

## Avatar 811

### Chapter 811: Character Advantage

It was just one attack, so it obviously wouldn't instantly kill Shoot Here, but Qiao Yifan's position established a huge advantage for him. Facing a Ghostblade in a duel, no pro player would allow themselves be affected by so many ghost boundaries at the same time. Qiao Yifan cleverly used this map to lure his opponent into a trap, instantly deciding victory.

Shoot Here tried his best, but in the second round of the individual competition, Qiao Yifan swiftly won.

This shift in tides was too quick.....

The face slappers were still absorbed in the previous round's victory and looking down on Team Happy disdainfully. When the second round began, their contempt was still concentrated on One Inch Ash, but before they could fully adjust themselves, the tides of battle shifted and One Inch Ash took down his opponent. Everyone was left speechless.

The spectators were speechless. Team Everlasting also felt like their face had been slapped.

They had chosen this map in order to bully their green opponents. Who would have thought that their opponents would be the one to use this map to bully them? This loss not only resulted in a loss of points, but a loss of face too!

The system didn't care about anyone's feelings. Once the match concluded, the third round of the individual competition immediately began.

The map chosen for this third round was still Riverside Corridor.

Team Everlasting had clearly done their research on this map. Using the same map for every round in the individual competition clearly showed their intent to eradicate Team Happy for good. Their decision came with belittlement. Team Everlasting thought that Team Happy wouldn't be able to utilize the map's characteristics in just two or three rounds.

But after the second round, the players on Team Everlasting were no longer calm, but it was too late to regret it now. The maps could not be changed midway.

The third person to come out from Team Everlasting was their team's Warlock: Leopold.

"Be careful." The player for the Warlock Leopold was warned repeatedly.

Team Everlasting had acknowledged Team Happy's skill level from the start. From their action of going over to their front steps to talk, the degree of their acknowledgement wasn't low. They felt like the players on Team Happy would be an addition to their strength. Their attention hadn't been fixed on just God Ye Qiu.

During the period of time when Team Happy accepted challenges, Soft Mist appeared the most, then Steamed Bun Invasion, then Windward Formation.

Team Everlasting looked highly upon all three of them. With Team Happy as their opponents, they also attached the most importance to these three. They had even come up with plans to counter them. This was just their attitude towards competition though. While Team Everlasting recognized the strength of these three players, and were not afraid. If they really were afraid, He An would not have acted so lofty when he came to Happy.

Team Everlasting had meticulously chosen their maps and their player order. In terms of strategy, Team Everlasting took Team Happy quite seriously.

But in the individual competition, it was already 1-1. Their victory was against Steamed Bun Invasion, who they had been wary of, but their loss was against One Inch Ash, who they had ignored.

Did Team Happy have anyone else like One Inch Ash? Team Everlasting suddenly felt at a loss. How could they dare to be careless in the third round?

Leopold stood at the competitor spot. At the same, Team Happy's next competitor appeared as well.

Another Warlock. Windward Formation.

The third round would be a contest between two characters of the same class, putting an even greater emphasis on the player's skill.

Team Everlasting released a sigh of relief when they saw their opponent. Windward Formation wasn't unknown, at least. Moreover, in a battle between two characters of the same class, apart from the player's skill level, the character's strength would also be a significant deciding factor.

Team Everlasting was very confident here.

It was already extraordinary for an Internet cafe grassroots team to have players of such caliber. How strong could their characters be? Could their equipment be better than ours? Could their characters have more skill points than ours?

Team Everlasting smiled. Their warning to be careful didn't seem necessary now.

The spectators didn't know about Team Everlasting's confidence. After being slapped in the face, they appeared even more cautious than Team Everlasting. Their contempt towards Team Happy continued, but before the outcome was determined, they couldn't spit out anymore slander.

The match soon started.

Despite being confident, Team Everlasting's player still showed caution. On the contrary, on Team Happy's side, Windward Formation looked very carefree, heading straight for Leopold.

The faceslappers really wanted to say something. Their hands hovered over their keyboards, but none of them typed out anything.

Team Everlasting's Warlock took no notice. He continued with his original plan. Suddenly, he felt the sky darken above him. He looked up and saw dark clouds covering him.

Chaotic Rain!

He was startled. Leopold escaped outside of its range, while looking in that direction. Sure enough, it was a spell casted by Windward Formation.

"This..... Impossible..." The Warlock player looked at where he had just escaped from. Rain poured down from those dark clouds.

The attack had come, but he had been caught completely off guard because in his eyes, the two sides weren't even in range yet!

When he looked at Windward Formation, he confirmed that Windward Formation had been outside of his attack range.

But Windward Formation had already cast a spell. Does that mean his cast range is three units more than mine?

Cast range was an extremely valuable stat for mages. A greater cast range meant more distance. More distance meant more time to take the initiative, but in terms of cast range, his Leopold actually lost to Windward Formation? Didn't that mean Leopold's equipment was inferior to Windward Formation's?

Impossible!

Team Everlasting's Warlock player was dumbfounded. He didn't want to believe it. The equipment on these grassroot characters was actually better than the equipment that they had refined since their beginnings in the pro scene?

The distance was a bit far, so he couldn't see Windward Formation's equipment. After Windward Formation used Chaotic Rain, he followed up with another attack. The corridor was narrow, so after a few consecutive curses, Leopold had nowhere left to run. Windward Formation had formed a Curse Arrow too. At this moment, if he didn't want to receive damage, he only one had choice: fight back!

Team Everlasting's Warlock hastily made a move. Leopold also formed a Curse Arrow. This skill could be charged. The longer the charge time, the stronger it became. Windward Formation didn't seem to want to waste time though. He charged it for a bit and fired it. Team Everlasting's Warlock timed it well and determined that his charge time wasn't any shorter than Windward Formation's before firing his own arrow.

The two Curse Arrows collided, passing through the corridor and landed in the water. That dark energy seemed to be splitting space itself. The resulting collision made it impossible for Team Everlasting's Warlock to see Windward Formation. A thought flashed through his mind and he immediately cast a new skill.

Warlock skill: Death's Door!

Leopold's cast range didn't allow for him to directly attack Windward Formation. However, Death's Door had its own attack range of 18 units, so he didn't need to place it directly on top of his opponent. Taking advantage of the chaotic explosion formed by the two Curse Arrows, he started casting this powerful skill to attack his opponent, but because of the difference in cast range and because of his position in the corner, he would only be able to take a beating, unable to return fire.

This high-level skill was complex and had a long cast time. After Team Everlasting's player finished the appropriate actions, Leopold waved his staff and prepared the curse. Suddenly, he heard a bang. In front of him, a black revolving door came out from a tear in space. Dark energy spread as it revolved and grabbed Leopold.

At this distance, it was too late to dodge. Leopold's own Death's Door was interrupted. He was grabbed by the dark energy and pulled into the door. The door engulfed him and Leopold's image turned faint. Death's Door did instant burst damage. Not just Team Everlasting's Warlock, but when everyone in Team Everlasting saw his health, their faces turned pale.

That damage was way too high!

How many skill points did that Windward Formation put into Death's Door?

The value in Death's Door didn't lie in its high damage. For pro players, its AoE crowd control effects were more favorable. Even though there was only one target at this moment, the crowd control still existed. After being sucked into the door, Leopold could not be controlled. The collision between the two Curse Arrows had ended. The energy collision dissipated as Windward Formation continued to wave his staff.

Corrosion, Soul Strike, Soul Slice, Engulf, Surrender Life.....

Curses and attacks were released one after the other. Ever since Leopold had been grabbed by Death's Door, the damage received never ceased. When the effects of Death's Door ended, Leopold fell into the water.

Splash!

Chapter 812: Map Choice Joke

The water's surface never returned to its calm state.

Windward Formation's attacks didn't stop once, chasing Leopold into the water. The water would have some effect on both characters and skills, and the water battle training for pro-plays was to help familiarize them with these effects.

Team Everlasting's Warlock was hoping that he might get an opportunity to turn the tides upon falling into the water. He could use the experience he had with water battles to escape from the opponent's attacks, but he soon realized that his opponent's grasp of this was no worse than his own, no... it should be that it was even better.

So falling into the water turned out to be a misfortune for Team Everlasting. With the movement speed he had currently, he didn't know if he would be able to escape from Windward Formation's attack range.

In the second round, Team Everlasting's Sharpshooter tried to find One Inch Ash and corner him in the water, but because he fell into an ambush of Ghost Boundaries from One Inch Ash, he never managed to carry out his plan. Yet in this round, such a plan was completed by Wei Chen

Team Everlasting's Leopold didn't get another chance to return to the veranda, being continuously suppressed in the water by Windward Formation. When he eventually returned to the surface, it was in the form of a corpse...

Happy claimed victory once more in the third round.

The spectating faceslappers' speechlessness was evident. With this loss by Team Everlasting, they took quite a huge blow.

This round was lost even more clearly than the second.

In the last round, they could say that the Sharpshooter had accidentally fell into his opponent's ambush, but for this round, the two Warlocks fought head to head. Happy's victory showed off their player's experience and their advantage in equipment.

Because Leopold hadn't gotten a chance to close in on Windward Formation enough to check his equipment, Team Everlasting still had no idea what Windward Formation had equipped.

But from his increased cast range, it could be seen that Windward Formation had better equipment than Leopold. If they had equipment that could increase cast range by three body units, they would've given it to Leopold from the start.

They didn't have it, but Happy had. That was an advantage in equipment.

Their home game advantage had long since been scrapped in the second round.

Their belief in the superiority of their characters had taken a harsh blow in the third round, but this exchange only revealed how terrifying Windward Formation's cast range was. His true advantage was something they had yet to experience.

Windward Formation's 4920 skill points would be terrifying if put in the Pro League, but in Team Happy, this was a rather low number. Low enough that Wei Chen hesitated if he should use a different account or not.

"Don't lose hope now!" On Team Everlasting's side, someone broke the silence of the training room. The one who spoke was He An, their team leader. At the same time, he was also a part of the team.

Wu Chen was their captain, true, but in their team there was also He An. And he was team leader, having power over the captain. In the Glory circle, team leader was an antique title, now known as club manager. This was a position that truly had power over the team. For Captains, they actually only had the right to give advice, but most teams treasured the advice of their captain, making it seem as if the captain had the power to make decisions. However, it wasn't like that. If the manager decided to ignore the captain's advice entirely, that was perfectly ok.

With one of the team members having such a position, Wu Chen's position as captain was a little awkward and his power within the team was limited. At a time like this, Wu Chen hadn't even spoken, being the captain, yet He An took the role of leader to comfort everyone. This was because of his two positions.

"The situation was just out of our expectations, that's all. These inconsequential characters can only be hidden to temporarily give them an advantage once in the arena." He An spoke so, but in reality, Happy

had thoroughly shocked him, too. He obviously couldn't express his surprise either. He could only describe the situation as if these surprises were just some insignificant attempts to pull the advantage to their side. This way, his team members would be able to relax a little.

He An's words did as they intended to. Team Everlasting's members relaxed upon hearing them. Next up was the group competition. There was only a small pause between it and the individual competition, but their line-up had long since been decided and couldn't be changed. At the moment, the two players about to battle were both impatient to get on with it.

In the stands, the faceslappers weren't sure what to think. They had so much hope in Team Everlasting, but they somehow lost two matches in the individual competition. This made them want to rage at Team Everlasting. However, it was just an individual competition. There was still the group and team competitions. Maybe... they should stay and watch a little longer...

The arrogant faceslappers were silenced by Happy's two victories. The public chat became much more normal as well. It was mostly the true fans of Team Everlasting giving them some encouragement.

The group arena competition finally began, and the first participant of each team entered the stage.

Team Happy, Battle Mage Soft Mist.

Team Everlasting, Qi Master Heavenly Rage.

As of late, Soft Mist was definitely the most well known member of Happy and also the one the faceslappers hated the most. The experts they had hope in all fell beneath Soft Mist's spear. And when the one person who could defeat Soft Mist appeared, she won back the match quickly. With victories and losses on both sides, they couldn't really say anything about that one defeat.

But here, in the Challenger League, there were rules to these matches. If she lost this match, then they didn't have to worry about her winning it back, because she had no chance to do that here. Everyone could use this chance to say whatever they wished.

Thinking of this, the silent faceslappers became excited once more. Slowly, different voices rose from the crowd, all giving encouragement to Team Everlasting's Heavenly Rage. For a moment, it seemed like Heavenly Rage was a celebrity player, receiving the hopes of all the spectators.

Entering the competitor's areas, loading the competition map. When the map was revealed, even the audience felt faint.

It was still Riverside Veranda...

It was hard for the faceslappers to hold in their mockery. Since they wanted to see Team Happy humiliated, they were supporting Team Everlasting right now, but don't forget, not everyone was here to see Team Happy humiliated. In the audience, there were a neutral few who were just here out of curiosity, or even those who held hope in Team Happy. Though they weren't many, seeing Team Everlasting's never changing choice of Riverside Veranda, why wouldn't they speak up against it?

Taunting came from the crowd, Team Everlasting's choice was an embarrassment. There was nothing wrong with their original idea. Since there wouldn't be an overlap of characters in the individual and

group competitions, they wanted to use the field advantage to its fullest. Though this map choice was a little utilitarian, they couldn't afford to be careless in the Challenger League.

Unfortunately, despite choosing this map, Team Everlasting still lost two rounds during the individual competition. And in these two rounds, their losses were in part due to the map choice. Now, this choice of map was more like a joke. The audience's taunts were vicious, but they didn't understand that Team Everlasting hadn't thought it would turn out like this. It was too late now.

Luckily, these taunts couldn't affect the characters who had entered the arena. From the start of the match, the characters fighting couldn't see the public chat and the private chats between characters would also be forbidden. This was made so that the players in the arena wouldn't get any outside help, with the audience having a bird's eye view and all.

But there was no one there to enforce this, with this online match in the Challenger League. If there was anyone giving the players information offline, no one would know. They couldn't even stop the dirty move of people getting others to play for them. With the rules announced, they hoped that people would act responsibly and follow them. If it was actually found that you weren't following the rules, then naturally that wouldn't be good for you. And even if you never got caught, you couldn't use these tricks throughout the entire league. You would get exposed as soon as you got to the offline matches. So there wouldn't be too much of an effect on the final results.

The Alliance couldn't really do anything about it. With the current situation, they could only let it happen in these first rounds.

In regards to this, Team Happy was very responsible. In the first match when Steamed Bun got lost, no one went up to help. Even for victory, everyone made sure it was a fair match; that was what it meant to be a good sport.

As the countdown fell, the group competition officially started.

With how often Soft Mist appeared before, the faceslappers were very familiar with this character, to the point where they knew very piece of equipment she wore.

But when Soft Mist entered the arena, the audience realized that they couldn't recognize her at all.

Was this that Soft Mist?

Her equipment had changed so much!

The audience had noticed this change with Steamed Bun and Windward Formation, too, but they only had a vague impression of these two characters, nothing like their understanding of Soft Mist. Now as Soft Mist stepped in, everyone immediately noticed that she was different from before.

Team Everlasting had researched their opponents, but they didn't count on familiarity to judge the change in the character. They could tell from one look that Steamed Bun Invasion's equipment had changed, and so had Windward Formation's. It was just that Windward Formation's victory made them realize it wasn't as they thought; it was more terrifying.

Though He An had said it was just a small trick to surprise them, Team Everlasting's members couldn't help but feel uneasy when seeing that Soft Mist had also undergone a massive change.

Soft Mist's equipment wouldn't suddenly become very powerful, would it?

Their worries were accurate. Out of all of them, Soft Mist's equipment had changed the most. Now, she was wearing five pieces of Silver equipment. In the Pro League, this was nothing, but on this grassroots character, it was something most wouldn't dream to think about.

Chapter 813: Air of a Professional

Battle Mage Soft Mist vs Qi Master Heavenly Rage. The first round of the group arena finally began.

As Team Happy's most infamous character, how could Team Everlasting's Qi Master not be wary of Soft Mist? Especially after seeing the new set of equipment on Soft Mist. The shadow of Leopold's loss coiled around him.

However, Heavenly Rage's opening move was very courageous. Although Qi Masters were Fighters, their close combat skills weren't actually that outstanding. A Qi Master's skill kit consisted mostly of mid-range attacks, but they didn't have as long of a range as gunners. In any case, Qi Masters effectively had a longer range than Battle Mages. The first to make the first move should be the Qi Master.

Many of the Qi Master skills were AoE attacks, which were especially a threat on Riverside Veranda, which had land and water. The land portion consisted of the veranda, so the space was already quite limited. For a class with lots of AoE like Qi Masters, it was easy to force the opponent into the water.

Team Everlasting's main classes generally had this advantage. It was just that in the individual competition, the Launcher and Warlock weren't able to show this advantage.

The Qi Master was wary of Soft Mist. He didn't dare give Soft Mist room to maneuver freely. As soon as Soft Mist stepped into his attack range, he launched his offense.

Heavenly Rage rolled his palms and a qi bullet shot out. Soft Mist easily dodged it. Heavenly Rage had already jumped into the air and pushed out with his two hands: AoE attack, Sky Piercing Strike!

A powerful stream of qi burst out from Heavenly Rage's hands towards the veranda. The AoE coverage was extremely large. If Soft Mist continued to advance, the attack would certainly hit her. If she retreated backwards, she might just be able to escape, but to make this judgement, it would require her to have a very clear understanding of Heavenly Rage's first attack. How could the purpose of a simple Qi Bullet just be to deal some damage?

Of course not.

That attack was only to restrict his opponent. It wasn't to restrict Soft Mist's movements, but to distract the player controlling Soft Mist. The purpose of the Qi Bullet was to hinder Tang Rou from noticing his Sky Piercing Strike. By the time she noticed this attack, it would be too late for her to dodge.

This was fairly simple trick. Even normal players understood that in PvP, it was best to keep the opponent in your line of sight so that you could observe the opponent's movements.

However, this Qi Bullet wasn't enough to fluster Tang Rou and cause her to look away from her opponent's movements. To put it plainly, this attack was a way for the Qi Master to probe out her skill.



To his surprise, such a shallow method was actually going to work!

Soft Mist seemed to misjudge the AoE coverage of the skill and continued to rush forward. In this case, Sky Piercing Strike would undoubtedly hit Soft Mist.

Pulling off such a simple maneuver caught him unprepared. His original plan was to follow up with another attack, after Soft Mist avoided this one, but the opponent was actually going to be hit, so he had to change up his plans.

Sky Piercing Strike covered that stretch of the veranda. The surrounding water rippled intensely from the shockwave.

After being hit by this attack, Soft Mist immediately rolled. She rolled so quickly and unexpectedly that Heavenly Rage's following two attacks actually missed.

Soft Mist leaped up and stepped onto the railing on the edges of the veranda. She jumped again directly over the water and landed on the stretch on the other side.

In the blink of an eye, Soft Mist and Heavenly Rage now stood on the same stretch of the veranda!

The Qi Master was startled. Soft Mist didn't misjudge that Sky Piercing Strike. Rather, she intentionally didn't dodge it. She used the shock wave from the attack to give her a speed boost. Her roll then put her at a distance, where she could jump over the water and stand in the same line as Heavenly Rage.

The Qi Master didn't dare let Soft Mist get close. Qi rippled from Heavenly Rage, who gathered that qi into a fist. He punched and the qi transformed into a dragon.

Qi Master skill: Dragon Wave.

The dragon could be controlled by the player. After sending out the qi dragon, the player could freely change its direction. Apart from attacking the opponent, it could be used to hit the user or a teammate. When it hit the user or the teammate, Dragon Wave wouldn't deal damage. Instead, it would give a buff that increased the target's fighting strength.

Right now, the Qi Master wasn't planning on eating this qi dragon for himself. He threw it directly at Soft Mist.

Soft Mist lifted her spear, which glinted with cold light. Dust swept off her feet as she headed straight for Heavenly Rage.

Dragon Breaks the Ranks!

Soft Mist didn't dodge. She actually decided to contest with Dragon Wave head on.

That's completely unreasonable.....

Team Everlasting's Qi Master thought to himself at this moment.

Not dodging Dragon Wave was too crazy. Dragon Wave did not only deal damage. When it hit the opponent, it would also weaken the opponent's attack power and attack speed!

Yes, the instant that Dragon Wave struck Soft Mist, the debuff was applied. However, Dragon Breaks the Ranks continued to head towards him.

Heavenly Rage immediately sprinted away.

After being hit by Dragon Wave, the might and speed of Dragon Breaks the Ranks fell significantly. Heavenly Rage immediately jumped twice just outside of its range. At this moment,, Soft Mist didn't stop attack. Her spear suddenly grew in length, transforming into a dragon that pounced towards Heavenly Rage.

Rising Dragon Soars the Sky!

After Dragon Breaks the Ranks, she connected it with another high-level skill, Rising Dragon Soars the Sky. There didn't seem to be a pause at all. What type of hand speed was that? How did she time that? The instant Dragon Breaks the Ranks completed, she had to also complete the actions required for Rising Dragon Soars the Sky in order to connect those two attacks seamlessly. If she completed the actions slightly late, it would have come out later. If she was slightly early, the attack wouldn't come out, unless she cancelled Dragon Breaks the Rank first

"Not bad!"

Even Ye Xiu was impressed by it. He obviously wasn't surprised at the difficulty of the maneuver. Rather, it was clear progress for Tang Rou. Ye Xiu never had any doubts about Tang Rou's hand speed. Her biggest obstacle was turning her absolute hand speed into effective hand speed as well as working on her precision and timing.

Soft Mist had just obtained a complete new set of equipment. Her stats were vastly different, and she only had a day to familiarize herself with it. And after being hit by Dragon Wave, her stats changed again, yet Tang Rou was still able to grasp the timing and pull this combo off. If this wasn't just luck, then Tang Rou's sensitivity towards her character and mastery over her class had reached new heights.

At such a distance, even with the debuff from Dragon Wave, Heavenly Rage could not dodge this attack.

Just when everyone could already picture the explosion from Rising Dragon Soars the Sky, the attack suddenly stopped.

Force cancel!

Only Tang Rou could stop the skill.

After being devoured by Rising Dragon Soars the Sky and left in the air, even Heavenly Rage had a hard time believing it, when he saw Soft Mist retract her spear.

"What's going on?" Chen Guo was dumbfounded. She thought Soft Mist had made an error. However, Rising Dragon Soars the Sky had perfectly hit her opponent. What could she be doing to accidentally cancel her attack?

She had been too worried. She looked over at Ye Xiu, who was still smiling. His expression was filled with happiness.

Rising Dragon was canceled, but Soft Mist didn't stop attacking. Under Dragon Wave's debuff, Soft Mist stepped forward. She struck out with Sky Strike to knock Heavenly Rage even higher into the air. Then, Tyrant's Destruction, Double Stab, Sky Strike, Chasers.....

Chen Guo finally understood.

Rising Dragon Soars the Sky had a long ending lag. For Soft Mist, she wouldn't be able to connect any other attacks after using it. As a result, she abandoned Rising Dragon and cancelled it. Even though she would lose a large portion of the damage from it, she could still utilize this skill's grab effect to restrict Heavenly Rage. The following combo clearly allowed her to deal more damage than the loss from Rising Dragon. Moreover, she also maintained her advantage after using the combo, while getting rid of the Dragon Wave debuff. If she had completed Rising Dragon, it would have certainly felt good, but she would not have been able to do anything more. Her battle with Heavenly Rage would reset, but she would also have the debuff from Dragon Wave.

In just an instant, Tang Rou instantly determined that it was better not to finish Rising Dragon and cancelled the skill. Chen Guo realized that Tang Rou was becoming more and more like a pro player. Her decision-making had already surpassed her understanding.

Amazing.....

Seeing Tang Rou, Chen Guo couldn't help but be envious. She also wanted to be god at Glory. Unfortunately for her, that wasn't a possibility. She could only place her hopes and dreams onto the team. Seeing Tang Rou's growth, she could also appreciate Ye Xiu's joy.

We have to win!

Chen Guo clenched her fists. She really wanted to see these people and their characters stand on stage. No...she wanted to see them as champions!

Chapter 814: Team Everlasting's Ace

The improvement of Tang Rou's technical ability and her judgement of making a tradeoff between the damage from a powerful move and the opportunity to gain the upperhand all displayed the air of a professional. Never mind Team Everlasting, even Ye Xiu was surprised at Tang Rou's decision making.

The players' moods had changed by now. Soft Mist was as resolute as ever, but Team Everlasting's Heavenly Rage was starting to feel the pressure.

A high end move like Vanishing Step wasn't something that Tang Rou could use, but even with a normal Juggle, Team Everlasting's Qi Master failed to regain the advantage twice!

After their belief in having field and character advantage was shattered, their belief in their player superiority had finally been shattered as well.

Eventually, Heavenly Rage managed to grasp the third chance to escape from the Juggle!

But he was still in a disadvantageous position. Soft Mist's attacks were unrelenting, not giving Heavenly Rage a chance to struggle free.

In the exchange, the health of both sides were continuously decreasing, but it was obvious that Heavenly Rage's health was falling faster. He managed to find a few chances to counterattack and deal some damage to Soft Mist, but it wasn't much. His counterattacks had no effect on the overall situation, and that was probably why his opponent wasn't very concerned about them.

Team Everlasting's player became more and more impatient, unable to calm himself as the battle progressed. Eventually, he left an opening that Tang Rou mercilessly exploited, using a combo that blasted him against one of the pillars of the veranda.

Absolute advantage!

But she didn't let her guard down. Soft Mist's fierce offense never wavered throughout the battle, even when her victory was certain, she didn't show a hint of faltering.

Heavenly Rage finally fell.

Defeat wasn't a result that they couldn't accept. The problem was that Soft Mist had only lost less than a fourth of her health in this match. There seemed to be an unbridgeable gap between the two players...

Was it really unbridgeable?

Not necessarily. Skill was an intangible concept, unlike health which could be calculated. The difference in health of the two didn't necessarily represent the difference in skill, but it revealed the difference in performance during the match.

This difference silenced all the spectating faceslappers once more. They had no chance to unleash their mockery ever since the second individual competition. Holding it in for so long was painful. And now, Soft Mist was gearing up to face her second opponent, Team Everlasting's elementalists, in the group arena with more than three quarters of her health left. If she lost this match, how would they be able to mock her? They had to think carefully about what to say! After all, she had already beaten one opponent, losing to the second wasn't uncommon.

Yet, before they could think of how to mock her, the situation on the battlefield was already becoming clear. Soft Mist somehow still had the advantage.

She wouldn't win again, would she?

Everyone looked on with shock.

Team Everlasting had sent out an Elementalist, which Soft Mist had already managed to close in on. Compared to Qi Masters, Elementalist were garbage at close combat. Now, his health was draining away like someone had pulled the plug on it. When he finally managed to shake her loose, his health was already at the same level as Soft Mist's! He had entered the arena with a twenty five percent health advantage and now that advantage had vanished.

Though he managed to escape from an undesirable situation, he didn't get any chance to rest. Soft Mist charged fiercely towards him. Two mage classes with very different styles clashed. First the Elementalist would kite the Battle Mage around, chipping at her health, then the Battle Mage would close in and tear through the Elementalist with her close combat advantage.

But this time, the Elementalist didn't manage to find another chance to escape from her grasp. Erupting with a final round of vicious attacks, Soft Mist defeated the Elementalist with a fifth of her health to spare, and geared up to face Team Everlasting's third player.

The spectators had nothing to say, but those who had hope and supported Happy started to cheer wildly.

At first, they wouldn't dare discard their composure for this. Though they thought Team Happy was interesting, and wanted to see what they could do, they were like the faceslappers, not believing that Team Happy truly had the power to go up against Team Excellent Era.

This was undebatable. Never mind outsiders, even those within Team Happy, Ye Xiu and Wei Chen and the others, they admitted it. If they really faced off against Team Excellent Era the way they were now, their chances were extremely low.

These people also had some misgivings about Team Happy's strength and hadn't formed much of an attachment to Team Happy, so they had to be careful with their support. They wouldn't publically yell and cheer about it, because there were a bunch of spectators just waiting to see Happy humiliated! This small section of supporters lacked confidence and couldn't tie themselves to Happy's name. They didn't want their support to be treated like a joke if Team Happy actually lost.

But now, Soft Mist had consecutively beat down two people and entered the third match with one fifth of her health remaining. This sort of advantage was very hard to turn around. Seeing a definite victory for Team Happy, these supporters finally dared to express their passion and energy, cheering encouragements for Team Happy.

This support was even more disgusting than eating a fly to the faceslappers, but they had no way of retorting. Team Everlasting's last player would have to beat Tang Rou and then win against another two consecutive matches in order to take back the group competition. There was no need to elaborate on how hard that would be.

Team Everlasting's mood was even worse.

"What the hell is this!!" He An, who remained calm upon losing two individual competitions, could no longer stay quiet after two people were beaten by Soft Mist.

He could accept one defeat, but having one player beat two of theirs was a major loss that he couldn't take.

The Qi Master and Elementalist that lost these two rounds hung their heads in shame, feeling disheartened. Hearing He An's words, the Qi Master raised his head, opening his mouth to speak, but then heard He An continuing. "Is this Soft Mist really that strong?"

The Elementalist player also raised his head, but stayed silent after exchanging a glance with the Qi Master player.

He An didn't continue to speak because he had to prepare for battle.

Team Everlasting's core character, Spellblade Go Forth, was currently He An's character.

That meant He An's position in the team wasn't just as an ordinary team member, but as Team Everlasting's ace.

With his character now in the arena, He An didn't have the time to lecture the two players who had been defeated. He had to go back and turn the tides, as the ace player.

One versus three?

He An sneered. It was probable that the only one who believed that Team Everlasting could win back the group arena was himself! Because the tide of the match was now in his complete control and he had utter confidence in himself. The superiority he displayed at that time wasn't baseless. Speaking of strength, he, the player who was also the manager, was the best in the current Team Everlasting. As their core player, his character naturally possessed the best equipment as well.

Go Forth had eight pieces of silver equipment. Team Everlasting only had 32 pieces of silver equipment in total, and ten characters. Among them, their ace Go Forth possessed one fourth of their silver equipment. Maybe it was because of this treatment that this character became the ace, or maybe it was because this character became the ace that it received such treatment. Either way, it was a positive loop. Go Forth was Team Everlasting's strongest character, and they had never abandoned this core character even after being eliminated from the Pro League.

His character was immensely powerful and he had confidence in himself. One versus three? That was exactly what He An thought to do.

Go Forth appeared in one of the corners of Riverside Veranda. Three, two, one, match begin.

Despite having only a fifth of her health left, Soft Mist was as direct as ever. As soon as the countdown was over, she was already streaking down the path she took in both the previous rounds. As for Go Forth, he immediately turned and jumped into the water upon the fall of the countdown.

Home game advantage?

Character advantage?

Player superiority?

All of Team Everlasting's advantages seemed to have been shattered by Happy, but now He An was planning to reinstate them and show everyone that Happy was nothing but cannon fodder compared to Team Everlasting.

Being different from the others, He An's choice of action made Tang Rou's charge lose meaning. With the current distance between them, she had no idea where He An's Go Forth was. She could only slow down, carefully keeping an eye on her surroundings as she advanced.

Tang Rou didn't impatiently try to find her opponent; she had to make sure her character was safe first.

But having scoured half the map, Tang Rou still didn't find her target. If it wasn't for the omniscient view the spectators had, this sort of running and hiding would be boring, but with their omniscient view, the spectators knew that Go Forth was settled under a part of the veranda. If Tang Rou only kept notice of the water's surface while on the veranda, she wouldn't be able to find him unless she entered the water as well.

Tang Rou didn't seem to have such plans. Soft Mist was still moving along the veranda, but step by step, she entered Go Forth's attack range.

He An was patient and didn't press on the moment Soft Mist came into range.

A little closer... just a little closer...

Seeing the distance between them become more appropriate, the Silver weapon in Go Forth's hand, Aqua Lightning Lightsaber, began to flash.

The Spellblade's signature move, Wave Formation, activate!

Chapter 815: The Careful He An

Electric Wave Formation!

The skill activated silently and by the time Tang Rou noticed, the Electric Wave Formation's ball of lightning had already formed. The area within 15 units of it was filled with sparks. When the skill was activated, Soft Mist was electrocuted once. It was unavoidable. Tang Rou hastily had her character step out of range. With only a fifth of her health left, she didn't dare delay. Soft Mist attempted to charge out of the Electric Wave Formation through the shortest route.

But who knew that this was exactly what He An wanted. From where Go Forth was settled, he could see half of Soft Mist's figure, but this was more than enough. The second Formation was sent out, but this time it was an Ice Wave Formation. The two Formations overlapped, trapping Soft Mist within them.

Seeing this, Tang Rou realized that her opponent had been prepared for this and could see Soft Mist's movements. No matter how she tried to escape, she would probably be incapable of shaking him off. Making a decision, she jumped up resolutely and dived for the water next to the veranda.

Tang Rou displayed her usual brave decisiveness. By jumping into the water, she immediately saw Go Forth, who had settled under the veranda. Without a moment's hesitation, she charged forth with a Dragon Breaks the Ranks.

The flow of water split into two around Soft Mist. In the water, the charge speed of Dragon Breaks the Ranks was greatly reduced, but the drag force from the water affected everything. Even though attacks were slowed, dodging was also slowed. He An was prepared for this as well. With a swing of Aqua Lightning lightsaber, a strike of Chilling Sword Pulse was sent out. Shards of ice shot off from the blade, as if dispersed by the flow of the water, but anyone who understood the settings in Glory would know that water did have some effect on the power of skills, especially for fire, which was at a major disadvantage in water. On the other hand, ice type damage wasn't just unaffected by the water, but was actually strengthened by it. This Chilling Sword Pulse looked like it had been scattered by the water, but actually its range had been silently expanded.

It didn't look like much, but its power was immense!

The reinforced Chilling Sword Pulse met the charging Soft Mist and swept over her.

A hit!

Soft Mist's movement speed was slowed even further by Chilling Sword Pulse. He An's Go Forth had already left his original position, already preparing a new attack to unleash on the approaching Soft Mist.

Of course, Tang Rou knew that the situation wasn't looking good for her, but didn't cancel Dragon Breaks the Ranks. With the distance between her and Go Forth, there weren't any attack that she could hit. If she stopped now, she still had to close in on Go Forth. That wasn't as efficient as if she just used this Dragon Breaks the Ranks as a way to increase her movement speed.

Tang Rou's choice was obviously made out of having no other choice. She was at a major disadvantage, and He An had this situation entirely under his own control. If it wasn't for having another two opponents to face later on, He An would have just charged forwards to go head to head with Soft Mist and diminish what remaining health she possessed. Here, He An chose a safer method, deciding not to face Soft Mist head on, keeping his distance and slowly dragging it out.

This was the worst kind of style for Tang Rou. Soft Mist only had a fifth of her health starting out in this round, and then she had been ambushed too. She was already at red blood, how could she afford to drag this out? On the other hand, if they went head to head, she might not win, but she could at least take out some of her opponent's life.

Unfortunately, He An was very cunning, not giving her such a chance. Slowly chipping away at Soft Mist's health in the water, he used the Spellblade's slight advantage in attack range to chip her to death.

"Heheh, that's wasn't so bad!" After he won, He An turned to joke with the other members of Team Everlasting. The continuous losses had reduced Team Everlasting's morale to ice. And for this victory, no matter how he went to describe it, he had only won against an opponent with one fifth of her health left. There wasn't enough meaning to it. That's why He An had to appear as if it took him nothing to do. The more it seemed like an easy victory, the better it would boost morale.

It was unfortunate that after defeating this opponent who only had a fifth of her health, Happy still had two players who hadn't gone up yet. Being at such a disadvantage, Team Everlasting couldn't avoid feeling uneasy.

The Challenger's League was far too cruel. It was possible that a single loss here could cut this year short for Team Everlasting. Who could relax with He An's reassurance when thinking of this?

This was all He An could accomplish for now. He needed a real and valuable victory to bring hope back to his teammates.

The second round of the group arena started shortly. Team Happy's second player was the Launcher Chasing Haze.

No matter who it was, He An didn't dare to let down his guard. As soon as the countdown three, two, one, was over, his Go Forth turned and dived into the water once more.

Launchers had an absolute attack range advantage. When facing head to head, the Launcher always attacked first. By the time you got into attacking range, you would have already received quite some damage. If your charge wasn't successful, the damage you took would be more than just a little.



If this was an individual competition, He An wouldn't be afraid of charging forward, but they were fighting the group competition right now. After Chasing Haze, there was still another opponent that he had to fight. So, like last time with Soft Mist, he decided to use a careful method.

How could He An guess that his opponent was actually much more nervous than he was.

In the first three seconds of the match, Chen Guo was close to entering a space where she couldn't even tell where her fingers were. Her mind was entirely blank. There were things moving in front of her eyes, but her brain seemed unable to receive these signals sent by her eyes.

Chen Guo was completely unprepared.

Ye Xiu actually pushed her into the line-up; he had never discussed this with her beforehand.

And to think that Chen Guo was unhappy that Ye Xiu saw her as a stopgap for the number of members in their team. Now that she was sent to the battlefield as an official player, Chen Guo realized she would rather be a stopgap. The pressure of being in the arena far overwhelmed her expectations. Thinking of what the results of this match could mean for them made Chen Guo terrified.

In her mind, she couldn't possibly win. The opponent was a pro player, the character was the ace of a pro team! As for her? Even with the Heavenly Domain challenge she had help from Tang Rou to pass. From this angle, she wasn't even as good as Concealed Light! Concealed Light had at least completed the Heavenly Domain Challenge on his own!

Nervous, she was so nervous. From the beginning of the match, she hadn't had a moment of calm. When she came back to herself, she realized the match had started and her opponent was nowhere to be seen. This made her even more nervous.

"Ah! When did the match start, where'd he go?" Chen Guo yelled in surprise like she would when playing the typical in-game arena matches.

Everyone looked at her with serious expressions, but no one answered.

Chen Guo snapped back to reality. This was a competition; it might be online and there might be no one watching them, but this was a real Alliance organized competition.

Chen Guo tried to calm herself down. She couldn't see the opponent, but of course he couldn't be outside of the map. He must've gone underwater again. This was how this guy dealt with Tang Rou in the last round. The memory was fresh in her mind, and she even thought scornfully about the opponent's dirty tricks. However He An couldn't hear her, so all she did was make Qiao Yifan feel awkward. He An's plan in the last round was rather akin to how he had won his individual match.

Chen Guo didn't get the chance to make anymore scornful comments, seeing how the character for the second round was just revealed to be her Chasing Haze.

"Surprise!"

Seeing the smile on Ye Xiu's face, Chen Guo was frustrated. Was this really the time to joke around? Letting her into the arena, was that really a responsible thing to do?

But before she could yell, Ye Xiu's smile disappeared, saying to her, "Good luck! Even if you lose, it's ok; you have me at your back!"

"You..." Chen Guo was still quite displeased, but she couldn't say anything. The line-up couldn't be changed, after all. She rushed to take up the position. Yet as soon as it started, she was besieged by her nerves. Even telling herself that Ye Xiu was there to hold fort didn't work.

Now, Chen Guo had finally gotten into her competitive mood. It was just that He An's Go Forth had dived into the water, leaving her helpless. With her skill, she didn't dare jump into the water to fight him. She could only wander the veranda, occasionally firing a few shots into the water, hoping to find a hint of Go Forth.

He An still didn't let Go Forth close in and found an appropriate position to hide and watch Chasing Haze's movements on the veranda.

He An still hadn't figured out the depth of Happy's skill, so he planned to observe the opponent before making any moves. He would be able to figure out his opponent's vague skill level from seeing what moves his opponent made.

Yet as Chen Guo started to shoot at the water, it seemed like a fair choice to make, but Chen Guo's blasts were completely chaotic. Like in the second individual match, Team Everlasting's Sharpshooter attempted to force Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash from the water, but his attacks had a method to it. He had made estimations on One Inch Ash's position, range and distance, but for Chen Guo? It was just wherever Chasing Haze walked, she would blast, no calculations, no judgements...

Is she pretending to be dumb to bait me?

He An was very much on guard; even when seeing Chen Guo's clumsy technique, he didn't make a move.

He observed for a while longer, until Chasing Haze had walked more or less on top of his Go Forth. She still fired a shot to the left, a shot to the right and moved on. He An finally confirmed that this person wasn't playing dumb, she was actually dumb!

So, after Chasing Haze walked by, He An attacked at once. Multiple Wave Formations were thrown out and Chasing Haze looked wildly around before finally finding Go Forth's position, but her lack of technique had already been witnessed by He An; he wasn't afraid at all to have Go Forth jump out of the water to exchange blows with Chasing Haze.

The situation was extremely one-sided. When Chasing Haze fell, He An's Go Forth had only lost a sliver of his life. That meant he had managed to get to the deciding match in near perfect shape.

The audience was bubbling with excitement, and so were Team Everlasting's players.

Chapter 816: Too Naive

Reverse sweep!

At this moment, whether it was in the spectator chat or Team Everlasting's practice room, these two words were mentioned the most. The second-most mentioned words added an adjective to it: super reverse sweep.

In a 1v3 situation, He An actually managed to beat two opponents in a row and entered the final deciding match with nearly full health. Such a turnaround filled the audience with anticipation.

Team Everlasting had been half-dead. As the second opponent was triumphed over, each and every player's morale started to revive. When He An nearly obtained a perfect victory over Chasing Haze, silence filled the practice room for two seconds, before the players erupted into cheers.

Everyone was standing around He An, pushing and shoving each other. If they didn't know that one more match still needed to be played, they might have started lifting He An up into the air.

He An obviously had to show confidence and give off a feeling of superiority at this moment. Apart from that, the victory already said everything. Their current situation said everything. He didn't need to give any words of encouragement. The players of Team Everlasting had already come back to life. Next up, if he could win this deciding match, Team Everlasting's morale would be at its peak for the team competition.

Morale cannot be underestimated.

Morale represented the player's mental state. Having high morale made it easier for the player to play to the best of his or her ability. After all, a player was a person, not a robot. A player's mental state decided how well a player performed.

He An was very satisfied with the morale of the team right now. Moreover, he was certain that after having a huge lead reduced to nothing, Team Happy's morale must be very low. The two sides were on nearly even ground coming into the deciding match. If it had to be said, in terms of health, He An had lost a bit. However, in terms of the overall situation, He An felt that their Team Everlasting had the advantage. The pressure from a reverse sweep was terrifying. Just look at the countless spectators spamming the chat. Everyone was looking forward to this scene.

He An was too busy to think too much. After a short break, the deciding match began. On Team Happy's side, the character that should have originally been paid attention to the most, but had been hiding the entire time appeared: Lord Grim.

He An wasn't surprised about this arrangement. Lord Grim had always been seen as Team Happy's core. This was undoubtedly Ye Qiu's character. Even though the media reported that the person, who registered Lord Grim, wasn't Ye Qiu. However, when He An paid a visit to Happy Internet Cafe, he personally saw Ye Qiu at Happy. If the player behind Lord Grim wasn't Ye Qiu, who could he be?

The Challenger League had this type of loophole. He An could only look at things from a worst-case scenario standpoint. He thought his confidence was unbreakable, but when he thought about having to face Ye Qiu, the king of a past era, the innovator of countless techniques, and the Glory Textbook, He An suddenly felt the sweat dripping his two hands.

He An grabbed the towel on the table and dried his two hands.

There was no time for him to adjust his mental state. The stage came into view. Three, two, one, and the match began. He An put down the towel and took a deep breath.

No matter who his opponent, victory was his only path. It was only path for Team Everlasting too.

Team Everlasting had failed to pass through the Challenger League last year. A year without the Pro League naturally led to losses. Another year of losses would be needed again. The team's ace player, He An, also had to be the club's manager. It was evidence of Team Everlasting being in difficult financial straits. If they couldn't return to the Pro League this year, the team might not last for another year. Let alone being able to support high salaries for the players, anyone worthy of a high salary would not continue playing for Team Everlasting. The team would need to sell characters, equipment, and materials to survive. In that case, the team would definitely weaken, making it even harder to get through the Challenger League. Many relegated teams fell into this vicious cycle until they disbanded.

I can't lose!

He An reminded himself once again.

He had originally considered himself invincible, but after thinking that Lord Grim might be Ye Qiu, his confidence wavered. He couldn't help but remind himself.

The spectator chat was as lively as ever. The face slappers resurrected just like Team Everlasting. This scene was simply too exciting. Team Happy had a huge lead, but they lost it all. Moreover, Team Everlasting's character had barely lost any health. He had the momentum from winning two matches in a row and had high morale, but Team Happy? They were probably too nervous to even move.

The crowd jeered loudly. However, their remarks could no longer be seen by the two sides playing.

My opponent is Ye Qiu.....

Unable to get rid of this thought, He An was unable to play boldly. He repeated his old strategy and started by directly entering the water.

He slowly swam towards a section and found a hiding spot. It was obviously different from the hiding spots from the other two matches. He An once again began observing his opponent.

But he couldn't find him.....

With the water and the veranda, his line of sight was naturally limited. Within this limited space, He An couldn't find any traces of his opponent. He patiently waited for awhile, but still didn't see Lord Grim. He finally felt like something wasn't right.....

If Lord Grim was Ye Qiu, then... he shouldn't be afraid of a battle in the water, so he might have gone into the water too. Could he be moving closer to me?

He An thought and hastily dove into the water. After looking 360 degrees around him, he still didn't see anything.

Where is he?

He An suddenly panicked. This situation was completely outside of his expectations. Could he just be standing at his original position? He An had his character switch positions. From a new perspective, he looked at Lord Grim's starting position. No, Lord Grim hadn't remained there. He had moved, but He An didn't know where.

Two choices.

Take the initiative to search for Lord Grim, or continue hiding there and wait for Lord Grim to find him.

After a moment of hesitation, He An decided to choose the safer option and quietly hid there, waiting for Lord Grim to enter his attack range, but considering his opponent's skill, he didn't dare look only in one direction. Above the water, under the water, front, back, left, right, he didn't stop looking around.

Even so, He An still didn't see Lord Grim. His heart was beating madly. What's going on?

Above the water, under the water, front, back, left, right.....

He kept scouting around. He was starting to get tired. He suddenly began to regret choosing this map. Wasn't he causing himself trouble? If he had chosen a simpler map, he wouldn't be in this type of situation.

He An was sighing with sorrow, when he suddenly caught himself.

I'm actually complaining about the map!

This would mean that this map was giving him trouble, putting him at a disadvantage. The map might have already been taken advantage of by the opponent.

He An's reaction was quick. Under this situation, he needed to switch strategies. He had already fallen into his opponent's trap! Even though neither side could see each other, this was an attack in and of itself. The attack wasn't physical, but mental. He An was currently feeling troubled, making him the one affected by the attack.

He An swam underneath the veranda. He was just about to go back onto the veranda before making his next step, when he suddenly heard a shout: "He's on top!!"

He An was startled. His character immediately turned. He saw Lord Grim's spear come down with a Circle Swing. Like a fish being hooked, he was dragged out.

The shout had obviously come from a Team Everlasting player. They were in spectator mode and could look at the match from any perspective. He An's trouble and confusion could clearly be seen by them.

Lord Grim kept moving, but not completely underwater or on the veranda. He did both, making it difficult to understand his intent.

Then, everyone discovered that Lord Grim was coming and closer to He An, while He An was looking around without a clue.

He An didn't seem to be faking it. Everyone now understood that Lord Grim's strange pathing was to hide in He An's blind spots.

Could he have guessed his hiding place? Or was he also going to blind spots for all possible hiding spots? They couldn't tell, but they knew that Lord Grim had quietly snuck up above He An. On the other hand, He An was still looking below the water, above the water, and searching around left and right.....

The crowd had already started shouting it out, but He An couldn't see any of it.

The players on Team Everlasting could obviously warn him, but they maintained their competitive integrity. They were bitterly conflicted.

Finally, He An naively swam out from below that veranda, not knowing that his opponent was already waiting for him with his spear out. Someone on Team Everlasting abandoned his competitive integrity and gave a warning.

But it was too late.

Dodging an attack from land while in the water wasn't an easy task. Even more so against someone as skilled as Ye Xiu. He An was dragged onto the veranda. Lord Grim stepped down and shot him in the head a few times. Sharpshooter skill: Punisher.

"The same map. The same strategy. How naive." In the match public chat, a message from Lord Grim appeared.

Chapter 817: Never Before Seen Combo

How could He An have the time to start trash talking with Ye Xiu? Once the Punisher ended, he hastily took the chance to make Go Forth roll, but Lord Grim's movements were as quick as ever, striking down with a Berserker's Collapsing Mountain. The curled up Go Forth was instantly struck flat to the ground.

Dodging wasn't enough!

Knowing that Lord Grim was a critical member of the opposing team, Team Everlasting would naturally do their research on the unspecialized class. Unspecialized characters only had low level skills. Compared to high level skills, they had lower damage, but they activated quickly, had little ending lag, and low cooldown times. And to think an unspecialized character had 120 of these skills; there were too much variations for combinations. Even more importantly, the tactics for unspecialized characters in the Glory circle were unknown. Unspecialized characters had long been eliminated. Who would go and research what combinations could be performed with the low level skills of all 24 classes? Even though Team Everlasting put effort into researching, they didn't have that sort of time. They hadn't managed to make much progress yet!

Lord Grim had approached He An without notice. He had gained the upper hand with a successful sneak attack, but this wasn't enough to grasp victory. Whether he could keep this advantage in the following fight depended on the skill of the players.

But now, Go Forth had been beaten into the ground; was there really any need to consider their skill levels any further? He An now had a basic understanding of this unknown unspecialized. He couldn't make accurate judgements because he lacked experience, so dodging wasn't enough. What about parrying?

He An glued his gaze on Lord Grim's attacking hand, preparing to parry. Then Lord Grim raised his strange weapon and... made a circle with it. He An didn't have the time to figure out what attack was being made. Seeing how the weapon started to swing, he hurriedly struck out with his sword in a parry, but Lord Grim's weapon drew a circle in the air and then made no more moves.

He An paused in surprise. His parry was only half finished! Now that his opponent wasn't pressing forward anymore, then... should he turn his parry into an attack? As the thought passed through his mind, Go Forth involuntarily slipped backwards and then his feet left the ground.

This is!

He An was shocked, and then he realized that the circle Lord Grim drew was an Elemental Power.

The Elementalist's knock-up skill.

He An wanted to cry. This was the problem with facing an unspecialized. Even if you tried to prepare yourself, even if their skill had been activated, your brain might not be able to catch up. Did He An not recognize this Elementalist's knock-up skill? Of course not. The point was that the unspecialized skill tree wasn't something he was used to. Against any of the other classes, He An would be able to subconsciously list out all of their skills. This was a habit of any experienced pro player and didn't require any extra effort on their part, but now, facing an unspecialized, it was something he had to consciously do, reducing his reaction speed by a little. But just this little bit had a decisive effect. Having been caught by Elemental Power, Go Forth was now airborne. Lord Grim slid over, his Thousand Chance Umbrella swinging up as a spear and reinforcing the effects of Elemental Power with a Sky Strike. Go Forth was knocked even higher. Then, the spear shrunk back, and the point of the umbrella opened up to reveal the dark holes of the muzzle of his gun. Bullets swept out and across without hesitation.

The Launcher's Gatling Gun technique pushed Go Forth even higher than he already was, making him spin uncontrollably in mid-air.

This really didn't do much damage...

Seeing Go Forth's health fall, He An had this sort of experience.

Though Lord Grim borrowed quite a few pieces of equipment from Heavenly Swords, Go Forth's equipment was still better. And the equipment that DPS depended most on, Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestations Umbrella, was still in the midst of leveling up.

Calm down! Unspecialized characters don't deal very high damage, I can still find plenty of chances.

He An hurriedly reassured himself. His palms were all sweaty by now, but how could he have the time to go and wipe them? Not a single one was wasted with Gatling Gun's hail of bullets, all hitting Go Forth. Finally free from his uncontrollable spin, Go Forth started to freefall. Lord Grim had already taken steps to charge over. He An hastily adjusted Go Forth's position, preparing to sneak in an attack before anything could happen and hopefully turn the situation around.

But, he raised his sword, where was his target? He looked around. Lord Grim had somehow taken that moment to disappear...

"Under you!!!" Uncaring for the rules and having already broken them once, the members of Team Everlasting didn't hesitate to help He An again. Lord Grim was currently right under Go Forth, waiting for him to fall!

Under him? He An quickly looked that was, but he still couldn't see anything. He An then had a realization.

Vanishing Step, this was Vanishing Step! Nevermind He An, even All Stars wouldn't dare say they could perform such a high skilled technique so well without a certain amount of experience and awareness.

Ye Qiu, this guy must be Ye Qiu!

He An felt unbalanced. If his opponent really was Ye Qiu, then that was cheating! They should lose the right to participate; their character should be sealed, but the problem was, could he prove it? With just Vanishing Step, he couldn't prove anything. This move did have incredible technical difficulty, but it was one that every pro player was working toward. Even He An would attempt to accomplish Vanishing Step when he managed to knock-up an opponent. It was just that he wouldn't always be able to perform it accurately, but he could occasionally succeed.

Ye Qiu could definitely perform Vanishing Step, but it wasn't an if-and-only-if situation where whoever could perform Vanishing Step was definitely Ye Qiu.

He An was frustrated at his opponent finding someone to fight on their behalf, but had forgotten that his teammates gave him outside help, which also violated the rules.

He An knew that picking at these details would do nothing to help him. There was a way to deal with Vanishing Step, but for such a terrifyingly powerful technique, it would naturally be difficult to deal with. If it was easy to deal with, then the practicality of such a technically demanding move would be questioned.

He An had no confidence that he could deal with this move directly. Eventually, Go Forth unsheathed his sword and swung out with a Falling Light Blade. He An couldn't determine Lord Grim's exact position, so this use Falling Light Blade seemed rather dumb, like he was struggling mindlessly, trying to escape, but since Falling Light Blade created a small shockwave upon hitting the ground, he might get lucky and deal some damage.

Everyone else could see that with this Falling Light Blade from Go Forth, he really did "go forth". Coming down at this angle, his back became perfectly exposed to Lord Grim.

As for Lord Grim? He had his palm raised for quite a while. It wasn't posing, but charging up a Falling Flower Palm.

Charging would naturally give the attack more power. Having exposed his back so perfectly, how could Lord Grim miss Go Forth? Lord Grim's Falling Flower Palm struck the center of Go Forth's back. Go Forth's Falling Light Blade hadn't even managed to touch the ground yet when he was blown flying, his body stretching out and lunging forwards.

When activating Falling Flower Palm, you could choose to stand still or slip forward. As Lord Grim sent out his Falling Flower Palm, he slid forwards to catch up. The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella had long



since turned from a spear into a gun by the time he struck with his palm. Boom boom boom, three rockets were launched, preparing to push Go Forth even further.

Wasn't this attack equal to sending Go Forth out of attack range and helping him escape? Just when people started thinking that, Lord Grim's Thousand Chance Umbrella swung out, neck and neck with the rockets. With another slide at his feet, Lord Grim's spear stabbed into Go Forth's body at the same time that the first rocket exploded behind him.

Circle Swing.

The technique that had fished Go Forth out from the water's cooldown was up. Everyone had thought Go Forth would get blasted flying, but now he was pulled back with a stab. With the smoke that had yet to disperse from Go Forth's body, he was slammed into the ground again.

Nevermind normal players, even the experienced pros in Team Everlasting were struck dumb with this combo. Falling Flower Palm, Anti-Tank Missiles and then a Circle Swing to pull them back. This was definitely not a combo that a normal class could perform, but it wasn't something that just any Unspecialized player could do either. Linking Anti-Tank Missiles after Falling Flower Palm wasn't hard, but then you had to somehow pull your target back with a Circle Swing! That required an extreme understanding of each skill.

The smoke from the explosion had yet to disperse from Go Forth's body!

Though he was continuously being attacked, his health hadn't even gone down by a tenth because of the difference in equipment and skills. This gave the audience hope in him, wishing that he would still be able to turn the tides.

He An wanted to do that, too, and quickly got up from where he had been smashed to the floor. But then a foot came crashing down from the sky, treading him back into the ground, and then several shots were fired at Go Forth's head.

Punisher... the cooldown for that skill was finished, too.

Everybody became speechless. When Go Forth was fished out of the water, it was with a combo of Circle Swing and Punisher. Now, this scene repeated itself. Was he going to cycle through sending Go Forth into the air, onto the ground, Circle Swing and Punisher infinitely?

The audience was a little too worried. Glory wasn't something you could win by simply cycling through a sequence. He An had already fallen prey to this routine once. After getting up, he would exceptionally wary.

He had to give it everything!

He An had realized that just getting up wasn't possible. If he wanted to get up, he had to link it with an attack. This time when he jumped up, he took note of Lord Grim's position and struck as he rolled. A Wave Wheel Slasher sped towards Lord Grim.

Chapter 818: Red Blood!

Wave Wheel Slash was a Spellblade grab skill. The Spellblade controlled the fluctuations from the sword to seal the opponent. Grabs could not be blocked. Trying to block it was equivalent to trapping yourself in your opponent's move.

He An hadn't hoped for this attack to hit Lord Grim. He just wanted to interrupt his opponent's combo, so he could readjust his position.

He raised his sword above his head, but hit nothing. Go Forth still completed his roll into a crouching position, but... where was Lord Grim?

"Above you....." The same dishonest Team Everlasting player once again warned him. He An hastily adjusted Go Forth's viewpoint, while also looking up himself.

Pow! Pow! Pow!

Striker skill: Eagle Stamp.

Lord Grim had been standing on top of his sword. He stamped three times and jumped to the side, escaping from Go Forth's view again and leaving footprints on Go Forth's face.

The Team Everlasting players were also speechless.

They could also tell that He An was already flustered. He An heard the warning and actually lifted his own head. That was obviously an instinctive reaction, but it shouldn't be one for a pro player. A pro player should have thought that the warning was for an enemy attack and find some way to respond.

But He An actually looked up towards the ceiling. He was clearly lost.

He An was a mess, but Ye Xiu wasn't. After Eagle Step, Lord Grim didn't wait to land on the ground. Instead, he unsheathed his sword and descended with Falling Light Blade. It was quick follow-up from Eagle Stamp, but He An finally reacted and hastily rolled to the side to dodge. Halfway through his roll, Go Forth crashed into the veranda railing. The narrow veranda didn't give him enough room to complete a full roll. When Falling Light Blade descended, Lord Grim was also blocked by the railing, but the shockwave still sent Go Forth tumbling into a corner. He An immediately tried to tech it, but he was blocked by the railing again. He couldn't roll and get up. He became like a ball, bouncing around in the corner.....

The other Team Everlasting players shut their eyes.

They couldn't watch anymore... losing's fine, but could you at least lose in a less childish manner? What are you doing? Looking up into the sky, crashing into the wall, and then repeatedly rubbing against the wall, did your brain short circuit?

He An's situation couldn't be described as cutting a sorry figure. It was practically a comedy at this point, but after thinking about it carefully, Lord Grim didn't seem like he was intentionally toying with He An. Forcing the opponent into the veranda meant he was taking advantage of the veranda's narrow terrain to restrict his opponent's movements. He An ignored this point and went blindly towards the railing, before ending up in this situation.

The face slappers and Team Everlasting fans were depressed. Those standing on Team Happy's side found it hilarious on the other hand.

After being blocked by the railing, He An's tech failed. Lord Grim chased after his trapped opponent and attacked fiercely.

There's no way out!

He An looked left and right. There was only one choice. Seeing an opening, he immediately jumped. It was difficult for him to jump through, so he had to crouch in midair. It didn't stop him from turning around at the same time. Finally, he decided to jump off the railing and into water.

Splash! Go Forth dove into the water. Another splash. Lord Grim didn't hesitate and pursued closely after him. When Lord Grim got into the water, he gave Go Forth a kick too.

He An had been chased so closely. Go Forth failed to show any signs of hope, but because they were in the water, all of their movements were slower, so Go Forth's health dropped slower.

Go Forth struggled in the water. The spectators all closed their eyes.....

This was a battle in the water? It was more like a fish meeting a great white shark and running for his life. When everyone saw Go Forth, they felt like it was because Lord Grim wasn't giving him any choice but to run.

That wasn't true. He An couldn't find any openings among Lord Grim's attacks, so he tried to create some distance between them. By winning space, he would win time to attack. Unfortunately, he kept on failing. Lord Grim stayed stuck to him, but because he stayed on the defensive, his actions just seemed like he was trying to run for his life.

Left, no good. Right, no good. Up, no good. Down, no good.....

Battling in the water allowed much more space to move in than battling on land. However, no matter what He An tried, Lord Grim would always stop him. The damage dealt by Lord Grim wasn't much, but a lot of attacks hit him. Go Forth's health gradually fell until it was about to hit red blood.

Players weren't bosses. When a character's health hit red blood, it wouldn't become Enraged. Red blood would actually increase the pressure on the player even more. Berserkers were the only exception. As their health fell, their battle strength would increase. From time to time, Berserkers would make a comeback when they hit red blood.

He An wasn't thinking about this. His Go Forth wasn't a Berserker. His health continued to fall due to Lord Grim's attacks. He was about to hit red blood, but his situation hadn't changed in the slightest. From He An's point of view, unspecialized attacks were completely unpredictable. He was trying his hardest to predict the next move out of all the possible low-level skills available, but it was to no avail. His processing ability wasn't fast enough. He really couldn't do anything.

He An had never felt so powerless before.

He was Team Everlasting's ace player and core. His position as the Club manager wasn't just for show either. He had played Glory for many years now. He had deep knowledge and experience of the game, but the reality was that he didn't have any experience in the pro scene. After Team Everlasting was relegated two seasons ago, the team scouted him out and added him to the team, replacing Team

Everlasting's former captain, Hong Liang, who had left the team. He became Team Everlasting's new Spellblade core.

The Spellblade character Sidingken used to be the team's strongest character, but in order to relieve the pressure from being relegated, Sidingken was sold. This was the tragedy of small teams. All sorts of predicaments awaited for them as soon as they were relegated. Team Everlasting had three years to build up their foundation though. After Sidingken was sold, they quickly created Go Forth for He An.

He An was filled with ambition. He always felt like he was just lacking an opportunity. He considered himself a classic example of having talent, but no opportunity. Being favored by a relegated team had been an opportunity he had been waiting for. Through his knowledge and experience, he even earned himself the position of club manager. Team Everlasting had indeed found a very capable talent.

He An had been looking forward to Team Everlasting returning to the scene. He wanted everyone in Glory to know that a treasure had been ignored by everyone all along! It was his time to shine.

Unfortunately, the team lost in the finals of the Challenger League last season. Before they could walk out from the shadows of their loss, another bomb exploded, shattering the hearts of everyone who wanted to make it through the Challenger League into the pro scene.

Glory Pro League Season 8, Team Excellent Era had been miraculously relegated, becoming their opponents next season in the Challenger League.

This piece of news made everyone preparing for next season's Challenger League fall into despair. Unrest arose among the various teams. Too many people weren't willing to waste their time in the Challenger League because in their eyes, it was pointless. This year's champions would be Team Excellent Era. Competing in the Challenger League this year would mean needing to compete in next year's Challenger League as well. That would be two years. How many two years did an eSports career have? Many were willing to search for other paths to tread on rather than waste their lives here. Because in their eyes, no matter how distant their other paths were, there was at least hope, but there was not even a sliver of hope against Excellent Era.

Team Everlasting lost a few players because of this reason. He An stayed though. Wu Chen, who became Team Everlasting's captain last season, also stayed. The team finally found a few other players to join. There were still a few players willing to give the Challenger League a try. After all, getting the first step into the pro scene was not an easy task for the vast majority of players.

Team Everlasting set sail. They didn't have any confidence against Excellent Era, but they could still hope for a miracle.

But now, they had only reached the second step of their journey, and they were put into such an embarrassing situation already. Hopes, dreams, awaited miracles.... Everything suddenly came crashing down on He An the moment he hit red blood.

He wasn't willing to lose in this way!

With this sudden realization, He An's hands suddenly turned nimble and his mind cleared. How well a player performed on stage was affected by the player's mental state. This was the so-called player condition. At this moment, He An awakened and displayed his peak performance.

Block, Wave Slash Wheel, Ice Wave Sword!

Three skills in a row. Defense, control, counterattack. He An strung together this sequence of moves. Ice Wave Formation sent out a wave of ice. In the water, the attack spread even further as it wrapped around Lord Grim. He An's movements were extremely quick. Go Forth had already started his next move and was in the middle of casting Electric Wave Formation.

Bang bang bang!

Lord Grim fired three Anti-Tank Missiles in different directions.

The first and second missile moved to the left and right, spurring on the waves. Only a pro player proficient in water battles would notice that these waves would affect the movement path of Ice Wave Sword. These two missiles rocked the waves, reducing Ice Wave Sword's speed, while also pushing Lord Grim away. The third missile headed in the reverse direction.

Using this skill, Lord Grim brilliantly dodged this sudden Ice Wave Sword.

Electric Wave Formation!

But He An finished his cast too. A ball of electricity formed in the water.

Chapter 819: Low Morale

Lord Grim was inside Electric Wave Formation's range. With the water slowing him down, this attack didn't look like it could be dodged, but who would have thought that at this moment, Lord Grim raised the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella above his head. Ka ka ka. The umbrella contracted and the ribs merged together. Then, the ribs opened up and spun rapidly.

Mechanic skill: Rotor Wings. On land, it allowed the user to fly like a dragonfly. In the water, it was like a propeller. The spinning force pulled Lord Grim backwards and also created billowing waves, affecting Electric Wave Formation. Lord Grim easily escaped from Electric Wave Formation like a torpedo. In the blink of an eye, he was in front of Go Forth.

Even though He An was in high spirits, he wasn't prepared for something so unexpected. Being in good condition, his reaction speed was fast. However, Ye Xiu was even faster. As soon as Lord Grim was within reach of Go Forth, he turned his body and grabbed Go Forth.

Grappler skill: Toss.

Go Forth was thrown over the shoulder straight out of the water. Lord Grim followed after him and floated up, right when Go Forth was falling down. His Myriad Manifestations Umbrella transformed into a spear form and then arced up into a Sky Strike. Ding! Go Forth was actually able to block it. He An's condition was vastly different from before.

This block negated Sky Strike's damage and knock-up effect. Go Forth swung his sword downwards towards Lord Grim with a Falling Light Blade.

Bang!

The surface of the water exploded. Lord Grim wasn't able to dodge the Falling Light Blade in time, but he had managed to throw out a grenade. Lord Grim was hit by the sword, and Go Forth was hit by the grenade. The two characters were blasted away from each other, but the two both tried to follow with another attack. Go Forth used Earthquake Sword on the surface of the water. Lord Grim fired Anti-Tank Missiles towards Go Forth.

Hit! The two characters were both hit again.

Who received more damage from these exchanges didn't matter. Go Forth was already at red blood. This exchange of blows was certainly disadvantageous for him. Moreover, after the trade, He An wanted to cough blood. Not only was that trade not worth it, Lord Grim was currently healing himself!

What am I supposed to do!

He An felt the urge to throw his mouse and smash his keyboard to bits. It hadn't been easy finding an opportunity to deal some damage to his opponent, but his opponent could even heal himself! Even though it wouldn't be more effective than a heal from a Cleric or a paladin, Go Forth only had a sliver of health left. If they kept trading, he wouldn't win! It's not like he was against some random noob.

In reality, Lord Grim had plenty of health left and didn't need to heal. Ye Xiu still decided to give himself a heal. His purpose for doing so was worthy of looking into. This heal was clearly a low blow to He An's morale.

For the following battle, Ye Xiu completely relied on trading health for health, which was what He An was most afraid of. After fighting each other for awhile, Lord Grim cast another heal on himself.....

He An let out a long sigh. This was killing without spilling blood! Even if he released a powerful high-level skill, the damage done wouldn't compare to the mental damage done by each heal that was cast. He An had lost all hope. He just didn't want to surrender. The winner of this match was already obvious. He An's brief burst of energy failed to result in anything. The Team Everlasting players were among the spectators, who became alive for a brief moment, but once that moment ended, the group arena ended in Team Everlasting's loss.

Out of the individual competition and the group arena, Team Everlasting was only able to win one point in their home game. This situation was enough to make the glasses of many fall off and break. If they couldn't win this team competition, Team Everlasting's situation would be incomparably difficult. Team Happy would only need to win 2 points in their home game.

Team Everlasting's practice room fell silent. The morale that He An ignited with his two victories in a row vanished with this single loss.

Seeing everyone's expressions, He An felt a thread of fear in his heart. He suddenly noticed that he had missed something in the group arena match that just concluded.

This loss alone causing the morale of the entire team to plummet to the bottom was a bit too excessive. Although that victory was important, He An had to face three opponents in a row. Successfully achieving a reverse sweep was extremely difficult. A success would definitely boost their morale, but a loss was something that everyone had already been prepared for, so it should be mostly acceptable.

He An hadn't considered this situation though.

After awakening the team's morale with those two victories, he should have struck the iron while it was hot in the third round. That did not mean he needed to win. As long as he could show vigor, even if he lost, the morale obtained from the previous two matches wouldn't plummet all the way back down.

Both the process and the results of the third round were important. He An had ignored this point. Like the previous two rounds, he continued to use the same strategy to win. This approach failed to work. The image of Go Forth looking as if he were a little fish trying to run from a great white shark.

Even though He An was able to display a glimmer of hope in the last few moments, that glimmer had been too brief. Lord Grim quickly switched to a trade-blood-for-blood strategy..... At that time, He An had already lost all hope. His mental state was reflected in his playing. His teammates could see it too.

Morale... He An had lost it all through his string of performances. This was his mistake. Seeing his teammates downcast, he realized that he had been too late to notice. He couldn't provide any evidence. Just saying a few words wouldn't be enough to stir up everyone's spirits either. He An felt his head hurt. The team's morale had fallen even further. He had already said what encouraging words he could say. At this moment, he could only hope that everyone realized the importance of the team competition!

"Everyone, cheer up!" He An was still melancholy. He didn't think Wu Chen would speak. Wu Chen was Team Everlasting's true captain. However, because of He An's existence as the ace player and manager, the team captain's authority became very awkward. Even so, Wu Chen's feelings towards Team Everlasting was deeper than anyone else's. He was the only one left who had stayed with Team Everlasting since its creation. He had been together with Team Everlasting through the Pro League, through relegations, and through the Challenger League. From start to finish, he was the only one, who never gave up on the team.

The next team competition would likely decide Team Everlasting's existence. At this moment, although he was only the captain nominally, he still stood out to speak.

Team Everlasting was used to He An leading the team. When they suddenly heard Wu Chen come out at a crucial moment, they were surprised, but they soon remembered. Wu Chen was Team Everlasting's captain. Moreover, their only point came from him, even if it was mainly because his opponent had gotten lost.

"At this point, we're at the ends of our rope. If we cannot win the following team competition, we'll be very disadvantaged in the next round. Everyone probably already knows that Team Happy isn't as easy to defeat as we had imagined. We must fully utilize what we have. Don't we have the home team advantage in the following team competition too? Our practice everyday has been for this very moment." Wu Chen didn't shout, worry, or say anything encouraging. He calmly described their situation.

"Correct!" He An discovered that Wu Chen's calm explanation had accomplished its desired effect. He didn't want to miss this opportunity and added, "Don't forget. We're going to be challenging Team Excellent Era. How can Happy compare to Excellent Era?"

With this comparison, Team Happy not being anything was easily accepted by everyone. Everyone suddenly felt like their situation wasn't as frightening as they thought.

"In the team competition, let's show Happy our strength!" He An shouted powerfully. Even though the other players didn't become as excited, they at least no longer looked dead like before.

The break time after the group arena quickly passed. Team Everlasting came out with their usual main force for the team competition.

Spellblade, Launcher, Warlock, Qi Master, and Cleric. Their reserve member was an Elementalist.

On Team Happy's side, their team lineup also appeared on stage.

Lord Grim, Soft Mist, Steamed Bun Invasion, One Inch Ash, Little Cold Hands. Their reserve member was Wei Chen's Windward Formation.

The lineup on both sides wasn't anything unexpected.

The face slappers among the crowd were quiet. They didn't know what to say. They discovered that Team Everlasting's match didn't seem to be any different from the ones, when Team Happy had been openly accepting challenges. They could only cheer for Team Happy's opponents, but their opponents would end up getting beat, causing them to lose face. After experiencing the same thing again and again, the face slappers had learned to be cautious. However, Team Everlasting had originated from the pro scene and dominated Steamed Bun Invasion in their first fight. Their expectations rose, but they still fell into the trap! Their shouting and cheers had been traded for swollen cheeks just like before.

This time, the face slappers weren't going to speak first. They should at least wait until Team Everlasting had a clear advantage, right?

Team competition. 3, 2, 1, start!

Chapter 820: They're Actually in the Lead?

The Team Competition between Team Happy and Team Everlasting was finally about to commence. Everlasting still had the choice of map and for the time in the match it wasn't River Veranda.

Flagged Flame Springs.

In the training yard under the setting sun, multicolored banners fluttered in the wind. These flags weren't just there for decor, each one was a signpost. Where there was a flag, there was either the eye of a spring or a pit of fire. These areas weren't areas that you could step lightly. Because of these flags, there was a lot more to consider when fighting on this map. Those who hadn't undergone special training for it would be in trouble. The reason for picking this map was because Team Everlasting wanted to continue using their opponent's inexperience to their advantage.

In the public chat, Team Everlasting's true fans were still persistently cheering for their team.

Those who came to shame Happy still had hope, but decided to act a lot more inconspicuously. Some had even left the room.

There were people leaving, but there were also people entering. The room numbers for the Challenger League were made public, and you could easily find the number for each team in the match schedule.



No one took notice of the few characters who had just entered the room, and these characters didn't do anything to draw attention either. They entered the spectator stands and glanced at the current points. What they saw shocked them.

Club Excellent Era, meeting room.

Just after watching Team Excellent Era crush their opponents 9.5 to nil, Excellent Era's CEO Tao Xuan and manager Cui Li directed their characters from the room they were in into Happy and Everlasting's room.

When they saw who Happy had drawn, they had laughed. They wouldn't deny that with Ye Qiu in Happy, the team would be strong, but with just the second round of the Challenger League they managed to draw a former Pro League team. Look's like they didn't have Fortune's favor.

Tao Xuan wasn't obsessed with personally dealing with Ye Qiu and Happy. So long as Happy was eliminated, no matter how it happened or who did it, he would automatically feel better. Now, Happy had been abandoned by fortune, Tao Xuan felt like this was a great thing.

But being the head of the club and the manager, Tao Xuan and Cui Li still stayed with their own team, as per their obligations, though they knew Excellent Era would have no trouble.

As soon as the match ended, the two congratulated their team members and went to see how Happy would be made a joke.

As the Challenger League official arena, there would naturally be something to keep score. The two used Cui Li's character to go into the room and look at the current score. The two shook their heads, blinking in surprise.

4.5 to 1.

Team Happy 4.5, Team Everlasting 1.

They hadn't misread it or seen it in reverse. Team Happy was in the lead with an absolute advantage. If they won the following team competition, then they would only need to get two points in the next round to assure their victory.

Tao Xuan and Cui Li exchanged glances and the match on the screen started. Cui Li immediately switched his omniscient view to Team Happy's character, and suddenly shouted out in surprise, "That's not possible!"

"What?" Tao Xuan had been distracted by his own thoughts, but quickly returned to reality at Cui Li's hollering. Hastily looking at what Cui Li was pointing at onscreen, he froze in shock as well.

What made them so shocked was the equipment that Team Happy had equipped.

The quality of the equipment wasn't something that would scare the two heads of Excellent Era. But the problem was that Team Happy should be very poor and lacking in materials, so where on earth did they get all these pieces of equipment from, especially the Silver ones?

For the omniscient view given to spectators, they didn't need to close in on a character to see their equipment. They could see just by clicking on the character they wanted to view. The properties of Silver

equipment were hidden, but the Silver letters couldn't be anything but real. Of course, there was garbage among Silver equipment, but bringing them to the battlefield meant it was the real deal.

"One, two, three..." Cui Li clicked into the five characters on Happy's side, starting to count the equipment. His tone changed as the number increased, all the way until seventeen, before it finally stopped. For a pro team, it wasn't much, but since this was Happy, it was enough to stun Tao Xuan and Cui Li.

Having finished counting, Cui Li turned to look at his boss, seeing the incomprehension and disbelief he felt reflected on Tao Xuan's face.

How long had it been since Team Happy had started working towards this? They actually had managed to procure seventeen pieces of Silver equipment already? Truly a stunning number.

Tao Xuan and Cui Li were intimately familiar with how pro teams worked. Suddenly procuring seventeen pieces of Silver equipment wasn't easy. The two paused to process this. The two sides had already started fighting, but neither of them cared.

"Call Chen Yehui and get him over here," Tao Xuan suddenly ordered.

Being a manager that understood his boss, Cui Li was very much competent. Hearing this order, he immediately realized his boss' intentions. He quickly got his phone and dialed Chen Yehui's number, giving him the orders that his boss had yet to speak as well.

Chen Yehui was also watching Happy's match! But unlike Tao Xuan and Cui Li, he hadn't gone to Excellent Era's match to show his regard for the team. From the beginning, he was in Happy and Everlasting's room, spectating. Standing among the faceslappers, Chen Yehui was moved by how many people seemed to understand his feelings.

Who would've guessed that his emotions would get shoved right back into his face with the other people who understood him. Their cheering for Happy to lose hadn't appeared again since the first round.

Chen Yehui had long since clicked on Happy's characters to see their stats, and naturally received quite a shock. He hadn't heard a sound or whisper of all this Silver equipment, but being a part of the in-game guild, Chen Yehui also fought to steal bosses and knew how well Lord Grim's little alliance was doing.

But, even though they managed to steal so many bosses, they had to split the profits between five parties. With this, each party's profits weren't very impressive. With just what they had gained recently, it was enough to procure all this Silver equipment?

Chen Yehui was shaking his head as he looked through the materials. Then, he received a call from Cui Li who asked him to bring the reports on what wild bosses they had managed to steal.

Hearing this, Chen Yehui knew what this was all about. This was exactly what he was looking for. After hastily finding everything that he needed, he sped over to Club Excellent Era's meeting room.

Club Excellent Era's training room.

Though it was an online match, they were a team and they had to be conscious of that, so they couldn't let just anyone grab a laptop and go to their own corner of their building to play. For matches, pro players had to be together.

But this was just a Challenger League match with a team that was far as can be from professional, so Excellent Era didn't have to be too serious about it. Victory wasn't something to make them happy, it was expected.

As soon as their match was over, the members of Team Excellent Era all left the training room. There wasn't much that they needed to go over for this match, but after returning to their own rooms, everyone opened up their laptops and logged into Glory, grabbing an account and speeding off to the room they knew to go to in the Challenger League arena as if they had planned it together.

4.5 to 1?

Team Happy was in the lead?

Everyone was shocked, and even a little uneasy.

Team Happy... didn't seem to be that weak of an opponent.

Among this unease, there was also someone who was very happy. Su Mucheng used her account to gracefully type out a "You can do it, Happy!" in the public chat.

Just five inconspicuous words, but this was the first direct sound of support that Happy had gained. Those who were on Happy's side were mostly just here to see others humiliated and didn't have any real feelings for Happy. Even if they yelled out encouragements for Happy, it was just to make some others disgusted.

And now, the sudden encouragement given by Su Mucheng's character was very eye catching. Those who just came here to witness the walk of shame were all passionate people. With Su Mucheng's words, the spectating faceslappers suddenly became reckless.

Not waiting for them to retort, Su Mucheng's character quickly fired a "Happy for the win!"

Following the two sentences, they appeared again and again interchangeably. Su Mucheng hadn't even used the hand speed that she was currently showing off in the match just now. The entire chat window was instantly flooded with her encouragements.

"Unacceptable!!!" The spectating faceslappers couldn't hold it in anymore, starting to counter with their own retorts, but Su Mucheng had long since shifted her attention onto the match. She closed the public chat channel. There wouldn't be anything important to see there anyways. The interactions between the players was shown in another window in the match.

But after scrutinizing the situation of the battle, Su Mucheng wasn't as cheerful as before. On the other hand, the other members of Excellent Era breathed out sighs of relief. Though they didn't know how Happy had gained such a lead, they didn't seem to be that scary in the team competition?

In the meeting room, Tao Xuan and Cui Li calmed upon realizing the situation in the match. Chen Yehui had rushed to the meeting room in a hurry with the documents, but after stepping inside he heard his

boss greet him with a calm, "You're here?" Chen Yehui was a little lost, unsure where to put down the documents.

Cui Li reached out and took the documents after Chen Yehui sent him a questioning gaze and started to flip through. Chen Yehui didn't have anything else to do, so he turned his attention to the competition being played on the projector.

Though they didn't have the technical skills of pro players, they did spend their time in the pro circle so they had the judgement of pro players. It wasn't long before Chen Yehui understood who had the upper hand in the match, instantly understanding why his boss seemed to be in good spirits.