

## Avatar 1371

### Chapter 1371: Endgame Preparation

With Round 37's match, Luo Ji had truly become a protagonist.

"How about it? Feels pretty good, doesn't it, kid?" After returning from the press conference, Wei Chen came up to Luo Ji and tousled his hair.

"It's great, it's great," Luo Ji said excitedly. MVP? Just a few rounds ago, he'd been worried about not dragging down the rest of the team, but now, he'd actually become the match MVP, the crucial piece in the team's victory... Luo Ji was truly thrilled, and even though the reporters had hounded him like wolves, he didn't really mind. All that mattered was that he could be useful to the team.

"Keep it up, your future is filled with light!" Wei Chen said.

"Yes, Boss Wei!" Luo Ji happily answered. Soon after, the other young players like Qiao Yifan and An Wenyi surrounded him with congratulations, and Steamed Bun took on the role of a boss as he gruffly warned Luo Ji against becoming too arrogant.

How good it is to be young...

Watching Happy's vibrant young members, Wei Chen was filled with emotion.

In Wei Chen's eyes, Luo Ji's skill truly wasn't all that much. The professional circle was overflowing with talent. But Luo Ji had what Wei Chen admired and envied the most: his youth.

If only I could be ten years younger... Even if I lost all the technique and experience I have now, and started over from zero, that would be fine!

Technique could be trained, experience could be raised. Only youth, once lost, could never be regained.

Luo Ji still had the future. He had chance after chance to be useful in Happy's matches. But what about Wei Chen himself?

Wei Chen lit a cigarette, and took a deep breath.

For him, there was perhaps only this handful of battles remaining.

One match left of the regular season. If they made it to the finals, if every round of the playoffs became three matches long, that meant nine matches. Ten matches total.

Ten matches...

Even if he went on in every single match, his professional career would have no more than ten matches left. Next season? Wei Chen didn't dare think any more. If he stubbornly clung on, then he would only become dead weight for the team.

Back then, why had he retired?

Wei Chen suddenly felt regret swelling in his heart.

If his thirty-year-old self could still hold on now, then back then, why couldn't he have held on in the first place? Even if he had simply joined some random team, he always could have found a position.

Six years... Why in the world had he wasted those six years?

As the young members talked and laughed, Wei Chen let out a sigh. They felt joy at making it to the playoffs in their debut year, while Wei Chen felt melancholy as he thought of his rapidly dwindling professional lifespan.

"Look at these young ones, how nice." Ye Xiu suddenly appeared out of nowhere, slapping a hand on Wei Chen's shoulder.

"Fuck!" Wei Chen hadn't been holding his cigarette securely, so when he was startled, it almost flipped into his eye, giving him a second scare.

"Just ten rounds left," Ye Xiu said.

"What?" The fact that Wei Chen only had ten professional matches left was, for a pro player, an extremely tragic and cruel thing. No matter how shameless Ye Xiu was, he wouldn't deliver this kind of jab, would he? For him to say this...

Were these the last ten rounds for himself, as well? Was this guy also planning to retire?

"Don't regret it!" Wei Chen finally said.

"Haha." Ye Xiu only chuckled.

All sorts of discussion emerged after Round 37. The five teams struggling for a spot in the top eight were the hot topic, of course. Hundred Blossoms dropping three points to Tyranny before successfully counter attacking, Thunderclap winning seven points from Samsara, 301 earning a perfect victory against Seaside, all earned praise. And the final score of Happy against Wind Howl was 6-4, relatively close, so they couldn't say one side was particularly disastrous. In the individual rounds, Wind Howl fell behind one point and then earned four in succession, which was quite a strong performance. As for the team competition, Su Mucheng and Luo Ji of course earned much praise, and Liu Hao became the only player in the crucial Round 37 who performed terribly, and thus the sole target of critics.

And even Tang Hao had expressed dissatisfaction over his performance in the post-match press conference by calling him a disaster. This only further supported the point.

A few less professional media directly took this out of context. Tang Hao had clearly just been speaking fact, that Liu Hao's performance in this one match had been too subpar, like a disaster. But these reporters took this to mean that Wind Howl overall had met disaster, and described Liu Hao as cancer for Wind Howl. Clearly, Liu Hao's performance in Wind Howl this season had been fairly strong. The team trusted him, the fans liked him. Otherwise, how could he have become vice-captain and an All-Star?

But in this round, no matter how upright the media, couldn't find anything good to say about Liu Hao.

As far as the eye could see, there was nothing but negative reviews. Liu Hao felt that all he had endeavored to build up over this entire season was collapsing because of this one disastrous performance.

Next round, I have to redeem myself. Liu Hao grit his teeth.

June 5th, Season 10 of the Glory Professional League finally arrived at the final match. For half of the teams, this was the end of a season, but ten teams would step onto a new journey after this. Some would go on to fight for the highest glory, while others would now fight for salvation.

There were three matches in this final round that were attracting the most attention: Happy playing their home game against 301, Samsara home game against Hundred Blossoms, and Tiny Herb home game against Wind Howl.

Three matches would determine which three teams would enter the top eight and earn the right to compete in the playoffs. 301, Hundred Blossoms, and Wind Howl couldn't slack off one bit. Every point might determine their ultimate fate. And because of these teams, Happy had to continue to fight as hard as they could. They, too, couldn't afford to grow careless.

"Let me go on!" As Team Happy prepared, someone was begging to play in the match.

But others all told him, "Rest, rest!"

"Leave it to us, it's no problem," everyone said.

"Don't! I haven't played in the team competition in a whole month! Please, I'm begging you, give me the chance to keep my hands warm." Ye Xiu struggled to obtain a chance to go onstage.

Actually, for both Round 35 and Round 37, Ye Xiu had originally intended to play. But everyone in Happy had very firmly shoved him back down onto the bench.

"With all your experience, do you still need to train your hands?" Tang Rou said.

"Right right, if it's Boss, he doesn't need it at all," said Steamed Bun.

"Rest, rest!" everyone continued to say.

"I still need this! Hurry and let me go onstage!" Ye Xiu shouted.

Chen Guo was at a loss. With all of the commotion, she also couldn't tell whether Ye Xiu really needed to play a match to keep his hands warm, or if he was just lonely.

"Do you really need it?" Chen Guo asked Ye Xiu.

Ye Xiu was about to cry. "How could I not need this? I haven't played in a month."

Chen Guo looked at Su Mucheng and Fang Rui, for confirmation from those who had professional experience.

"Let's follow his plan!" Su Mucheng laughed.

At last, Ye Xiu began planning out the next round. He began by confirming that he would have a starting position in the team competition, which was instantly met by a room full of boos.

"This is an abuse of power."

Ye Xiu heard someone say this, and he began to question whether these guys genuinely wanted him to rest, or if they were trying to squeeze him out of his position.

After that, they progressed with the planning. Everyone finally put away their joking attitudes, and listened to Ye Xiu's match arrangements seriously.

"Three points. That will guarantee our entry into the playoffs. But we can't set our goal that low. Fight for victory with everything you have! Don't worry about 301's survival," said Ye Xiu.

"Understood!" everyone answered.

"Let's start practice!" Ye Xiu waved his hand, and everyone began their tense training for the next round's match.

The R&D department was also making the final sprint to the playoffs. Everyone hoped that they could complete equipment upgrades before the playoffs began. In the playoffs, one mistake could lead to a complete loss, and to suddenly switch to unfamiliar equipment in the middle of the playoffs wasn't a wise decision. The differences brought by changed equipment could lead to miscalculations or misjudgments in the middle of a match. To some extent, the playoffs were a competition of which side could make fewer mistakes.

"36 pieces of pseudo-Silver equipment, and the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella has been completed. Do you want to upgrade now?" Seeing Ye Xiu come over, the R&D workers asked him excitedly. They were also looking forward to see their own handiwork equipped on characters to give the entire Alliance a shock. Although the stats of the Silver equipment wouldn't be displayed, the equipment level would be shown. The sight of Happy's characters clad in Level 80 equipment, what kind of shock would that bring to the Glory circle? Just thinking about it was enough to cause excitement.

"We'll upgrade after this match!" Ye Xiu said. "Can there be more?"

"For now, it'll probably just be this much," the R&D worker answered. "Most equipment can't manifest this kind of complex, redundant structure."

The R&D called the structure used by the Level 80 pseudo-Silver "redundant addition." If they were simply making the equipment, they wouldn't need nearly this many materials. But to raise it to Level 80, they had to forcefully add on more materials, while ensuring that these materials didn't change the original properties of the equipment. Many equipment couldn't take this additive modification, and these were the failed products that had no way of reaching Level 80.

The recent research of Happy's R&D had been focused on determining which equipment could be upgraded and which couldn't, and this process had used up a large amount of materials. Fortunately, because they were only aiming to make Orange-level Silver equipment, they didn't need as many rare materials. And there was always a surplus of dungeon materials, so they could almost always get them from the in-game marketplace. The rarer ones would be the drops from the highest-level dungeons, but on the guild side of things, Wu Chen had coordinated teams to increase their acquisitions, and they were able to meet the demands of the R&D.

Even as they continued their development of pseudo-Silver, they didn't forget about their research of real Silver, either. After all, they only needed pseudo-Silver for now. This batch was directly jumping to

Level 80, but when the overall level cap was updated to 80, it was unknown whether they could still use the method of redundant addition to upgrade to Level 85. Only real Silver equipment would be the true path to sustainable development. Happy could expend effort on pseudo-Silver largely because there wasn't much conflict with the materials required for real Silver. Because the two goals didn't interfere with each other, Happy could grab both.

#### Chapter 1372: Playing Too Honestly

Round 38 of the Alliance was rapidly approaching. Given that it was the final round, it was inevitable that there would be a of publicity surrounding it. After this round, voting for the awards of the current season would begin. The awards would be based on the performances of the regular season, with the playoffs having their own set of awards afterwards.

Amongst the various awards, the one that caught the most attention was naturally the MVP award. There were many players who had been raised as possible MVPs, to the point that even Bai Shu, who had only joined 301 in the winter transfer window, was also part of the list.

Other than that, there were Samsara's Zhou Zekai, Blue Rain's Huang Shaotian, Tiny Herb's Wang Jiexi, Tyranny's Zhang Xinjie and other All-Star players were frequently raised as possible candidates. Apart from these players, there the was the player with the strongest return to the Alliance: Happy's Ye Xiu.

Team Happy's performance may not have been as outstanding as Samsara or the other powerhouse teams, but as a new team, achieving such results was already entirely unprecedented, and within the team, the role that Ye Xiu played was something that anyone with eyes could see. If the Alliance were to take into account Happy's difficulty in achieving such results, Ye Xiu's inclusion in the list of MVP candidates was indisputable. If there was anything that was disadvantageous to Ye Xiu, it was his continued "ceasefire" for the last 4 rounds. Missing out such crucial competitions would have a negative impact on his assessment for the MVP award.

The MVP award was something that had various different considerations and factors. In comparison, some of the other awards that only looked at results or numbers were more easily decided upon.

The King of Dueling title was based on the results of the individual competition. The award would definitely go to Ye Xiu without much suspense, given his 36 consecutive victories in the individual competition. Looking at the statistics, One Hit One Kill, the award based on the number of killing blows accomplished within the team competitions, was already in Zhou Zekai's hands one round early.

Then there was the Arena Star, the award based on how much damage a player had dealt throughout the course of the group arena competitions. Similarly, the holder of this title had been convincingly decided one round early: Team Samsara's Sun Xiang.

Other than that, awards like Best Partners, Best Rookie or Best Sixth Player were also like the MVP award, and wouldn't be decided purely by numbers or statistics, instead needing careful consideration of the various player's performances after the end of the 38th round.

Everything was waiting for this final round.

On the evening of the 5th of June, the 20 teams in the Alliance gathered in 10 different team's stadiums, marking the beginning of the 38th round of competition.

In the end, the broadcasters decided to show the match between Samsara and Hundred Blossoms. Hundred Blossoms was temporarily in 9th place, and if they wanted to enter the top 8, they could either win 1 more point than Wind Howl or 3 more points than 301 in this round. In the previous round, after falling behind by 3 points against Tyranny, they had valiantly snatched back 7 points, lighting the expectations for them to produce a breathtaking performance in their away-game against Samsara. The Glory community hadn't forgotten that Team Samsara's crazy streak of wins in the first half of the season had ultimately been put to a stop by Team Hundred Blossoms. This final match would be Team Hundred Blossom's most important match of the whole season.

In this final round, every stadium was packed to the brim, including the stadium for Seaside and Bright Green, the two teams in the relegation zone. Next season, they wouldn't be able to compete in this stadium anymore, so the heartbroken fans had come to accompany their teams in battle till the very last moment, even though it was already too late to change anything.

At 8.30 in the evening, the final round of the competition punctually began in all ten stadiums.

In Happy's stadium, Ye Xiu appeared in the individual competition for the 37th time, taking another shot at breaking his own record. This time, the player attempting to snipe his streak was someone who had garnered a lot of attention in the second half of the season: Team 301 Degrees' Knight player Bai Shu, hailing from Europe.

The competition quickly began. Until the very last round, Ye Xiu had persisted in choosing the same style of maps: clean and minimalistic maps meant for a head-on battle. The two characters loaded in, appearing at two opposite ends of the map.

Bai Shu's Knight character, Tide, was clad from head to toe in Silver equipment. In this small map where sunlight was shining brilliantly, the reflections off Tide's metal armor was dazzling, and his shield, Silver of Life had practically become a mirror.

"Ah, this map choice is a little unfortunate!" Fang Rui said, sitting on Happy's player bench.

"Wait, why?" Chen Guo asked frantically.

"It's too bright, it dazzles the eyes," Fang Rui said.

"Are you talking about the reflections from Tide's equipment?" Chen Guo asked.

"That's right. In the context of Glory, things like this will all become disturbances to the opposing player," Fang Rui replied.

Chen Guo immediately felt a sense of apprehension. Losing 1 point was nothing to fear, but she really didn't want to see Ye Xiu's streak of consecutive victories come to an end. In fact, she was still brooding over the fact that Ye Xiu didn't play in the first round! That meant that he could at most have 37 wins in a row, not a complete sweep of all 38 rounds. The tiny bit of imperfection was extremely regrettable.

As they spoke, the two characters on stage had already started to charge towards the center of the map.

Boom boom boom!

Ye Xiu used Lord Grim's long-ranged superiority to open fire first, sending three Anti-Tank Missiles flying out.

Charge!

Bai Shu surprisingly didn't dodge, instead choosing to have Tide press the assault. His shield was raised in front of him, and all three Anti-Tank Missiles exploded on it in succession. In a moment, Tide had left the cloud of smoke and the sound of explosions behind him, the gap between the two shortening in the blink of an eye. Tide's shield, Silver of Life, was shining brightly. On the large screen in the stadium, everyone could see from Ye Xiu's player perspective, and all they saw was a field of dazzling radiance, similar to the effect from a Spitfire's Flash Bullet.

"Look!" Fang Rui had long been watching Ye Xiu's player perspective, and at this moment, he immediately pointed at the screen for everyone to see.

Heroic Leap!

Tide leapt into the air, but the only thing that Ye Xiu could see in his vision was a flash of brilliant light, and then nothing.

Shining Cut!

Ye Xiu used the skill to dash out.

This was an instinctual reaction that he made based on his experience. When the opponent disappeared, no matter where he went, eventually he would want to continue his assault. At this time, the best thing to do was to keep moving, and figure out where the opponent was afterwards.

Tide descended from the air, and Lord Grim fled from his original position. The two of them had more or less completed a swap of positions. After Shining Cut, Lord Grim immediately twisted his body in mid-air, and the moment he saw Tide in his field of view, the Myriad Manifestation Umbrella changed back into Gun Form, and Lord Grim opened fire!

Bang!

A single bullet flew out.

But this time, Bai Shu didn't have Tide use his shield to block the attack.

This single bullet was the Spitfire's Burning Bullet, which would create a fiery blaze as it fell to the ground, something that the shield couldn't prevent.

Tide jumped out of the way, dodging the Burning Bullet. As a sea of fire immediately began to spread on the ground, he had already stepped out of the range of the attack.

Gatling Gun!

Lord Grim used yet another skill, sending a torrent of bullets towards Tide. This time, Tide raised his shield, forcefully advancing under the rain of bullets. Tide's Silver of Life wasn't as large as the Myriad Manifestation Umbrella's Shield Form, so it couldn't possibly shield his whole body. As such, Ye Xiu adjusted the angle of the Gatling Gun, attempting to send the bullets to the gaps that weren't being

protected by the shield. Despite that, all the bullets were blocked by Tide, as Silver of Life's position was adjusted non-stop, unexpectedly blocking the Gatling Gun bullets that were coming from continually shifting angles.

"This guy!" Fang Rui exclaimed in surprise. Team Wind Howl's original lineup also had a Knight, so he had a fairly impressive understanding of the class. Being able to use his shield in such a way to completely block Ye Xiu's gunfire meant that his fundamentals were far more solid than normal.

At this moment, in Ye Xiu's field of vision, Silver of Life became dazzling once more. Evidently, they had once again entered an angle in which the shield could reflect sunlight.

"Eh? This time..." This time, Fang Rui was bewildered.

"What is it?" Chen Guo frantically asked again.

"His timing of the sunlight was a bit sub-par," Fang Rui expressed.

On stage, Ye Xiu slightly adjusted Lord Grim's position, easily avoiding the reflection of the sunlight this time around, before continuing to assault Tide from a distance.

"He isn't doing it on purpose." At this time, Wei Chen spoke up.

"Who are you referring to?" Chen Guo asked.

"Bai Shu. He didn't think of using his equipment to reflect the sunlight, it was actually all accidental," Wei Chen replied.

"Really?" Chen Guo looked at Fang Rui, but he was deep in contemplation, so he didn't respond.

"This player from abroad seems to disdain these kinds of dirty tricks!" Wei Chen said.

"Do you think he's like all of you?" Chen Guo snorted at Wei Chen, and then shifted her gaze to Fang Rui. These two played in an especially wretched way, with an innumerable number of dirty tricks up their sleeves.

"I'm looking down on him, can't you tell from my tone?" Wei Chen replied.

"..."

"In order to win, I would be as unscrupulous as I need to be. These kinds of players who pretend to be upright and not use the tricks they have access to are the kind I hate the most," Wei Chen said.

Chen Guo didn't know whether to laugh or to cry. This wasn't about pretending to be upright, couldn't a person just prefer not using these kinds of methods to fight?

"Lose, he's definitely going to lose!" Wei Chen cursed.

"That I can agree with," Chen Guo nodded.

At this moment, Tide had already drawn closer to Lord Grim by quite a bit, raising his hand and gesturing towards him: Provoke.



Lord Grim promptly charged towards Tide without hesitation, and sent out a Collapsing Mountain! Ye Xiu straightforwardly used this skill, and Lord Grim jumped up, sending his blade chopping downwards.

Clang!

An ear-piercing noise rang out. Surprisingly, Bai Shu had let Tide raise his shield to block the powerful Berserker skill, Collapsing Mountain, before using his other hand to brandish his sword for a counterattack.

"I have no words left," Wei Chen said.

"What is it now?" Chen Guo asked.

"Couldn't he just have avoided this attack?" Wei Chen said.

"Is using the shield to block not good enough?" Chen Guo asked.

"Using the shield to block still costs HP. If he's able to avoid losing HP altogether, does he still need to be so unyielding?" Wei Chen replied.

"He can... counterattack a bit faster?" Chen Guo's answer sounded quite professional, her standard was improving!

"If he can't take the initiative from the counterattack, what's the point of counterattacking at all?" Wei Chen continued to look down on him.

After blocking Collapsing Mountain, Tide's counterattack indeed wasn't able to help seize the initiative, and the two of them continued to trade hits, countering each other's every move.

"That Taunt usage was also baffling, this is a 1v1, and the opponent doesn't want to run away, what's the point of taunting him? Taunting him only results in close-range combat, but that's what Lord Grim's good at," Wei Chen continued.

Chen Guo was puzzled. According to Wei Chen's analysis, this Bai Shu was really full of problems! But looking at the match, he didn't show any signs of faltering when fighting against Ye Xiu! In this match, she couldn't see any sign of who was going to win or lose.

"You'd best ignore him." Su Mucheng saw Chen Guo's bewilderment and laughed, "They have completely different styles, so of course they can't stand the sight of each other."

"Is he playing too honestly?" Chen Guo consulted Su Mucheng, and ended up being viciously stared at by Wei Chen, causing her to momentarily not dare to say anything more.

"In this confrontation, it's exactly this kind of upright and frank play that's needed to determine victory or defeat!" Su Mucheng replied.

"It's boring as hell," Wei Chen and Fang Rui said in unison.

"I believe that Ye Xiu won't give him that kind of opportunity," Wei Chen said sincerely, "That guy has no limit to his shamelessness!"

### **Chapter 1373: Peak Skill**

Fight justly and fairly?

Chen Guo trusted Su Mucheng's words more than Wei Chen's. Then again, she really couldn't tell the difference between fair and shameless in a match.

Crusader's Trial!

At this moment, Bai Shu suddenly cast a powerful high-level skill at an extremely close distance. Tide crashed forward with a Charge, his sword and shield brandished.

Shining Cut!

Lord Grim flashed by with a cold light.

The direction of Crusader's Trial could be controlled though. The moment Lord Grim flitted to the right, Bai Shu had Tide cut across from the left.

Charge and Crusader's Trial moved at the same speed, which didn't lose to Shining Cut. Even though the first stage missed, the second stage of the skill smashed towards Lord Grim.

Charge!

Ye Xiu used another movement skill. Lord Grim switched directions, dodging the second stage.

Colliding Stab!

Shadow Clone Technique!

Slide Kick!

Ye Xiu used multiple movement skills in a row in an attempt to escape from Tide, but in the end, he failed. Bai Shu's controls were extremely fast and precise. He immediately adjusted his Crusader's Trial with every escape attempt from Lord Grim. The viewers were dumbstruck as they watched these two characters shuffle around a small area in a blur. Ye Xiu was clearly using a variety of skills from different classes, but by chaining them together in a single breath, it was hard to believe that there were multiple skills being used; it looked like one smooth yet messy movement. On the other hand, Bai Shu was using just a single skill, so his movements were naturally smooth. However, he was the one reacting to Ye Xiu's actions. Being able to stick so tightly to Ye Xiu despite these circumstances was truly a terrifying display of technique.

Multiple movement skills had been linked together in an instant. Sometimes, a skill wouldn't even complete before the next skill began. But after the Slide Kick, the attentive viewers noticed Lord Grim's skill bar. The first skill he had used, Shining Cut, was still on cooldown.

Players had already figured out which low-level movement skills Lord Grim possessed. He had the Assassin's Shining Cut, the Knight's Charge, the Berserker's Colliding Stab, the Sharpshooter's Slide Kick, and the Ninja's Shadow Clone Technique.

Five skills on rotation was usually more than enough. But today, Ye Xiu had been forced by Bai Shu to use all five skills consecutively, yet he still couldn't escape. The Level 75 Crusader's Trial had a maximum of nine stages. Tide had only used five stages so far and still had four more stages to call upon.

This time, what high-level skill had Ye Xiu added onto his Myriad Manifestations Umbrella? Perhaps a Teleport? People began thinking of the possibilities. However, those who had noticed Lord Grim's skill bar suddenly realized that apart from these five movement skills, Lord Grim also had Spike Trap on cooldown.

If it was on cooldown, it meant it had been used. But when?

No one had any time to ponder over this question. The pace of the battle was extremely fast. Tide had chased Lord Grim to the sixth stage of Crusader's Trial, when a sudden "ka" sounded. Tide could still swing his weapon, but his feet wouldn't budge an inch.

Spike Trap was triggered just like this. Everyone was dumbfounded. Besides those who had been paying attention to Lord Grim's skill bar, everyone else had been caught off guard. Judging from the position of the Spike Trap, Lord Grim must have placed it while Slide Kicking.

Spike Trap only restricted movement. It did not interrupt skills. Tide could continue his Crusader's Trial, but he could only do it in place. Lord Grim jumped back nimbly, and Tide's attack could no longer reach him. Ye Xiu was just about to counterattack, when Tide's sword suddenly flew out towards Lord Grim.

Spirit Guidance!

The Exorcist's Spirit Guidance gave the ability to throw your weapon. Exorcists and Knights were both Priest classes and could learn each other's low-level skills.

This attack had been quite sudden. Happy's home crowd cried out in alarm. Lord Grim promptly rolled though, and evaded the attack.

Grenade, Shuriken, Mechanical Seeker. As Lord Grim rolled, he threw a bunch of things at Tide, who had no way of dodging due to the Spike Trap. However, he still had his shield. Tide immediately crouched down and raised his shield, Silver Life. The Grenade and Mechanical Seeker exploded on his shield, while the Shuriken was deflected.

"See, dirty!" Wei Chen shouted excitedly.

He wasn't talking about Tide and his shield, or Lord Grim's chain of attacks. These were far from being qualified. Wei Chen was talking about how Ye Xiu was having his Lord Grim approach while sticking close to the ground.

When Bai Shu used his shield, he made sure to give himself an open line of sight. But with Lord Grim crouching down, the line of sight that the shield allowed him to have wasn't quite enough. He couldn't see the target, so he subconsciously lowered his shield a bit. Right after he did so, he heard a gunshot.

Bai Shu reacted extremely fast and hastily lifted up his Silver Life again. However, he then heard a "pu", a hit.

Bai Shu looked down in disbelief and saw a bullet wound at his feet. This opening hadn't been there originally. When he raised his shield instinctively to protect his head, a small crack had appeared in his defense. To think his opponent could grasp that tiny opening...

No, it wasn't his opponent grasping an opening. Bai Shu had clearly heard the gunshot before lifting his shield. In other words, the other side had shot at his feet, predicting that he wouldn't be able to see the attack and would lift his shield thinking it would be a headshot...

To think there was someone who could calculate this many steps ahead.

Bai Shu was amazed.

He had only started playing Glory after going abroad. He had played in the European servers and then joined England's Pro League. As a pro player, he could be considered a locally born and bred European player. However, his homeland was still China, so he paid some attention to the Glory scene there as well. But because of China's mediocrity at popular sports like football and basketball, he didn't think very highly of the skill level of China's competitive Glory scene. As a result, he mainly followed the scene out of curiosity and didn't take it seriously.

When Team 301 sent out a formal invitation to him, he had been both surprised and proud. To think I could receive attention from a competitive league on a completely different continent, it looks like my skill and fame is quite high!

Along with a feeling of intimacy for his homeland, in the end, Bai Shu was moved by Team 301's detailed plans for him, especially after knowing that Team 301's situation wasn't too great. Instead of disappointment, he was rather excited to be the savior for a team.

As a result, he returned to his home country and joined Team 301. He began adapting to China's competitive league and helped Team 301 form a new tactical system.

Much of this came from the strategies and techniques that Bai Shu had learned from his career in Europe. After combining these with Team 301, the team's win record improved drastically. Win after win, the spotlight shone on him.

Bai Shu felt great. Sure enough, Europe was the superior region. After joining the Alliance, Team 301 became like a fish in the water. They had originally been dozens of points away from top eight, but they quickly squeezed their way in a huge reversal.

However, near the end of the season, Team 301 had been caught into an intense struggle for playoffs, a bit far from Bai Shu's goal of sweeping through the league. Bai Shu wasn't discouraged though. After all, he had only been a part of 301 for half a season. Both sides needed more time to synergize to reach their peak condition. Team 301 had made a huge comeback within this half a season. To be able to do that was more than enough for Bai Shu. After his arrival, 301 had only lost to two opponents. One was Wind Howl and their sudden improvement. 301 hadn't been prepared and lost. The other one was the Alliance's current number one, Samsara. Bai Shu very much recognized their strength. It would truly be quite challenging for Team 301 to win over them.

Apart from those two though, the powerhouses in the Alliance such as Tyranny, Blue Rain, and Tiny Herb had all fallen to 301. From Bai Shu's perspective, those teams were on par with each other. Neither team was better than the other by much.

Their teams were like so, the individuals were like so. Bai Shu hadn't noticed anyone who could make him feel fear. The so-called number one Knight, Xu Bin, had apparently come from 301. But in their 1v1 match, Bai Shu won quite easily. He was nothing impressive.

Finally, in this last round, Team 301 would meet Team Happy.

Ye Xiu had won 36 individual rounds in a row. Just this win record alone made it so Bai Shu could not underestimate him. After doing some research on him, he learned about his legendary history.

But isn't he a bit old?

Whether it was in China or Europe or anywhere else, the pro players were all around the same age. Ye Xiu's 27 years of age was a genuine old general in any competitive scene.

To let such an old general keep winning in the individual competition?

When Bai Shu first came over and heard about his win streak, he had a hard time understanding. Then, he heard about the unspecialized's playstyle as well as his strange weapon, which made him quite curious.

At that time, he had made a decision. This Ye Xiu needed to be taught a lesson. However, Team 301 and Team Happy would only be meeting each other again in Round 38, at the end of the regular season. It would only be then would Bai Shu be able to realize his long-cherished wish.

During this half a season, he had personally watched quite a few of Ye Xiu's and Lord Grim's matches, and made ample preparation. That ultra fast speed made many people's heads hurt, but wasn't he keeping up with it just fine?

But in the process, he had fallen for a trap that had been placed who knew when.

Then, he was hit by a bullet that had completely seen through his thoughts.

So this is someone who won 36 individual rounds in a row... China's peak skill?

Chapter 1374: Thirty-Seven Consecutive Wins

A shot that Ye Xiu had so precisely calculated and fired of course wouldn't just be an ordinary attack. This was a Spitfire skill: Stun Bullet. The instant it hit, Lord Grim was already pulling back and circling around. Then, he began his offensive.

Unspecialized Blitz!

This was a term that had circulated for a while now. Bai Shu had heard of it before, and he had studied it. He had felt that he wouldn't give Ye Xiu that kind of opportunity during the match. But now, he understood, it wasn't that he would give an opportunity, it was that the opponent would create the

opportunity himself. After being hit by the Stun Bullet, Tide could no longer move, and so when Lord Grim charged over, circled around to his back, and began attacking, what could he do?

The Paralysis status wore off fairly quickly, but Lord Grim's offensive was far from over. Bai Shu tried to control Tide to block with his shield, because he just needed to block one attack to rebalance the situation. But Ye Xiu had clearly considered this point from early on. Tide was a Knight, which was a class that had a shield that gave them a natural advantage in interrupting the opponent's attack. This was why Ye Xiu had begun his attack from behind, preventing Bai Shu from controlling Tide to pull out his shield to block. Just like that, the famous Silver of Life became mere ornamentation.

Thirty-seven!

The fans in Happy's home stadium were already cheering.

A win streak lasting thirty-seven rounds. How incredible of a record was that?

It had never been done before, and it would likely never be repeated again. Right here, right now, this miraculous record was about to be born. Countless fans in the audience were rising from their seats, and Happy's diehard fans had already made preparations beforehand. They were just waiting for the instant that Lord Grim killed Tide for good, and then they would begin their celebration ceremony for this record.

"Ten!"

"Nine!"

"Eight!"

"Seven!"

"Six!"

There wasn't much remaining of Tide's health. From some corner of the stadium, this countdown suddenly began, gradually spreading through the audience. By the time they reached six, aside from a few depressed 301 fans, the entire stadium was chanting along.

"Five!" Everyone stared at Tide's dwindling health bar.

"Four!" Everyone watched Lord Grim attack.

"Three!" Everyone calculated the damage that was dealt by this attack.

"Two!" Everyone once again checked Tide's remaining health.

"One!" Another attack from Lord Grim arrived, and everyone prayed, fall, you bastard! They didn't have any particular enmity toward Bai Shu, but in this moment, they cursed him with all their heart.

"Zero!" The cheers reached their peak, Lord Grim's Sword Draw flashed out, and the blade scattered blood as it swung to the sky. And finally, Tide's health reached zero!

"Thirty-seven!!!" After zero, another number surged forward, but no one was surprised. This was what they had been waiting for.

Bang bang bang bang bang!

The stadium erupted with fireworks, colorful confetti bursting forth to surround the whole stage. This was all clearly something that Happy fans had planned in advance. The fans who had the fireworks had arranged themselves in a ring all around the stadium, to allow the celebration to spread to all corners. Even in the middle of the away team's fan section, a spy had somehow infiltrated their midst and set off a firework, although it was only round. Probably that fan was soon forcibly stopped by the surrounding 301 fans.

"Thirty-seven!" In the midst of the confetti, the fans cheered with all their might, and Chen Guo felt the tears beginning to stream down her cheeks. That guy, he had actually done it. He had started as an overnight manager at Happy Internet Cafe and established this team from scratch. He personally defeated Excellent Era, the team he had spent seven years fighting for. He returned to this stage, and then he established this shocking record that perhaps no one would ever surpass, permanently carving his true name onto this homeland of Glory.

"Too incredible!" Chen Guo exclaimed, wiping at her tears.

"It is!" The shameless Wei Chen, for once, didn't have any words of mockery, and his voice was sincere and heavy as he answered Chen Guo. Yes, it was really too incredible. How was this bastard so strong? Was he even stronger than he was ten years ago?

"I can't believe him!" Fang Rui yelled. "What about all the players in the future? This record is so ridiculous, it's disgusting!"

"To surpass it, you'd need thirty-eight consecutive wins?" Tang Rou still saw that tiny thread of hope.

"Boss is powerful, Boss is dominating," said Steamed Bun.

"As expected of Senior," said Qiao Yifan.

"It's amazing, I could never do that," Luo Ji said.

"This is really our captain..." An Wenyi was originally a Tyranny fan, and Ye Xiu had always been the person he could never like too much, but now, he had essentially been converted into his fan.

"..." Mo Fan didn't say anything, but his eyes, like those of the others, were filled with marvel.

Su Mucheng didn't say anything, either. She knew the hardships Ye Xiu had endured these past two years, and she knew that this insane win streak wasn't just for himself, but for another legacy. That character, Lord Grim, should have been controlled by another person to shine onstage with power unstoppable. But unfortunately, that could never become reality.

Now, Ye Xiu had completed this season for him. He used the character Lord Grim to leave behind a record that could never be erased. Perhaps no one would ever learn that other person's name, but Lord Grim, this character he created, would forever remain in Glory's history.

It was amazing.

Su Mucheng stood and clapped. She didn't cry, because she had always believed in Ye Xiu.

He said he would return, and so he returned.

He said he would establish a win streak, and so he won thirty-seven in a row.

He said they would aim for the championship this season, and Su Mucheng believed that this championship would undoubtedly belong to Happy.

The door to the competitor booth was opened. Ye Xiu walked out, walked onto the stage, and the cheers of the crowd instantly grew even louder. Bang bang bang, another ring of fireworks was set off. The fans had planned to do another round at this moment, although the fireworks from the away team's seating came a fraction later. Still, even when surrounded by the strict monitoring of the 301 fans after the last round of fireworks, this brave man still managed to suddenly break through and fire again. He could be called the hero of the fans.

"Thirty-seven!" Everyone continued to holler. Ye Xiu waved to the audience, expressing his thanks, before walking offstage.

"What an incredible record!" At this moment, although the live broadcast was set to show Hundred Blossoms' match against Samsara, they suddenly took advantage of the break between battles to show the scene at Happy's stadium. This, too, was something the broadcasters had arranged beforehand. They didn't choose to show this Happy versus 301 match, but they didn't want to miss the moment that this powerful record was born. They had to record this in video.

Fortunately, when Ye Xiu defeated Bai Shu, Samsara and Hundred Blossoms had also just finished their first battle. The broadcast didn't care too much about how difficult it must have been for Hundred Blossoms, as the away team, to earn a point against Samsara. As soon as they saw how perfectly the timing was, they didn't hesitate to switch the cameras over to Happy.

The commentators Pan Lin and Li Yibo also couldn't be bothered to compliment the old general Zhang Wei or acknowledge how difficult it must have been for him to defeat Samsara's All-Star Lu Boyuan. The two swiftly began to sing their praises for this terrifying win record that Ye Xiu had established.

"An incredible record, an incredible record." Pan Lin repeated this phrase three times, because he truly couldn't find any other words to describe it.

"Thirty-seven consecutive wins, Ye Xiu is really..." Li Yibo also couldn't find the words.

"Amazing!" Pan Lin found it.

"Mm." Li Yibo nodded, but he didn't echo it too much. Because of his Tyranny background, it was already somewhat difficult for him to give impartial commentary on Ye Xiu. To extol him now, to proclaim him the greatest, Li Yibo suddenly felt somewhat uncomfortable.

"Happy's fans are very excited. These are all fireworks that they've set at the stadium, to celebrate this birth of this extraordinary record," Pan Lin described the scene at the stadium.

"Right now, Ye Xiu is walking offstage. The audience is giving him a standing ovation – oh, and the players of the two teams as well! 301 is very dignified, even though this record was ultimately built from their defeat. Haha, even the judge is coming over, standing at the side of the stage and applauding, this



record is truly too moving. To be able to experience this moment in person is also a very fortunate thing!” Pan Lin continued.

“The judge has finished clapping, it looks like he’s saying something. Hm? He’s insisting that the match continue? This judge is a bit strict. At such a historic moment, what’s the harm in letting everyone be happy a little longer?” said Pan Lin.

“This is the final, most critical match, after all!” Li Yibo said.

“Mm. The display screen is already showing the players for the next battle, Happy’s Luo Ji, the MVP of last round, the rookie who’s earned the respect and notice of us all. What about 301? Oh, it’s the Blade Master Gao Jie! Let us... Oh, let’s return to Samsara versus Hundred Blossoms.” Pan Lin wiped at his forehead. He had almost begun to start commentating the match of Happy against 301.

At Samsara’s home stadium, the match had progressed to the second battle of the individual competition. Hundred Blossoms had won the first battle, earning a first point, so this match was off to a good start for them. And 301 had lost a point first, which was good news for Hundred Blossoms. But their primary competitor right now was still Wind Howl, and news from Tiny Herb’s home stadium said that Wind Howl had also won their first battle. Having won one point, they continued to suppress Hundred Blossoms by their superior head-to-head score.

“Don’t worry about everyone else. We’ll only have the right to seize our chance if we play our own matches well!” Hundred Blossoms Captain Yu Feng encouraged his teammates. In the second battle of the individual round, they would be sending Zhou Guangyi against Samsara’s vice-captain, Jiang Botao.

Another win!

A few minutes later, Hundred Blossoms once again received good news. Zhou Guangyi defeated Jiang Botao, helping Hundred Blossoms earn another point.

“Hundred Blossoms is in excellent condition today!” Pan Lin and Li Yibo both exclaimed. In these two consecutive matches, the Hundred Blossoms players had performed exceptionally.

And after the end of each match, everyone would immediately worry about the points of their direct competitors.

“301 won the second individual battle against Happy,” Pan Lin said, checking updates from the other matches.

“In Tiny Herb vs Wind Howl, Wind Howl also won the second battle,” Li Yibo added, looking in on that match.

“Well, it looks like Hundred Blossoms is still behind!” Pan Lin sighed. Even though they’d managed to win two points from the powerful Samsara, they still hadn’t been able to change the situation. This could be quite a blow to morale.

“Hopefully Hundred Blossoms won’t be disrupted. They need to adjust their mentality and play their next battles well. This is only the beginning,” said Li Yibo.

## **Chapter 1375: Seeking Victory**

Reality was cruel.

Hundred Blossoms had taken 2 points from Samsara with great difficulty, yet they were still in a predicament. It was a huge blow to their morale. Although their captain Yu Feng was constantly trying to encourage them, every player had a different personality. Not everyone was so tenacious.

Team Hundred Blossom's third player in the individual competition, their Summoner Zhu Xiaoping, was downcast. Knowing that Hundred Blossoms could not afford to lose a single point, the pressure bearing down on him was enormous. In the end, he performed poorly and lost to Samsara's Assassin, Wu Qi.

At the same time, news from two other matches came, which only added hail to snow for Hundred Blossoms.

Team 301 had won against Happy, taking a 2-1 lead with the individual competition.

Wind Howl had swept the individual competition against Tiny Herb, taking all three points. If Hundred Blossoms wanted to surpass Wind Howl, they would now need to win 2 more points over them instead of 1.

After Zhu Xiaoping, who had just gone down from the stage, heard this news, the color on his face became even paler. He wanted to apologize to his teammates, but he didn't know what to say. He just stood there like a statue, unable to even find his own seat.

"We're going to need to win 2 more points than Wind Howl, or win 3 more points than 301. What are your thoughts everyone?" Captain Yu Feng said.

Everyone was dead silent.

"Uh, or to be more precise, it should be what are your thoughts, and what are your thoughts?" Yu Feng looked over two players.

Zou Yuan and Zeng Xinran.

They would be the players going up in the group arena. Yu Feng ignored the rest of the team and only picked out the two players, who would be fighting for the points.

"I won't give up!" Zou Yuan spoke firmly.

Yu Feng nodded his head and felt gratified. In fact, Zou Yuan held more seniority than him in Hundred Blossoms. He was the successor of Hundred Blossom's Spitfire, the core of the team for many years. But after his arrival, Zou Yuan was perfectly happy to give him full authority in the team. This sort of trust and acceptance made Yu Feng even more confident that he had made the right choice. Right now, with their backs to the walls, Yu Feng trusted that Zou Yuan would not let him down, and he would put in his utmost as well.

Yu Feng and Zou Yuan both turned to Zeng Xinran.

"Fight! What's there to be afraid of!" Zeng Xinran responded. In his very first match on the professional stage, he had been so nervous that his entire body had froze. To Zeng Xinran, that was his most

shameful moment. From then on, he carried the attitude that it was impossible to ever do worse than that time. In fact, he became braver and braver on stage until he gradually rose to his position in Hundred Blossoms, a position high enough such that in this crucial match, the team had sent him up for the group arena.

Seeing the determination of his two seniors, Zeng Xinran found no reason to retreat and boldly stood together with the two of them.

“Good!” Yu Feng said in a voice loud enough for the entire team to hear.

“What’s there to be afraid of? If we win the group arena and Wind Howl loses there’s, we’ll take the lead,” Yu Feng said.

“Watch us!” Zou Yuan was Hundred Blossom’s vice-captain. In this crucial moment, he would bear the burden together with Yu Feng.

“Let’s go!” Yu Feng said.

“Yes, captain!” Zeng Xingran replied loudly. At age 17, he strode forward at the very front.

This was Samsara’s home stadium. They would receive no encouragement or support, but their hearts were firm. They knew that in City K countless Hundred Blossom fans were waiting for them to grab the ticket to playoffs, and there was only way to get that ticket — win.

The other matches were taking place at roughly the same pace.

When the group arena between Hundred Blossoms and Samsara began, Wind Howl’s three players, their fighting spirits burning, were continuing their charge towards Tiny Herb.

Zhao Yuzhe started the group arena, facing Tiny Herb’s Gao Yingjie.

The two were rookies of the same generation. Gao Yingjie joined the champion Team Tiny Herb as soon he began and received countless attention. It seemed as if it had already been predetermined that he would be Best Rookie that season. However, in Season 8, the Best Rookie title was given to Zhao Yuzhe. Why not Gao Yingjie? It was because he had played in too few matches and didn’t qualify for the Best Rookie contention.

The title had been awarded to Zhao Yuzhe, but in response, many people simply sighed – it was a pity that Gao Yingjie hadn’t been given enough chances to play this season.

Zhao Yuzhe was very unhappy, extremely unhappy.

If he wasn’t given enough chances to go on stage, then it meant he wasn’t ready yet. However, everyone seemed to think that if Gao Yingjie had played in enough matches, the title of Best Rookie wouldn’t have been given to that Zhao guy.

Peh!

Zhao Yuzhe didn’t believe it. He didn’t believe that this so-called genius was anything incredible.

But in Season 9, Gao Yingjie, who had failed to qualify for Best Rookie, had directly been chosen into All-Stars. And Zhao Yuzhe? He still carried the title “rookie” and was “still maturing” in Wind Howl! Even

more infuriating was that season, a little demon had popped out of Blue Rain, taking the title Best Rookie and voted into All-Stars.

In the Glory Alliance, the title Best Rookie had first been awarded in Season 3 to Wang Jiexi.

Zhang Xinjie in Season 4. Zhou Zekai in Season 5. Yu Feng in Season 6. Sun Xiang in Season 7. Him in Season 8. Lu Hanwen in Season 9...

Every player who had been awarded the title Best Rookie became All-Stars or even Gods. In comparison, the name Zhao Yuzhe seemed pitifully pathetic among them. He was often nicknamed the Worst Best Rookie by some.

I'm definitely not trash!

Zhao Yuzhe really wanted to prove himself, and Gao Yingjie, the same-generation rookie who many believe should have received the title of Best Rookie, was an eyesore to him.

I'll definitely give you a good beating!

Zhao Yuzhe made a firm decision.

"Come! Genius!" After the match began, Zhao Yuzhe called out into the chat. He was going to tell everyone that a genius was nothing special.

Gao Yingjie didn't reply. He simply had his Kind Tree quickly move forward. The group arena map was neither complicated nor simple, a balanced map. Gao Yingjie flew directly towards the center of the map. Zhao Yuzhe didn't want to show fear either. His Elementalist, Beautiful Light, also moved swiftly. Not long afterwards, the two sides met.

Piercing Lightning!

Zhao Yuzhe wanted to make a show of his strength to Gao Yingjie. As soon as Kind Tree entered Beautiful Light's range, he immediately acted.

Lightning flashed, but at such a distance, no matter how fast the attack, it wouldn't be able to threaten Gao Yingjie. He easily shifted to the side, dodging the Piercing Lightning.

Forward!

Kind Tree moved like the wind towards his opponent. Team Tiny Herb was currently in 4th place, but it would be difficult for them to move up or down from 4th, unlike Wind Howl and Hundred Blossoms who were placing their entire season's hopes onto this single match. However, Tiny Herb definitely wasn't a team that would just simply give away a free win.

The first day Gao Yingjie came to Tiny Herb, the first word he heard was "champions".

They were a champion team. They existed to be the champions, and champions were always built upon victories.

They would never give up on the pursuit for victory. A team that aspired to be the champions should never let up.

Boom!

The spells by the two mages collided into brilliant lights. Gao Yingjie did not have Kind Tree stop though. These were the steps to victory, the steps to become champions.

Zhao Yuzhe was astonished.

He could clearly feel Gao Yingjie's determination in a match that didn't even matter to Tiny Herb.

Was it because he felt it was embarrassing for Tiny Herb to lose all three matches in the individual competition?

Zhao Yuzhe always thought about things from this perspective. He looked at himself and the team in this way. He also wanted to win, but his reason for winning was to show off his skill, to let everyone know his might. Even at the bottom of his heart, winning the championships was simply a way to show off.

This was Glory, not flaunting.

Zhao Yuzhe clearly didn't think so, so he couldn't understand Tiny Herb; he couldn't understand Gao Yingjie's pursuit for the championships, nor his heartfelt pursuit for Glory.

"I won't let your arrogance run rampant!" That was all Zhao Yuzhe could think about.

In terms of spirit, he had already lost.

What about skill? Gao Yingjie was called a genius, and that wasn't a title just anyone could have.

Boom!

The Witch's spells gradually suppressed the Elementalist's. Kind Tree finally made his way to Beautiful Light, and Elementalist's could not match Witches in close combat capabilities.

"Shit!" Zhao Yuzhe hastily tried to Teleport. Beautiful Light shifted away, creating distance between them.

But who didn't know how to use Teleport?

Kind Tree was a mage subclass. He had added the Teleport skill to his weapon, Morning Dew.

With a flicker, Kind Tree pulled closer to Beautiful Light. His Teleport was only Level 1 though, so his Teleport distance wasn't as far as Beautiful Light's. But with just a sweep of his broom, Morning Dew, he instantly closed that remaining distance.

"How annoying!" Zhao Yuzhe refused to admit defeat. As he shouted, Kind Tree's Morning Dew swung downwards.

Beautiful Light hastily dodged, but that swing had been exceptionally fast.

Gravity Accelerated Sweep!

Magic was used to increase the gravity and thus the speed of the swing to strengthen the strike.

Bang!

Morning Dew didn't hit Beautiful Light, but rather the ground. With a loud bang, the force from the Gravity Accelerated Swing produced a shockwave. Beautiful Light had just jumped away to dodge the swing was hit by the shockwave and shot up even higher.

Kind Heart leapt onto his broom and flew towards the airborne Beautiful Light.

Pa pa pa.

Morning Dew struck Beautiful Light again and again.

These simple attacks didn't contain any other meaning. Gao Yingjie and Kind Tree would always only have a single goal: victory.

GLORY!

The word "GLORY" flashed onto the big screen.

Any pro player, any Glory player would see this single word who knew how many times every day. For some, it was a word that was rooted deeply in their hearts. For others, it was simply a symbol of victory.

Glory only belonged to those who truly cared.

Chapter 1376: So-called Talent

"In the Tiny Herb versus Wind Howl, Tiny Herb has taken the first round of the group arena!"

As the match between Samsara and Hundred Blossoms continued in the live broadcast, Pan Lin also stayed alert for updates from other matches. If the other matches had developments, the people there would also prioritize sending the information to the live broadcast.

"Oh, this is good news for Hundred Blossoms. Although Hundred Blossoms themselves..." Li Yibo cut off mid-sentence.

On this side, the first round of the group arena had not yet finished, but Hundred Blossom's situation didn't look too good. Zeng Xingran entered the stage with a fearless attitude, and played quite courageously. However, Sun Xiang, who was first up for Samsara, was not merciful in the slightest. In a head to head, Zeng Xingran still fell short in terms of technical skill. Zeng Xingran really didn't have many options open to him in this situation, since he did not have the experience to compensate. He desperately fought with nothing but his stubborn refusal to accept defeat.

Zeng Xingran was at his limits and did all he could, but unfortunately, he still ultimately lost to Sun Xiang.

"Can Hundred Blossoms not seize this opportunity, when it's finally a new era for them?" Pan Lin said.

All the Hundred Blossoms fans sitting in front of the TV wiped the sweat from their brows. It was one thing if they claimed a big victory, but were still knocked out of top eight because their competitors also won hard. However, if their competitor's match was already falling apart and Hundred Blossoms didn't seize this opportunity, the regret would probably be harder to endure.

Fight on!

Every Hundred Blossoms fan cheered for their team wholeheartedly. They still had two players, and they happened to be Hundred Blossoms' core players. The fans believed that they wouldn't lose so easily.

Fight to the last breath!

Zou Yuan entered the stage with such conviction.

He wasn't some prodigy. His current core position was already a fluke. Hundred Blossoms had been looking toward the future when they hyped up his talent with the public, but Zou Yuan knew, deep down, that it was simply a public relations move to appease the fans. He was pushed into the core position by Hundred Blossoms because they really had no other choice. Talent? Zou Yuan didn't know what talent he possessed back then. He was confident that Hundred Blossoms didn't know either.

But he was very grateful.

He was grateful that Hundred Blossoms used this kind of helpless and senseless method to promote him. He was grateful that the team actually kept their faith in him patiently. He did not perform well in seasons 7 and 8. In season 9, instead of abandoning him, Hundred Blossoms instead measured him up and tailored a character to his style.

In the pro circle, there was a joke that the previous Spitfire of Hundred Blossoms, Zhang Jiale, possessed upstanding moral qualities. Thus, his successor possessed outstanding fortune...

This was a joke, but Zou Yuan had to admit that he really was fortunate.

He wasn't some eye-catching prodigy. He could not forge a path to a core position himself. He was just an ordinary player, who somehow became a core player of a team as soon as he entered the professional circle. He actually came across this kind of dumb luck. Zou Yuan had felt hesitant, perplexed, and overly pressured.

But when he came to, he realised that he was like the child of a rich parent: he was given something that others would chase for a lifetime and still not obtain, without doing anything himself.

At this point, how could he still yell out "This isn't what I wanted!"? He would probably be beat up by a group consisting of the whole Alliance's regular players, rotating players, substitutes, and even those who wanted to get into the Alliance but who couldn't. If you didn't even want this, then what the hell did you want?

As a result, Zou Yuan started working hard. Because he knew this was a rare opportunity.

He didn't have a gift and also didn't know what his so-called talent was. He could only double down and train hard. He would forge his talent by grinding.

In Season 9, Hundred Blossoms acquired Yu Feng. The additional core took a lot of pressure off Zou Yuan. And this season, he had made great progress.

Now in Season 10, he managed to get himself into All-Stars with his own skills.

However, up until now, Zou Yuan still didn't know what his so-called "talent" was. He just knew to display his hard-earned skill on the battlefield, to find more paths towards victory. Every player probably

did this. While honing their own skills, they would slowly develop their own “talent”. Zou Yuan always thought of it that way.

Now, Hundred Blossoms faced a do-or-die match.

He needed to use his yet to be awakened “talent” to battle someone who was dubbed a genius in the Alliance.

But Zou Yuan did not feel fear.

He was no longer that newbie who struggled to shoulder a character like Dazzling Hundred Blossoms.

He snatched up his outlandish luck, he possessed his own tailored character, and he nurtured his own confidence.

Charge!

Bright Blossoms rushed forward.

Bullets, explosives. He created a dazzling scene of his own.

He was the successor to Zhang Jiale, but had a different style to him. Zou Yuan controlled Bright Blossoms to tangle with the renowned One Autumn Leaf in combat from the get-go.

I don’t know what talent I have, but I can defeat any opponent!

“Beautiful play! Hundred Blossoms’ Zou Yuan seems to be unfazed by the current situation. He’s proactively launched an offensive and currently has Sun Xiang firmly suppressed!” Commentator Pan Lin yelled excitedly.

“He’s playing resolutely but also clear-headedly. His attacks are strong, and he’s defending well too. The group arena isn’t just defeating the opponent in front of you; there are still two opponents after Sun Xiang,” Li Yibo said.

“Especially when one of them is currently the number one in the Alliance, Zhou Zekai,” Pan Lin added.

“Even though Hundred Blossoms won against Samsara last time 7 to 3, I recall that they didn’t win the group arena,” Li Yibo said.

“Yes, last time Hundred Blossoms got two points in the individual competition,” Pan Lin agreed.

“Well, what about this time!” Li Yibo said.

This time, after sending off Sun Xiang, Zou Yuan welcomed his second opponent, Samsara’s blademaster Du Ming.

“Two more!”

Zou Yuan counted in his head calmly and continued to charge forth.

“Zou Yuan is in fantastic condition right now!” Pan Lin yelled. Zou Yuan again proactively launched an offensive this battle, and quickly gained the initiative.

“It really is fantastic,” Li Yibo also exclaimed.



It must be good, there's no reason for it not to be.

I had this kind of luck and hit the ground running. If I don't cherish this opportunity, what kind of future would I still have? What future would be even more brilliant than that I already had when I first started?

Having an iron grasp on my fluke, fighting tooth and nail to not let the opportunity slip away. That is probably my so-called talent!

The talent of not letting go of an opportunity that presented itself.

Because I'm the pro player who was given the best opportunity in Glory history!

Boom boom boom! As the bright flashes on the battlefield died down and the smoke cleared away, Du Ming's blademaker was already on the ground.

"He won again!" Pan Lin was astonished. Even though he felt Zou Yuan was in great condition, he didn't expect Zou Yuan to go that far. He managed to defeat Sun Xiang and Du Ming, while still having 41% health left on Bright Blossoms.

"Is this guy preparing for a 1v3?" Pan Lin yelled.

"..." Li Yibo was silent. His gut tells him that this would be impossible. 1v3 was hard enough, and their current opponent was Samsara... However, Li Yibo could also see that Zou Yuan was insanely fired up. A Bright Blossoms with 41% health remaining, under the control of the currently unleashed Zou Yuan, might just be able to beat the current Glory number one Zhou Zekai!

How's it going on Wind Howl's side?" Li Yibo suddenly asked for information from the other matches. He wanted to calm himself a bit. Zou Yuan's sudden unleashing defeating two opponents in a row had the commentators very tense.

"Tiny Herb is leading, 2 against 1. Wind Howl only has Tang Hao remaining," Pan Lin said very excitedly, even though he was a commentator and should not be biased. This was because he saw the amazing opening by Hundred Blossoms falter, followed by their hush and hesitancy after the loss of a point, and now their struggle to claw back two points. Humans had emotion; how would Pan Lin not be moved after seeing this struggle? He was really unwilling to see Hundred Blossoms' season come to an end by losing this match, even after they gave it their all. That would be too cruel. Even though this kind of feeling would be unfair to Wind Howl, Pan Lin's heart was with Hundred Blossoms right now. Li Yibo also had to take a deep breath. Why shouldn't he feel like this? Why shouldn't Hundred Blossoms deserve an outcome they worked so hard for?

"What about Happy versus 301?" Li Yibo asked again.

"On that side, 301 is in the lead," Pan Lin said.

"If 301 wins the group arena, then they would be up 4-1 against Happy," Li Yibo said.

"Indeed," Pan Lin nodded.

"In that case, if Happy lost the team competition as well, they would only get 1 point this round," Li Yibo said.

Pan Lin started. Happy only getting one point... This possibility was analyzed way before the matches started. Under these circumstances...

Pan Lin hurriedly counted the points using the current results in Hundred Blossoms' and Wind Howl's two matches. "Happy initially led Hundred Blossoms and Wind Howl by 7 points. If they only got one point, they would be ahead by 8. If Hundred Blossoms won this group arena and went on to win the team competition, they would have 9 points and overtake Happy! Wind Howl already has three points from the individual competition. The group arena looks bad for them, so let's say they lose these two points and go on to win the team competition, They would get 8 points and have the same points as Happy!"

"Happy has a chance to be pushed out of the top 8??!" Pan Lin said with great alarm, and hastily checked the previous results. If they had the same points...

"Oh, no they wouldn't. Happy would have the advantage if they had the same points as Wind Howl. Happy has already secured their spot in the Top 8. If this happened, Wind Howl would be pushed to 9th because they lost to Happy twice," Pan Lin said.

"If Happy won instead, 301 would get 4 points added to the 2 point lead they had. With only 6 points, they would be pushed out of the top 8 if Hundred Blossoms and Wind Howl both managed to win their respective team competitions," Li Yibo said.

"Ah, so it's like this huh," Pan Lin nodded.

"So in conclusion, the team competition is crucial. Whoever loses the team competition out of these three teams could then potentially lose their spot in the play-offs," Li Yibo said.

Chapter 1377: Grasp the Initiative

Pan Lin and Li Yibo calmed their frayed nerves with an analysis of the current situation. On the field, Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer had already loaded into the map. Zou Yuan once again charged forth heroically. Even against Glory's Number One, he showed no fear and no intention of backing down at all.

The sound of gunshots didn't stop.

Gunfire flashed from the two muzzles, bullets flying, carving trails into the air.

Zou Yuan had initiative, but Zhou Zekai was no slouch either. After seeing two rounds of Zou Yuan's performance, Zhou Zekai had figured out how to deal with him.

Be faster!

Be more precise!

Zou Yuan's Hundred Blossoms Style required the successive use of skills to overwhelm his opponent. His previous two opponents, one a Battle Mage and the other a Blade Master, were both melee fighters and gave the mid to long ranged Spitfire plenty of openings to use these skills. They had to charge head on into Zou Yuan's Hundred Blossoms Style.

But it was different for Zhou Zekai.

His Sharpshooter had an attack range that didn't lose to and could even overwhelm a Spitfire's. From the moment they engaged, Zhou Zekai had Cloud Piercer maximize his firepower, not giving Zou Yuan a chance to build up his Hundred Blossoms Style.

Though the two characters were ranged fighters, they looked like two melee characters, entangled in a brawl. The bullets were a chain between them, the trails they carved through the air, connecting the two characters intimately.

Neither of them could back down even the slightest, attacking relentlessly, bullets flying, trying to see whose predictions were more precise, whose mechanics were more flawless.

Flowers of blood bloomed on Bright Blossoms' body, signs of bullets disturbing his flesh.

Cloud Piercer would sway and stumble every now and then, knocked about by the effects of the grenades Bright Blossoms threw.

Both of them were doing their best to overcome this through their mechanics.

At a time like this, whoever stepped back, whoever hesitated, would fall behind.

The gunshots didn't stop until one of the two characters fell.

Cloud Piercer. In the end, it was Cloud Piercer that stayed standing on the field. Zhou Zekai, in the end, was the one to claim victory, and prevented Zou Yuan from achieving a 1v3. However, this victory had cost him. Cloud Piercer still had 59 percent of his health remaining, having spent 41 percent of his health. As for Bright Blossoms, the amount of health he had at the start was also 41 percent. The two characters had managed to tie in the amount health they had spent.

Zou Yuan had really done the best he could. Against Samsara's group arena, he was probably the one who had done the best in everyone that had tried this regular season.

We can't waste the chance Zou Yuan has fought to give us!

Yu Feng stepped onto the stage with this resolve.

That guy who had done all he could had given up the position of core to him. Since he had accepted this responsibility, he couldn't lose to that guy on the field! Otherwise, what right did he have to call himself their core?

"Come on!" Yu Feng yelled into the chat. After years of being sealed away, Blossoming Chaos, the once Number One Berserker, had finally returned to his throne with Yu Feng's arrival at Hundred Blossoms and now charged fiercely up towards Glory's current number one.

If he couldn't even take out 59 percent health, then how could he face his fellow teammates?

Greatsword Blossoms Burial slashed forth.

Slashing forth, determined, through Cloud Piercer's rain of bullets.

Would they win?

All the Hundred Blossoms fans were anxious, hoping like never before. Even if the one blocking their way was Zhou Zekai, a person who'd make people think "there's no way we can win" reflexively when on the field.

Win! They had to win!

They absolutely must win!

Practically no one paid the details of their battle any mind; everyone's focus was on the health of the two characters. This was the most alluring aspect of competition. Victory, it was victory, everything was to win. When victory and defeat were a hair's breadth away, no one had the mind to care about what spectacular techniques were being used. Health, that was the clearest indicator of the line between victory and defeat, so everyone focused on the characters' health. The changes in these two bars, representing the life force of each character, were the clearest, most intense footnotes of the battle.

Whose health bar was depleting faster?

Whose health bar was depleting slower?

Cloud Piercer?

Blossoming Chaos?

The audience's gazes flashed between the two, and occasionally, when the shot cut to one without the health bars, the audience practically had the mood to jump up and curse. The live broadcast knew that this was a moment of tension as well, and made sure that the health bars were clearly displayed, no matter what shot it was.

They'd win, right?

They wouldn't lose again, right?

On the health bars, Cloud Piercer had only 5 percent of his health left, while Blossoming Chaos had 32 percent.

A very large advantage, but there was no relaxing until the very last minute.

Hurry and die already!

That was the only voice in the hearts of the Hundred Blossoms fans. Finally, greatsword Blossoms Burial struck down like a whirlwind, dealing the final blow in this battle. "We won!!!" Samsara's home stadium erupted in cheers. Of course, this wasn't that even the Samsara fans had been moved, it was just that the long-suppressed in-venue Hundred Blossoms fans exploded with emotion just as Blossoming Chaos finally killed Cloud Piercer.

"Oooooohhhhhhhhh!!!"

In that moment, the Hundred Blossom players on the player bench all jumped up like they were going crazy, as if they had already won the championship.

They had won. Under these trying circumstances, they had managed to win the group arena at Samsara's home stadium.

“How are things going over there?” Immediately, someone asked after Wind Howl. Once this question was out in the open, the atmosphere tensed once more. If Wind Howl also won their group arena, then Hundred Blossoms would still be behind.

“Wind Howl...” Someone started looking up the match status, and then burst out in excitement, “They lost! Wind Howl lost to Tiny Herb in the group arena!”

“That means, right now, we...” “Have a one point lead!”

“Yesssss!!!!” The Hundred Blossoms players and the fans that came with them now all knew Wind Howl’s current status. Wind Howl had lost the group arena, so they currently only had three points. Meanwhile, Hundred Blossoms had won two individual matches and then the group arena, gaining four points and finally overtaking Wind Howl.

Though the match hadn’t completely finished yet, Hundred Blossoms had finally grasped the initiative. They didn’t need to act and plan around others anymore. So long as they did their best, so long as they won the following round as well, then they’ll have a hundred percent chance of entering the playoffs.

That unsteady feeling of knowing that even if they did everything they could to win they still might be knocked out by an opponent who was doing the same finally disappeared. Hundred Blossoms could finally put all their focus and hard work on the playoffs without caring about other teams.

“Hundred Blossoms’ dedication has finally allowed them to hold onto the initiative! Now, their fate is completely up to their own efforts. On the other hand, after being defeated by Tiny Herb in the group arena, Wind Howl’s survival will depend on how well their opponents do. Even if they manage to defeat Tiny Herb in the last round, their rival will have to lose to give them a chance,” Pan Lin said.

“Indeed. The last round, whoever loses the team competition will end their summer here,” Li Yibo agreed.

“Just one step away. That’s a very cruel result for anyone. But, there’s nothing to it. Today, one team must taste such a bitter end. Who will it be? 301 Degrees? Hundred Blossoms? Or Wind Howl?” Pan Lin’s words were no longer just commentating on this one match, but on three matches at once.

Hundred Blossoms and Wind Howl’s results had reached Happy and 301 Degrees as well. Chen Guo did a quick calculation with her fingers and delight appeared on her face.

“We’re in. We’re in the playoffs for sure now.” Chen Guo was excited, because now, their place in the playoffs was 100 percent certain. Happy would enter the playoffs and set out on the road to the championship.

“So it won’t matter even if we lose all our remaining battles?” Wei Chen asked.

“Yup.” Chen Guo nodded, but then added, “But everyone still has to do their best!”

“Of course. Who wants to walk into the playoffs with defeating hanging off of them?” Ye Xiu retorted.

“You don’t want to, but 301 Degrees wants to even less!” Wei Chen exclaimed. 301 Degrees had to win to ensure their place in the playoffs. Though they had won two individual matches and the group arena, they still had the danger of being knocked out of the playoffs if they lost their team competition. They had to do their absolute best in this last round of the regular season.

“Who cares about them?” Ye Xiu said, “They dared to win a consecutive four points off of us. We’ve got to teach them a lesson, right, Little Tang?”

“Definitely!” Tang Rou was still angrily waiting to venting her loss in the group arena!

“Alright then, let’s go! Let’s end the last round of the regular season with a bang,” Ye Xiu said.

“Best if they get eliminated because of it. That way we’ll be in their nightmares the entire summer, hahahaha,” Wei Chen laughed.

“Okay, let’s go and give them a nightmare!” Ye Xiu waved his hand, and Happy’s team competition lineup stood.

Ye Xiu, Su Mucheng, Fang Rui, Qiao Yifan, An Wenyi and sixth player Tang Rou. This was the most common lineup of Happy’s this regular season, and they would pull the curtain on Happy’s regular season this match. As for 301 Degrees, their players also stood after their captain, Yang Cong, gave them all a pep talk.

Yang Cong, Bai Shu, Gao Jie, Li Yihui, Sun Mingjing and then sixth player Qian Wenju was also their core lineup for the latter half of the regular season, after Bai Shu’s addition. It was with this formation that 301 Degrees managed to turn their situation around and become a powerhouse that charged towards the playoffs. In the latter half of the regular season, they had used this formation to defeat Blue Rain, Tiny Herb, and Tyranny. It was only because they lagged behind in the first half of the season that they were pulled into such an intense and anxious chase for the positions in the playoffs.

The people had all the reason to believe that if 301 Degrees could enter the playoffs, then they might get even further. They had already proven that they had the strength to compete with powerhouses in the regular season.

“Let’s win this!” 301 Degrees’ players cheered as the six core members entered the stage. After getting four points consecutively in the one on one matches, their morale was at an all time high.

#### Chapter 1378: Playoffs Experience

The team competition of the very last round of Season 10 of the Glory Pro League began one after the other in the home stadiums of ten teams. Twenty teams, six players per team, a total one hundred and twenty players. Sixty of them would end their season here with this last battle. Forty-eight of them would step from here to a more intense journey called the playoffs. And the last twelve would be bidding this stage a farewell after this match.

Happy’s home stadium, two teams...

One had already confirmed that they would be continuing their journey. The other was still working hard to reach that point.

They had to win.

301 Degrees had no other choice. Only by winning, could they make sure that their efforts this year weren’t wasted.

As for Happy...

"It's the last round of the regular season. Let everyone see how much you've all grown this year!" Ye Xiu exclaimed.

All the players gazed back in silent determination.

"Especially you, Fang Rui," Ye Xiu called Fang Rui out.

"Fuck off!" Fang Rui bristled. As an All Star player, hearing a word such as "growth" used on him pissed him off. Even though he was still transitioning between classes, Fang Rui felt that "integrate" was a much more appropriate word than "growth".

"Let's crush them. This is a rare chance to warm up for the playoffs. 301 Degrees definitely has the determination and lust for victory as a playoffs team. Take this chance to familiarize yourself with this rhythm!" Ye Xiu said.

This wasn't just a pep talk.

Playoffs experience, finals experience, these things were a whole new level in and of themselves. The playoffs were engulfed in a far more tense pace and atmosphere, and this tension would peak at the finals. Under these situations, a player's mental fortitude would be tested. Some inexperienced players might get too nervous or too cautious, resulting in careless mistakes.

Those with experience knew how to face the playoffs, and even the finals, allowing them to adjust their mood and mental state. They would be cautious when required, and strike without mercy when necessary. Many players might not be noticed much during the regular season, but they would shine during the playoffs. These were clutch players who had laudable mental fortitude. The more stressful and critical the situation, the better they performed.

Amongst Blue Rain's current players, Qi Master Song Xiao was a renowned tough hearted player. From his performance and the statistical data gathered in the regular season, he was nowhere near god level, but during the playoffs, his combative ability would rise dramatically. Having debuted during the fifth season, he became a core member of Blue Rain after his debuting season, helping Blue Rain achieve the championship in the sixth season and earning himself the title of "Mister Clutch".

Team Blue Rain's lineup had gone through many changes these years, but Song Xiao had retained his position throughout all of that. He was usually in rotation during the regular season, but during the playoffs, his match time would greatly increase. It was clear that Team Blue Rain knew where his value lay.

Song Xiao was a player that had natural talent in this area. Most clutch players were born through accumulating playoffs experience. These experienced, composed veterans might not play much in the regular season, but they shone bright in the playoffs, and that was where the value in playoffs experience lay.

Team Happy's rookies naturally didn't have such experience. Though, from Ye Xiu's observations, it was clear that Happy's rookies had shockingly powerful mental fortitude, there was no saying if they would be able to last through the playoffs. This match was a rare opportunity. 301 Degrees would definitely be playing with the same energy that they would in the playoffs, so Ye Xiu hoped that his teammates

wouldn't let themselves relax. They should find the appropriate attitude to face the intense atmosphere of a battle to the death. Though the previous few rounds were very intense, it was nowhere close to a match like this that would decide a team's survival. After all, they couldn't compare to the intensity of the playoffs matches.

"Understood." Once Happy's onstage players replied, they each went into their own player booths. On the other side, 301 Degrees had finished preparations as well. The map loaded in, and the two sides soon began the match.

Happy's map choice: Paulownia Tower

A map with a high point, clearly considering 301 Degree's current preferred strategy. So long as there was a high point, then Happy could use it to observe 301 Degree's movements and prevent their Life Risking Strike from hitting.

Thus, their strategy became clear and straightforward: fight for the high ground!

301 Degrees naturally wouldn't be clueless about this map and they didn't take any long routes, all of them charging out as soon as the battle began.

As such an important strategic point, Paulownia Tower naturally wouldn't be closer to one spawn point or the other. Whoever arrived first would depend entirely on movement speed.

301 Degrees had charged out as a team but soon enough, the characters pulled away from one another.

Scene Killer!

301 Degree's captain, Yang Cong's Scene Killer charged at the head, having no intentions to move with the team. He sped up ahead of the rest and charged out towards Paulownia Tower first.

Team Happy's Silver equipment was relatively few in number, making their stats more transparent. It was already Round 38, and Happy had garnered enough attention for their characters to be researched thoroughly. Movement speed wise, Yang Cong had confidence that he wouldn't lose to any of Happy's ordinary characters. Unfortunately, Happy had a very much extraordinary character.

Lord Grim.

If this unspecialized character used movement skills, then his movement speed would probably top Scene Killer's.

However, Yang Cong predicted that Happy wouldn't have Lord Grim stand guard over the high ground. In Happy's core lineup, Lord Grim was a core melee DPS. The one to stay on the high ground would naturally be Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain.

However, Dancing Rain couldn't outpace Scene Killer in speed. This, Yang Cong was certain, that Happy knew as well. Thus, having Lord Grim temporarily stand guard here before switching with Dancing Rain when she arrived was their most stable plan of action.

Yang Cong's thoughts were clear and thorough.



Although 301 Degrees had never gotten a particularly good result in the playoffs before, they had participated enough times. As a player who debuted in the third season, Yang Cong had plenty of playoffs experience and knew all too well the suffocating atmospheres that surrounded these battles to the death. He didn't lack playoffs experience, and so he was able to analyze the situation calmly and carefully.

Heading out alone with Scene Killer wasn't just to fight for the high grounds, but also to do reconnaissance. Happy's Lord Grim was slightly faster than he was. It wasn't a good idea to engage while he had the initiative. The playoffs rhythm was to work towards a position of absolute advantage, so Yang Cong currently had no intentions of engaging.

He was just here to observe Happy's arrangements and see what Happy was planning. If he had a chance, he'd strike. If not, then he'd wait. In any case, before his hand was forced, then he'd only come out when he had a solid grasp on the situation.

Paulownia Tower soon appeared in Yang Cong's view. He took a look at the terrain around it and then had Scene Killer begin to circle closer.

From his understanding of Lord Grim's speed, if the other went all out, he'd have arrived by now.

It didn't appear that anyone was on the top of the Paulownia Tower. Where would Lord Grim be hiding? Under the tower? Inside the tower? Or somewhere close by? Was he planning to ambush Yang Cong?

Even as Yang Cong calculated his opponent's movement speed, he trusted that his opponent also had a clear understanding. Though his Scene Killer was donned entirely in Silver equipment with his stats hidden, after fighting in this circle for all these years, Scene Killer's stats had probably been figured out ages ago even if there was no exact data. Happy had a few veterans amongst their midst, so they had an idea.

He was circling to make certain that Lord Grim wasn't hiding around.

However, after making a complete circle, he didn't see anyone.

Yang Cong took a look at all the hiding spots around Paulownia Tower. Lord Grim wasn't anywhere to be seen. If Lord Grim had arrived, then there was only one possibility: he was hiding inside Paulownia Tower.

Paulownia Tower's interior comprised of a spiral staircase going all the way to the top. There were no open windows in the tower, so if Lord Grim wanted to hide inside, then Ye Xiu wouldn't have any way of figuring out if 301 Degree's people had arrived or not. He could only sit there and wait.

Yang Cong didn't bother with further confirmations. After circling around, he had a new plan. He had found a good hiding spot next to the Paulownia Tower, so Scene Killer moved over and prepared to ambush.

He didn't dare bet on if Lord Grim had arrived or not.

However, was certain that Dancing Rain had yet to arrive, and if she wanted to gain that high spot, then she's soon come. As for the place Scene Killer was currently in, it was perfect for ambushing and killing Dancing Rain. If he managed to stall Dancing Rain, then he would've dismantled Happy's plans. Yang

Cong's Assassin wouldn't be at a disadvantage at all in a melee fight against a Launcher. If he made it so that the rest of Happy was forced to come and assist, then he would have managed to cause their formation to break up entirely.

Yang Cong's plans were detailed and precise. This was exactly what an experienced veteran should be like.

Thus, Scene Killer hid there. This position was perfect. It was good for ambushing anyone that arrive in the direction of Happy's spawn point and it was also out of range of an ambush from the top of or under the Paulownia Tower. This was a blind spot from any direction.

Yang Cong had only just hid Scene Killer away when he heard the sound of cannonfire.

She's coming!

Yang Cong knew it this was Dancing Rain, heading over with Aerial Cannon.

The sound approached steadily and Yang Cong was already counting down in his head, aiming to attack at the optimal time. Boom! Boom!

Boom!

Yang Cong could practically see Dancing Rain jumping and firing to glide over!

Boom!

She's here!

With another boom, Yang Cong had this clear idea in his head. This was the result of years of experience. He didn't need to calculate. He could feel it.

Scene Killer jumped up, Dancing Rain's figure immediately flashing by.

Shining Cut!

Scene Killer charged out.

### **Chapter 1379: No Other Choice**

A chilling light flashed out!

The Shining Cut of the Number One Assassin, Scene Killer, was clearly much fiercer, much swifter than one executed by an unspecialized like Lord Grim. In addition, Scene Killer was wielding dual swords. Though the attack speed couldn't compare to a dagger, its attack power and range was much stronger. Different weapons also executed Shining Cut differently. For daggers, there would only be a single flash of chilling light. Scene Killer held dual swords, so the chilling flashes of light crossed into an x shape before slashing down to either side.

Two streams of blood trailed after the cross of chilling light, but at the same time, with three thunderous booms, explosions erupted between the two characters.

Su Mucheng's reaction speed wasn't slow. She had noticed movement from the corner of her eyes and knew that a character in the middle of Aerial Cannon couldn't dodge, so she could only hurriedly turn her cannon around and blast back.

Although Shining Cut had hit Dancing Rain, it couldn't stop Anti-Tank Missiles from activating.

The explosion threw Scene Killer to the side and the powerful recoil changed the pathing of Su Mucheng's Aerial Cannon. Scene Killer had managed to close in with one skill, but he was soon left in the dust. Yang Cong wouldn't let this chance escape and quickly readjusted his position and view. Just as Scene Killer landed, he lunged towards Dancing Rain.

Dancing Rain blasted the other with her cannon. Although it was all normal attacks, she comboed them with backward jumps, allowing her to attack Scene Killer even as she pulled away.

However, Yang Cong was prepared for this. After all, Su Mucheng was a skilled and experienced top player. It was hardly surprising that he wasn't able to close in with just that. Yang Cong had left other tricks up his sleeve.

Swift Movements!

This skill didn't have a short cooldown, so Yang Cong had saved it for this moment. It was clear that he had gotten to the point of thinking three steps ahead for every step he took for this match.

Swift Movements and then sprinting, that was the fastest your movement speed could get in Glory. Scene Killer's form was so fast, he was practically a blur. He dashed past Dancing Rain's missiles, and those who couldn't see as well almost missed his dodge.

Heart-Piercing Stab!

Scene Killer caught up to Dancing Rain in the blink of an eye. His dual sword swept out with two more flashes of chilling light.

Boom!

Yang Cong really hadn't expected that Su Mucheng would play the same trick twice. After that normal attack she had sent, she had time to attack again to try and hinder him, but she purposefully didn't, letting her hand cannon droop like she was printing backwards. In reality, she was hiding the muzzle to secretly load a Cannonball.

Scene Killer's approach was swift, and with that, he didn't have the time to notice such an insignificant detail. By the time his dual swords Dancing Shadows stabbed out, Dancing Rain's hand cannon Devouring Sun was set against Scene Killer's chest like a knife.

A normal attack?

Of course not.

For gunners, their normal attacks were gunshots, so wacking someone around the head was actually a skill. For example, a Launcher's knock-up skill, Swing, swung their cannon and knocked their opponent into the air. However, that clearly wasn't what Dancing Rain was doing. The muzzle seemed to retract into the barrel, causing the hand cannon to shorten. In that moment, Yang Cong knew that this was a

charged Cannonball and by then it was far too late to dodge. Devouring Sun's muzzle bounced back out and flung forth a cannonball, which then rather unrealistically exploded between them upon hitting its extremely close ranged target. The recoil and blast power of the charged Cannonball was stronger than all three Anti-Tank Missiles added together, throwing Scene Killer far back while allowing Dancing Rain to retreat even further.

He had once again failed to stick close to Dancing Rain, but Yang Cong was relatively satisfied with the current situation. He had, at least, managed to stall Su Mucheng. If Happy couldn't get the high ground, then their strategy...

"We've met the enemy!"

That was when a sudden message jumped out in the 301 Degrees chat. It came from Paladin player, Sun Mingjing.

Yang Cong felt his heart jump. He had the gist of this map down in his head. If 301 Degrees had met the enemy before they even got to the Paulownia Tower, then there was only possibility: Their opponent's goal was never the Paulownia Tower. Instead, they had predicted 301 Degrees' actions and took a shortcut over to catch them off guard.

So, if Happy never wanted to get the high ground, then that meant his stalling of Dancing Rain was meaningless.

However, Dancing Rain still appeared here as if she wanted to take the high ground.

This was...

"How many!" Yang Cong hurriedly asked in the chat.

"4" The reply was just a single number, with no coordinates or punctuation. Clearly, they were already in an intense battle.

Luring the tiger from its mountain!

The name of that stratagem filled Yang Cong's mind.

He had tried to block Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain in order to destroy Happy's plan of taking the high ground.

However, what was the point of Happy getting the high ground in the first place? Clearly, it was to better observe 301 Degrees' movements as a whole and prevent them from successfully executing their favored Life-Risking Strike.

Thus, now, Yang Cong had successfully blocked Dancing Rain, but at the same time, where was their favored strategy? Without his Assassin, how would they manage to use Life-Risking Strike to kill their opponent's key character?

Turning their trick against them!

Glory Textbook, Master Tactician Ye Xiu's most practiced playstyle. This wasn't the first time third season debuter Yang Cong had seen it, or experienced it personally.

But even now, no matter how on guard you were, you couldn't defend against it.

It was as if, from the very first day Ye Xiu joined the Alliance, he had skills better than everyone else's, a more comprehensive understanding, deeper and more meticulous strategies. He was like a time traveller from the future, able to stand at the front of everyone else no matter what. He had created countless playstyles, designed countless strategies, proposed countless theories.

Who could possibly be better at turning others' strategies against them than this forerunner of Glory ?

It was like he had an absolute grasp over everyone's thoughts and schemes and would easily stay one step ahead, always in the lead. By the time you noticed and realized, when you looked back, everything seemed so simple. But in reality? You had no way of thinking so deeply before, and you couldn't predict the convoluted path he had chosen to walk.

301 Degrees had to cover for him to help him successfully execute Life-Risking Strike.

So Happy had to break this Life-Risking Strike strategy.

So Happy had to get the high ground.

So 301 Degrees, in order to protect their strategy, couldn't let Happy get the high ground.

So 301 Degrees' fastest character Scene Killer came here.

And the one most suited to standing guard at the high ground, Dancing Rain, also arrived.

Scene Killer had successfully blocked Dancing Rain, but at the same time, without Scene Killer, how was 301 Degrees supposed to get a Life-Risking Strike off?

If 301 Degrees couldn't use Life-Risking Strike, then was the high ground even important anymore?

After this whole convoluted mess, it was 301 Degrees at a disadvantage.

They couldn't use the strategy they had gotten used to, the strategy they had managed to defeat all those teams with.

Yet, Happy's counter was built on such a simple idea.

If the person who could use Life-Risking Strike was no longer there, then they naturally couldn't use Life Risking Strike. This was so simple, a young child could easily figure it out, yet that was exactly where 301 Degrees had fallen into the trap; Yang Cong had charged right into it.

Scene Killer wanted to turn and flee, but this time, the one stalling became Dancing Rain.

A melee class being chased down by a ranged class was a very painful process.

This was because you could only run like hell, dodge, flee, until you escaped the opponent's attack range. You had no way of counterattacking. If you wanted to counterattack, then you had to close in, and closing in and fleeing were clearly opposites.

All these years, Yang Cong's Assassin maintained the image of a heroic warrior that charged at the frontlines. This year, he had switched to kamikaze warrior. The art of escape really wasn't Yang Cong's

forte. No matter what style he chose, he relied on passion. Dirty play, something that Nightwalkers usually relied on, wasn't something that he really used.

Gunfire pursued Scene Killer, hindering Yang Cong's escape.

He had already given up on throwing Dancing Rain off. He just ran and ran, hoping to regroup with his team as soon as possible and execute their favored strategy.

Under the relentless attacks, Scene Killer's movement speed plummeted. Eventually, the battle appeared in his view. His brothers at 301 Degrees and Happy, their opponents.

Almost there!

Comfort filled Yang Cong's heart, but soon enough, seeing the large swaths of shadows in his view, he wasn't able to keep up his smile.

Yang Cong raised his view, looking up behind him.

This was the shadow of Paulownia Tower, lying on the ground. Not long in front of it was the battlefield.

He could have Scene Killer dash over and regroup with his teammates, but then? Then he knew that Su Mucheng, who had been pursuing him all this time, would let him go, because then she'd have Dancing Rain ascend the Paulownia Tower, and observe 301 Degrees' tactical system from up high.

He had ran like hell all the way back, yet he was faced with such an awkward situation. Had their opponents planned to this point, too?

So, from the start, ever since he had the idea to block Su Mucheng, he only had one option.

Get rid of Su Mucheng!

Only then, could they resolve the dilemma they were in, allowing him to regroup with his teammates and execute their favored strategy.

Apart from that, there was no other choice.

Yang Cong had settled on this, yet Scene Killer still ran towards the battlefield, as if he hadn't realized their plot.

As expected, Su Mucheng soon let him go and went into the Paulownia Tower.

Yang Cong purposefully slowed down, calculating the speed at which Dancing Rain could climb the tower before resolutely turning back and charging over!

He wanted to trap Dancing Rain inside the tower. Otherwise, if he just turned around and pursued his target directly, who knows where Dancing Rain would kite him to.

Yet, just as Scene Killer was about to arrive at the bottom of the Paulownia Tower, Yang Cong suddenly paused. He realized that he had made a mistake that he really shouldn't have.

If he caught up, then could he manage to trap Dancing Rain inside the tower? Once she got to the top, she could just jump down.

He had really been led in circles!

### **Chapter 1380: Repeat Effect**

He couldn't pursue, but he couldn't not pursue either.

This wasn't the first time Yang Cong had been met with an awkward situation like this in a match where no matter what he chose, it wouldn't help. Was there a third option? Yang Cong didn't know. Perhaps there was, but he couldn't see it, so he could only pick one of two actions. Even if neither option was optimal, he had to make a choice. For every moment he hesitated, the worse the situation became.

After her!

In the end, Yang Cong decided to pursue Dancing Rain. Letting Happy take hold of the high ground would throw them into even worse straits. This was why when they saw the map, 301 Degrees' players all felt their heart stutter, and they ended up sending Yang Cong forth to perform reconnaissance. Yang Cong noticed that their mistakes started from here, from letting their minds focus on the high ground of this map. As for him realizing that he wouldn't be able to trap Su Mucheng, this was a very minor mistake. Even if he didn't make this mistake, he'd had turned back to try and close in on Dancing Rain anyways, and then Su Mucheng would have Dancing Rain kite him, which might lead him in circles using the tower anyways.

They hadn't been prepared enough from the beginning and hadn't considered that Happy could use this high ground to trick them and counter trap them.

What would they do if they were met with such a situation again?

This thought flashed through Yang Cong's head, but was soon pushed to the side.

This wasn't the time for think about that. First, he had to focus on dealing with the current situation. If they managed to get into the playoffs, then it wouldn't be too late to resolve this issue then.

Scene Killer ran like the hounds of hell were at his feet, charging right up the tower. He could clearly hear the sounds of cannonfire; who knew how much ranged support Dancing Rain had been able to provide already? In addition, the entrance to the tower was clear in her view. Su Mucheng immediately saw Scene Killer when the other charged up. Then, despite there being no voice, Yang Cong felt like he could hear Su Mucheng giggling; despite characters having no expression, he felt like he saw Dancing Rain flash him a smile.

Without any hesitation, Dancing Rain jumped off the tower roof.

Yang Cong didn't hesitate. He had been expecting this. He too jumped off the roof without hesitation.

Diving Arrow!

Anti-Tank Missiles!

Scene Killer stomped on Dancing Rain in midair, but, at the same time, he was struck close range by Dancing Rain's cannonfire.

Light and fire exploded in the sky. Below, Happy and 301 Degrees' eight were deep in battle and didn't have the time to pay any attention to it.

They knew what was happening over there. In comparison, 301 Degrees was naturally under more pressure. Without Yang Cong, their strategy lacked the most important aspect. They didn't have to use Life Risking Strike, but after demonstrating their success in using it these few times, Yang Cong's Scene Killer's presence in and of itself became a huge hindrance to their opponents. So long as he was here, then their opponents would have to keep a careful eye on his movements, on what he was planning to do.

Team 301 Degrees would expand on this to claim victory. The ultimate goal of the match was victory. Using Life-Risking Strike was just a means to an end, but not the only means. It was just that this means had too large of an impact, making the opponents wary and making 301 Degrees' openings successful. However, this time, Yang Cong's Scene Killer wasn't even there, so Team 301 Degrees couldn't use the strategy they had been using for the latter half of the season. The remaining four weren't performing so well against Happy right now. However, Bai Shu's performance in the team competition was more striking than his performance in 1v1s. Protecting his teammates, synchronizing with them, even charging at the forefront, no matter what, he performed excellently. It was clear that he had already become an integral part of this team.

Unfortunately, a 301 Degrees with only him had still lost its sharpest sword. They could stall and stand up against Happy, but they couldn't find a way to win.

As for Happy's four? Under the mix of offensive and defensive maneuvers performed by Ye Xiu's Lord Grim and Fang Rui's Boundless Sea, Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash set ghost boundary after ghost boundary.

Ghost boundaries were inanimate, and players had life. A noob would probably think that ghost boundaries were easy to deal with: I'll just stay far, far away from it, then my opponent won't have any way to get to me.

It wasn't that this was incorrect, but when a pro level Phantom Demon started setting ghost boundaries, they were also weaving a tight web. If they wanted to struggle out of it, if they wanted to get through it, then just staying far away wouldn't be nearly enough, especially in a team competition.

Ghost Boundaries were inanimate, players had life, but these living players included a Phantom Demon's teammates.

In a team competition, if you wanted to retreat, then you had to make sure that everyone on your side could retreat successfully. This clearly wasn't as simple as escaping on your own in a 1v1. In a team competition, Phantom Demons would cooperate with their teammates to capitalize on this. There was no need to trap everyone on the other side. Just trapping one person was equal to trapping everyone. After all, they couldn't just leave one of their teammates here to die.

Not good!

Seeing the ghost boundaries appear one after the other around them, 301 Degrees' players knew that things weren't looking up for them. They desperately needed Yang Cong's support, but Yang Cong couldn't come over.



What should they do?

“Here” a single word suddenly popped out in the chat. It was Bai Shu.

Here? What’s here?

301 Degrees’ team members knew that it wasn’t the time to ask, and all turned their gazes towards Bai Shu’s Tide.

Knight’s Spirit!

Bai Shu’s Tide activated the Knight’s awakening skill and then bellowed, waving his sword and shield in the air.

Sacrificial Roar!

Bai Shu had finally gotten a chance where he’d be able to take control of all four of Happy’s characters at once. He swiftly grasped this chance and then released this Sacrificial Roar, which just so happened to reach all four of Happy’s members.

He had waited a long time for such a chance. From the beginning, he had realized that Happy was on guard of his taunt skills and the occasional chance that appeared were all traps.

As expected of Ye Xiu!

Bai Shu’s opinion of Ye Xiu had gone through a huge metamorphosis by now. Not only did the other have skill that not even he could rival, his team worked together like a well oiled machine. However, Bai Shu believed that there would be an opportunity. No one could work flawlessly like a robot, so he waited patiently, endured patiently, observing the situation and preparing to grasp this opportunity.

It had come.

Under the effects of Sacrificial Roar, Happy’s four all forcibly turned to attack him. However, Roar and Provoke were different. Provoke inflicted a Taunt that had a time limit on a single target. Roar would affect everyone within range, but only lasted until the taunter was attacked once.

For ranged fighters, it was easy to get rid of Roar’s effect. All they had to do was attack the target once. It was more troublesome for melee fighters. If they were far away, then they would have to close in first, and the skills unleashed while not closed in would be judged by the system to see if they counted as attacking the taunter. Currently, it seemed that the system wasn’t so easy to trick. It would make a judgement using the range of the attack to see if it posed a threat to the Knight or not.

Ye Xiu and Fang Rui both had ranged attacks, so within a second after Sacrificial Roar, Lord Grim and Boundless Sea immediately sent attacks at Tide and resolved the effect. Yet, even so, their original offensive was interrupted for a moment, allowing 301 Degrees’ other three members to do as they pleased without hindrance for a moment.

For Happy, the one most affected was Qiao Yifan. Ghostblades could use the power of the Phantom Ghost to execute attacks of a longer range than Blade Masters and other Swordsmen. However, right now, he wasn’t close enough to reach Tide with his attacks, so Qiao Yifan had no choice but to have One Inch Ash rush after Tide. Unfortunately, Bai Shu’s main target was this Ghostblade of his. He wanted to

pull away, making it so that One Inch Ash couldn't strike, and thus destroying his Ghost Chaining technique.

From this point of view, Roar's effect really was rather disgusting. If the opponent couldn't execute an effective attack, then the taunt would remain forever.

However, it wouldn't be that easy to maintain this effect because Happy had two characters that could cleanse it.

The Qi Master's Calm and Composed.

The Cleric's Focus.

These were both skills that could remove the taunt status, and Happy just so happened to have both classes.

By now, if 301 Degrees' players didn't think to support Bai Shu, then they might as well retire.

Triple Slash!

The moment Sacrificial Roar was executed, Gao Jie immediately understood what Bai Shu was trying to do. Stellar Sword swung his white lightsaber, carving a brilliantly white sword light into the air and dashed towards Fang Rui's Boundless Sea, not giving him a chance to use Calm and Composed.

Bai Shu, on the other hand, used Knight's Spirit to charge at An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands with a Heroic Charge.

Li Yihui's Grappler, Moving Mountains, charged towards Ye Xiu's Lord Grim.

Normally, an unspecialized wouldn't have any skills that could remove taunt, but Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestations Umbrella could have a skill equipped to each form, so they had to be wary of the possibility.

As expected!

Seeing Lord Grim's movements, 301 Degrees began to panic.

His Myriad Manifestations Umbrella had been folded into two parts, a tonfa in each hand, his palms held towards each other, qi flowing, it was the Qi Master's Calm and Composed.

Don't even think about it!

Li Yihui was desperate. His Grappler's attack range was absolutely appalling, and he most likely wouldn't make it in time. However, an ex All-Star level Grappler player wouldn't give up so easily.

Circle Sweep Kick!

Li Yihui's Moving Mountains leaped into the air, shooting forwards. He seemed to grab for an opponent in midair with his legs, but there was no target within range. However, with this leap forward, he managed to catch up with One Inch Ash's movement, blocking Lord Grim's target for Calm and Composed and making him unable to target One Inch Ash.

This was a small trick, but it was effective.

Lord Grim's Calm and Composed failed, in the end, and he used it on himself in order to not waste it. Li Yihui sighed in relief, yet that was when he saw Lord Grim's tonfas reconnect and then, with a click, it turned into a scythe.

A Priest weapon!

Li Yihui paled again.

There were too many Taunt removers for Priest skills. The Cleric's Focus, the Knight's Immovable Mountain, the Exorcist's Calming Talisman, the Paladin's Purify. All four classes had a skill of this kind and apart from the Knight's, which could only be used on oneself, the other three could all be used on other targets.

After setting a Calm and Composed on his Myriad Manifestations Umbrella, had Ye Xiu then added a skill with a repeat effect?