

Avatar 1511

Chapter 1511: Starting at 13 Minutes 32 Seconds

Happy's Luo Ji had finally appeared on the battlefield after 13 minutes and 32 seconds. All of the viewers watching were having trouble processing it. By this point, most team competitions were at the halfway mark. The faster matches would almost be over. But in this match, one of Happy's players would only just be joining in on the fight at this time...

With one player missing the entire time, how had Happy survived up until now?

When the viewers looked at the time and thought about this question, they were put into a daze. The more attentive viewers couldn't help but think of Happy's first match against Blue Rain in the playoffs. In that team competition, hadn't Happy been hiding one of their players while fighting against Happy? Today's match and that's day's match were looking very similar!

How had Happy won that time?

When they searched through their memories to look for an idea, they suddenly remembered. Fuck, what win? Happy lost that team competition, relying on their lead in the group arena to barely win that round.

But today, Happy only had a one point lead from the group arena. If they just narrowly lost the team competition like that match, it would end in a draw. Happy's goal for this match couldn't possibly be a draw, right?

They couldn't think of an answer, so they could only wait and see.

Devil World Flower!

Concealed Light's first summon was incredibly standard. He summoned a Devil World Flower to stabilize the battle.

Then, boom boom boom...

Smoke and fire pervaded the area, burning the Devil World Flower into ashes.

"Hahaha." The crowd burst into laughter. Gunners were the bane of the Devil World Flower. Their long-ranged attacks reached farther than the Devil World Flower could. Since the Devil World Flower couldn't move, it was basically a practice target for Gunners. In addition, the Devil World Flower took additional damage from light and fire elemental attacks. Gunner bullets naturally contained fire elemental properties, making it even easier for them to deal with Devil World Flowers.

As a result, when facing a team with Gunners, the usefulness of Devil World Flowers was very situational. Tyranny had two Gunners, yet Luo Ji's first thought was to summon a Devil World Flower. Before the flower could even bloom, the two Gunners shot it down.

Tyranny fans laughed wildly. This rookie, who had been hiding for 13 minutes and 32 seconds, looked ridiculous.

But soon afterwards, they stopped laughing.

The Devil World Flower wasn't able to display its crowd control, but in that instant, a gap had appeared in the two Gunners' offense.

It wasn't that Zhang Jiale and Qin Muyun didn't know about this issue, but they had no choice. The placement of that Devil World Flower had been very tricky. If they hadn't eliminated it instantly, it would have interfered with Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder, creating a gap in Tyranny's offense.

In comparison, a Brawler's ability to control the field was stronger than theirs, which was why the two Gunners didn't hesitate to attack the Devil World Flower to minimize the opening created.

But no matter how small the opening was, there was still an opening. Only a few players could grasp such a small opening, and unfortunately for Tyranny, Ye Xiu happened to be one of them.

Shining Cut!

A cold light flashed, and Lord Grim instantly covered a length of distance from his original position.

Brick!

Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder hurriedly threw a Brick towards the back of Lord Grim's head.

Pa!

Suddenly, Boundless Sea cut across the field, leaping horizontally into the air, knocking the brick away.

This sort of move required not only precise inputs, but also accurate prediction. There perhaps might be no one but Fang Rui who could have accomplished this.

Boom boom boom!

The sound of cannonfire soon followed. Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain fired her cannon as she moved, her target: Immovable Rock.

After Lord Grim used Shining Cut, he borrowed the trees as cover to avoid the gunfire from Tyranny's two Gunners. At this point, his next target was very obvious.

Immovable Rock.

Grasping this small opening, Happy didn't run away. Instead, they launched a fierce counterattack targeting Tyranny's healer.

But Zhang Xinjie didn't feel pressured.

Happy's end goal was to retreat. By targeting Immovable Rock, they would force Tyranny to retreat to protect him.

But even if he knew what Happy's plans were, there was nothing he could do about it, because if he ignored them, Happy had the capability to kill him in one wave.

In that case, it would become a trade. Happy would kill him, but would suffer heavy damage from the rest of Tyranny. However, whether this trade was worth it, depended on how Han Wenqing handled An Wenyi.

Zhang Xinjie would always choose the most reliable path.

“?”

A question mark appeared in the Tyranny chat. Zhang Xinjie wanted to know what Han Wenqing’s situation was like.

“....”

The reply was a bunch of ellipses. These ellipses meant that Han Wenqing didn’t have An Wenyi in his grasps yet.

Zhang Xinjie sighed. He could only give up on this trade. If he couldn’t confirm the outcome of Han Wenqing’s battle, An Wenyi might be able to rely on his familiarity with the terrain to run a circle around Han Wenqing, convening back with his team. In that case, Happy would have their healer, while Tyranny would have no healer.

Or perhaps... the corner of this map was a support zone. After Happy took him down and suffered heavy injuries as a result, they would sub in with their healthy sixth player and rescue Little Cold Hands. Then, with the help of a healer, facing an alone Han Wenqing...

All sorts of possibilities flew through Zhang Xinjie’s mind. He wasn’t sure which of these was Happy’s true intent, but he knew that if Tyranny didn’t make adjustments to protect him, the outcome would not be certain.

As a result, a new order came from Zhang Xinjie. His Immovable Rock would retreat, the two Gunners would suppress Lord Grim, while Lin Jingyan’s Dark Thunder would retreat as well.

As Zhang Xinjie expected, Fang Rui and Su Mucheng immediately went on the offensive, breaking past Lin Jingyan’s defensive zone. The battles on both ends began shifting away from each other.

Everything had changed, starting from Luo Ji’s Devil World Flower, the Devil World Flower that had been incinerated before it could even be fully summoned.

The changes hadn’t stopped yet. Even though Zhang Xinjie pursued stability, he wouldn’t just obediently comply with the opponents’ intentions. At any moment, he would always look for the possibility of a victory by rushing the opponents.

The retreating Dark Thunder suddenly dashed forward!

Street Riot!

He unexpectedly used a high-level skill. Bricks, bottles, needles, all sorts of low-level Brawler skills began being thrown over.

His target, Lord Grim!

Although he let Fang Rui and Su Mucheng go, Zhang Xinjie wanted Ye Xiu to stay. When he saw that Happy wanted to attack him, he had asked Han Wenqing for his situation. It had taken some time for him to come to a decision.

If he made the trade, the time used up here wasn't meaningless. But if he didn't make the trade, then Tyranny could take advantage of this time used up.

Because of the delay, Happy had continued their aggression, which meant they would continue moving deeper into the enemy fray to reach him.

The further in the target, the harder it was to retreat.

Fang Rui and Su Mucheng had been let go. But once Tyranny focused on Lord Grim, because he had ventured a bit deeper into their territory, trying to escape now would be much more difficult.

Happy could try to loop around and rescue him, but if they did that, Tyranny would still have the initiative. Ye Xiu, who was trapped, would be their bargaining chip.

You'd better not think of leaving!

Dark Thunder's Street Riot threw out a bunch of CC skills. Ye Xiu could not ignore it.

Shua! The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella opened. Ye Xiu wanted to use the shield to force his way past it.

Rumble!

A wave of energy split apart the air in front of him. Lord Grim was pushed back.

Implosion Grenade!

The instant Zhang Jiale saw Lord Grim open his umbrella, he tossed a grenade. Once the umbrella propped open, a dead angle would appear. Zhang Jiale recognized this point, and tossed the Implosion Grenade where Ye Xiu couldn't see it.

Ye Xiu wasn't able to force his way through. The others on Happy hastily went to his rescue.

An eagle flew past.

Concealed Light, who had only appeared on the battlefield after 13 minutes and 32 seconds, only now officially joined the battle. A Thunder Eagle was let out, firing a bolt of lightning towards Dark Thunder.

Bang bang bang bang....

Amidst the gunfire, the Thunder Eagle stuttered. Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees struck the Thunder Eagle, stopping the eagle from moving in the air.

Godlike aim.

It was a stunning display.

Several Tyranny fans began shouting: Gunner King.

The Thunder Eagle had been stopped, but the Four Beast style Concealed Light had more than one summon at his disposal.

Spirit Cat. The nimble Spirit Cat suddenly scurried out from the grass.

Bang!

Floating Bullet. The Spirit Cat was knocked into the air. Then, a Grenade met with the Spirit Cat in the air. The shockwave from the explosion sent the Spirit Cat tumbling back to where it came from.

The audience began laughing again.

Every move that Luo Ji made looked like a joke. Tyranny dealt with them easily with flashy moves.

But this time, their laughter halted even more abruptly than last time.

Lord Grim had broken through!

Happy's Su Mucheng and Fang Rui didn't even need to act. Just Luo Ji's two summons gave Ye Xiu enough of an opening to break through.

No matter how unskilled the viewers were, at this point, they had realized that Luo Ji wasn't as simple as they thought.

Retreat!

With Lord Grim out, Happy began retreating.

Chase!

Tyranny went after them. They had no choice but to give chase because Han Wenqing's Desert Dust was chasing after An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands alone. They had to prevent Han Wenqing from getting surrounded by Happy.

"?"

Zhang Xinjie asked for the situation again.

Chapter 1512: Terrifying Pressure and Precise Calculation

"..."

Ellipses. Han Wenqing's response was more ellipses.

He was only facing a Cleric. Against a Cleric without any outside support, if he could get close, killing the Cleric would only be a matter of time. But Han Wenqing's reply was unexpectedly the same as before: ellipses. This meant that even now, he wasn't able to close in on An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands?

Zhang Xinjie felt surprised. Everyone who understood the meaning behind these ellipses felt surprised. The broadcast immediately switched the focus to the battle over there.

Sure enough, Desert Dust was still chasing after Little Cold Hands.

Let alone Tyranny's players and the viewers watching them, even Han Wenqing himself was feeling surprised.

Healer classes moved slowly compared to other classes and didn't have any movement skills to help them move faster either. It was true that Strikers needed to get extremely close to their opponents before they could start attacking, but Strikers were naturally fast classes unlike healers. Along with a several movement skills, their movement should be much much faster than Clerics.

But he wasn't able to catch him!

Was it because Little Cold Hands was wearing equipment that buffed his movement speed?

Happy had used this sort of strategy before in the Challenger League. A fast Cleric restricted the opponents to a certain extent, but this match, Little Cold Hands was wearing his proper high-crit healing equipment. His movement speed was the same as a normal Cleric, slower than average.

Yet Han Wenqing's Desert Dust was just unable to chase him down. Although Han Wenqing was surprised, he knew the reason why.

Because of the terrain.

An Wenyin was extremely familiar with this residential area. In addition, the terrain wasn't flat. There were many buildings on top of the trees, some with two or three floors.

Little Cold Hands wasn't fast, but he took advantage of the terrain, nimbly moving in and out.

At first, the audience had felt astonished that Han Wenqing wasn't able to catch up to Happy's weak point, their healer. But after the broadcast showed his pursuit of him, everyone felt that it was the opposite. Han Wenqing not being thrown off by An Wenyi and sticking so tightly to him was truly impressive feat!

It was indeed impressive.

However, the one who was shocked the most wasn't Han Wenqing, but An Wenyi. He thought that he had studied and practiced this area more than enough. Losing an opponent here shouldn't be hard at all, but it turned out that he was wrong.

Han Wenqing!

Even though An Wenyi admired Zhang Xinjie the most, as a Tyranny fan, how could he not respect Tyranny's captain, Han Wenqing? He had watched Tyranny for many years and was very familiar with the team. But after entering the pro scene, he quickly understood that the might he saw while sitting in front of the TV was very different from personally experiencing it for himself in a match.

The feeling of oppression that he got from Han Wenqing chasing after him made An Wenyi's palms sweat, but he didn't dare take a pause to wipe it away. Under this enormous pressure, the confidence that he had from his familiarity with the terrain was gradually being whittled away. An Wenyi didn't know how much longer he could endure. Han Wenqing had the time to respond to his team with ellipses, but for An Wenyi, the only thing that he had the time for was to keep running for his life. He had no time to do anything else. He didn't even dare to blink at this point. He needed to carefully carefully and quickly quickly quickly make decisions.

To think he hasn't made a mistake yet!

Han Wenqing's astonishment towards An Wenyi gradually shifted from his familiarity with the map to his calmness under heavy pressure.

The public's evaluation wasn't wrong. Even if Happy's rookies didn't have the skill, their spirits were incomparable. A rookie was being chased so closely by him, yet the rookie was still able to keep a clear head, quickly and accurately making the right decision every time.

Han Wenqing couldn't help but think of another player, his partner for many years, Zhang Xinjie.

Although the two were partners, when Zhang Xinjie first joined Tyranny in season four, Han Wenqing's outlook towards him was as a senior player towards a new rookie. However, the Zhang Xinjie at that time was similar to this An Wenyi. No matter the situation, there was no sign of panic. Calm and careful were the characteristics of this rookie, becoming the sturdy shield for Team Tyranny.

An Wenyi's technical skills couldn't compare to the rookie Zhang Xinjie of that time, but his mentality and his willpower gave Han Wenqing a feeling of déjà vu.

But he wasn't going to let up. Let alone a player similar to Zhang Xinjie, even if Zhang Xinjie had transferred to a different team and were in An Wenyi's position, he would still chase after him with everything he had. To him, that was the greatest respect he could give.

Chase!

Continue chasing!

After replying to Zhang Xinjie's inquiry, Han Wenqing wasn't swayed. He didn't feel embarrassed because he couldn't even catch a rookie. He wholeheartedly focused on this one goal. No matter what, he would chase down Little Cold Hands.

At this moment, Little Cold Hands suddenly moved horizontally.

Suddenly changing directions was a common method to escape from an opponent, but up until now, An Wenyi had never used such a method.

A sudden turn tested the opponent's reaction speed. If the opponent's reaction speed was fast enough and adjusted prompt enough, it also gave the opponent an opportunity to catch up.

That was why An Wenyi had never used this sort of risky method because he clearly knew his value as a healer in a team competition. No matter how poor his technical skill was or if he was the "weakness" of the team, as long as he was alive, he would be a huge threat.

As a result, An Wenyi had always been exceptionally cautious. But at this moment, he suddenly took a risk that he had never taken before.

Soaring Tiger!

Han Wenqing's Desert Dust immediately used a powerful skill, ferociously pouncing on him. The entire stadium erupted into cheers.

But it missed!

It was just by a bit, but the Soaring Tiger missed its mark. But when Han Wenqing chose this skill, he had thought of what came after. The Soaring Tiger missed, but he hit the tree. He crouched down and borrowed the tree to shoot forward!

With this, Desert Dust's speed increased sharply, moving like a flying artillery shell. But An Wenyi seemed to have known as Little Cold Hands rolled to the side.

Desert Dust missed again, and this time, he could not immediately turn like before.

Thousand Ton Drop!

Han Wenqing could only use this skill to let Desert Dust fall faster. However, by leaping off the tree and then using this skill to fall, Desert Dust had moved a large distance. When he turned back to find his target, Little Cold Hands had widened the distance between them.

I fell for it!

Han Wenqing continued to give chase, while sighing helplessly.

He wasn't a brainy player who was proficient at planning. Although his opponent was a rookie, it looked like he was better at these sorts of schemes than him. An Wenyi once again took advantage of the terrain, calculating what Han Wenqing would do and then courageously took the risk to widen the distance between them. An Wenyi had been a fan of Tyranny before. He was familiar with Han Wenqing. And after becoming a pro player, this familiarity as a fan naturally became an understanding of an opponent. This time, he used what he knew about Han Wenqing to succeed.

The viewers and even Pan Lin and Li Yibo weren't thinking as much. However, compared to Han Wenqing, they knew more clearly why An Wenyi took such a risk. Happy had sent a message in the team chat. Ye Xiu had called for An Wenyi to convene with them.

Would they succeed?

When Ye Xiu sent out the call, everyone had been watching Desert Dust sticking closely to Little Cold Hands and let out a big question mark. But An Wenyi immediately completed a beautiful escape, dispelling their doubts.

But, good things don't last!

After having a specific direction to move towards, An Wenyi's escape choices weren't as flexible anymore. He needed to follow a general direction and make a decision.

As for Han Wenqing, he also received a message from Zhang Xinjie, telling Han Wenqing their coordinates and asking Han Wenqing for his coordinates.

With this, Han Wenqing was able to see through An Wenyi's intent.

Now that he knew An Wenyi's aim, he could make predictions. Han Wenqing was no longer chasing after An Wenyi brainlessly like before. Desert Dust's pursuit became more orderly. Sometimes, people felt like he wasn't chasing Little Cold Hands. Instead, it looked like he happened to be following the same route as him. And An Wenyi's attempts at feints gradually lose their effectiveness too.

I've been seen through!

Seeing Desert Dust getting closer step by step, An Wenyi suddenly realized where the issue lay. But at this point, it was too late to regret his previous actions.

Keeping running!

His best choice was to simply run as fast as he could. Tricks would only be a waste of time. Next, it would be a contest of speed. However, since his opponent was a Striker, how could he hope to outspeed him as a Cleric! An Wenyi could only hope that he could meet up with the rest of Happy before his opponent caught up to him.

So he sprinted!

He didn't spare his stamina, using everything he had to sprint as fast as he could. An Wenyi wanted to cover the greatest distance in the shortest amount of time.

But unfortunately, if he could do it, so could Han Wenqing. As long as he caught up to Little Cold Hands, Desert Dust wouldn't need stamina to finish him off.

Sprint, all-out sprint!

Han Wenqing's Desert Dust immediately sprinted after him. The distance between the two characters closed at a visible speed.

"He's caught up!!" Pan Lin shouted.

Launching Kick!

Desert Dust jumped and kicked. It hadn't been easy catching up to Little Cold Hands, so of course he wouldn't use a knockback skill to help push Little Cold Hands away. He used the Striker's knock-up skill. He wanted to send Little Cold Hands into the air and then slowly deal with him.

But...

Boom boom boom!

Three rounds of artillery shells exploded between Desert Dust and Little Cold Hands. Little Cold Hands wasn't hurt, but Desert Dust was blown back by the shockwave. A figure stepped out of the forest and then instantly reached Desert Dust's side, cold light flashing.

"When did you ever become so shameful, bullying a little kid like that?" A merciless message from Ye Xiu popped up in the chat.

Chapter 1513: The Resolve of Both Sides

Team Happy and their healer had convened at an opportune time. The Happy fans let out a cheer, while the Tyranny fans let out a sigh of despair.

But what about after?

Tyranny's fans quickly regained their composure, because it wasn't like Happy had the advantage now. Happy had convened with An Wenyi, but Tyranny had convened with Han Wenqing as well. Previously, it had been Han Wenqing chasing down Happy's healer; in the other battle, it had been Tyranny with a healer suppressing Happy without a healer.

Happy had the disadvantage in both of the battles. Now, they were on an equal playing field with Tyranny. However, with the disadvantage carried over from the previous battles, how would they win on an equal playing field?

Happy didn't continue fighting. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim rushed out, and with help from his teammates, he sent Desert Dust flying away. Then, Happy immediately turned around to retreat.

Of course, Tyranny wasn't going to let them go so easily. This was a perfect opportunity. When it came to direct confrontation, Tyranny had no fear.

No more hiding, no more holding back. In an instant, they transformed into the Tyranny that everyone was familiar with, and pounced fiercely onto the retreating Happy.

Happy didn't fight back.

Trees, grass, houses...

Happy utilized what they could to hide and avoid Tyranny.

A team retreat had its advantages and disadvantages compared to an individual retreat.

The advantage was that they could help each other, opening up more varied options. The disadvantage was that a mistake from a single teammate could affect everyone.

"2, 11!"

A message suddenly appeared in the Tyranny chat. It wasn't from Zhang Xinjie, but Lin Jingyan!

2, 11 pointed to the hour hand positions on a clock. When the others on Tyranny saw Lin Jingyan's message, they immediately locked onto those two directions. The characters at the front of the team rushed towards those two directions.

Although Lin Jingyan wasn't the shotcaller, there had to be a reason for him giving out these instructions.

Desert Dust turned towards the 2 o'clock direction, while Dazzling Hundred Blossoms turned towards the 11 o'clock direction.

The two soon locked onto their next target.

Boundless Sea!

Fang Rui's Boundless Sea.

Lin Jingyan relied on his understanding of his teammate to grasp this opportunity. Han Wenqing and Zhang Jiale didn't question him and immediately carried out his plan. Boundless Sea was now surrounded by the three of them.

Holy Trinity!

The three attacked without hesitation.

Lin Jingyan was too familiar with Fang Rui's style. His dirty playstyle wasn't something that everyone could keep up with, which was why on the team competition stage, Fang Rui would often wander off from the team on his own. Lin Jingyan understood this point and watched for such an occasion to take place. In one move, they surrounded Boundless Sea, and the rest of Happy could not rescue him immediately because he had separated himself from the team.

Rescue him now? Of course they could, but Boundless Sea was already surrounded. If they turned to rescue him, they would have to abandon their original plans to retreat. What's more, whether they could quickly rescue Fang Rui was another question altogether. This was the danger of a team retreat. If you caught one player, you caught the entire team!

The three generals attacked Boundless Sea decisively.

However, Happy was even more decisive. Tyranny had focused three of their members onto Fang Rui, reducing the overall pressure on Happy. Zhang Xinjie's Immovable Rock was just a Cleric, his individual threat was limited. Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees was not enough to keep Happy's other four members there.

As a result, Happy ran away!

They didn't even stop to pause, decisively abandoning the trapped Fang Rui. They regarded their trapped ally not as a restriction but instead as an opening.

"How determined!" Li Yibo couldn't help but shout. Happy's insistence on running away was rather surprising. It wasn't like abandoning a teammate was never done, but usually, the abandoned teammate would be used to trade for the initiative. Right now, Happy abandoning Fang Rui didn't yield them any sort of initiative. All they got was an escape from an unfavorable situation. And then? Happy would lose Fang Rui and would still be in an unfavorable situation. If Tyranny simply employed a strategy where they traded blow for blow, Happy would suffer greatly.

After exclaiming in surprise at Happy's resolve, Li Yibo adopted a critical view of Happy's decision.

"But at the same time, there wasn't much else they could do..." Yet after analyzing them, Li Yibo spoke in their defense, "A direct confrontation here would be too disadvantageous for Happy. By sacrificing a player, they gain time to reset the battle and formulate a new plan. If they can take advantage of their familiarity with the map, there will be more opportunities in the future."

"Is that so?" Pan Lin was still doubtful, because the "more time" that Li Yibo mentioned Happy would gain didn't seem like it was coming.

Fast!

That was the impression that everyone got.

Fang Rui's Boundless Sea was killed incredibly fast. In the blink of an eye, Boundless Sea's name turned gray.

Their speed came from their resolve, Tyranny's resolve!

After Happy abandoned Fang Rui to escape, Zhang Xinjie didn't hesitate to order the entire team to focus all their efforts onto Fang Rui's Boundless Sea!

He didn't care about what Happy would do next, nor did he think about using this situation to make any future set-ups. Quickly kill Boundless Sea! Because a numbers advantage would always be the most reliable and trustworthy advantage on the Glory battlefield. If such an opportunity was presented in front of them, there was no need to hesitate!

A Qi Master wearing Cloth armor had low defense. Under Tyranny's full focus and the watch of the many experienced players on Tyranny, Boundless Sea wasn't even able to use defensive skills like Qi Guard that would let him survive just a bit longer. Boundless Sea's health dropped to zero almost instantly.

Then, Tyranny immediately turned around and chased after the rest of Happy that could still clearly be seen. Pan Lin's doubt came from this. How much time had Happy gained from Fang Rui's sacrifice?

Li Yibo was also stunned. He didn't think that Tyranny's attacks would be so fierce to the extent that Fang Rui couldn't even put up a struggle before being killed.

"Happy is in trouble!" Li Yibo immediately determined. At this distance, disappearing from Tyranny's sights without a trace was impossible. In the end, Happy would not be able to avoid a direct confrontation, except this time, they would have one less player.

"Where is Happy running away towards!" Pan Lin pointed out.

"The support zone." Li Yibo also saw it.

Starting from when Happy abandoned Fang Rui, their retreat direction had been extremely clear, the support zone. This was because their sixth player would come in from the closest support zone to them. Happy needed to hurry and meet up with their sixth player to maintain a five-member formation before making their next plans.

But now?

"They've switched directions!" Pan Lin shouted.

"Hm..." Li Yibo also saw them change directions. After confirming the speed of Tyranny's pursuit, Happy turned away from the support zone. Tang Rou, who had been automatically loaded in, immediately saw Ye Xiu's instructions in the team chat, telling her where to go.

"Happy needs to get as far away as possible from the support zone." Li Yibo said, "They have no way of avoiding a confrontation with Tyranny. The closer they are to the support zone, the more advantageous it is for Tyranny."

"Yeah!" Pan Lin nodded his head. He didn't need Li Yibo to give any further explanation. When one had a numbers advantage, trades were the most common and most reliable strategy. The closer they were to the support zone, Tyranny, who still had their sixth player, could quickly keep up their numbers advantage when one of their players was traded away. If the team fight took place far away though, then while Tyranny's sixth player was rushing over, for a period of time, Happy would temporarily be

back on equal footing with Tyranny, a 4v4. Statistically speaking, most turning points took place during this period of time in Glory team competitions. The disadvantaged team would often try to turn things around.

Tyranny was an experienced team, but Happy had Ye Xiu, who didn't lose to them in terms of experience. From this adjustment, it could be seen that Happy hadn't given up. They were going to put up a fight.

Tyranny was in close pursuit. Happy could not shrug them off, but they managed to convene with Tang Rou's Soft Mist before the fight began. And the meeting point that they chose wasn't simply the place as far away as possible from the support zone. Evidently, this was the place that Happy chose as their battlefield. Tang Rou's Soft Mist didn't join up with the team directly. Instead, she reached the location first and picked her spot.

Ambush!

Soft Mist was lying in wait for an ambush. The broadcast switched to her view, and it was obvious that was her plan. After seeing Tang Rou's actions, Li Yibo concluded that Happy wanted to decide the match here.

The broadcast listed the health and mana on both sides. All of the characters had enough mana to last an entire fight. In terms of health, Happy had a clear disadvantage. When their characters lost health, they didn't have time to replenish it. An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands had been running away the entire time. He didn't even have an opportunity to cast an instant heal.

Happy wanted to decide the match here, but could they win?

No one looked at Happy's chances favorably, even if Tang Rou's Soft Mist was set up for an ambush. Zhang Xinjie was very cautious. Once he saw that Tang Rou's Soft Mist wasn't with the team, he would most likely be on his guard. With the amount of experience that Tyranny had, how effective would Tang Rou's ambush be? What's more, Tang Rou wasn't the type of player who was good at ambushes. She'd probably be more effective standing in front of Tyranny and fighting them alone...

Ye Xiu and the others entered the area. Tyranny hadn't been left behind. The broadcast focused onto Soft Mist, and the viewers did as well. Her ambush was the one thing that Tyranny was not aware of. Her ambush was probably Happy's last hope!

Soft Mist slowly raised her spear.

Charge! Rising Dragon Soars the Sky!

Chapter 1514: Favorable Terrain

Starting with a Rising Dragon Soars the Sky instead of a Dragon Breaks the Ranks was quite a surprise to the viewers. Those familiar with Tang Rou knew that she loved to initiate with Dragon Breaks the Ranks, and it would have been a very suitable move for her present situation, too.

But in the end, her spear turned into a roaring dragon as it flew towards Tyranny.

She had mixed up her usual starting move, but it was nothing too surprising for Tyranny. Tang Rou had loaded into the map awhile ago, yet there were still no signs of her. From the moment they stepped into this region, the entirety of their surroundings were within their sights.

The magic dragon tore into Tyranny's formation, but not a single one of them was hit by it.

When using Rising Dragon Soars the Sky, the Battle Mage needed to maintain a certain distance away.

But would that be enough? Due to the long ending lag of the skill, with this skill missing, the counterattack wasn't something that could be resolved through that bit of distance.

Zhang Xinjie was watching for Tang Rou's next moves. At this point, the dragon was already dissipating. The Rising Dragon Soars the Sky was unable to show its might before being forcefully cancelled.

A cancel would result in ending lag as well. However, compared to using the skill to completion, the ending lag would be reduced by half.

"Careful!"

Tyranny's two Gunners had begun firing at Soft Mist. Zhang Xinjie didn't forget to warn his teammates. For Happy, relying on that Rising Dragon Soars the Sky would have been a bit overconfident. He doubted that Happy had placed their hopes onto that skill landing. The real assault would come during these next moments.

What will they do?

Zhang Xinjie quickly thought up several possibilities, and Soft Mist's next moves were indeed within his expectations.

Shattering the Lands!

Soft Mist jumped into the air, swinging her spear heroically. Although the Rising Dragon had missed, it had disrupted Tyranny's formation. In the end, that high-level skill was just a ruse. Her next move would disrupt their formation even further.

Soft Mist fell, and a burst of battle qi erupted.

The Shattering the Lands had been within Zhang Xinjie's expectations, but Tyranny had no suitable way to deal with this powerful skill. Their only choices were to temporarily retreat or to face it head on!

Reinforced Iron Bones!

The two Fighters on Tyranny trembled. The Shattering the Lands sent out a burst of battle qi, sending branches and leaves flying into the air. When it struck the two Fighters, it made a loud bang. Their health plummeted. The power of a Level 75 skill wasn't something that a low-level Defense buff like Reinforced Iron Bones could negate.

However, with the Super Armor, while the battle qi still inflicted damage onto them, it couldn't push them in the slightest. Before the skill had come out, Desert Dust and Dark Thunder had already been charging towards her. The skill was unable to knock them over, and Soft Mist was now stuck in its ending lag. There was no way for her to dodge their pincer attack.

Two streaks of blood flew into the air. The whirlpool of battle qi created by Shattering the Lands instantly dispersed.

Had Soft Mist been struck down? When the audience took a closer look, they were dumbfounded. There were, inside the Shattering the Lands' area of effect, not three players, but four...

What happened?

The audience felt dazed at the scene in front of them. The more experienced audience members immediately looked towards the big screen. Sure enough, a replay was being shown.

When Desert Dust and Dark Thunder attacked, Soft Mist was still stuck in her ending lag, unable to move. But at the final juncture, Lord Grim suddenly appeared in front of her. His two hands flickered up and down, resulting in two streaks of blood!

Blood from Desert Dust and Dark Thunder...

"Dual Blade Crescent Flow!!" The audience members who knew what was what immediately shouted the skill name out.

Dual Blade Crescent Flow was an Assassin skill that required dual blades. Against opponents who used attacks to parry, this was a perfect counter. For the user, it was a perfect complement to using attacks to parry. Team 301's captain, Yang Cong, was proficient in this style. Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestations Umbrella had transformed into two blades, striking down Desert Dust and Dark Thunder simultaneously...

By the time the audience finished reflecting over and appreciating the play, the situation on the battlefield had already changed.

Han Wenqing and Lin Jingyan weren't intimidated by the Dual Blade Crescent Flow, but Lord Grim's sudden interference had surprised them. And Ye Xiu had appeared at the perfect moment; the two weren't able to make any adjustments in time. However, they quickly regained their composure and attacked again. Ye Xiu reacted faster, though. The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella transformed again, and a streak of black swept towards them.

Shadow Cloak!

Han Wenqing and Lin Jingyan immediately saw and recognized the skill. Grabs were still effective against Super Armor.

Their only choice was to dodge.

The two had their characters avoid the Shadow Cloak, and these two experienced players wasted no movement. They dodged just outside of the Shadow Cloak's range, their movements incomparably precise. Their timing had been perfect as well. Before the Shadow Cloak disappeared, the two were already stepping forward to counterattack.

"Slow down!"

A warning came from Zhang Xinjie, but it was too late...

Shua. The Shadow Cloak suddenly tightened, wrapping the two characters into a bundle. Han Wenqing and Lin Jingyan were stunned. Had they misjudged it? No! The two were clear on this point.

Lord Grim took a step back. Although the two were bound by Shadow Cloak, with their Super Armor, he wouldn't be able to send them away, so he simply retreated. With this retreat, Soft Mist could be seen. Han Wenqing and Lin Jingyan suddenly understood.

A Battle Mage was a Mage class, and Shadow Cloak was a low-level skill, so she could learn it too. Lord Grim used the skill first, and then when Soft Mist could move again, she immediately followed suit with a Shadow Cloak of her own. The two Shadow Cloaks overlapped with each other, so how could they have distinguished between them? Han Wenqing and Lin Jingyan had overlooked this possibility, and only took into account Lord Grim's Shadow Cloak. Just when they thought they had avoided it, Soft Mist's Shadow Cloak took its place.

The two hadn't seen Soft Mist act, but Zhang Xinjie had noticed it. However, the warning had come too late.

It was just a brief exchange. Lord Grim and Soft Mist immediately retreated. Zhang Jiale and Qin Muyun could reach them, but they couldn't keep the two of them there. What's more, Happy's other team members weren't just sitting there watching. Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain stood to the side, providing support for Lord Grim and Soft Mist.

Chase!

Of course Tyranny had to give chase. Desert Dust and Dark Thunder quickly escaped the Shadow Cloak. Lord Grim and Soft Mist weren't able to make a clean getaway with just that one skill. In the end, Soft Mist's ambush had given the rest of Happy time to take their positions. But she herself, as well as Ye Xiu's Lord Grim who had come to rescue her, were still within Tyranny's attack range.

Tyranny pursued the two of them fiercely. The three others on Happy quickly occupied the high grounds. The houses in the residential area were scattered all over the forest in picturesque disorder.

Zhang Xinjie swept over their positions. The three characters on Happy had moved into the rooms on the trees and were standing by the windows. From the window openings, Dancing Rain was attacking, Little Cold Hands was healing, and Concealed Light was controlling his summons in an attempt to provide cover for Ye Xiu and Tang Rou.

No!

Not providing cover, but assisting them with their offense!

Zhang Xinjie saw their formation and immediately understood. Lord Grim and Soft Mist suddenly stopped. They turned back and rushed towards Desert Dust and Dark Thunder.

In the end, Tyranny had been baited by Happy. However, this couldn't be considered a trap. Happy occupied a slightly more favorable position, allowing them to establish a more stable offensive formation. Ye Xiu and Tang Rou had timed their counterattack perfectly. With the stickiness of their close-ranged characters, it would probably be riskier for Tyranny to run away than take the fight.

It looks like we'll be deciding the match here!

Ye Xiu truly wasn't simple. Happy had been at a disadvantage for the entire period of their pursuit, but by the end of it, he had managed to create a slightly favorable position out of it.

But would that slight advantage be enough?

Happy was at a numbers disadvantage, and because of Tyranny's pursuit, they weren't able to stop to take a breather and heal themselves up. How could it be so easy for Happy to catch up to Tyranny's lead?

Zhang Xinjie saw through Happy's biggest weak spot and mercilessly set up arrangements to target it.

Attack!

Just attack.

Tyranny's expertise was in attacking, and the most suitable target at the moment was Lord Grim!

The four focused their fire onto Lord Grim.

"So mean!" Ye Xiu typed into the chat. Lord Grim turned around and ran.

Zhang Xinjie wasn't surprised. Ye Xiu had no reason to stand his ground here. He could see through Happy's strategy. Ye Xiu's and Tang Rou's main responsibility was to keep Tyranny busy. The main damage dealers were the long-ranged classes on the treetops. This wasn't a direct fight, but a war of attrition.

Unfortunately, Happy only had two players at the front, Ye Xiu and Tang Rou. If Tang Rou were Fang Rui instead, this situation would be even more favorable for Happy. Fang Rui's dirty playstyle was exactly what was needed here. With Tang Rou's playstyle, when she tried to restrict her opponents, she would usually restrict herself as well.

All of these points need to be utilized well!

Zhang Xinjie thought about what methods would be the most reliable and adjusted his plans accordingly. Tyranny suddenly turned their focus towards Soft Mist.

"You guys really think you can do as you please, huh!" Ye Xiu typed into chat as Lord Grim returned back.

"Push towards 1 o'clock!" Zhang Xinjie ordered.

Su Mucheng and the other two on Happy were in an extremely good position, avoiding practically all dead spots. However, even if they individually had no dead spots, they would have a few as a coordinated whole. The 1 o'clock direction was one such hole that Zhang Xinjie had noticed.

The entirety of Tyranny forced their way over. However, Tang Rou's next moves thwarted Zhang Xinjie's intentions. She jumped twice, leaping onto what could be considered the second floor in this area.

"Pincer." Zhang Xinjie was unmoved. How could he overlook the different heights in this terrain. This change was within his expectations. The second floor? There was limited space there. Her options instantly became limited, making it easier to trap her. Tang Rou's decision exposed her lack of experience. Ye Xiu evidently realized that the situation wasn't good. Lord Grim hastily went over to

rescue her, but with the simplicity of the second floor space, Tyranny was able to quickly complete their encirclement.

“Be careful of the long-ranged classes,” Zhang Xinjie reminded. Dancing Rain’s gunfire could reach her.

The two old generals that had rushed onto the second floor didn’t need his reminder. They could clearly see the circumstances, knowing where Happy’s main attack points were.

Boom boom boom! Under the cover of Dancing Rain’s artillery fire, Tang Rou wanted to escape. Soft Mist, Dragon Breaks the Ranks!

Dodge!

This skill had to be avoided. Soft Mist rushed out, striking nothing but a tree.

Zhang Xinjie frowned. Dragon Breaks the Ranks couldn’t be blocked. She could break through from any direction, but the direction she chose seemed too stupid.

But the moment the Dragon Breaks the Ranks struck the tree, an enormous crash could be heard. The second floor on top of the tree suddenly collapsed.

Chapter 1515: An Unbelievable Collapse

What happened?

Everyone was stunned. Countless people in the crowd stood up, looking around in a panic.

Dust and smoke was scattered all around the stage. The lifelike projections caused many people to misunderstand what had happened. They thought that the actual competition stage had collapsed. It wasn’t until the stadium broadcasted an explanation repeatedly that the panicked crowd came to a realization. When they looked carefully at the stage again, they saw that the stage was intact. What wasn’t intact were the scenes of the match displayed by the projection.

That beautiful fairy-tale like forest had been struck by an apocalypse.

Everything was destroyed. The buildings and walkways built on top of the trees lost their support and collapsed to the ground.

In the group arena, the audience had witnessed the inside of a manor being completely wrecked. However, in comparison to this scene, the level of shock was similar to the difference between an explosion from a grenade and an atomic bomb.

What happened?

Everyone was obviously curious, but soon afterwards, the people with better eyesight could see a figure moving inside this apocalyptic scene.

Who was it?

They couldn’t see the figure clearly. Luckily, the camera zoomed in figure and displayed it on the big screen for everyone to see.

Lord Grim!

Lord Grim was still moving. What else? Flames, the other end had flames! The camera focused on a different area. Dancing Rain, it was Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain. Her surroundings were collapsing, but she stood there firmly, firing her gun.

Firing where?

The camera followed the path of her artillery shells and quickly found Tyranny's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms. He wasn't nearly as calm as Dancing Rain. He looked like he had come out from a disaster movie, bitterly seeking to survive. The artillery shells from Dancing Rain landed on him. Zhang Jiale hadn't noticed the attack. He didn't have the energy to.

Happy was still attacking!

A Satellite Beam descended from the sky, sweeping over Tyranny.

What else?

Concealed Light!

The audience found Concealed Light. He was the same as Dancing Rain. The collapsing surroundings simply served as a backdrop. It was as if he didn't even see it. He calmly waved his staff, placing two symbols on the ground, controlling his summons.

Thunder Eagle!

Young Wyvern!

Summons with flight had a huge advantage in these situations. These two summons followed Luo Ji's commands, unobstructed by the terrain. Their attacks... weren't towards Tyranny. The fireballs and thunderbolts swept through the forest, exacerbating the collapse.

Could this apocalyptic scene have been created by this rookie, Luo Ji?

After realizing this point, everyone thought of the word, strategy.

Had all of this been a part of Happy's strategy?

They couldn't help but examine the outcome of this strategy. How should they examine it? By looking at the health on Tyranny's characters!

A devastating sight.

Tyranny's situation was too horrible to describe.

Tyranny originally held the advantage in health, but with one move, the sky and earth had reversed. All five characters on Tyranny had experienced a massive drop in health. What's worse, it hadn't ended yet, because Happy was still attacking them amidst this chaos. Happy's assault was with rhythm and thought. Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain led the way. Then, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim, Tang Rou's Soft Mist, and the summons from Luo Ji's Concealed Light joined in.

As for Tyranny?

Everyone was the same as Zhang Jiale. They had no way of making any decisions in this chaos. Even if they were old generals, none of them had ever experienced the the entire team trapped in a collapsing forest. They couldn't make any contact with each other. Everyone was trapped in their own predicament. They tried to grasp their opponent's attacks and counterattack, but the outcome was unsatisfactory. Happy held the initiative, utilizing this unbelievable collapse to thoroughly crush Tyranny.

Who died first didn't matter. The names of Tyranny's five characters turned gray one after the other. They had a sixth player, but did it matter? Happy had five and not a single one missing!

"Li... Coach Li..." When Pan Lin saw the fourth name on Tyranny turn gray, he came back to his senses. He and Li Yibo had been completely dumbstruck during this period of time, not uttering a single sound. No one in the broadcast team reminded them. Everyone was staring blankly at the scene in front of them.

"Ah... this... this..." Li Yibo regained his composure, but apart from saying "this", he didn't know what else to say.

Tyranny's sixth player, Bai Yanfei's Elementalist Rota, had entered the match, rushing towards the battlefield without any second thoughts. No matter the situation, Tyranny's young heroes wouldn't back down. But everyone knew that there was nothing he could do. Not even a miracle could save Tyranny at this point.

The match was over. What they needed to do was review this final astonishing scene.

What had happened?

Even though Pan Lin had called for Li Yibo, he ultimately didn't ask this question. He knew that, let alone Li Yibo, no one in entire world had ever witnessed such a wide-scale collapse in a Glory competition before.

"This... I feel like... Happy had intentionally set it up?" Li Yibo guessed. Even though he didn't dare believe that it was possible to set up such a frightening scene, seeing how Happy came out of it safe and sound, and then calmly and efficiently wiped out Tyranny, it could be seen that all of this was planned.

"How did they do it?" Pan Lin asked. In the end, he finally asked this question. Those were the only words going through his head right now. Apart from these words, he couldn't think of anything else.

How did they do it?

Li Yibo laughed dryly. How could he know! But when he turned to look, he suddenly focused on a single character, Concealed Light.

Luo Ji, Concealed Light...

Concealed Light had joined the battle 13 minutes and 32 seconds after it had begun. What had he been doing before then?

Li Yibo realized something and hastily had the director find a replay from Concealed Light's perspective.

Luo Ji, it really was Luo Ji!

He hadn't joined the battle until 13 minutes and 32 seconds later. Apart from hiding together with his teammates at first, Concealed Light had been busy in this forest area the entire time. This calamity had been brought about by him.

"It's Luo Ji..." Li Yibo said. This time, the broadcast displayed a replay of what Luo Ji's Concealed Light had been busy doing at the beginning. "But don't ask me how he did it. I don't know either..."

Luo Ji was just one person. But he was a Summoner, so he could summon many servants to do his bidding. The scene shown in front of everyone seemed to be a busy construction site. All sorts of summons were fiercely attacking the surroundings under the Concealed Light's orders.

"This... is he breaking apart all the parts supporting the buildings?" Pan Lin said.

"He broke them all? It's clear that he needs to be able to time when the place collapses," Li Yibo said.

"This..." Pan Lin wanted to know how he did that, but this time, Li Yibo had been prepared. He had preemptively said "Don't ask me, I don't know." In the end, Pan Lin's "How did he do it?" became a sigh, because this could probably be answered by no one but Luo Ji himself.

"I really want to go to the post-match press conference now," Li Yibo said.

This question would definitely be the highlight of the post-match press conference. The brilliance of the group arena and the other parts of the team competition had probably been forgotten by now. Everyone's attention was on this question...

The match officially ended, and Happy won the team competition with a five point lead. When Bai Yanfei's Rota died, the surroundings hadn't entirely collapsed yet. There were a few places that were still shuddering. Apart from the astonishment at the turn of events, everyone was also in praise of Glory's in-game mechanics.

It was over. Happy had won. For Happy's fans, this was naturally something to be excited about. The Tyranny fans were silent. How could they be happy about such a defeat?

The two teams lined up on stage. After the six players on Tyranny came out from the player booths, they raised their heads to look at the big screen in the stadium because the highlights of the match would always be played during this time. How could they have forgotten about what had just happened? They needed to know the answer!

At the end, when the two teams lined up, the six players on Tyranny were all looking at Luo Ji, who was standing at the end. Ye Xiu? Su Mucheng? Fang Rui? No matter how big of a star, at this moment, they were nothing but air.

Finally, Ye Xiu let out a laugh, taking the initiative to shake Han Wenqing's hand.

"You were probably scared out of your mind, no?" Ye Xiu said.

"Even you couldn't have done that," Han Wenqing said.

"Haha," Ye Xiu laughed and didn't explain. He shook Zhang Xinjie's hand and asked: "You couldn't figure it out either, right?"

Zhang Xinjie shook his head in honesty. Yes, even he only knew that Luo Ji had been the cause for everything. He didn't know how he did it, and if someone asked him to do it, he wouldn't have been able to do it either.

"Sorry for your loss," Ye Xiu shook Zhang Jiale's hands.

"Sorry for your loss, my ass," Zhang Jiale cursed.

"What kind of people are your team members?" When it was his turn, Lin Jingyan spoke up first.

Chapter 1516: Can Be Casually Accomplished

The match had been decided. But for a playoffs match, the stadium right now was almost too calm. Far too many people hadn't even recovered from the shock yet. This was Happy's stadium, Happy instantly reversing the situation to achieve such a massive victory was something that should have made them go wild, but because of this method, they were still processing what had just happened.

It wasn't until the players of both sides completed the post-match exchange and began acknowledging the crowd that many people were roused from their trance.

They won!

They won. They had indeed won.

Ohhh!

Suddenly, cheers rose up. The passion of the audience had actually come so late.

Sitting in front of a television, Yu Wenzhou received a phone call. It was from Huang Shaotian, but after he picked up, all he heard was noise, clearly coming from the stadium. Huang Shaotian, like the rest of the audience, had been reviewing what had happened and only just now recovered.

"That was incredible!!!" Yu Wenzhou heard Huang Shaotian's voice yelling from the other end.

"Haha," Yu Wenzhou chuckled.

"How did they do it, huh?" Huang Shaotian continued to shout.

"Who knows?" Yu Wenzhou said.

Indeed! Who knew the answer to this question?

After greeting the crowd, the players of both teams left the stage and returned to the prep rooms. After a brief rest, they would begin the post-match press conference.

First up was the losing side, Tyranny. Captain Han Wenqing, Vice Captain Zhang Xinjie, and Zhang Jiale were the three representatives. As soon as they arrived, they saw the reporters all eager and anxious to ask their questions. Unsurprisingly, as soon as the conference officially began, the first reporter chosen to speak didn't even bother with the typical sympathetic words for the losing team, instead directly asking what their views were of this match.

An extremely formulaic question, but for this match, everyone felt that this question was particularly weighty, and went straight to the point.

“Extremely unexpected,” Han Wenqing answered.

Just two words? The reporters were clearly unsatisfied.

“Could you elaborate?” someone requested.

“Happy’s plan in the team round was indeed unprecedented and surpassed all imagination. We had completely neglected this possibility.” An elaboration came from Tyranny’s vice captain Zhang Xinjie.

Even though he was known for his minimal error rate, it was impossible for him to never make an error, and he himself never claimed that title, nor was he ever ashamed to mention his own mistakes. He had categorized this team match as their “negligence,” but even if he defined it this way, most people probably wouldn’t agree with him. That scene shook and shocked the entire Glory world. Tyranny shouldn’t be blamed for failing to anticipate this possibility.

The reporters of course didn’t pursue this point. Immediately afterward, another reporter asked, “This loss, will it affect Tyranny’s upcoming match?”

“I don’t believe so.” Zhang Xinjie’s words were always that precise. “I believe that this kind of large-scale and accurate plan requires a large amount of preparation. Next match is our Tyranny’s home game.”

“Two matches.” This time it was Han Wenqing who added some words from the side.

Zhang Xinjie smiled. Han Wenqing’s “two matches” was equivalent to declaring that next match was Tyranny’s victory. This, of course, was what Zhang Xinjie expected and hoped for as well, but he wouldn’t say these kind of words without confirmation, and besides, he needed to correct Han Wenqing’s statement for the point he wanted to make.

“Next match is Tyranny’s home game, and in the case that we win...”

“Not ‘in the case,’ we’re winning for sure, okay? Next match and next next match, both of them.” This time, Zhang Jiale just mercilessly cut him off.

Zhang Xinjie was helpless, but the reporters were all looking at him, clearly still waiting for him to finish his thought. Zhang Xinjie didn’t bother to emphasize his “in the case,” and instead said, “If we advance to the third match, with the randomly chosen map, Happy still will not be equipped to deploy such a strategy again, so for the upcoming matches, we do not need to worry about facing a situation like today’s.”

To the side, Zhang Jiale curled his lip. Evidently he was still rather dissatisfied by Zhang Xinjie’s usage of “if” in referring to the third match.

Zhang Xinjie’s analysis was rational and rigorous. Based on this kind of analysis, everyone discovered that indeed, even though Happy had produced a frightening scene this round, all they accomplished was this one round’s victory. It had no strategic impact on the upcoming battles. As long as Tyranny adjusted their attitude and didn’t let this loss affect them too much psychologically, they would be fine.

And would this be difficult for Tyranny? They were all war veterans. With Zhang Xinjie's analysis, this match was just an ordinary away game loss. How could it affect their morale?

Tyranny's mood was extremely stable. As the background of the frightening events of this battle, they seemed to have completely adjusted their mood by the end of the match. They were already focused on the next match and even the next next match. Whatever Happy had managed to pull off this match, it wouldn't weigh down their thoughts at all.

The press conference of the losing side didn't give off the air of being lost or downtrodden at all. This was Tyranny. Nothing could stop them from lifting their chests and advancing forward.

Afterward, the three members who participated in the press conference returned to the prep room. Once everyone gathered their things, they could leave the stadium. The television screen in the prep room, however, was displaying Happy's press conference. No one purposely tried to avoid it; they would occasionally glance over, wanting to hear what Happy was going to say.

For their press conference, Happy sent out Ye Xiu, Fang Rui, and Luo Ji, three people. It didn't even need to be said who the star of today's show was. As soon as the three of them walked out, the cameras flashed nonstop. Eighty percent of them were closeups of Luo Ji, who felt like he was going to go blind – he had certainly never experienced this sort of greeting before.

"Congratulations to Happy on a third straight victory." Interviews with the winning side were always a bit more cheerful, carefree, and natural. In general, victorious teams were willing to talk a bit more, so reporters weren't especially impatient.

"Continuing from last round where Blue Rain's Huang Shaotian suffered heavy injuries from cutting down a tree, Happy once again used a similar idea!" Of course the questioning began with this point.

"Haha, that was entirely different. Huang Shaotian did that to himself," Ye Xiu said.

"Fuck!" Yu Wenzhou, who was watching the television, received more messages from Huang Shaotian, two in a row. First a curse, and then: I'm gonna kill that guy for sure, do you know any assassins you could introduce me to?

Yu Wenzhou smiled and ignored him. The live crowd had burst into laughter, and Yu Wenzhou could understand how embarrassed Huang Shaotian must be.

"So what happened today was something that Happy purposely set up?" a reporter continued to ask.

"Of course," Ye Xiu said.

"Could you talk about how this was accomplished? You must have made extensive preparations in many aspects, right?" The reporter pulled out the question they cared about the most, and everyone's gazes focused on Luo Ji.

But unexpectedly, Ye Xiu answered this question first. "It wasn't necessary. Our player here has an exceptionally sensitive intuition for maps. After just one look, he can instantly figure out how to do it."

"What?!" All of the reporters were dumbstruck. The press conference actually quieted down completely.

Luo Ji was sweating. Luo Ji was sweating waterfalls. Luo Ji was sweating Iguazu Falls.

They were actually just going to say this?!

A bit unsettled, Luo Ji snuck a glance at Ye Xiu, only to see a completely calm and honest expression.

After just one look he can instantly figure out how to do it? Since when did he have that kind of demonic ability? In order to accurately create this enormous destruction, he had used who knew how many kilograms of draft paper just for his miscellaneous scratch work alone. Guan Rongfei had supplied a large amount of data and calculations on all sorts of aspects of the in-game physics as well. This was a strategy that had been prepared for a very long time. To use it in the regular season would be too wasteful, so they had saved it for the crucial elimination stage of the playoffs, to deliver a hammering blow.

Before they had come to attend the press conference, Ye Xiu exhorted him to say this and that, but he had thought that Ye Xiu was kidding! But now, he saw how, facing the camera lenses of so many reporters, Ye Xiu was so relaxed and composed as he lied.

“You could just do it like that? What kind of power do you have?” When the reporters recovered, they instantly focused on Luo Ji again, and even addressed him with the formal “you.” Hearing this, Luo Ji became even more panicked. Of course, he could only say what he could, if he was wrong he was wrong, so he muddled through a story. “Uh, I was always pretty interested in Glory’s map things, so I guess I have a certain amount of experience, and some intuition, it’s probably just something like that.”

The reporters were too good at observing people. Ye Xiu was very calm, but this Luo Ji, he was still young, and seemed to be a bit panicked. But when they thought again, this was a rookie, suddenly being surrounded as though he were a star. It would be fairly normal for him to be a bit nervous. So this, this... was it the truth?

The reporters were wavering between belief and doubt. Watching the television, though, Yu Wenzhou was already laughing. How could such a thing be possible? As soon as you heard what he said, it was clearly something just to fool them! What kind of idiot would actually believe that?

In the away team prep room, Tyranny hadn’t yet left. When the conference reached this point, the prep room instantly quieted down. Song Qiyong hurriedly made his way next to Zhang Xinjie. “Vice Captain, Senior Ye Xiu just said that they hadn’t prepared this beforehand, it was just an on-the-spot plan. Then, even in their away game, they might be able to do it again.”

“Idiot, how could you believe that. That guy Ye Xiu is purposely trying to make this a mystery.” Zhang Jiale immediately came over to teach Song Qiyong.

“Is that so?” Song Qiyong was at a loss. He continued to watch the television, and heard Luo Ji’s speech.

“Experience and intuition?” Song Qiyong muttered, sneaking a glance at Zhang Jiale.

“Look at him, he was clearly taught to say that by Ye Xiu!” Zhang Jiale told Song Qiyong.

Song Qiyong didn’t say anything, and looked at Zhang Xinjie.

“That kind of experience and intuition, is there such a thing?” Zhang Xinjie was saying.

“Are you an idiot too?” Zhang Jiale was all sorts of speechless.

“We have severely insufficient data in this area. It may be necessary to re-evaluate,” said Zhang Xinjie.

Chapter 1517: Next Round

The post-match interviews from Happy led to a heated debate. There were people who believed it, but there were many who didn't. The reporters asked for the logic behind their reasoning, wanting to earnestly understand what they meant by experience and intuition of the terrain.

But Happy pushed all of their questions away, even those from Esport Home's Chang Xian, who had a very close relationship with them. Happy stated: A great battle is imminent. As Happy's secret weapon, Luo Ji does not have the leisure to play around. He needs to use his time to continue tempering his “experience and intuition of the terrain”.

“He wasn't able to display his true strength last round. It was our home game after all. Next round will be the true test.” Ye Xiu told Chang Xian, who had come to him directly to talk.

“Are you serious?” Although Chang Xian had a good relationship with Happy and supported the team, he didn't believe it personally.

It wasn't just him. Anyone with a certain understanding of Glory would have their doubts. The ones who immediately gasped in surprise were noobs who didn't have the skill to see it.

Chang Xian was a professional reporter who followed the Glory scene closely. His own individual skill at Glory might not be anything noteworthy, but his perception of the game could not compare to a normal player. After hearing Ye Xiu's words, he looked left and right, confirming that there was no one else around. He lowered his voice and asked: “Is this psychological warfare?”

“Haha, yes, it's psychological warfare,” Ye Xiu nodded his head and laughed.

Chang Xian wanted to cry. Ye Xiu told him yes, but he had said it half-heartedly. Was he supposed to believe it or not?

Sure enough, his miniscule skills were far from enough in front of this God!

“Then, I'll just have to wait and see,” Chang Xian could only helplessly say some nonsense and leave with a laugh.

“Bye.” Ye Xiu said his goodbyes to Chang Xian before returning to Happy's practice room. Everyone was there in front of their computers. The atmosphere in the room was quite casual.

The time between games in the playoffs was even more tight than the regular season. The teams had to rush back and forth between venues, which used up a good amount of their time on travel. As a result, a stable practice schedule between games such as in the regular season couldn't be done in the playoffs. Most of their practice was to maintain their conditions.

If the regular season required consistency, then the playoffs required explosiveness. An explosiveness that used everything you had. The ones who could persist until the end would be the winners. The ones who relaxed would likely be the ones to fall in the playoffs.

Happy had won the first match of the second round. It was something to be happy about, but it was far too early to celebrate. It looked like everyone understood this point. Everyone was using their own methods to reflect on the outcome of the match in preparation for the next match.

“Did he leave?” Chen Guo asked Ye Xiu. She didn’t lower her voice, afraid of bothering the others. The current atmosphere was their usual daily one. If there was something someone wanted to say, then they could just say it. It wasn’t a practice session, where they needed to focus intensely on their playing.

“He left.”

“How did you say it?” Chen Guo asked.

“Luo Ji is a secret weapon, how can we let them interview him so easily.” Ye Xiu patted Luo Ji’s shoulders as he said.

Luo Ji’s body went soft. He turned his head with difficulty: “Isn’t that... not good?”

“Relax, it has nothing to do with you.” Ye Xiu laughed.

Luo Ji wanted to cry. What do you mean it has nothing to do with me? Right now, everyone in Glory was talking about him. Making one’s name after a single battle described this situation exactly. That night, his Four Beast Summon Style was no longer called that. People gave it another name “Building Demolition Style”. It looked like there were countless people who thought he was a demolition specialist who could instantly see through the terrain and destroy it.

Luo Ji obviously understood why Ye Xiu insisted on saying it like that. However, as a rookie, he was completely unprepared for this psychological warfare, which completely distorted the truth. Luo Ji discovered that the world was far scarier than he had imagined.

“It really has nothing to do with you,” Ye Xiu continued, “What comes next is something Tyranny has to worry about.”

“Is that so? Then, next match...”

“Of course you’ll be playing next match. Even if we don’t use the atomic bomb, just having it there is very intimidating.” Ye Xiu said.

Atomic bomb...

Luo Ji felt his body go soft again.

“Do you really think that it’ll scare Tyranny?” Chen Guo spoke up. After a match, she would scour the forums. From what she read, the more persuasive posters were saying that Ye Xiu was just making stuff up. Glory had an enormous playerbase, so there would naturally be many experts in the game. Many people were already pointing out what needed to be done. Chen Guo knew the truth, and felt like Ye Xiu’s psychological warfare was rather naive this time.

“Of course it won’t scare them.” Ye Xiu said, “Nothing can scare Tyranny, but it’ll leave a thorn in their hearts. Even if it’s just a teeny tiny advantage, we still have to take it.”

“Okay...” Chen Guo nodded her head and didn’t say anything more. To do everything they could meant taking those 1%, 0.1%, 0.01% chances. That was what Ye Xiu was saying. Ever since he started in the tenth server, he had always done this.

Team Tyranny.

After the match, they took a flight back to City Q and began preparations for their home game.

Similar to Happy, Tyranny wouldn’t do any strenuous training between playoff games. However, their vice-captain Zhang Xinjie didn’t seem to have a relaxed attitude right now. When Lin Jingyan went over to see what he was doing in the practice room, he saw that Zhang Xinjie was studying the Full Moon Forest map that Happy had chosen last round. His character was looking at the floor that Happy had completely collapsed, leading to Tyranny’s demise.

“Do you really believe him!” Lin Jingyan grabbed a chair and sat besides Zhang Xinjie. He watched him study the area as he asked.

“Not really.” Zhang Xinjie said.

Not really meant that there was some leeway. With Zhang Xinjie’s personality, he wanted to erase that final bit of leeway.

Lin Jingyan knew that he couldn’t stop him. It was just the way Zhang Xinjie was. It had its advantages, but it had its disadvantages. Ye Xiu was poking at this weak spot. His words might not be able to cheat others, but it would work on Zhang Xinjie. It wouldn’t trick Zhang Xinjie, but it would divert his attention away.

There were only three days away until the next match. Would Zhang Xinjie be able to clear away his doubts by then? It wasn’t that Lin Jingyan didn’t trust his teammate, but he really didn’t look favorably on Zhang Xinjie towards this issue. He had seen of the comments related to this topic and agreed with the commentary. Happy collapsing that entire area had nothing to do with experience or skill at Glory, but science...

Science... those words felt so distant to Lin Jingyan. He had worked hard in the pro scene for nine years and understood the scene well. Let alone science, most players of the game weren’t on the high-end of the spectrum in terms of knowledge. The number of competitive players with high educational backgrounds were rather limited. After all, the competitive scene emphasized youth. University graduates would be considered elderly when thrown with new players.

Zhang Xinjie... Zhang Xinjie may be called a Master Tactician with an intelligent mind, but in terms of academics, he was probably at a high school level, no? Last night, he had looked at some very detailed analysis. The poster had included higher-level math like differential equations. Just looking at it gave Lin Jingyan a nightmare.

“This, wouldn’t it be better to give it to the R&D department to look at?” Lin Jingyan advised.

“The R&D department is already looking into it,” Zhang Xinjie was Zhang Xinjie. He had already done what Lin Jingyan had thought of.

“Oh...” Lin Jingyan nodded his head, then... there was no then. The R&D department was already analyzing it, but Zhang Xinjie was still analyzing it himself too. That was it.

Lin Jingyan didn't say anything more. He turned on the computer nearby.

The two playoffs team that had finished their matches were preparing for the next round. That night, it was the match between Tiny Herb and Samsara, which would be taking place in City B in Tiny Herb's home stadium.

In the end, Samsara won their away game, beating Tiny Herb 11 to 7. Tiny Herb had lost their home game. It was a rather bad outlook for them. But it wasn't outside of people's expectations. The pre-match analysis had Samsara with a higher chance of winning, even if they were against the two-time champions, Tiny Herb. Before the match, the topic of “who would become the next Excellent Era and be the second team to win three championships?” After this round, the answer seemed to have already come.

It was as if this best of three was already over. Then, what about the other best of three?

Happy versus Tyranny. The second match came as scheduled. But looking at the online polls, Happy's home game win didn't increase Happy's winning chances this round. In fact, it actually went down.

Because this match would be Tyranny's home game. Even if you didn't like Tyranny, no one thought that Tyranny would stumble because of their loss in the first game. Even if such an unprecedented reversal had happened last round, Tyranny's heroes wouldn't fall so easily.

City Q, Tyranny's home stadium. The two teams lined up under the spotlight.

“How are things going? Have you found a way to win?” Ye Xiu provoked Tyranny.

“What do you think?” Han Wenqing wasn't as wordy as Ye Xiu, but he never lost out in vigor.

“Little Zhang, good luck!” Ye Xiu called Zhang Xinjie, Little Zhang. There were only a few players in the Glory Alliance that had the qualifications to say that.

Zhang Xinjie chuckled. This sort of psychological attack would do nothing to him.

“You're really boring.” Zhang Jiale talked back to Ye Xiu soon after.

“Not coming to Happy is actually the biggest mistake you've made in your career,” Ye Xiu said to Zhang Jiale.

“Fuck off,” Zhang Jiale cursed. Mistake was ear-piercing enough. There was even an “actually” in front. What did that mean?

Chapter 1518: Normal People Chasing After the Footsteps of Geniuses

Tyranny's home fans were unfriendly towards Happy and Ye Xiu in particular. Ye Xiu didn't care though. After shaking hands with Tyranny's players, he waved his hands towards the crowd, triggering a flood of boos. A few rather impulsive fans thought of their loss in the last round and immediately started throwing random objects at him. The security quickly put a stop to them and escorted them out.

"Hahaha," Ye Xiu laughed, not in the least concerned. After greeting each other, the two teams went to their designated seats. But when they looked again, they saw that Ye Xiu hadn't gone down. He was still standing there on the stage!

What's the meaning of this?

He would be Happy's first player for the group arena!

But the problem was that this wasn't Happy's home game, it was Tyranny's, yet he stood there heroically. The Happy fans were quite excited seeing this scene, but the boos from the Tyranny fans quickly drowned them out.

Ye Xiu had come onto the stage, waved his hands to the crowd, and stayed on the stage. The match hadn't even started yet, and boos had been thrown his way three times already.

"How capable!" Ye Xiu heard someone say from the side. He turned his head to see who it was. Lin Jingyan hadn't gone down from the stage and stayed as well.

"Haha," Ye Xiu laughed, "I can hear it. They're booing you, booing your lack of creativity."

As soon as he said those words, the boos suddenly turned into applause, turning into the background for Lin Jingyan, who had come over to talk to Ye Xiu. It became even more obvious who the booing was for and who the applause was for.

"Thank you, thank you for the applause," Ye Xiu turned around and waved his hands enthusiastically to the crowd. Tyranny's fans suddenly didn't know what to do. It was really hard to grasp the timing for booing Ye Xiu and applauding Lin Jingyan.

Lin Jingyan didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He wasn't capable of doing something like this, but at the same time, he was secretly feeling a bit envious of Ye Xiu's shamelessness.

In the end, Tyranny's fans couldn't endure it any longer. The applause turned into boos again, and Ye Xiu immediately acted like the boos weren't for him. Lin Jingyan couldn't help but laugh.

Don't look at how this was hate not love. The two sides had quite the understanding of each other. When the day came that Ye Xiu no longer stood on the stage, Tyranny's fans would probably miss these interactions. As for Ye Xiu? Was it because he knew that he would one day have to leave this stage that he teased Tyranny's fans endlessly?

In reality, he probably wasn't admiring Ye Xiu's shamelessness, but his lively interactions with Glory fans.

As for himself?

He had a group of diehard fans rooting for him, but right now, were they looking at him?

Lin Jingyan actually became depressed for some time, up until Ye Xiu came over and called out to him: "So Tyranny sent you to kill yourself?"

"Hahaha," Lin Jingyan laughed dryly. If Han Wenqing or Zhang Jiale were in his place, they would probably respond with "who knows who'll be the one to die!" But not Lin Jingyan. From the very beginning, he was different from players like Ye Xiu, Han Wenqing, and Zhang Jiale. Those players were geniuses. It only took one look to know that they were destined to stand at the top of Glory. As for himself? Lin Jinyan knew that he wasn't a genius of any kind. He was just one among the many who chased after the footsteps of those geniuses. Fortunately, he was able to get very close to these geniuses. Unfortunately, he was left behind despite his efforts, never able to reach the same heights as them.

Nothing could be done... because there was no rule saying that genius couldn't work hard either. The genius in front of him put in no less effort than he had. Those geniuses never thought of giving others a chance to catch up.

"Being with you guys for so many years has truly been exhausting!" Lin Jingyan suddenly said.

"Hm?" Ye Xiu stared blankly at him. Lin Jingyan's words had come out of nowhere. For a moment, he didn't know how to react.

"It's too bad. I also have goals that I won't give up on!" Lin Jingyan said.

"Oh? You're very spirited today!" Ye Xiu said.

"Yes, I'm going to win!" Lin Jingyan said.

"Let's see you try," Ye Xiu smiled.

"See you in game."

"See you in game."

The two shook hands and went to their respective player booths. The big screen in the stadium displayed the names of the two competitors.

Team Happy – Ye Xiu – Lord Grim.

Team Tyranny – Lin Jingyan – Dark Thunder.

When the time came, the referee confirmed that the players were ready, and the match officially went underway.

It was clear who would be playing first in the group arena. The next question was what type of map would Tyranny choose?

It's... the Arena?

Everyone was taken aback.

Team Tyranny had unexpectedly chosen the most commonly picked 1v1 map for the all important playoffs stage, the Arena!

This map had the highest pick rate in the game because it was the smallest, simplest, and most direct...

This style fit Tyranny quite well, but maps weren't chosen for the sake of simplicity. Picking the map was equivalent to giving the home team the initiative. The chosen map was the home team's first attack towards the away team. It could affect the momentum of the entire match.

However, Tyranny had chosen the Arena. Picking this plain and simple map was the same as giving up their home team advantage. What's more, Happy's Ye Xiu liked this map. In the regular season, Happy would often this type of map in the individual competition. For Tyranny to choose this map, had a spy infiltrated the team?

"Coach Li, what's the meaning behind choosing this map?" Pan Lin asked Li Yibo for his opinion.

"This map couldn't have been chosen on the spur of the moment, especially with Zhang Xinjie planning Tyranny's strategies. There must be a reason behind picking this map," Li Yibo said. This time, Li Yibo wasn't just trying to get out of saying anything meaningful. These were his actual thoughts. Unfortunately for him, Pan Lin misunderstood, thinking that Li Yibo was just joking around. As a result, he followed up with the usual "Okay, then let's wait and see", leaving Li Yibo hanging.

"I..." Li Yibo wanted to say something but hesitated because the match had begun. The Arena was as simple as a map could be. The setting was that there was no setting. As soon as the characters loaded in, there was no time for Li Yibo to make any introductions. The two characters chosen by Happy and Tyranny were already at the center of the map.

Lord Grim, Dark Thunder.

"This map... did you pick it just for me?" Ye Xiu asked in the chat.

Chapter 1519: Unintelligent Lin Jingyan

"Yeah, I chose it for you," Lin Jingyan replied. Dark Thunder, charge!

"Lin Jingyan has made the first the move!" Pan Lin immediately called out. He was a bit surprised. Up until now, no one had given any trouble to Ye Xiu's Lord Grim in direct combat. Tyranny choosing such a straightforward map was surprising enough. Lin Jingyan making the first move only added to that surprise.

"Could Tyranny have found a way to counter the Unspecialized Blitz?" Pan Lin continued.

But soon afterwards, Dark Thunder was sent flying away.

"This..." Pan Lin was dumbstruck. That didn't look like someone who found a way to counter an unspecialized.

Lord Grim gave chase and began his counterattack. Pan Lin continued to commentate passionately, while Li Yibo remained silent.

He carefully watched the fight between Lin Jingyan and Ye Xiu. He was also wondering whether Tyranny had found a way to counter Ye Xiu's unspecialized. After all, besides Ye Xiu, the most experienced

players in the Glory Alliance were the players in Tyranny. The unspecialized playstyle required ample experience to support it. Perhaps the only players who could find a way to break it were the ones in Tyranny.

But in just three moves...

Dark Thunder only had a chance to attack three times before being sent flying by Lord Grim. Li Yibo didn't see any signs of Lin Jingyan figuring out the unspecialized playstyle. Instead, all he felt from Lin Jingyan was that the fast unspecialized playstyle was rendering him helpless.

But...

When Ye Xiu counterattacked, the defense from Lin Jingyan was as tough as ever.

He didn't run away or kite him. None of the dirtiness from his days with Fang Rui appeared either. Lin Jingyan looked as if he wanted to beat Ye Xiu in direct combat.

Competing against the opponent's strength with one's weakness seemed like he was letting his emotions affect his decisions now matter how it was spun. However, how could someone as experienced as Lin Jingyan make such a low-level mistake?

What is Tyranny planning? Li Yibo searched for an answer. Many people were searching for an answer.

Bang bang bang...

After another intense exchange, the two once again separated.

"So sharp?" Ye Xiu smiled.

"Yeah!" Lin Jingyan replied. Dark Thunder charged forward again!

Lin Jingyan was clearly losing. Dark Thunder had lost more than 20% of his health, while Lord Grim had lost less than 10% of his. However, Lin Jingyan didn't make any adjustments. He kept doing the same as before and fought him directly even if it looked like there was no chance of him beating Ye Xiu this way.

Lord Grim dodged, turned around, and ran away...

"What!?"

Everyone was dumbfounded.

The way Ye Xiu was playing didn't seem to have any problems, but right now, he seemed to be... running away!

Ye Xiu was running away from Lin Jingyan. Was Lin Jingyan's way of fighting really that threatening?

Of course, to the normal players, Lin Jingyan would crush them. But when looking at a competitive match, it had to be looked at in terms of professional play. Even if you said that Lin Jingyan's attacks were giving Ye Xiu trouble, the amount of trouble it was giving was very limited, no? From their last exchange, it was obvious that Ye Xiu had won that trade.

However, why would someone who had the advantage choose to run away and go on the defensive?

There was no time for everyone to think too much because Lin Jingyan had set his heart on his methods. Dark Thunder turned around and gave chase to Lord Grim, attacking again.

Lord Grim retreated another step, Dark Thunder advanced another step... Then, there was nowhere to run to. Lin Jingyan was an experienced general. He wasn't going to let Ye Xiu run away as he pleased. He would think of some way to corner his opponent. If the terrain was richer in content, there would be more space and more options to choose from when escaping. But the Arena was a small map without any obstacles. The only way to run was by using one's own movements. There was limited room to run, too. The Arena was only so big!

After running away twice, Ye Xiu was forced into a corner.

As a result, he counterattacked.

Cold light intertwined with the occasional sounds of clashing weapons. Dark Thunder's weapon was the most common Brawler weapon, a Claw, which consisted of sharp blades. Blood would fly into the air every time the blades cut. Fast. The two were attacking and defending extremely fast. This was a contest of hand speed and reaction speed. The viewers could only watch the spectacle in awe. They couldn't see what attacks they were using and whether it was effective. Their only choice was to look at their health bars to determine who was winning.

Ye Xiu. Ye Xiu was winning.

Lin Jingyan's Brawler wasn't a match for Ye Xiu's unspecialized in direct combat. From this point, it seemed like it was obvious who would win the match.

However, Lin Jingyan didn't retreat or give up. He persisted, insisting on using this sort of method to decide the winner.

Applause!

The crowd applauded.

Brawlers could fight close-range or long-range; they had CC and burst damage; they were an extremely versatile class. Fang Rui was Lin Jingyan's most important and reliable partner for many years. To synergize with him, he had adjusted his playstyle, and that was during the later parts of his career. Before that, Lin Jingyan was an aggressive player who liked direct combat.

Demon Subduer!

Just hearing his former Brawler's name, how did that sound like someone who sneaked around and used dirty tricks?

The Lin Jingyan of that time had been chasing after the footsteps of the geniuses. When fighting against them, Lin Jingyan didn't want to show fear. Even if he lost, he would stand straight until he fell.

Now that he was thinking about it, he had fallen numerous times.

But he had never cowered!

Even when he had adjusted his playstyle to not be as aggressive, he had never cowered. He had ambitions too. For his dream to be the champion, he could give up on everything. To bring back the wild days as Demon Subduer, he could do that too!

Tiger Flips the Mountain!

Double Crescent!

Pain of Scars!

A bright red streak of blood blossomed into the air. As Lord Grim retreated, blood poured out from his right shoulder.

“Oh? Demon Subduer... it’s been a long time,” Ye Xiu said.

“Are you scared?” Lin Jingyan spoke as if he were Ye Xiu. Dark Thunder, charge!

The Demon Subduer here wasn’t referring to the one that Tang Hao was using in Team Wind Howl, but the three-hit Brawler combo that Lin Jingyan often used back in the day. It was precisely because of this three-hit combo that he included the name “three” in the the name Demon Subduer. His team saw this connection, and so the three-hit combo was named Demon Subduer as well. However, as Glory developed and levels increased, more skills became available. Lin Jingyan’s famous three-hit combo gradually became outdated. Nowadays, it was rarely used and couldn’t be considered a signature move. If his opponent wasn’t Ye Xiu and a younger generation player, they might not have recognized the three-hit combo from Dark Thunder.

“Haha, I was never scared. You know that,” Ye Xiu said. Lord Grim faced him again.

Lin Jingyan’s move had been sudden. Ye Xiu had been caught off guard. But if it was this skill, then even when Lin Jingyan had used it in the past, he indeed had never been afraid of it, let alone now when it had fallen behind the times.

“Take a look at it again!” Lin Jingyan called out.

“You still want to use it?” Ye Xiu disapproved.

“Get ready!” Lin Jingyan wasn’t going to use it again. He already knew that suddenly using this skill to catch him off guard might give him some benefit, but using this secret weapon again would be a joke. The reason it had become outdated was because it had no value anymore. He didn’t mind bluffing though.

“I’m ready. If you use it, I’ll beat you to death!” Ye Xiu said. On the other hand, he wasn’t bluffing. He was threatening him, and it was a real threat too. Nowadays, if Lin Jingyan used it, it would be considered an opening. Taking advantage of an opening to kill the opponent was the duty of a player.

Sure enough, Lin Jingyan didn’t use it again. The two continued to trade blows, and the applause continued. Lin Jingyan’s strategy was somewhat stupid. The current him could definitely play smarter. Perhaps by doing so, he would be able to contend with Ye Xiu to the end.

But this was Tyranny’s home stadium, and the ones supporting him were Tyranny’s fans. Lin Jingyan’s strategy might not be smart, but it was exactly what they wanted to see. People might say that playing

smarter would give them a higher chance of winning, but sorry, Tyranny's people loved to use this sort of brute force method to win. This was what the fans wanted and what they hoped their team could prove.

Team Tyranny was changing, and they couldn't control it. However, Lin Jingyan's fighting style right now was something they enjoyed from the bottom of their hearts. It was because of this that they liked Tyranny.

"GO!"

"Beat Ye Xiu!!"

Lin Jingyan didn't hold the advantage, but Tyranny's fans didn't care. From their energy, it seemed as if Lin Jingyan was suppressing Ye Xiu.

"Can you see what Tyranny is trying to do?" Huang Shaotian, who had run to Tyranny's stadium to watch the game, messaged Yu Wenzhou.

"They're trying to wear him down," Yu Wenzhou replied.

Wear down, Huang Shaotian was no stranger to this word. It was a rather painful phrase to him.

That was their strategy in their game against Happy: wear down Ye Xiu in the group arena. But it turned out that Ye Xiu wore down their energy instead.

Team Tyranny was doing the same strategy: wear down Ye Xiu.

It was just that their method was different. They chose the simplest map and simplest method to wear down Tyranny.

Wear him down with brute force.

Chapter 1520: Unavoidable Exhaustion

Lin Jingyan fought like a hero and fell like a hero.

He had expected this outcome. Having chased after the footsteps of those geniuses for so many years, he knew that these geniuses weren't like the lazy hare in *The Tortoise and The Hare*. They wouldn't leave any room for others to surpass them.

"You can't let me win once?" Lin Jingyan said jokingly.

"You've won before, no?" Ye Xiu replied, "Season four, Round 21."

Lin Jingyan stared blankly for awhile before saying: "I lose to you even in memory."

The first round of the group arena ended in 1 minute 48 seconds. Between two players with abundant experience, it could be considered an extremely fast battle. In the end, Ye Xiu won with a huge lead. Lord Grim had 63% of his health left.

When Lin Jingyan left the stage, the crowd didn't hold back with the applause.

A loss was a loss, but Lin Jingyan's attitude was what they wanted to see. Even though it might not have been the smart thing to do, Tyranny's fans liked to see this sort of hot-blooded fervor from their heroes.

'Go Tyranny!!' It was as if Tyranny was winning. Their fans seemed even more excited than Happy's. Tyranny's second player appeared on the big display: Zhang Jiale – Dazzling Hundred Blossoms. Another old general from Tyranny.

Amidst the applause, Zhang Jiale walked towards the stage and met Lin Jingyan midway over.

"Nice job," Zhang Jiale said.

"The rest is up to you," Lin Jingyan said.

"Watch me take him down," Zhang Jiale said. The two bumped fists, and Zhang Jiale walked onto the stage.

Soon, the second round began.

"Go die!!"

Zhang Jiale typed into the chat as soon as he loaded into the map. Then, his hundred blossoms bloomed. Dazzling Hundred Blossoms seemed to explode. The shimmering light spread throughout the Arena with him as the center.

Offense, another aggressive offense.

Just like Lin Jingyan, he went for direct attacks without any tricks. The wave of blossoms swept over Lord Grim. With this small Arena, there was practically nowhere to hide. Zhang Jiale's strategy couldn't be considered a group arena strategy. In the group arena, no one would be as wasteful as this because your opponent was never just one person. If you only cared about a win over the opponent in front of you, if you lost the group arena, then that win wouldn't matter.

"Tyranny... are they planning on giving up on the group arena?" Pan Lin couldn't help but blurt out.

Li Yibo furrowed his brows, unsure what to say.

Exhaustion. He had a grasp of Tyranny's intentions. He wasn't certain about it though, so he didn't say out into the broadcast. But by the looks of it, if their intent was to exhaust Ye Xiu, wouldn't the price be too large? The Spitfire was a mana-hungry class. With Zhang Jiale not caring about his mana and using everything he had to display his Hundred Blossoms style, even if Ye Xiu lost, how much mana would Dazzling Hundred Blossoms have left to deal with Happy's next player?

Engulfed by the wave of light, Lord Grim's figure turned blurry. For Ye Xiu, this was a difficult problem.

He was obviously aware of Tyranny's intentions to exhaust him, but in this map, the other side didn't care that Ye Xiu would notice because their arrangements were such that even if he knew, there was nothing he could do to avoid it. Unless Ye Xiu gave up on winning and let Lord Grim stand there for them to kill, in which case, that would be great too. Otherwise, in such a small map facing such experienced players, there was no way for him to kite around and relax.

Last round was like this, and this round would be the same.

Team Tyranny didn't hide their intent. If you don't go all out, then you'll be killed instantly. If you go all out, then you will certainly expend quite a bit of energy. It was true that Tyranny's side had old players too, but they were taking turns fighting Ye Xiu.

On Happy's side, after listening to Fang Rui's and Wei Chen's analysis, Chen Guo suddenly became worried. But after thinking about it for a bit, she suddenly thought of something.

"In any case, Ye Xiu has taken down Lin Jingyan. We're already in the lead! He can just do play casually and use up the other side's mana. We'll still be winning in that case!" Chen Guo said.

"Oh is that so? Boss, what a good plan," Fang Rui said.

"Of course," Chen Guo was delighted. But a second later, she discovered that Fang Rui's reply had been somewhat sarcastic. The others on Happy didn't think much of her "good plan", did they?

"What's wrong with it?" Chen Guo's ideas were often demolished by Ye Xiu, so she was very self-conscious.

No one immediately replied. Everyone's focus was on the match.

Ye Xiu didn't retreat. Instead, he faced Zhang Jiale boldly just like in his fight with Lin Jingyan.

Everyone's expression was solemn as they watched the match. Chen Guo didn't keep asking what was wrong with her "good plan". It was unlikely that Ye Xiu wouldn't have thought of her plan, so there must be a reason why he wouldn't choose to use it.

The battle was as intense as the previous round. Both sides knew each other well, and the intense, fast-paced battle didn't lack caution either.

The entire stage was a chaotic mess of light. If last round, people couldn't tell what each player was doing exactly, then this match, with Zhang Jiale's all-out light blossoms, there was very little left of what they could see.

The only thing they could clearly see were their health bars. Fast. Their health bars were dropping very fast. The difference was that Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was dropping steadily. He clearly wasn't ever able to cleanly escape from the grasps of the Hundred Blossoms style. As for Dazzling Hundred Blossoms? His health dropped intermittently. It was just that each drop in health was quite considerable.

Bite him to death!

Happy's players and Happy's fans were praying with all their might.

If Lord Grim could stick close to him, he might be able to interrupt Dazzling Hundred Blossom's fierce assault. Then, in close combat, Spitfires would be at a huge disadvantage. In the regular season, Zhang Jiale had been burst to death this way.

But this time, it clearly wasn't going to be so easy.

Zhang Jiale, who was going all out, had blocked off everything!

"Too crazy," Huang Shaotian felt his heart tremble.

“With the way he’s playing, let alone the next player, if Lord Grim had started with over 70% of his health, Dazzling Hundred Blossoms might not even have had enough mana for this round alone,” Yu Wenzhou replied.

Zhang Jiale had let go of everything. His eyes had been set on Lord Grim, who hadn’t even started out with full health. Lord Grim had started with only 63% of his health left. His energy, his decision-making, and his attacks were all concentrated on that 63%.

Only by doing this could he give Ye Xiu the most pressure. It was only by doing this could he make it so that Ye Xiu would not be able to afford to relax.

This round could not be defined as simply as who won or lost. Tyranny’s strategy was being carried out in this forceful way. As for Ye Xiu? Since he couldn’t avoid getting exhausted, then he could only do his best to win as much of a lead as possible for Happy.

As for what the outcome would be, it wasn’t just this round that had to be looked at, but the entire match.

1 minute 24 seconds!

The battle between Ye Xiu and Zhang Jiale had been even faster than the battle with Lin Jingyan. In the end, the first to fall was Ye Xiu’s Lord Grim. However, Zhang Jiale’s Dazzling Hundred Blossom was useless as this point. He only had 9% of his health and 2% of his mana left.

Ye Xiu wasn’t able to complete a 1v2, but it was very close. When left the player booth, Happy’s fans applauded wildly.

This was Tyranny’s home stadium. Happy’s fans knew of Tyranny’s enmity with Ye Xiu. They had no way of suppressing Tyranny’s fans in their home stadium, so it was only by taking these openings could they show their support to Ye Xiu.

Unexpectedly, boos didn’t come immediately from Tyranny’s fans.

“This despicable guy has his decent moments!” Tyranny’s fans were in a discussion. Ye Xiu fought head-on against the aggression put out from Tyranny. It was what Tyranny’s fans liked to see. As a result, even if Ye Xiu was their mortal enemy, they hesitated.

“His playing today is pretty okay. Let’s boos a bit softer?” Someone suggested.

As a result, the boos still came, but they were light as a feather.

“What’s going on?” Ye Xiu wasn’t used to it. As he walked down from the stage, he saw that Tyranny’s fans weren’t putting in much effort to boo him like usual.

“Now you know what fear is!” Ye Xiu smirked as he said these words to the audience members nearest to him.

“Fuck!” The audience members heard him, and their boos immediately intensified. The reason was soon spread throughout the stadium.

“Fuck, and now he’s proud of himself!” Tyranny’s fan leader and Tyrannical Ambition’s guild leader, Jiang You, felt the urge to flip a table.

“BOO HIM! BOO HIM!” Jiang You roared.

The boos once again echoed loudly throughout the stadium. There were even some “KILL HIM!” shouts mixed in.

Ye Xiu was as calm as ever. Happy’s next player wasn’t affected by these sudden boos from Tyranny’s fans.

Happy’s next player was Mo Fan. He had already become an important chess piece in Happy’s group arena.

“Good luck,” Ye Xiu said as they passed each other.

Mo Fan didn’t stop. He simply nodded his head and kept walking.

Ye Xiu returned to his seat. The others looked at him.

“Almost a 1v2,” Ye Xiu grinned.

Chen Guo immediately noticed the weariness in Ye Xiu’s smile. He couldn’t hide his exhaustion.

Chen Guo had seen this appearance before. It was the same as when he had fought against Wind Howl’s Tang Hao.

And today, Ye Xiu had fought a fierce battle against two players back-to-back. His opponents, Lin Jingyan and Zhang Jiale, were experienced players too. Since they came in with a purpose, they