind Howl, sweeping them in a 10-0.

301 and Wind Howl had only had a difference of 8 points between them, and with this, they instantly swapped positions on the leaderboard. Would Wind Howl be able to remain in the top 8? That would be determined by the final result of another team's match.

Hundred Blossoms faced Lightly this round.

This confrontation caused Wind Howl to fall into despair.

In the end, Hundred Blossoms defeated Lightly 8-2, rising to seventh place. 301 rose one place to eighth, finally entering the playoff zone. All of this had arrived terrifyingly quickly. At the halfway mark of the season, Round 19, 301 still only had 98 points, but after six rounds, they had already risen to 150 points. 52 points in six rounds, that was an average of 8.7 points per match, far surpassing the number one team Samsara's match average of 8.3 points.

In Round 19, 301 defeated Happy in the team round because Yang Cong used Life-Risking Strike to take out Happy's Little Cold Hands. But they had really gotten strong starting from Round 20. The arrival of the player Bai Shu truly gave 301 something that that Alliance had never seen before, a strategic playstyle revolving around the Assassin's Life-Risking Strike. Bai Shu had integrated into the team very quickly, making it obvious that he was a player with an extremely high Glory IQ. And the new system that he brought hadn't even reached its full potential yet. 301 was still testing things out, still getting used to everything. But even so, they had already earned a terrifying point-scoring rate. Once this strategy was perfected, what kind of fearsome and deadly power would it have?

Now, people were realizing that Bai Shu's arrival didn't just bring an unknown expert, but an unknown strategy, ultimately raising an unknown team.

"What a headache!" everyone complained. But at this moment, some people didn't even have the time to complain about this.

"What a headache, how long are we planning to play for?" Ye Xiu said.

"You guys already lost long ago, if not for your disgustingly dirty hide-and-seek this match would already be over! Is there a point is there a point? Just come out and 1v1 me! A good and honest match to decide victory, do you dare, huh, do you dare?" Huang Shaotian raged.

Just as all the various matches were ending, Blue Rain's home game against Happy had already lasted over forty minutes. Right now, Blue Rain had lost one player, and the five others were all on the field. Happy, meanwhile, only had two players left. But even in this situation, Happy's two players still didn't GG, nor did they come out to end this faster. They were actually very patiently dealing with Blue Rain.

"What bastards!" Seeing this scene, a number of elite guild members felt their hearts sour.

Once upon a time, in the Heavenly Domain, they sent out large armies, only for them to be cruelly teased by these two guys! Seeing how even Blue Rain was now dragged around by them for so long, everyone suddenly felt a bit gratified.

Lord Grim, Deception.

These were the two players still alive from Happy. Without a doubt, Happy didn't have any chance of victory against Blue Rain, who still had an intact roster. But these two people still refused to give up, ducking and hiding all over, dragging out what should have been a 31-minute match over the current 42-minute mark.

"Before the last moment, the match isn't considered over," Ye Xiu lectured Huang Shaotian very seriously. "1v1? Is that a battle method that belongs in the team competition?"

"You... What kind of method is your hide-and-seek then?" Huang Shaotian used a powerful self-control to turn his swearing into ellipses.

"This is training, do you understand? The playoffs give points by number of players remaining. We Happy are already adjusting to the rhythm of the playoffs. Are you convinced now?"

"Convinced you...." The powerful self-control was once again exercised. "You two, you're still trying to earn some player points?"

"Not necessarily! If you're skilled, then come and 1v2 us!" Ye Xiu called.

"Alright! I'll fight you two by myself!" Huang Shaotian said.

"Everyone else, back off by a hundred body-lengths," said Ye Xiu.

"They've backed off, backed off."

"That fast?" Ye Xiu was doubtful.

"Backing off right now."

"Alright, let me take a look."

Blue Rain's players were instantly on full alert. Between the five of them, they had a 360-degree view of their surroundings. Even the slightest silhouette wouldn't escape their notice.

"You didn't back off! Liars!" Ye Xiu said angrily.

"You didn't even look! You're the liar!" Huang Shaotian was also furious. They hadn't seen anyone poking their head up to look. This guy wasn't even over here.

"I guessed!" Ye Xiu said.

"You sneak!" Huang Shaotian shouted.

"Stop wasting time, come find us already, this match is already so long, aren't you all annoyed?" Ye Xiu called.

Everyone felt tears streaming down their faces. You're the ones at fault here!

"Not too far off. They should be in this area." In Blue Rain's team chat, Yu Wenzhou had already made this judgment.

"Split up. Shaotian and I will take the channel on the left. Song Xiao, you and Zheng Xuan take the right, around that large boulder." Yu Wenzhou continued to lay out plans.

"Huh? What about me?" The Paladin player Xu Jingxi was confused. His name hadn't been listed in the split.

"Mm, left and right are both ambushes. You just walk directly forward, serve as the bait," said Yu Wenzhou.

"Too cruel..." Xu Jingxi felt like crying.

Chapter 1316: Pointless Move

A hide-and-seek match that had lasted for over ten minutes now. If this were Happy's home game, Happy's fans might still find this interesting. But this was Blue Rain's home game. Seeing these two people with no chance of reversal but still shamelessly dragging this on, they'd started booing early on.

But just then, when Ye Xiu expressed that this was training for the playoffs, the boos were actually interrupted for a second. In that instant, everyone actually agreed with this sentiment, but soon enough, as Huang Shaotian sent a series of messages, everyone woke up. This was just a fabricated excuse, right? The boos suddenly grew even louder.

Then why did they still want to drag this out?

To be honest, not even Happy's players were sure. Even if it was for a reason like accumulating match experience, this right now was nowhere near the rhythm of an ordinary match. What kind of experience could they get?

Only Ye Xiu knew the real reason.

If it were just himself, he probably would have directly said "GG" by now. But he still had Mo Fan beside him. With only two people left, Ye Xiu was already prepared to give up, but Mo Fan's Deception still went on the rhythm of escape.

"This guy..." Ye Xiu was surprised, but he quickly followed.

Mo Fan had played a number of professional matches now. He should understand the situation they were currently facing, he should be able to judge that they didn't have much of a chance with a 2v5. But he didn't give up, he only temporarily avoided facing the opponent head-on, as though waiting for an opportunity to counterattack. Ye Xiu couldn't bring himself to quell his enthusiasm, and could only follow along, running and hiding for over ten whole minutes.

In over ten minutes, the two just ran away. They hadn't found the chance to take out a single target. But Mo Fan was very patient and very persistent. Ye Xiu, too, was never someone who gave up easily. He wasn't as bullheaded as Mo Fan, but since he was being stubborn with this guy right now, he might as well play to his fullest, and put effort into his running around.

Until now.

"This is probably it." After studying his surroundings, Ye Xiu said this to Mo Fan in the chat.

Mo Fan's Deception also looked around and didn't object. He was an expert at running away. Although they faced fewer pursuers now than they would in the crowded in-game world, the pressure here was much higher. Professionals were no trivial matter, after all. Fortunately, Mo Fan had improved greatly, otherwise he certainly wouldn't have been able to evade the enemy team's pursuit for these ten minutes.

Right now, they had finally reached a situation where there was no more path to take.

There was no road of retreat, they could only go forward. Now, if they wanted to run, they could only forcibly break through the encirclement. Ye Xiu carefully studied the surroundings, but he saw Deception's hand moved, lifting the ninjato in front of him. Following Deception's gaze, he also saw Blue Rain's Paladin, Soul Speaker, slowly wandering toward them.

Deception was just about to jump forward, but a string of words from Ye Xiu jumped out in the chat. "It's bait."

Mo Fan paused, and then responded with his own string of words. "Then what do we do?"

"Just wait, ignore them," Ye Xiu answered.

And so Soul Speaker walked closer and closer, until he didn't dare walk any closer, but he still saw no sign of the two targets. Xu Jingxi couldn't do anything, and could only ask in the team chat.

After a while, a message from Yu Wenzhou appeared in the match chat. "This is meaningless! We've already stepped on the stairs for you, just come down already!"

"So that's what this is about! I was just wondering why you were looking down on us so much," Ye Xiu answered.

"Right, then just come out!" Yu Wenzhou said.

"Can't. If I fell for such a crude trick, how embarrassing would that be?" said Ye Xiu.

"Then what do you want to do?" Yu Wenzhou asked.

"I can already tell the positions where you guys are lying in wait, I'll try forcibly breaking through from here," Ye Xiu said.

"Left or right?" Yu Wenzhou asked.

"Either."

As soon as this message appeared in the chat, Lord Grim's silhouette immediately appeared in Swoksaar's field of view.

"Oh hey, what a coincidence," Ye Xiu greeted in the chat.

"Perfect timing!" Huang Shaotian shouted, and Troubling Rain immediately swung his sword to meet him.

"Now you're the one in charge of the chat?" Ye Xiu laughed. Lord Grim rushed forward without any sign of weakness.

The two characters were fighting in earnest. Huang Shaotian wasn't an opponent that Ye Xiu could get rid of so quickly. Yu Wenzhou had already controlled Swoksaar to support him, and the rest of Blue Rain had already run up to surround him.

Yu Wenzhou immediately realized something was wrong.

"Where's Deception?" He stopped his controls and shouted in the chat.

A silhouette charged forward!

Blue Rain's arrangement had originally locked down this area, but because of how Lord Grim had suddenly jumped forward with a powerful attack, he'd drawn everyone's attention and Blue Rain had suddenly left openings. Mo Fan was extremely precise at choosing positions, and Deception rushed toward these openings. Before Blue Rain's players could react, Deception had already escaped from the area they controlled.

"Let's see where you can run!" Huang Shaotian shouted as Troubling Rain slashed ferociously.

"Who said I wanted to run?" Ye Xiu laughed.

"Then this is?" Yu Wenzhou didn't understand.

"Decoy! Threaten the east and strike to the west!" Ye Xiu said.

"What's the point in his running away?" Yu Wenzhou asked.

"Run for another ten minutes?" Ye Xiu offered.

"..." Blue Rain was truly, completely speechless. This is an official match! Are you guys seriously just playing hide-and-seek here?

"Go die!" Troubling Rain's attacks became even more frantic. Zheng Xuan and Song Xiao's characters had also arrived, beginning to surround and attack Lord Grim, while Swoksaar restarted his curse casting. Lord Grim's health plummeted.

But at this moment, behind Swoksaar, a silhouette appeared. Deception had circled around and suddenly came into sight over here, and the Shurikens in his hand flew outward toward Swoksaar. Yu Wenzhou heard the warning from his teammates and quickly dodged. But after Deception used the Shurikens, he instantly arrived before him, jumped up, and slashed downward toward Swoksaar.

Ding!

The sound of metal colliding with metal resounded. Troubling Rain used a Triple Slash, instantly flashing in front of Swoksaar and blocking this attack from Deception. The next two slashes smoothly continued to push Deception back.

But because Troubling Rain had come over here, the encirclement around Lord Grim suddenly had an opening. With a toss of a grenade, and a Shining Cut, Lord Grim split through to arrive in front of Swoksaar, but the attack failed to land - he twisted into a Charge and once again crashed toward Troubling Rain.

Huang Shaotian knew that if he were passed through again, this guy would definitely escape.

Formless Phantom Blade!

Huang Shaotian directly used an ultimate attack. In front of Troubling Rain, the swordlight formed a net, flying toward Lord Grim.

But in the chat, a message from his teammate suddenly popped out. "Behind you!"

Behind Troubling Rain was Deception, who had just been forced away by his Triple Slash.

He returned so quickly?

Huang Shaotian was shocked. This was to say, he hadn't actually driven this guy back earlier, this guy had voluntarily chosen to back off. Only then could he so calmly execute this sudden swing around.

Body Bind Technique!

Mo Fan's sudden explosion of hand speed and control was incredibly powerful. Huang Shaotian truly hadn't expected that he would return so quickly, and any warning from his teammates was too late. No matter how powerful Formless Phantom Blade was from the front, the back was filled with openings. Deception stuck right to him and directly interrupted his powerful attack. However, he didn't use his skill until the end, he actually once again took the initiative to retreat.

But Huang Shaotian didn't feel fortunate at all. Deception had retreated, but Lord Grim's Charge had now arrived right before him.

Boom!

Troubling Rain was blown to the side. Deception had already thrown out a Smoke Bomb, filling the area with purple fog. Lord Grim continued to move and instantly vanished within. The skill that Yu Wenzhou had prepared could now only rely on luck as he threw it in there, and nothing came of it in the end. By the time Blue Rain passed through the purple fog, those two from Happy had already run far off.

"Is there a point to this, is there??" His slashes couldn't reach them anymore, so Huang Shaotian could only vent his anger through the chat.

"Haha, I think it's pretty interesting!" Ye Xiu answered.

"Referee, a guy like this should be directly disqualified!" Huang Shaotian complained to the judge. But this was an official League match, not the All-Stars. Even though the current situation was infuriating, they hadn't broken any rules, and the judge couldn't directly decide the outcome. He could only ignore Huang Shaotian. Blue Rain's five players were truly depressed as they had no other choice but to regroup and continue the chase.

After another ten minutes of struggle, Blue Rain caught up to Lord Grim and Deception, resulting in another intense battle. This time, Blue Rain finally didn't miss their opportunity, and killed the two off very ferociously. In the short amount of time between the end of the match and all the players logging off, Huang Shaotian and Zheng Xuan actually flogged the deceased corpses of Lord Grim and Deception.

This was an extreme way of humiliating the opponent and incredibly rude. It would be no surprise for such behavior to incite a war of words. But at this time, seeing the extremely agitated actions of these two Blue Rain players, all of the audience members felt a pleasure welling up within them.

These two guys had unnecessarily dragged on this battle for a full 23 minutes.

If you drag this on and actually accomplish something, then fine. But these two didn't manage to do anything, they were just running and hiding, all the way until they had nowhere else to run or hide. Was this purely just to sicken everyone?

But in the post-match press conference, Ye Xiu didn't see it like this at all.

"A pointless move? Of course not. We were searching for an opportunity the entire time! But Blue Rain simply did too well today. Overall, very strong. We couldn't find our chance, and regretfully lost the match in the end. Alas!" Ye Xiu lamented.

The reporters were in a daze. Motherfucker, what's there to regret about losing a 2v5? How come from your tone it sounded like you were doing a 2v5 and then messed up, allowing the five to defeat you?

"Next time, we'll continue to work hard!" After the gloom, Ye Xiu eagerly expressed his stance.

Still work hard?!

He's just saying that, he's not serious, is he?

The reporters, who were ready to flip a table after those 23 minutes of useless struggle, felt like collapsing.

Chapter 1317: Concentrated Hot Topics

Even though Blue Rain won this match 8-2, their spirits were low because of those last 23 minutes.

But Yu Wenzhou, who could normally analyze any problem, was completely perplexed this time. He truly could not see the reason why Ye Xiu and Mo Fan had dragged on the battle for those 23 minutes. Were they really looking for an opportunity to defeat the five of them? Yu Wenzhou didn't think Ye Xiu was that naive. Were they really just trying to screw with everyone on purpose? Yu Wenzhou didn't think Ye Xiu was that childish.

Then what was the reason?

In fact, Yu Wenzhou had thought about this the entire time after the battle ended, and when the players shook hands at the end, he actually asked Ye Xiu. But Ye Xiu had merely given him an inscrutable smile.

Now, when the reporters asked him about his opinion on those extra 23 minutes, Yu Wenzhou was very honest as he shook his head. "I was thinking about this the whole time, but I could not think of what their goal was in doing this."

"What kind of goal could there be? He was just doing this to screw with us!" Huang Shaotian said immediately.

Yu Wenzhou smiled wryly and shook his head, expressing his disagreement with that sentiment.

"You can't always think of him as so high and profound," said Huang Shaotian.

"But at the very least, there has to be logic," said Yu Wenzhou.

"Screwing with people, isn't that a very logical thing for him?" Huang Shaotian said.

"Normally, perhaps. But not during a match," said Yu Wenzhou.

These two Gods of Blue Rain just directly discussed in front of the reporters, but in the end they still didn't reach a conclusion. Those 23 infuriating minutes had become an unsolvable riddle.

What kind of secret was hidden within?

Some of the less serious media just reported like this, garnering a sizable reaction in the circle and provoking all sorts of incredible theories.

Countless people were stuck on these 23 minutes. But Happy itself wasn't too concerned about it at all. The 23 minutes came and went, and Ye Xiu hadn't said anything about this to Mo Fan. He'd just been helping Mo Fan, with his personality, do what he wanted to.

But Ye Xiu very much appreciated how, after he'd created a diversion to help Mo Fan escape the encirclement, that kid had doubled back to try and help out Ye Xiu. In reality, Ye Xiu hadn't planned for that to happen; he'd been prepared to sacrifice himself and then let Mo Fan to continue to hide for as long as he was able. But Mo Fan had actually returned after escaping to save Ye Xiu. It looked like this guy finally knew what it meant to be teammates. And in that moment, when he'd been helping Ye Xiu break free, the two of them had coordinated quite well.

Watching each of Happy's rookies grow and develop put Ye Xiu in a very good mood. But Happy's scores weren't nearly as crazy as they'd been during that one period. From their loss in Round 19 to 301, to their loss to Blue Rain today, in those seven rounds, Happy had lost five matches.

Right now, Happy was in sixth place. In terms of placement, that only seemed slightly worse than the fifth place they'd been able to maintain earlier. But back in Round 18, Happy had been earning points even faster than Samsara, whereas now, Samsara's lead was unchanged and the only two teams in the second tier, above 180 points, were Blue Rain and Tiny Herb. After that, Tyranny, Thunderclap, and Happy were in the 160-point tier, and Hundred Blossoms and 301 were in the 150-point tier, which wasn't far off at all from the 160-point tier.

The situation of the top 8 instantly became more complex. 301 was shooting up after the winter transfers, increasing the competition. For now, Wind Howl had become the sacrifice for 301 and were kicked out of the top 8.

Still, the differences weren't too large right now, and Wind Howl certainly wasn't done for. Although their current situation was so bad that their home fans were cheering for the away team, they still maintained the strength of their individual members. Even if they still couldn't find a suitable system for the team competition, as long as they played the individual battles well and earned points from the weaker teams, Wind Howl still had a chance at top 8.

After them, Void couldn't be ignored either. Misty Rain, still struggling to solve their strategic problems, seemed to be a bit weaker. And then Royal Style, Miracle, and such teams were now a solid 40-50 points behind. They didn't have much of a chance at the top 8. As for the teams that were to be relegated, Bright Green and Seaside, their chances of survival had basically dwindled away.

The situation with the top 8 was still the event to watch. Who would rise to here? Who would fall from here? This was the topic most nerve-wracking and thrilling about the regular season.

In the blink of an eye, Round 26 began. The teams near the eighth-place cutoff all became important subjects for the media to report on.

Among them, Wind Howl, who'd just been thrown out of the top 8 after Round 25, desperately needed to return to their place. For a team that'd claimed that their goal was to obtain the championship, it'd just be too embarrassing if they couldn't even make it to the playoffs. But Wind Howl's luck with their match schedule was reaching an end. After easily abusing a series of weak teams, it was finally time for them to face their demonic match schedule.

Round 26, away game against Tyranny.

Round 27, home game against Blue Rain.

Round 28, home game against 301.

Two powerhouses and a competitor for the top 8. Those who didn't have much faith left in Wind Howl were already predicting what place they'd fall to after these three rounds. Even Wind Howl themselves expressed their nervousness during team meetings. But to the outside world, they still had to maintain appearances, repeatedly expressing how their condition was improving.

And so, they faced Team Tyranny. As the two teams shook hands before the match began, Lin Jingyan stared at this unfamiliar Wind Howl and felt overcome with emotion.

When he'd left, he had already been past his prime. His condition had slipped, and he no longer had the ability to serve as the core of a team. This could be considered a normal replacement of the old with the new. But after this, Wind Howl also let go of Fang Rui and a whole host of old "officials," instead digging up new face after new face from outside.

Lin Jingyan was now already completely unfamiliar with this Wind Howl. Unfamiliar with the players, unfamiliar with their playstyles, and unfamiliar with the atmosphere this team now expressed.

Lin Jingyan didn't know what he should be feeling.

In terms of results, it was true that Wind Howl last season had done far better than it had while he'd been on the team. This season, even though they'd fallen to ninth, that was about the same score they'd had while Lin Jingyan was still there. Their team had always hovered around eighth.

From this it could be seen that these new Wind Howl players were quite strong. They'd done what the old Wind Howl had never managed to do, but the outside world viewed them as being in poor condition. Reading between the lines, this showed just how high everyone's expectations toward Wind Howl were.

Playoffs? No. The people in Wind Howl now were all hoping to charge for the championship victory. And this was a height to which Lin Jingyan had never managed to lead Wind Howl. From this point, he wasn't as strong as this new generation of Wind Howl players.

It looked like Lin Jingyan was in no position to criticize this Wind Howl. But he was somewhat saddened by this new Wind Howl.

Elite player after elite player had gathered in this team, but in the end, they had molded together into an unremarkable whole. Even now, they didn't have a mature strategic system.

"What in the world are you guys doing?"

As he shook hands with these current Wind Howl players, Lin Jingyan truly wished he could ask them all this question.

He was now gone from Wind Howl. But after so many years with them, how could his feelings disappear so quickly?

Seeing Wind Howl's fans leave the stadium early, cheering for the opposite team, Lin Jingyan could imagine just how disappointed they were. He was someone who understood these fans the best.

When he turned around and looked, in the seats reserved for the guest team fans, the audience members were sitting all scattered about. Was Wind Howl's fan group dispersing because of their disappointment?

But Wind Howl's flag was still flying as high as ever.

It was Old Lu.

Lin Jingyan saw the fan who was raising that flag high up. It was a fan who had followed Wind Howl for a whole nine years - he'd been with this team longer than any of the players currently in Wind Howl. Accurately speaking, he'd been with them even longer than Lin Jingyan had. After all, Lin Jingyan had said farewell to Wind Howl after Season 8, leaving his experience with the team capped at seven years.

He had left.

But Old Lu was still here, lifting Wind Howl's flag just like before, occasionally giving it a strong wave.

Lin Jingyan waved his hand at him, and Old Lu nodded toward him.

They'd known each other for nine years now, growing alongside Wind Howl as this team was established.

Did Old Lu still remember what the old Wind Howl was like? Lin Jingyan couldn't help but wonder.

Very soon, the first individual competition was beginning, and Lin Jingyan stood from his seat. For this match, he was the first to go on in the individual match.

The applause from the crowd now was from Tyranny's fans, but Lin Jingyan couldn't help but look toward the away team's audience section. Old Lu wasn't waving the flag right now. It looked like he was saying something to the seemingly bleak Wind Howl fans beside him.

Lin Jingyan didn't worry about it any more; this wasn't something that he should worry about. He walked steadily toward the stage, at the same time glancing at the electronic display to see who his opponent would be.

Tang Hao?

When the name was displayed, Lin Jingyan hesitated for just the barest moment.

He turned his head to look toward Wind Howl's player area, and indeed, it was Tang Hao coming onstage.

Wind Howl wasn't letting their powerful general anchor the group arena? They were sending him to the individual round?

What were they trying to do? Get a head start? The team's spirits were low, so they wanted to get everyone energized with a strong opening?

Even as Lin Jingyan made guesses, his footsteps were steady as he stepped onto the stage.

Ever since that time he'd been defeated by Tang Hao at the All-Star Weekend, Lin Jingyan had never met Tang Hao in an individual battle. Now, his skill level was likely even worse than it'd been at that All-Stars.

But...

"Would he be any more difficult to fight than Lord Grim?" Lin Jingyan said to himself.

Chapter 1318: Only Victory

As soon as he was onstage, Lin Jingyan set aside all his feelings toward Wind Howl. Right now, he was a member of Team Tyranny. No matter who his opponent was, victory was his number one priority.

He entered the match. His character loaded in and moved forward toward the center of the map. But when the Brawler Demon Subduer appeared in his field of view, Lin Jingyan couldn't help but feel a sharp pang of sadness.

Sometimes, he envied Zhang Jiale.

He had transferred to Tyranny, but at least he hadn't separated from his character.

The character belonged to the team. Lin Jingyan understood this, of course. But after seven years of partnership, he felt that he and Demon Subduer were one. The Brawler character that Tyranny had made for him, Dark Thunder, wasn't bad at all, no worse than Demon Subduer. In fact, in order to fit his style, this Dark Thunder might be more similar to the old Demon Subduer than Demon Subduer itself currently was.

But still, it wasn't the same...

It wasn't just the name. All of the feelings that had accumulated after so many years of partnership with his character, they couldn't just be transferred to a new character so easily, even if the stats were almost the same. This was perhaps something that rookies could never understand - probably they would all happily change to a stronger and more suitable character if given the chance.

In the end, this day had finally arrived.

Lin Jingyan sighed to himself. Ever since leaving Wind Howl, he had always wondered what it had be like if he had to face Demon Subduer one day. But before, he had only ever met his old character in the team competition, where the situation was so chaotic that the feeling wasn't particularly sharp. But now, the individual round, it was as though he and Demon Subduer were the last ones on Earth, and Lin Jingyan's feelings were tumultuous.

Demon Subduer was circling around his spawn point. It seemed that Tang Hao had guessed that Lin Jingyan would choose to move strategically, and so he was currently studying his surroundings very carefully.

Lin Jingyan watched him, and, slowly and carefully, he controlled his Dark Thunder to follow Demon Subduer's turning, finely adjusting his position.

Right there!

With Lin Jingyan's thought, Dark Thunder swept his hand and threw a Paralysis Needle.

What a simple ambush, everyone thought.

But it hit!

Even though a Paralysis Needle was silent, Tang Hao had been turning Demon Subduer's field of view the whole time. How could a top God like him make the naive mistake of leaving a blind spot?

But he hadn't discovered this Paralysis Needle, and this simple ambush actually succeeded in hitting Demon Subduer's body.

Dark Thunder jumped out from his hiding spot.

This was a map with very good weather. The sunlight shone in mottled patterns on the ground, and as Dark Thunder rushed toward Demon Subduer, the chaotic shadows swayed.

Demon Subduer couldn't move after being hit by the Paralysis Needle, and Dark Thunder tossed a handful of sand right onto his face.

After Paralysis, Blind...

Consecutive status effects. No matter how skilled Tang Hao was, in a situation like this, he couldn't withstand the attacks of an old and experienced expert like Lin Jingyan.

Lin Jingyan had calculated the duration of Blind very precisely. Right when it was about to wear off, a Brick hit Demon Subduer's head from behind.

After Blind, Dizzy.

And so a new offensive began. When he fought until he had no way of continuing, Lin Jingyan wasn't greedy. He knocked Demon Subduer over and then quickly hid himself again.

Tang Hao almost felt like he was going crazy. This series of attacks had really come out of nowhere. How had that Paralysis Needle managed to hit him? With that barrage, he had lost a fourth of his health, while his head was still filled with fog.

Poor Tang Hao lacked the multi-angle view or the replay ability of the broadcasters.

At first, the audience had also been confused as to how Tang Hao hadn't seen the needle, but Tang Hao's point of view was replayed several times, and people realized that in that moment, there truly had been no Paralysis Needle in his view.

Where had the Paralysis Needle gone?

After analysis from all different angles, the crowd finally realized what was strange.

It was the light!

It was the shadow!

It was Lin Jingyan's choice of position. When he had controlled Dark Thunder to throw the needle, it had passed through an area where the light and shadows interlaced. And so, in that instant, the needle truly seemed to vanish.

This was something that could be done in Glory?

The crowd was dumbfounded.

Using descriptors like extensive and profound to describe an online game was somewhat excessive. Even the creators of this game couldn't have thought of so many details. It was this group of pro players, those standing at the top of Glory, who were constantly digging up the subtle quirks of this game, and then finding uses for them in a match that could shock even the game's creators.

Did Tang Hao know about this sort of thing?

Seeing how off-balance Demon Subduer seemed as he flipped up from the ground, everyone felt a bit sympathetic for him. To be beaten down like this in the very first moments of a match, he must be very alarmed.

Demon Subduer moved around frantically. He couldn't figure out how he had just been hit by that needle, and so he no longer dared to let Demon Subduer to just stand waiting in one place. He leapt around the area, but he couldn't find any trace of Dark Thunder.

Playing dirty. Again, it was the dirty playstyle.

Tang Hao grit his teeth. Because Wind Howl was in a bad situation right now, the outside world had all sorts of criticism for their decision to give up on playing dirty. Tang Hao just hoped that soon, they could prove that their current style was much stronger than playing dirty. But now, on the individual battlefield, he was knocked over by dirty playing until he couldn't find north. And this person was Lin Jingyan, the former user of Demon Subduer, the old man that Tang Hao had already surpassed at that All-Stars with the "junior succeeds senior."

"Hiding and sneaking!" Tang Hao said in the chat, with some irritation. He wasn't someone who really liked chatting with the opponent during a match, as he preferred to use his fists to talk. But now, he couldn't even find his target. What frustration!

"Hiding and sneaking is another method of obtaining victory," Lin Jingyan answered.

"We'll see how long you can hide for," Tang Hao said.

"You just be more careful," Lin Jingyan replied.

Demon Subduer continued to move, turning and searching nonstop. What about Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder? Under Tang Hao's intense scrutiny, he couldn't hide too comfortably anymore. But clearly, he

was extremely familiar with this map. To be able to create that incredible situation with the light earlier, did Lin Jingyan's understanding of and skill in using this map need to be mentioned?

Tang Hao searched and searched, but he couldn't find him. Lin Jingyan, however, had already finished another round of adjustments. Dark Thunder once again withdrew a Paralysis Needle, and now just waited for the right chance! Now that Tang Hao was controlling Demon Subduer to run around nonstop, it really was more difficult to find an opening.

But Lin Jingyan's view wasn't fixed on Demon Subduer's body. Instead, he was waiting for Demon Subduer to enter his field of view.

Throw!

A Paralysis Needle flew outward again. Demon Subduer's view was turning, clearly toward this direction.

But...

The entire crowd lifted their heads to look at the display screen. Even though Tang Hao's view was turned in the direction of the needle, there was a wall positioned just there. When Tang Hao glanced over, the needle was still flying behind the wall, and he couldn't see it! By the time the needle passed the wall and was in sight, Demon Subduer's view had already turned away, and then, hit...

A repeat of the match's beginning.

Tang Hao was going crazy, but what could he do? His mood had no way of dispelling the status effects his character suffered. Lin Jingyan very steadily reused the earlier series of attacks, forming a seamless combo that the opponent had absolutely no way of breaking.

Demon Subduer's health plummeted another 25%. He now had only half health remaining, while Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder had yet to be injured. Everyone watching felt as though their eyes would fall out of their heads.

Even if Wind Howl's results in the team competition were poor, their individual members were still quite strong. Tang Hao against Lin Jingyan, this conflict between old and new Brawlers had already been decided at the All-Star Weekend two years ago with the victory of the new. Everyone could see that Tang Hao's skill level was indeed above that of Lin Jingyan.

But that "skill level," in reality, only referred to technical skill. In terms of this, the old general really couldn't keep up with the new and cutting-edge. But in this battle, had Tang Hao had the opportunity to display his superior technical skill?

No. Not at all.

Both times, he had suffered a sneak attack from a Paralysis Needle. With one attack, his character was completely out of his control. What kind of technique could he display?

Using the map, Lin Jingyan could knock away half of Demon Subduer's health without losing any of his own. If this weren't happening before everyone's eyes right now, who could believe this match would play out like this?

Demon Subduer was once again knocked to the ground. But this time, when he jumped back up in a rage, he discovered that Dark Thunder hadn't vanished, but was instead right in front of him.

"How come you're not running?" Tang Hao said through clenched teeth, immediately preparing to attack. But Dark Thunder had already rushed toward him first. He hadn't run away, he had stayed here to continue launching his offensive!

"Perfect timing!" Tang Hao's spirits rose. The two unexplained ambushes earlier had made him depressed and frustrated beyond belief. But now, seeing that Lin Jingyan actually planned to fight him directly now, he grew incomparably excited.

Would a fight like this scare me?

The two Brawlers swung their fists and began a frenzied fight.

In terms of technical skill, Tang Hao was indeed superior. In this sort of direct battle, Lin Jingyan was at a disadvantage.

But in the end, the one who fell first was still Demon Subduer, and this time, he could not stand back up. His health had already reached zero.

"If I couldn't even take care of you when you were at 50% health, then I really should just retire." Lin Jingyan left this final message as he stared down at the fallen Demon Subduer. His Dark Thunder still had 17% health left.

Using 50% of his own health, Tang Hao knocked away 83%. It was powerful, it was domineering, as expected of the number one Brawler. But, he lost.

The crowd's applause was sent to Lin Jingyan.

Even though he was no longer the number one Brawler, even though he had fallen out of the All-Star rankings, even though the radiance of a God had already left him, he won.

On this arena, what fame or skill could compare to the simple truth of victory?

Only victory was the most real. What use was skill if it couldn't achieve victory?

The current Team Wind Howl included many such players with high skill. But they lacked victory, and thus they lost the faith of their supporters.

When Lin Jingyan came offstage, he looked at the audience section for the guest team fans. The seats, already somewhat empty, were quiet and still. Old Lu was holding Wind Howl's flag and just standing there...

Chapter 1319: Victory

1-0.

Tyranny took the lead in their home game.

This shouldn't have been anything surprising, but the one who lost was Wind Howl's current core player, Tang Hao, while the one who won had been Wind Howl's former core player, Ling Jingyan. The circumstances behind the outcome completely changed the flavor of it.

The cheers from the Tyranny fans in the stadium weren't too crazy, though. After all, the importance of this confrontation revolved around Wind Howl's past and present. The Tyranny fans weren't able to understand it. As for Wind Howl's fans? There were a few places where the away team fans sat, and right now, Wind Howl's fans looked very dispirited. The first individual round had just finished, and some of them had already gotten up and left.

Lin Jingyan returned to his seat, and his teammates congratulated him on his win. In many people's eyes, beating Tang Hao should be a joyous event.

However, Lin Jingyan didn't seem that excited. He was a gentle and polite player. He simply smiled as he sat down.

As for Wind Howl's side?

He didn't even look at them.

Even though he harbored some nostalgia for his character Demon Subduer and Wind Howl, the past was the past. He was in his declining years, but as long as there was still a path forward, there would always be a future.

His future was here... Lin Jingyan clutched Dark Thunder's account card in his hands.

Meanwhile, in another stadium, another individual round was about to be completed.

Blue Rain vs Tiny Herb.

Lu Hanwen vs Gao Yingjie.

The two most eye-catching players of the new generation, one directly being thrown into the main roster, climbing his way through the cruel competition, while the other was carefully protected, adapting to the environment step by step.

Two different methods, but both for the purpose of training the two into outstanding pro players. Right now, the two were no longer inexperienced greenhorns. The two symbols of the new generation were fighting 1 on 1 for their respective teams.

Formless Phantom Blade!

Lu Hanwen's Flowing Clouds let loose a high-level skill. Flowing Clouds was a rarely seen Greatsword Blade Master. Although his attack speed was slow, the area of effect range was greater. His Silver weapon, Flame Shadow, drew a clear arc in the air in an attempt to knock down the airborne Kind Tree.

"There's nowhere to run!" Lu Hanwen excitedly typed into the public chat. This youth seemed to have endless energy. Everyone could always feel the passion flowing through him.

In comparison, Gao Yingjie wasn't as flashy as him, but having been sheltered by the team, he had a more thorough understanding of his team's expectations for him. His thirst for victory was no less than Lu Hanwen's, and his playing on stage always appeared meticulous.

Despite being caught by Flowing Cloud's Formless Phantom Blade, Gao Yingjie wasn't flustered. Attacks from Greatsword Blade Masters were more powerful, but that was at the sacrifice of speed. Speed was the weakness of Greatsword users, and an area that could be exploited!

Disperse Powder!

Kind Tree threw a handful of Disperse Powder. It dispelled debuffs, but more importantly, it also reduced the target's attack speed. Although it was a low-level skill and its debuff effect wasn't too strong, for an already slow Flowing Clouds, it only exacerbated the wound.

Hit!

Under the effects of Disperse Powder, Flowing Cloud's offensive instantly turned sluggish. Still, in order to land the Disperse Powder, Gao Yingjie had been prepared for Kind Tree to take a hit. But at that moment...

Immortal Guides the Way!

Lu Hanwen cancelled Formless Phantom Blade and switched to Immortal Guides the Way.

Also a hit!

The powerful blow-away effect instantly sent Kind Tree flying. Flowing Cloud didn't give chase. Disperse Powder was difficult to handle for a Greatsword Blade Master. He had wanted to buy himself more distance, so he quickly put the effects of the skill to use.

This low-level skill with a blow-away effect had a very long ending lag, up to 10 seconds.

10 seconds!

Immortal Guides the Way didn't send the target flying far enough to take 10 seconds to return. Gao Yingjie wasn't willing to waste these 10 seconds. After being blown away, Kind Tree quick recovered as he landed, but he didn't get up after rolling. He swept up his broom and started flying through the air.

10 seconds?

It wouldn't even take 2 seconds for him to get back!

Frost Powder!

Another magic powder sprinkled down. This skill wasn't a direct attack though, instead it imbued his weapon with an ice element.

Morning Dew!

This was the name of the Silver broom in Kind Tree's hands. After applying Frost Powder, the broom glowed with a blue light. Fine ice crystals rained down everywhere it passed.

Attack!

Witches had strong close combat abilities.

Even though they mainly relied on normal attacks, through the application of magic powders and their ability to jump six times in the air with the mastery of their brooms, the "normal" attacks from Witches weren't normal in the slightest.

"You're not going to win like this!" A message from Lu Hanwen popped up in the chat.

Earthquake Sword!

Flowing Cloud's greatsword flung out a Spellblade skill. Closely following it was a flash of sword light, another Sword Draw.

A vertical Earthquake Sword and a horizontal Sword Draw, in addition to Flowing Cloud's abnormal attack range, crisscrossed into a gigantic cross as it soared towards Kind Tree. The attack came out of nowhere, and the intertwining skills complemented each other perfectly.

But...

"Attack speed..." Yu Wenzhou sighed from off stage.

Slow... this flaw was deeply etched into Yu Wenzhou's heart. And Flowing Cloud's beautiful attack had a few openings because of his slow attack speed.

There might be openings, but could the other side seize them?

Some openings required strong perception and high skill to grasp. For example, Yu Wenzhou noticed the current openings formed by Flowing Cloud's two skills, but if he were in Kind Heart's position, he would have a very difficult time taking advantage of them.

Would Gao Yingjie be able to do it?

No problem.

On Tiny Herb's side, Wang Jiexi quietly made this prediction when he saw this attack.

Gao Yingjie should be able to see and grasp these openings.

However, should be able to and actually doing it were two very different things.

Gao Yingjie didn't disappoint Wang Jiexi though.

Bearing the weight of Tiny Herb's future, Gao Yingjie seized the opportunity. Kind Heart swayed gently in the air, dodging the two intersecting skills.

Whoosh!

Morning Dew swung down, hitting Flowing Cloud.

Magic powders could not be stacked, but Ice Powder's effect reduced the speed of the target and had a chance to freeze. Both effects deadly for Flowing Cloud.

Victory had been decided...

The audience could already tell.

Afterwards, there were sighs, and there were cheers.

The feelings stemming from victory always came from the two extremes.

The outcome of the battle between the two new generation stars had been decided. With Gao Yingjie's victory, Tiny Herb took the lead in their away game. On another stage, the two seniors of the old generation were still fighting it out.

Bang!

A deafening sound.

The collision between weapons carried the momentum and visual effects from skills. The two characters bounced back and fell to the ground.

"How fierce! You're putting your life on the line. Aren't you afraid of breaking your hands?" Lord Grim stood back up with blood dripping from his mouth. A message leaped out into the public chat.

"Your record's going to end here." Another Summer of Sleep pointed his sword at Lord Grim. Sun Zheping replied ruthlessly.

"Stop talking big. Last round, Old Lin said the exact same thing. And do you know what the outcome was?" Ye Xiu said.

"Old Lin? Didn't you guys fight Blue Rain last round?"

"Last last last round," Ye Xiu said.

Wild Blood Strike!

Sun Zheping ended the talk there. Another Summer of Sleep forced his way over. A bloody shadow formed around his sword and then flew towards Lord Grim.

Lord Grim immediately dodged it. The blood shadow hacked into the ground. The shattered earth suddenly shot towards Lord Grim.

Whirlwind Strike!

Another Summer of Sleep's sword released a whirlwind. The broken stones caught up in it smashed towards Lord Grim.

This was Happy's home game and Ye Xiu's chosen map, so it was naturally a very simple one. But who would have thought that his opponent's frenzy of attacks would pressure Ye Xiu to the point of helplessness. The unspecialized blitz that no one in the Alliance could block wasn't being allowed to show up.

Retreat!

Another retreat!

Under these fierce attacks, Lord Grim continued to retreat up until he was no longer able to. Another Summer of Sleep's greatsword finally smashed into him. But in this instant, Lord Grim's body suddenly dispersed like petals. Another Summer of Sleep had only hit a fake illusion.

Shadow Clone Technique?

No, this wasn't it.

It was Shadow Steps!

Four Lord Grims surrounded Another Summer of Sleep. Which one was the real one? At this point, it didn't seem to matter. What was most important was that Lord Grim could finally start attacking.

In the end, victory went to Ye Xiu.

The moment he took his hands off the mouse, he let out a long sigh of relief. This match had been too close for comfort. He had nearly lost. It was really hard to imagine how an opponent with a hand injury as serious as Sun Zheping fought more and more without regard for anything else. Had the second half of the season ignited his spirit?

But it was truly a pity. Every round, he could only fight a single time in the individual competition. Sometimes, he even needed to rest one round. The amount of competition he got every time probably wasn't enough to satisfy him at all.

Yeah...

Not enough at all!

Sun Zheping stared at the fallen Another Summer of Sleep, who was looking up into the sky. His character probably wasn't willing either!

If only... if only I could play a few more minutes every time...

Chapter 1320: A New Point to Pick At

The curtains closed on Round 26.

Happy won against Heavenly Swords 9-1. Although their relationship was good, it didn't affect Happy's ruthlessness on stage.

Blue Rain versus Tiny Herb. The away team Tiny Herb utilized their strong momentum from Gao Yingjie beating Lu Hanwen, winning the following two individual competition rounds and the group arena. They went into the team competition with a 5-0 lead. However, in the end, the home team Blue Rain won and the round ended with a 5-5 tie.

Wind Howl versus Tyranny. Tang Hao losing to Lin Jingyan was undoubtedly a

the highlight of the match. However, they were still able to win 2 points, ending the round 2-8.

This sort of outcome did little to help their placements on the rankings. Team 301 beat Parade 8-2. Hundred Blossoms beat Bright Green 10-0. The distance between Wind Howl and the top eight was growing wider and wider, and in their next round, Wind Howl would be facing Blue Rain.

Wind Howl had the home game advantage, but the community did not think highly of their chances. In their eyes, Wind Howl was becoming more and more lackluster. Would they be able to win back their reputation? Everyone was already numb to this question, though, so not many people paid any attention to them.

Round 27. The highlight match was the home Team Tiny Herb welcoming the challengers Team Happy. After several rounds during the second half of the season, the Happy haters finally found a point to pick at.

In the second half of the season, the teams played in the first half of the season would play again but with the home and away teams switched. Happy had started the first half of the season poorly, and while the second half of the season was a large improvement, it couldn't compare to their previous win streak.

These haters compared the results from both halves of the season and quickly found the teams that had won against Happy in both their home and away games.

Samsara, Blue Rain, Tyranny...

These three teams had won in a dominating fashion twice.

As a result, an article titled "What Looks to Be Beautiful" was published in the Esports Time. The author was the Esports Time writer Ruan Cheng, who had started been attacking Happy ever since Tang Rou's 1v3 challenge.

In the article, Ruan Cheng detailed the relationship between Happy's ups and downs and their season schedule. In the first half of the season, Happy had met many strong teams at the beginning, so their first few steps had been difficult. But after passing through this bump, Happy started finding their confidence through Beating weak teams. But this sort of confidence could not last. Because of the competitive format, where each team played the other twice, Happy once again

faced these unbeatable opponents. And this time, whether it was home or away game, Happy still wouldn't beat these opponents.

"Those who hold hopes for Happy should give up," Ruan Chen wrote at the end of the article, "This team is not able to reach the top. If you think they can win the championships, you might as well just buy a lottery ticket. Being able to make the playoffs would be a joke with their strength. And in the latter half of the season, teams will muster everything they have to make it through the door to playoffs. If Happy falls behind, no need to feel disappointed. Relying on luck to make it to the end of the season is impossible."

"This Ruan Cheng is always out to get us!" Reading the Esports Time, Chen Guo suddenly shouted furiously.

"If you know, then why do you still buy the Esports Time!" Ye Xiu laughed at her.
"..."

Chen Guo was speechless. Why did she pick up an issue? Wasn't it because she was still hoping to prove these haters wrong with their outstanding performance? And the result? Nothing. Instead, any time Happy messed up even the tiniest bit, those guys would target it and talk about it endlessly. This time, they had actually labelled Happy as a fake powerhouse just because they had been double killed by a few top teams.

Shouldn't this label be given to Wind Howl! Why was it given to Happy instead? Chen Guo was absolutely furious.

"Don't be angry with these people. No matter what we achievements we make, as long as someone wants to paint us black, they'll always be able to find something to pick at," Ye Xiu said.

"Wind Howl went from a top team to their current stage, but he didn't say a single word about them. He's completely fixated on us," Chen Guo said.

"Next match, he'll probably be even more heated," Ye Xiu said.

Round 27, Happy would be challenging Tiny Herb. In Round 8, Happy lost to Tiny Herb 2-8, and Tang Rou had failed to keep her 1v3 promise, destroying her image at the end of the round. It was at this point that Ruan Cheng had started walking

the hateful path towards Happy.

Right now, the league had cycled back. Happy would be facing Tiny Herb in an away game. This time, the match would be even more difficult. Ruan Cheng probably had an article written already and ready to be published. If Happy lost again, Tiny Herb would become another team that had double killed them. There would be even more proof that Happy really was just a fake powerhouse. Who knew how much ridicule would come their way?

Chen Guo was suddenly deeply worried.

Do like Ye Xiu said and just ignore these haters? Chen Guo just couldn't do it. Even if they couldn't persuade them to switch sides through action, Chen Guo hoped to at least give them a hard slap in the face. The problem was that they would be facing a top team like Tiny Herb in an away game. Saying something like "you have to win" would be unreasonable and put too much pressure on the team.

"In short, we just have to try our best," Ye Xiu said.

Chen Guo sighed. She really envied Ye Xiu's calmness.

Sure enough, Ruan Cheng was very excited about Round 27 to an unprecedented extent too. This time, Hhe had actually received an invitation to the TV station and to be a guest, commentating the match together with Li Yibo. The highlight match chosen to be broadcast was Happy versus Tiny Herb.

"This time, we have a new face for our broadcast, however, I don't think anyone is a stranger to him. Please welcome Esports Time's special column reviewer Ruan Cheng! I'm sure many of you viewers out there have read an article by Teacher Ruan, especially the latest issue of Esports Time. Teacher Ruan's 'What Looks to Be Beautiful' had a loud reaction! Teacher Ruan has always had a different viewpoint towards Team Happy. I figured that Teacher Ruan would definitely be paying particular attention to the match today, so I invited him to the broadcast to discuss this match together with us. Thank you Teacher Ruan for coming today," Pan Lin introduced today's guest before the match officially began.

"Haha, you're welcome. Hello Pan Lin, hello Coach Li," Ruan Cheng greeted Pan Lin and Li Yibo confidently.

"Should we start off by listening to Teacher Ruan's thoughts on today's match?" Pan Lin asked.

"Haha, I still stand by the viewpoint I detailed before in the past. There is still quite a gap between Team Happy and the top teams. And today, Happy is facing a top team like Tiny Herb, who also has the home game advantage. I think the chances of Tiny Herb winning should be very high," Ruan Cheng didn't mind predicting the outcome of the match. Compared to the cautious Li Yibo, it was truly too big of a difference.

"Gotcha. What about you Coach Li? What are your thoughts? You seem to think highly of Happy these days," Pan Lin didn't forget about his old partner Coach Li just because they had a new invited guest today.

"Haha, Happy is a new team, so their potential is huge. In the past half season, their growth has been very obvious. I think that this team has a chance at beating anyone, so I wouldn't be too surprised if they won or lost," Li Yibo's remarks were still as sly as ever. However, compared to Ruan Cheng's clear-cut position, his evasiveness seemed to show that he still stood by Happy.

"Okay, we've heard the opinions of our two guests. Let's take a look at the stage. The two teams have entered the venue," Pan Lin said.

The camera cut to the stadium. The players on both teams were waving their hands to the crowd as they walked in.

"I wonder who Tiny Herb will be sending out first." Pan Lin asked. What he was really asking was, who would be fighting Ye Xiu today? Would Ye Xiu's winning streak finally end here?

"Most teams put their best players into the group arena to win those 2 points. Figuring out who will be playing in the individual competition truly isn't an easy matter," Ruan Cheng sighed, but the implications within his words were clear. He was saying that Ye Xiu was only able to reach his win streak because Happy's opponents rarely placed their core players into the individual competitions.

If he had said these words a few rounds ago, the reasoning would still hold up. But right now, Ye Xiu had won 26 matches in a row, an incredible achievement. Even if he had never encountered a top God, just being able to win 26 matches in a row was an achievement that seemed possible only by pro players competing in the online game's arena. The difference in skill between pro players wasn't so large that anyone could be casually beaten. Those top Gods had stumbled against countless non-Gods. But Ye Xiu had never faltered in 26 matches. Indeed, not meeting any top Gods was a reason, but using it to try and persuade people was purely for the purpose of denouncing him.

Ruan Cheng seemed to also know that focusing on this topic wasn't reasonable, so he stayed within the appropriate boundaries and didn't directly say these implications out loud. He simply mentioned it in the passing.

"Okay, the players on both teams are coming down from the stage. Ha, Ye Xiu is just staying there. The big screen hasn't even released the lineups yet!" Pan Lin said.

"Let's see who Tiny Herb will send up," Li Yibo said plainly.

Xu Bin!

Finally, the two players competing in the first round of the individual competition were displayed on the screen. Happy had sent Ye Xiu. Tiny Herb had sent Xu Bin and his Knight character Angelica.

"It's Xu Bin. What are your thoughts on this arrangement?" Pan Lin asked.

"Ye Xiu's unspecialized plays fast, but the Grind King Xu Bin made his name through his ability to slow down the pace. This matchup will depend on who is better at controlling the pace. Whichever side is able to drag the other into their pace will have a better chance at winning," Li Yibo said.

"It sounds like it'll be a very interesting match. What are your thoughts, Teacher Ruan?" Pan Lin said.

"Yes..." Ruan Cheng simply replied with a nod. Even though he really wanted to hate on Happy, he didn't like to be slapped in the face either. Ye Xiu had already won 26 matches in a row. He didn't dare casually favor Ye Xiu's opponent.