

Avatar 961

Chapter 961: Team Reporter

The two reporters had come especially to conduct interviews for the Challenger League. They had more or less done their homework. Team Excellent Era was naturally one of the most important parts of their homework. The team's owner, Tao Xuan, didn't appear in public too much, but the two still immediately recognized him.

"Boss Xuan!" The two were pleasantly surprised.

"Hello." Tao Xuan nodded his head and greeted them. Then, he started asking about Team Happy's situation: "You just said that there was no Ye Qiu among the list of registered players in Team Happy?"

"Yeah, take a look..." The reporter took out his phone. The final name list was displayed on the phone's screen. Tao Xuan glanced suspiciously at him.

This reporter seemed a bit unnatural, but what could he do? They hadn't gotten this information from behind the scenes. At that time, the two had been running over here with Cao Guangcheng. In fact, the final name list had just been released on the Glory website's Challenger League page.

From the list of names on the screen, Tao Xuan clearly saw that the name of the player behind Team Happy's Lord Grim was Ye Xiu.

Ye Qiu and Ye Xiu was a difference of one letter, but for an official competition, which examined the identities of the players very strictly, this tiny difference was huge.

Tao Xuan glanced at Cui Li and couldn't help but look at Su Mucheng too. His intuition told him that Su Mucheng definitely knew what was going on, but he didn't think he could get anything out of her. In fact, not letting Su Mucheng play was something that he didn't want to talk about.

Excellent Era's group of people left the hotel. As a powerhouse, lining up and waiting for a taxi would be too lowly. Excellent Era had already arranged a vehicle for them. Their boss, Tao Xuan, didn't arrange anything specifically for himself and went on the luxurious bus together with the other players. Esport Home's three reporters followed Excellent Era's people onto the boss as well, but they soon discovered that their main targets, Excellent Era's boss and manager, didn't have any open seats. The three tactfully found an open seat in the back to sit at.

Afterwards, those two reporters smiled exuberantly as they looked for interview targets. Cao Guangcheng glanced coldly at them and sneered.

Those two didn't have any experience as team reporters.

Team reporters had much more time and many more opportunities to interview a player compared to normal reporters, so there was no need to chase after targets and bombard them with questions.

Great team reporters would try to become members of the team, thus allowing them to know the true face of every player. Their interactions with each other would be like friends chatting together. They would use their eyes and ears to look for interesting material among the countless trifling details. Then,

they would use that to supplement their writing to produce an article that could not be done by another reporter in terms of content and perspective.

But these two were grabbing players as if they were conducting an interview. That was too inappropriate. True, all of Team Excellent Era was here, but did they plan on doing eight interviews in one trip? It wasn't that easy. If they wanted to conduct an interview, then even as team reporters, they had to follow the standard procedure and request the clubs first.

Two reporters excitedly went around in a circle, and soon realized that the players from Excellent Era weren't happy with them. Unfortunately, the two still didn't know what they had done wrong. They went back to their seats and grumbled to themselves in fear. They snuck a glance at Cao Guangcheng and saw that he didn't seem to know what a rare opportunity it was right now. He was sitting with so many newsworthy people, yet he was actually leaning on the window and dozing off.

The two reporters didn't dare to randomly look for players again. They could only strain their ears and try to listen to what the Excellent Era players were chatting about. However, the bus was completely silent. Only boss Tao Xuan and Cui Li, who sat together, were chatting about something. However, the two didn't dare move closer to eavesdrop.

"There's actually no Ye Qiu...." After Tao Xuan sat down, he spoke to Cui Li.

Cui Li also took out his cellphone and went online to check. Not only did he look at Lord Grim, he checked everyone in Happy. There was no Ye Qiu, but... what was going on with the Berserker at the bottom of the list?

"Sun Zheping!" Tao Xuan had only seen Lord Grim on that reporter's cellphone. He didn't scroll down. When he looked at the list on Cui Li's phone, he was dumbfounded.

He had been in the scene since the start of the Alliance. How could he forget Sun Zheping's name?

"Why did he end up on their team?" Tao Xuan couldn't understand.

Cui Li didn't know either. He only knew that this addition would only make Team Happy even more terrifying. Was Team Excellent Era's chances of beating Team Happy still 100%? Cui Li wondered, but he didn't dare say it out loud.

"Let's put that aside for now. What's going on with Ye Qiu?" Tao Xuan was puzzled. After exposing Ye Qiu for forming Team Happy to Esports Home confirming that Team Happy had no Ye Qiu in their roster, they had discussed this matter not just once. In the end, they always believed that when the offline matches came, Ye Qiu would have to join. As for Ye Xiu, it was probably some random person that they found. In any case, the online matches weren't supervised, so there was no evidence that Ye Qiu was the one secretly controlling Lord Grim. There was nothing they could do about that.

Why would they go so far as to find a Ye Xiu? In Excellent Era's eyes, it was so that Happy wouldn't be exposed to the public. If that happened, the pressure from the fans would be too great. But in the offline matches, the organizers checked identities very strictly. Only the real person himself could come. Who would have thought that in the offline tournament, Ye Xiu would still be Ye Xiu. Was Ye Qiu not going to be appearing on stage?

To Excellent Era, this should have been very good news, but neither Tao Xuan nor Cui Li could smile. Their intuition told them that this wasn't good news. There should be a scheme somewhere in here.

"It looks like we'll need to personally pay him a visit." Tao Xuan said.

When they arrived at the designated hotel provided by the Challenger League, the Excellent Era players needed to go to the reception desk and sign in. At this moment, there weren't any other participating players in the hotel lobby, so Excellent Era didn't receive too much attention.

"Did Team Happy's Ye Qiu arrive yet?" After signing in, Cui Li immediately got right to the point and asked an Alliance employee.

"No." The employee shook his head. He didn't recognize Ye Qiu, but he was the person responsible for signing players into the hotel; he hadn't the name Ye Qiu appear yet. In fact, there was also quite a big discussion going on among the employees in private!

"Then what about this Ye Xiu? Which room was he placed in?" Cui Li asked.

"Team Happy is in Section A 7th Floor Rooms 721-726. We don't know which room he's in exactly." The employee answered.

"Okay, thanks." Cui Li didn't ask further and returned to tell Tao Xuan. Cao Guangcheng was neither closeby nor far away. He had a general understanding of what was going on and was also astonished. Soon afterwards, Tao Xuan and Cui Li went towards the Section A elevators. It wasn't convenient for Cao Guangcheng to follow them. He could only follow the Excellent Era players back and go back to the bus. The other two Esports Home reporters were feeling awkward. Should they go onto the bus or not? Excellent Era didn't invite them. If they went on the bus, they would still be sitting quietly in the back like before. Even if they went to the hotel, there might not be any interview opportunities either.....

No! It's still better to go!

The two discussed with each other for a bit. If they didn't go, they might not be able to get any piece of the big fish. When the time came, Cao Guangcheng's article would definitely be related to Excellent Era. If they wrote about other teams, how could they view for the front page?

They had to go onto the bus. They even changed their hotels to live together with Excellent Era! The two came to a decision and then immediately pretended to laugh as they boarded the bus.

"How brave!" Cao Guangcheng guessed their intentions and gave them a thumbs-up in praise.

The two knew that he was mocking them. They didn't answer back. After boarding the bus, they found a seats and didn'tdind't dare to worm their way closer to a player.

Cao Guangcheng sat in the middle of the bus. He was wondering about what was up with Ye Qiu too. That kid Chang Xian had been following along Team Happy the entire time. Maybe he knew something?

Even though he felt that the teams besides Excellent Era were beneath him, his reporter's intuition told him that he should ask Chang Xian. He immediately took out his phone and made a call. He was familiar with Excellent Era. From the top to the bottom, he was just like a member of Excellent Era. He didn't feel any qualms about doing this.

When he got off the bus and started dialing, Cao Guangcheng saw a person get off a car in front of the hotel main entrance. This person seemed very familiar.

"Who's that?" Cao Guangcheng looked from a different angle. He moved closer two steps and suddenly remembered.

This was the Alliance's chairman, Feng Xianjun!

Getting an interview with such a powerful person was even more difficult.

A team reporter like him had many opportunities to meet, chat, and even be on friendly terms with a team owner. He might even have the possibility of requesting an interview. However, a team reporter didn't have the status to request an interview with the Alliance's chairman, Feng Xianjun. Only the editor in chief of Esports Home had the appropriate status. Usually, getting a reply to one or two questions at a press conference was enough to feel blissful.

Those two idiots were only fixed on Excellent Era and missed such a grand character. Cao Guangcheng laughed inwardly at his two colleagues. He stopped caring about his phone call and immediately walked over.

Feng Xianjun's group had three people. When they arrived at the lobby, the Alliance employees obviously recognized their big boss and got up.

Cao Guangcheng moved closer and easily overheard their conversation. The first thing he heard was: "Where was Team Happy placed?"

"Section A 7th Floor Rooms 721-725." The employee replied.

Cao Guangcheng was shocked.

It looked like the Alliance's chairman had come here for Happy? How capable was Happy? Wasn't Happy just going to be another team that would be eliminated in the offline tournament? Was that worthy of being noticed by the Alliance's chairman? Even if this team had the halo of Ye Qiu surrounding it, that still wasn't enough, no? Cao Guangcheng was completely at a loss.

Chapter 962: Real and Fake Identity

Cao Guangcheng really wanted to pounce on Feng Xianjun and pry some answers out of him, but even if he had ten guts, he wouldn't have enough to do that. Feng Xianjun's group of three merely asked for Happy's room numbers before turning and leaving for Elevator A. The staff that received them looked nothing but confused.

The staff began a whispered discussion among themselves, but when they turned their head, what they saw was Cao Guangcheng gaping like a fish.

Cao Guangcheng was a well-known journalist and had checked in, obtaining his pass today, so the staff recognized him.

"Reporter Cao..."

The call woke Cao Guangcheng from his stupor.

"Ah..." How could Cao Guangcheng, who had returned to the present, still have his mind on the problem of interviewing or not? His mind had already supplied a scene for him: inside Happy's room, Excellent Era's two big heads and the chairman of the Alliance; what scene would all these big shots sitting together make?

As his thoughts turned to this, Cao Guangcheng couldn't stand standing around and waiting anymore, dashing to elevator A like a cheetah. However, out of the three elevators, one had just left and two were still at floors above ten. Cao Guangcheng was extremely impatient. Then he thought, well, it was just seven floors and whirled around for the stairs. As he ran, he took out his phone. Was Chang Xian still with Happy's members?

"Hey, Brother Cao." Chang Xian answered the call and by his tone, he seemed pretty cheerful.

"Where are you?" Cao Guangcheng asked.

"In the hotel!" Chang Xian replied.

"Which room?" Cao Guangcheng asked.

"723..." Chang Xian had noticed the anxiety in Cao Guangcheng's tone.

"Who's in the room?"

"Happy's team members... Steamed Bun and Luo Ji..." Chang Xian wasn't a stranger to the members of Happy anymore. He was even playing around in Steamed Bun and Luo Ji's room now! Though no one had ever taught him, Chang Xian had a talent for being a team reporter. He didn't try to pry information out of these guys as soon as he saw them, but truly became friends with them, especially with the younger few.

"Which room is that guy called Ye Xiu in?" Cao Guangcheng asked.

"722..."

"Go over there," Cao Guangcheng ordered.

"Why?" Chang Xian couldn't understand. Room 722 was Ye Xiu and Wei Chen's room. In front of these two veteran players, Chang Xian always felt under pressure. So when he was free and wanted to relax, he wouldn't seek those two out. Chang Xian was closer to Steamed Bun and Qiao Yifan. Since Luo Ji and An Wenyi weren't often at Happy, so he was more distant with them. Even though he wasn't as close with them, it was much less nerve-racking than being with Ye Xiu and Wei Chen. Thus, hearing that Cao Guangcheng wanted him to go to Ye Xiu, Chang Xian involuntarily questioned him.

"Hurry up and go; I'll be there soon," Cao Guangcheng yelled.

"Ah..." Chang Xian was stunned for a moment. The call had already been ended, but by now, he had realized that this was probably implying that there was huge news to report.

"I'm going to visit the room opposite," Chang Xian informed Steamed Bun and Luo Ji before charging out. Ye Xiu and Wei Chen's room 722 was just on the other side of the hall to 723.

Room 722's door was unlocked and as Chang Xian approached, he immediately heard voices coming from inside. It didn't sound like Ye Xiu or Wei Chen. Chang Xian didn't dare dawdle, hurriedly knocking on the door. Hearing a voice inside telling him to enter, he immediately charged inside.

There were many more people inside than he had expected. There were four from Team Happy alone. Ye Xiu, Wei Chen, Chen Guo and Tang Ruo were all inside. There was also another two who were standing inside, having yet to sit down. Hearing Chang Xian entering, everyone looked towards him. Chang Xian instantly recognized the two people standing. It was Excellent Era's owner and its manager, both big shots!

Tao Xuan didn't know Chang Xian, but Cui Li felt that he was a little familiar. As a reporter stationed in H City, Chang Xian had come to Excellent Era a few times, but he was usually there to run errands for Cao Guangcheng. For Excellent Era, he might recognize others, but others usually didn't recognize him.

"You're here, Little Chang," Ye Xiu greeted him then, but didn't say anything after that.

"Ah... You seem... Rather busy..." The average person would leave upon seeing that the others seemed occupied with something. However, Chang Xian was a reporter and it was his job to be a bit more nosy than was usually expected. Seeing the two big heads of Excellent Era here, he knew there was bound to be drama, so there was no way he was going to leave.

He stood there dumbly and Happy's members didn't chase him out. Cui Li, in the end, didn't manage to figure out where he had seen this familiar young man before. Tao Xuan had the air of a boss, merely glancing over before dismissing Chang Xian. Even if you wanted to ask someone to leave, it wasn't the job of a boss. He turned away, saying what he wanted to say without caring about anyone else.

"So this is where you are. What about that captain of yours, Ye Xiu? Where is he? I want to meet him!" Tao Xuan said.

Hearing this, Chang Xian was confused. Captain Ye Xiu? Wasn't he right in front of them? Was the boss of Excellent Era drunk? Chang Xian sniffed, not smelling any alcohol, and then he saw Captain Ye Xiu smile and say, "Ye Xiu? Isn't that me?"

"You really dare to admit it?" Tao Xuan gazed at him.

"Why wouldn't I dare?" Ye Xiu smiled uncaringly.

"Are you crazy?" Cui Li, standing beside them, couldn't figure out Ye Xiu's attitude. "You're using a fake identity to play; do you think everyone is blind or something?"

"Who said that this identity is fake?" Ye Xiu retorted.

"Haha," Tao Xuan laughed dryly after hearing this. "That's the funniest joke I've ever heard. If this identity isn't fake, then are you going to tell me that Ye Qiu is a fake identity? Don't think that because barely anyone recognizes you, you can go around changing your identity freely, Ye Qiu!"

Bang...

The door to the room suddenly slammed heavily. Everyone looked around and saw that it was Chang Xian, who hadn't really moved after coming in. Hearing Tao Xuan's words, he had been unable to stay standing straight, stepping back and slamming the unlocked door into its place, which was now locked.

He stared, dumbfounded, at Ye Xiu, his face full of surprise. He opened his mouth, wanting to speak, but couldn't manage to make a sound.

Captain Ye Xiu was Ye Qiu?

So that meant he had seen the God Ye Qiu that brother Cao had never seen multiple times? And spoke to him a lot? He had even interviewed him already?

But how could he also be Ye Xiu?

And how could he use Ye Xiu's identity to register?

Using a fake identity to enter the Alliance? That was a serious violation of rules! The entire team might be punished because of it! How could they get through this? Though not many people recognized God Ye Qiu, there were still some! Like his ex-teammates from Excellent Era; they must recognize him, so wouldn't he be caught easily?

Chang Xian's head full of question marks had quickly turned towards Ye Xiu in worry. That's when he saw Ye Xiu rise and look towards Tao Xuan with a smile. "You guessed it. In reality, Ye Qiu is the fake identity. This isn't a joke, but a... lie."

"What did you say?" Tao Xuan and Cui Li stared in shock at this.

"Back then, the Alliance was just starting out and the teams had only just been formed. Management wasn't as structured and ordered. Many people had to go against the rules to become pro players, especially when it came to age..."

"You weren't of age?" Tao Xuan frowned. When the Alliance was just starting, without the same industrial system and commercial outlook of the present, there were naturally many strict rules regulating things. For example, those who weren't 18 yet couldn't become pro players. That was a rock solid rule of that time. After all, video games had long since been seen as a sort of digital heroin. A pro Alliance was a gathering for this addiction in the eyes of many people. They couldn't do anything but prevent underage people from entering, or else there would be an unbearable pressure from the outside world.

However, while there might be policies from above, there were ways to deal with them down below. To avoid the restrictions placed by this rule, faking your age became a trend of the early years of the Alliance. But Tao Xuan knew Ye Xiu from before the Alliance was formed. He had known Ye Xiu's age before that and it made the requirements set by the Alliance back then. It wasn't possible that Ye Xiu was have predicted the formation of the Alliance and the rules and made a lie preemptively.

"No," Ye Xiu shook his head, "My situation was much worse than being underage. Back then, I... didn't have an ID card."

"So you made a fake ID!" Tao Xuan exclaimed in shock.

"Not exactly, I just borrowed someone else's ID card," Ye Xiu said.

"Someone else's..." Tao Xuan and Cui Li looked like they were listening to a cultivation novel.

"Yeah. Does having a twin make this seem like the plot to a novel?" Ye Xiu asked.

"Twin..." Tao Xuan and Cui Li thought that cultivational novels were far too weak compared to this.

"Yup, that's how it is. I used my younger twin brother's ID to register and the Ye Xiu I'm using now is my real identity," Ye Xiu summarized.

"This... this..." Tao Xuan felt a little dizzy. Something seemed a little wrong about this; he needed to think for a moment.

Cui Li managed to react rather quickly though and immediately sneered. "You can't possibly think that now that you're using your real identity everything would be like nothing had happened. Do you think people are stupid?"

"Of course not." Ye Xiu shook his head. "So that's why we all have to deal with this problem carefully."

"We?" Cui Li looked like he had just heard a joke.

"Yes, we." Ye Xiu nodded solemnly. "Back then, I was in Excellent Era, no? And I even used this identity to win three championships for Excellent Era, or have you forgotten?"

"...." Cui Li didn't know how to react and Tao Xuan finally realized what he had felt was wrong about this. This guy's use of a fake identity was strapped to Excellent Era's name. So now, not only could Tao Xuan no longer use this fake identity issue to bring Happy down, he had to do his utmost to cover this up. He had to do it, not for this guy, but for Excellent Era.

Chapter 963: Let's Make the Storm Even More Violent

Reporter Chang Xian felt the urge to rush out the door. It was true that he was a reporter and that he needed all sorts of news topics, but the information he just heard was too fierce, so fierce that he was having trouble standing up. The greatest God in the history of Glory, Ye Qiu, was actually a fake identity? Since the founding of the Glory Alliance, this was the biggest... biggest what?

Chang Xian wanted to use the word "scandal" to describe it, but from the bottom of his heart, he didn't consider it as a scandal.

The person in front of him was using a fake identity, but he was still the one playing in the competitive matches. The opponents were defeated by him, and the victories were won by him. Ye Qiu monopolizing all sorts of honors and being a three-peat champion were genuine accomplishments. However, these accomplishments didn't belong to "Ye Qiu", but the person in front of him.

His actions may have violated the Alliance's rules, but they didn't have an effect on anything from a competitive standpoint. He was borrowing an identity, but he was the one playing. In comparison, those players, who lied about their age, broke the fairness of the competition more heavily, no?

This was why Chang Xian felt conflicted. It was groundbreaking information. If it was revealed, he might even become famous in an instant. However, at the same time, he would cause a lot of harm to many people. Ye Xiu, Team Happy, Team Excellent Era, and their countless fans would need to bear the pain.

If it was a scandal like taking stimulants during a match, Chang Xian wouldn't feel ashamed to reveal it. However, Chang Xian didn't feel like this could be considered that type of scandal. It was just borrowing

an identity. Everything else was real. Every match, every victory, and every championship win were genuine. The only exception was that the person called Ye Qiu wasn't actually Ye Qiu. That didn't affect the outcome of a match though, did it?

Ye Xiu said he didn't have his ID card back then, so he used someone else's. That was clearly out of helplessness. Afterwards, he never changed it after so many years because once you ride a tiger, it's hard to get off. Perhaps there were other reasons too, but Chang Xian didn't know. He just felt like using another identity in this way shouldn't be counted as fraud.

It was because of this thinking that Chang Xian didn't know how to handle this information. He was very conflicted. Going left and going right made him feel bad. He regretted entering this room. He wished he could travel back in time. He would definitely avoid this room and walk away.....

Thinking about all of this was already too late. Chang Xian's thoughts were in a whirl. How could Excellent Era's Tao Xuan and Cui Li not be the same as him? This news was like thunder to them. But what the two even more annoyed was that after Ye Xiu leaked such a huge secret, he looked as nonchalant as ever. It was as if this matter had nothing to do with him. He looked like he was sitting there watching a show.

"If this is taken seriously, you would have to undertake legal responsibility for identity theft." Cui Li couldn't bear seeing that guy's nonchalant look any longer. He suddenly spoke coldly. His threat was clear as day.

But Ye Xiu still had that annoying nonchalant look on his face: "Yeah. Do you guys plan on taking this seriously?"

Cui Li coughed blood. This guy was truly shameless. Take this seriously? What did that mean? Take Ye Xiu into court and accuse that he stole someone else's identity to sign several contracts with them? How was that any different from exposing the truth? Shouldn't Excellent Era be trying to cover this up and not get involved? What's more, if an investigation was made, although Excellent Era would legally be in the right, they would certainly receive criticism from a moral perspective. Ye Xiu may have impersonated as someone else, but his contributions to Excellent Era were genuine. If Excellent Era made such an investigation, it would be a model example of gaining a favor and calling it a disfavor. This move would not be wise.

As for bringing in the person who got his identity stolen, that was even more of a fantasy. That guy was his twin brother. It's not like they could count on the other side to stand out and tell his own brother to get punished by law for stealing his identity.

"I want to confirm something." Tao Xuan finally spoke, "Over all these years, you were the one completing the entire time, right? Your brother, the real Ye Qiu, never appeared in a match before, right?"

"It's always been me. It's not as much of a mystery as you're making it out to be." Ye Xiu smiled.

"That's good then. That gives us a lot of room to work around with...." Tao Xuan had been struck by thunder too, but he was stronger than his subordinate, Cui Li. He didn't lash out because of Ye Xiu's attitude. He had already calmed down and started thinking about how to deal with this matter.

"The Alliance wouldn't want to accept this truth either. A three-peat champion, the greatest player of all time, the Alliance's number one God, yet that player's identity was actually fake. It would be a big blow to the Alliance's reputation." Tao Xuan thought about things from a management perspective. The Alliance wouldn't want this information to be known to the public.

"But he's about to appear in a match. There has to be good explanation for that!" Cui Li said.

"As long as we communicate it with the Alliance internally, an explanation to the public would not be difficult." Tao Xuan said.

"Mm, that makes sense." Ye Xiu nodded his head.

"It's best if we hurry and talk with the Alliance. How should we go about telling them this..." Tao Xuan started thinking, when he heard a knock on the door.

Everyone in the room suddenly felt like thieves that had been caught. The one closest to the door, Chang Xian, hadn't regained his calm yet. He asked with a trembling voice: "Who is it!"

"It's me. Feng Xianjun."

"Feng Xianjun? Who's that? It sounds kind of familiar?" The reporter interacted with lower level people, so it was hard to avoid reacting slowly to such a big name.

As for the two from Excellent Era, after being struck by thunder, they were dealt another blow. Cui Li had to support himself up with the wall. Tao Xuan no longer keep his calm like before. He had analyzed things well and was preparing to find someone in the Alliance to talk to, but who would have thought that the f*cking Alliance chairman would directly come over.

The ones from Happy could no longer keep up their spectator mentality. Chen Guo decisively suggested: "Should we hide? The restroom? Underneath the bed?"

The calmest one was still Ye Xiu. He had a smile on his face like he didn't care: "Forget about it. What's to come will come. Tao Xuan's analysis of the pros and cons was very clear. I don't think it'll be difficult to making things clear."

"Okay.... Open the door..." Tao Xuan knew that they would need to face Feng Xianjun sooner or later. He was already at their door, and Tao Xuan wasn't the type of person who ran away.

Chang Xian had finally realized that the person outside was the Alliance chairman. He was extremely shocked. It made him feel like "the storm was about to get even more violent" and began to calm down. He opened the door quite calmly.

"Oh, there's quite a lot of people here!" Feng Xianjun entered and saw Excellent Era's Tao Xuan. He was quite surprised.

Tao Xuan smiled and went forward to greet Feng Xianjun. Feng Xianjun looked around the room and saw Ye Xiu. He laughed and pointed with his hands: "Ye Qiu, so you're really here."

Chang Xian suddenly felt that an even more violent storm was about to come. At this moment, the two others with Feng Xianjun entered the room. At the stairway, Cao Guangcheng had just sprinted up seven

flights of stairs and was gasping for air. He saw them go in and immediately sprinted forward again. He saw that the door was slowly closing and hastily shouted: "WAIT."

Chang Xian stretched out his neck to look. It was Cao Guangcheng. He was immediately filled with joy. He had no idea what to do with this piece of information, but everything would be fine with Brother Cao here. From when he entered the room to now, it was his first time feeling relaxed. Just when he was about to open the door to let Cao Guangcheng in, Cui Li immediately asked: "Who is it?"

"It's our correspondent station's Brother Cao." Chang Xian hastily answered.

Correspondent station? Brother Cao? Cui Li realized who it was and immediately responded: "Cao Guangcheng? Shut the door!"

"Ah?"

"Shut the door!"

Chang Xian didn't dare utter "No!" He promptly closed the door in panic. Cao Guangcheng was almost there. He could see that Chang Xian had ignored his shout and locked the door. He was furious. That little brat! He was usually so well-behaved and kind. Who would have thought he was so cunning? You plan on monopolizing this piece of news?

Cao Guangcheng was in a rage, but he didn't dare go out of control in front of the people in the room. When he reached the door, he calmed down and knocked politely.

"Reporter Cao, right? Please go back. It's not a convenient time for an interview." Cui Li's voice came through the door. Cao Guangcheng listened and his body turned ice-cold. He understood Excellent Era's people. Cui Li was saying that he'd better not think of even trying to get in. Not a convenient time for an interview? That f*cking brat Chang Xian was in there!

Why? Why did things turn out this way?

You'd let Chang Xian watch on the sides, but you won't let me in? What method did that little brat Chang Xian do? Impossible! He was a young and green little kid. What method could he have to monopolize Excellent Era all for himself? Cao Guangcheng was furious, but he didn't dare make trouble. He took out his phone and called Chang Xian, but Chang Xian's phone was turned off.

F*CK!

Cao Guangcheng cursed. He couldn't go in, but he wasn't willing to leave. He went up against the door and tried to see if he could hear anything. However, the hotel picked by the Alliance wouldn't have such poor walls. If the people inside talked normally, he had no chance of hearing them. Cao Guangcheng despaired.

In the room, Feng Xiangjun felt that the atmosphere was a bit strange. Cui Li was angry again because when he heard Chang Xian talk to Cao Guangcheng, he finally realized who this person was. He was a reporter!

Internal communication, internal communication, how could a reporter count as someone from the Alliance? At this moment, the people that they needed to guard against the most were reporters! But they actually talked about all of this in front of a reporter. He and Tao Xuan didn't know Chang Xian was

a reporter, but how could those from Happy not know? Ye Xiu, did your brain turn to mush? When he came in, how could you not know to shoo him away? Are you deliberately trying to make things harder for us? Cui Li really wanted to strangle Ye Xiu.

As for Feng Xianjun, he felt like the atmosphere was a bit strange, but he didn't ask about it. He continued to the main subject: "It seems like your Happy has someone called Ye Xiu?"

"Hahahahaha..." Ye Xiu laughed. He kicked Wei Chen, who was sitting on the sofa: "Chairman, have a seat first."

"What is it?" Feng Xianjun once again felt the strange atmosphere in the room. He walked over and sat down.

"How's your heart these days?" Ye Xiu asked.

"..."

"If your heart's fine, then listen up." Ye Xiu said.

"What do you want to say?"

"I'm Ye Xiu." Ye Xiu said.

Chapter 964: To Seize an Opportunity

Feng Xianjun deserved to be the Alliance's chairman. He had seen all sorts of winds and waves. To Tao Xuan, Cui Li, and Chang Xian, this news was like thunder to them, but after Feng Xianjun heard it, his expression remained calm. His eyebrows only wrinkled a bit. Soon afterwards, he extended his hands to his attendants: "Medicine! Medicine!" (Author's Note: The attendants sang "Yo yo, check it out (切克闹 qie ke nao)! Could I have a jianbing?" and then quickly rushed out to buy jianbing.. The chairman's heart failed, and he passed away. I really wanted to write it like this... but I don't think everyone would be able to accept it. Okay, forget about this apart)*

Ye Xiu's concern for Feng Xianjun's heart wasn't without reason. The attendants by Feng Xianjun's side took out some heart-relieving pill in a panic. Ye Xiu, on the other hand, already had a cup of water in his hand. The others looked at the painful expression on the chairman's face and felt sympathy for him.

After swallowing the pill, Feng Xianjun rested for five minutes before fully recovering. He let out a long sigh .

"Do you need to go to the hospital?" Ye Xiu asked. Feng Xianjun glared at him and then sucked in a deep breath, asking: "What's going on?"

Everyone fixed their attention on the chairman's reaction. The room was completely silent. Tao Xuan felt sweat running down his palms. From his understanding, Feng Xianjun cared very much about the Alliance's development, so Tao Xuan felt like they should be able to reach a consensus on this issue. But before the chairman gave his statement, he still felt very nervous. What if Feng Xianjun shook his head and said no? Retreating back a step after that would be too difficult. Right now, it wasn't that the arrow

was pulled back on the bowstring waiting to be released, but rather that the arrow was already flying and they were just waiting to see if it would hit.

"What does your brother do?" Feng Xianjun suddenly asked.

"He does many things... You're not thinking what's wrong is wrong and treating him as the original Ye Qiu, right? That loophole is too big." Ye Xiu said.

"There's no need for that. I just wanted to confirm that you were the only one playing in the matches."

"Definitely." Ye Xiu nodded his head. Feng Xianjun's concern was identical to Tao Xuan's. Now that this issue came up, Tao Xuan let out a sigh of relief. He knew that the Alliance's test had been passed.

"How do you plan on explaining this issue?" Feng Xianjun looked around the room.

"Pseudonym, name change, anything works." Tao Xuan relaxed. After all, this matter violated this Alliance's rules, so the Alliance's attitude towards this matter was extremely important. As long as the Alliance was willing to cover it up, any reason would work.

Feng Xianjun kept silent. He got up, walked around the room, and mumbled, "What was I here for originally?" Then, he left the room along with the two attendants.

In the end, Feng Xianjun didn't give a precise statement. Tao Xuan's heart rate immediately rose again. He understood that the Alliance's stance on this issue was still blurry. Their final stance would depend on how they handled it. The Alliance wasn't going to be their errand boy. They could only provide the appropriate support to whatever Excellent Era did. If this issue exploded into a huge mess and couldn't be covered, the Alliance would certainly come out with a devotion to righteousness, giving a fair and impartial judgement.

"Ye Qiu is your online name. Your real name is Ye Xiu." Tao Xuan suddenly said.

Ye Xiu understood the implications and nodded his head with a smile.

"We're leaving." Tao Xuan called out to Cui Li. Cui Li glanced at Chang Xian with unease. He chased after Tao Xuan and whispered to him his worry.

Tao Xuan turned his head fiercely and glared at Chang Xian. Then, he glanced at Ye Xiu.

Ye Xiu wasn't stupid. If he was willing to let this reporter listen, then this reporter was most likely trustworthy. Thinking of this point, Tao Xuan didn't say anything and turned around to leave. When he left, he suddenly thought of Feng Xianjun unexpectedly coming over to Happy himself. He probably hadn't come to give the team a warm welcome. Team Happy was able to get the Alliance's chairman to personally give a greeting. Tao Xuan suddenly became uneasy again. He wasn't able to get a good sleep that night.

Room 722. After everyone left, apart from looking at one another, no one knew what to say.

This entire thing... was caused by Ye Xiu, but in the end, the one to wipe his butt wasn't just Excellent Era, but the Alliance too. It felt like it had nothing to do with him? Thinking of this, everyone couldn't help but show admiration for Ye Xiu.

The few from Happy felt very moved. When they looked at Chang Xian, they saw that he was still standing dumbstruck by the door!

"Little Chang! You'd better not treat this as interview material and leak it out!" Chen Guo said to Chang Xian in a normal voice. Usually, whenever Chang Xian visited Happy, if he saw anything fun, embarrassing, humiliating, he would say "I'm going to talk about this!" It soon became his catchphrase.

However, none of the things he reported ever appeared on the papers. He obviously knew about Happy's current fame. Details about their daily lives couldn't be considered news material. However, this time's information was more than ferocious enough. Chang Xian was certain that if he wrote a piece on it, he would be able to make the headlines on the weekly paper.

Headlines!

For a small reporter like Chang Xian, if he could get his manuscript passed and onto a tofu-sized block on the paper, that was already enough to make him happy for many days. A chance to make the headlines was in front of his eyes. Chen Guo only told him gently not to report it.....

This wasn't Chen Guo not understanding the severity of the situation, but rather her trust in Chang Xian. She didn't put her guard against him as if he were an outsider.

Chang Xian had originally been conflicted on what to do. Chen Guo's trust in him only added fuel to the fire. Exposing the truth should be the goal of a reporter, but if he revealed the truth, he would feel too evil. Chen Guo expressed her trust in him. If he turned his back and spilled it, Chang Xian would feel too guilty.

"Don't worry. I won't talk about it." Chang Xian finally made his decision. While this decision made him feel relieved, he couldn't help but feel regret at letting go of such a huge opportunity. Feelings of regret and annoyance continued to poke at him.

Really... neither going left nor going right feels good! Chang Xian wanted to find somewhere with no one around and yell loudly. That would feel great. Just when he was about to leave, Ye Xiu suddenly laughed: "That type of report isn't too meaningful. Even if you wrote about it, you might not get praised for it. In fact, your choice to follow us was very wise. There will be many more things worthy of being written in the future."

"I... I understand..." Chang Xian replied with surprise. He understood Ye Xiu's meaning. Team Happy beating Team Excellent Era and entering the Alliance was obviously much more interesting. Chang Xian looked forward to it too, but it wasn't too much. How could it be so easy for a newly formed team to beat Team Excellent Era?

But Ye Xiu expressed his confidence in what everyone thought was impossible. It was as if this conclusion was set in stone. Others might feel that he was overestimating himself and would laugh and jeer at him. However, Chang Xian felt like while this possibility was small, it wasn't zero. In competition, there was never such a thing as a guaranteed win. Every powerhouse had been toppled by weak opponents before. Why couldn't that happen to Team Happy and Team Excellent Era.

"Go to bed early!" Ye Xiu smiled. Chang Xian nodded his head and left.

Chen Guo didn't plan on sleeping yet. She first recalled with delight how scared Excellent Era and the Alliance chairman had been frightened. Then, she began thinking about how Excellent Era and the Alliance would handle this issue. In the end, she was worried about what would happen if it wasn't handled well. Wouldn't that be a disaster?

"You're thinking too much. You probably won't get any information on it in a short amount of time. Whether it's Excellent Era or the Alliance, they can't just suddenly jump out and start talking about Ye Qiu Ye Xiu. Trying to force the issue would only make it worse. In order to cover it up, they have to wait for it to get revealed. Whether this reveal is natural or planned doesn't matter. I reckon that they'll plan it themselves. That way it'll be more controlled. Especially after seeing Old Feng's stance, I think Tao Xuan would rather be more proactive."

"Oh oh oh..." Chen Guo listened to Ye Xiu's analysis and felt more confident. Only then did she pull Tang Rou away to go to sleep.

On the afternoon of the second day, the 20 participating Challenger League teams had all gathered together. The Alliance had arranged a reception for all of the players. There was a slight adjustment in the schedule. Instead of Monday, the offline matches would start on Tuesday.

When the Esports Home paper on Monday came out, besides the highlight matches of the league, there was an eye-catching section of a topic unrelated to the league: Ye Qiu? Ye Xiu??

Chen Guo bought that day's newspaper. She rushed over to Ye Xiu's room and handed it over to Ye Xiu to look.

"Oh? They've started?" Ye Xiu was calm. He checked and saw that an Excellent Era player found in astonishment that the Team Happy player behind Lord Grim, Ye Xiu, was actually their former team captain, Ye Qiu. In view of the past.....

When looking at the past, there were many questions towards Ye Qiu and Ye Xiu. Fortunately, this reporter didn't directly point out that Ye Qiu was a fake name. The reporter discussed about why Ye Xiu would change names? Then, the reporter collected material from the Alliance and Excellent Era. This dual identity of Ye Qiu and Ye Xiu was actually legal?

Why did he do that?

The article switched topics, pushing the issue into this direction.

Ye Xiu looked and didn't doubt that this was Excellent Era's writing because afterwards, the reporter analyzed whether Ye Qiu was worried that his new team would encounter a lot of pressure from his fans, so he changed his name to Ye Xiu and so on.

Excellent Era knew that Ye Xiu would jump out and explain the true reason, so they used this opportunity to splash a bit of black paint onto him. They successfully seized this opportunity. The fans were in an uproar not about the issue of Ye Qiu and Ye Xiu... but that Team Happy really had been created by Ye Qiu. Sure enough, he really planned on destroying Excellent Era and even put on a fake name. It was too despicable and shameless.

Chapter 965: Controversy

"Excellent Era has no shame!!!"

When Chen Guo heard what Ye Xiu had said, she immediately tore the newspaper into pieces.

"How should we counter that?" Chen Guo asked Ye Xiu lividly.

"Beat them." Ye Xiu said.

"Uh... what else?" Chen Guo asked.

"Isn't that enough?" Ye Xiu was astonished.

"That's a must, sure? But what about right now? How should we strike back?" Chen Guo asked.

"We don't really need to." Ye Xiu's expression seemed as if he feared more trouble.

"Do you have a future? Why are you always taking the blame. You're being smeared to sh*t!" Chen Guo yelled.

"Too vulgar!" Wei Chen watched with disdain, while he laughed hysterically.

"Stop laughing!" Chen Guo glared. She wasn't in the mood to joke around. She was actually angry.

Wei Chen hurriedly refrained himself from laughing, and seriously analysed the situation. "It's not that easy to strike back on this matter. We can't actually tell the truth, right? This was something Excellent Era chose to do."

"I'm so angry." Chen Guo looked around, as if she was searching for something to smash. However, they would need to pay for things they break at a hotel, so Chen Guo couldn't find anything suitable to throw around. In the end, Ye Xiu stuffed a pillow into her hands. Chen Guo received the pillow without throwing it, she merely held it while being lost in thought.

"Don't be angry. We have a competition tomorrow, so let's just leave these matters to them. Don't be distracted." Ye Xiu consoled for the first time.

"We must beat Excellent Era!" Chen Guo said.

"Of course, of course." Ye Xiu agreed.

Chen Guo left. After hearing Ye Xiu's analysis, she knew what sort of storm Excellent Era's manipulation would bring up. Chen Guo also knew that whatever stays unseen, remains clean, but she couldn't help but to care about the matter. But after taking a look online, she deeply regretted why she couldn't control herself.

Last time Excellent Era revealed the fact that Team Happy was recruited by Ye Qiu, the fans got worked up.. They even went to besiege Happy Internet Cafe in order to protest. However, Excellent Era and their fans' face were brightly slapped from the Esports Home paper. Now, Excellent Era finally found a chance to return the new and old grudge, and had a reasonable explanation for the unfinished matter last time: See? We weren't in the wrong. This guy changed his name, so he managed to slip through it.

As a result, it seemed as if using the name Ye Xiu was to avoid responsibility. This was why the reaction from Excellent Era's fans was even fiercer than last time. A lot of fans even expressed having complete heart break, and that they would change from fans to haters. Chen Guo was annoyed! She explicitly organized what information she knew about the situation, and posted on the forums. She hoped that the fans would reflect on it objectively and logically.

The reaction from the post was quite fierce, and there were countless replies. When Chen Guo looked through them, she nearly died from anger. Though there were some who believed her words, the majority of the players were mocking her. Chen Guo thought what she wrote was reasonable, but those people picked some quotes out to mix up truths with lies. Chen Guo tried to speak up and argue, but after disputing for several pages, Chen Guo received a nickname: Qiu's Dog.

Chen Guo wasn't sure if it was someone from Excellent Era, since they deliberately twisted black and white after seeing the truth. She didn't want to give up, so she continued to debate according to the facts. After several pages, Chen Guo upgraded. She was no longer 'Qiu's Dog'. Someone gave her a new nickname: Ultra Villain.

Chen Guo finally gave up.

On Tuesday 4/23, the offline tournament finally began.

There weren't any opening ceremonies. The league's chairman Feng Xianjun personally came and announced the start of the tournament.

There were four groups of five teams. Two pairs of teams went against each other, so there would always be a team without an opponent. Apart from pro teams, the majority of the players didn't have experience on stage, so even if that team wasn't required to come, they would still like to witness the stadium atmosphere.

Team Happy managed to pick an empty slot on the first round, but they still came. The biggest difference between the stage now and on match day was naturally the crowd. For many, being watched so attentively by so many people made everything feel unnatural. As a result, this was something the newbies had to learn to adapt to.

For Team Happy, it was obvious that people like Ye Xiu wouldn't have such obstacles. As for the newbies, Ye Xiu felt that it wouldn't be much of a problem for Tang Rou and Steamed Bun. So the ones who needed to adapt were the remaining members.

Despite being a participating team, they couldn't just go onstage to look around since they had no opponent this round. Happy could only sit in the dedicated seats for the contestants on the side and enjoy the match like a crowd member.

The stadium didn't have too many people, but there were teams like Excellent Era who were competing, so the number of seats occupied was already much better than the years before. The Alliance had considered making an exception by setting the Challenger League in City H, so there would be a good box office. However, on second thought, it meant that they were making it a home ground for Excellent Era. They would be siding with Excellent Era too much, so they could only drop the idea.

However, Excellent Era was a powerhouse, so they had fans supporting them all over the country. Let alone those fanatical fans who would pursue their teams everywhere to watch their matches and activities. Many fans in the crowd held up banners and placards in support of Excellent Era. Other teams could only take part in admiring and envying. There weren't on the same level, so they wouldn't fantasise about those treatments.

The eight matches began at the same time, but they didn't finish at the same time. Excellent Era, who was the strongest team here, undoubtedly finished the quickest. Simply put, it was instant destruction for the other team. As for the other seven matches, some were even tangled up in the individual competition still, while Excellent Era had a complete victory of 10:0. The difference in strength was fairly great. When the pro players of Excellent Era went off stage, they weren't really proud or arrogant. The team that lost also wasn't dispirited or crestfallen. It was as if all of this should happen.

"What losers!!" Chen Guo just had to look down contemptfully at such attitudes.

The ones that Team Happy cared about most had to be the two matches within their group: the two matches from Group B: Team Trader versus Team Ten Steps One Kill; Team Mysterious Fantasy versus Team Cloud View Pavillion.

Teams that could make it to the offline matches had to be fairly strong. They were worthy of being watched. Every year, quite a few pro teams would pick out players that made it this far, and would immediately sign them as pro players. There were active players that entered the pro scene with this as the springboard. The most well known players had to be Li Xuan of Team Void, and Fang Rui of Team Wind Howl. Those two were discovered at the Challenger League, and they were now All Stars. They were constantly used to advertise Challenger League.

Ye Xiu had the same intentions. He paid attention to every match in the competition. Compared to the victories and losses, he cared more about every player's performance. However, until now, they wasn't anyone who could make his eyes light up. Even if they were especially outstanding, Ye Xiu didn't dare to have high hopes. It was unknown how many teams were sitting in the crowd searching for potential stars.

It took over an hour for the eight matches on the first day to completely finish. After the matches in Group B, Team Mysterious Fantasy gained nine points, and was ranked first. Team Ten Steps One Kill was ranked second with seven points. Team Trader was ranked third with three points, and Team Cloud View Pavillion fourth with one point. After watching, Ye Xiu had a clearer idea of the strength of the four teams. Team Mysterious Fantasy was a pro team, so their strength was obviously stronger. However, they were only strong to a certain point. They weren't able to get a clean set of ten points like Excellent Era. Instead, they had lost a point in the individual competition.

The second round would take place Friday night. In this round, Team Cloud View Pavillion of Group B would be vacant. Team Happy would go against Team Ten Steps One Kill, while Team Mysterious Fantasy would go against Team Trader.

In the few days before their match, there was no peace at all. There was a huge wave of controversy over Ye Qiu-Ye Xiu in the Esports Home. This wave had nothing to do with the matter of Ye Xiu's identity, which everyone had been worried about earlier. No one had any suspicions about this matter. What people cared about was that God Ye Qiu was clashing with Excellent Era in Challengers League.

The fans weren't able to understand, while other people merely watched for fun. As a result, it was extremely heated. As for Happy, they immediately received many requests for an interview from media all over the country. They wished that Happy would make some sort of response towards the matter. The majority of the requests for interviews was ejected. It wasn't until the Esports Home paper with a page layout just like last week's did everyone see an interview with Ye Xiu from Happy.

The interview was with Ye Xiu, who was also Ye Qiu, which was something very rare to see. However, no one really cared about this fact at this point.

In this interview, everyone was able to see Ye Xiu's response towards the heated question.

"I created a team to join the Challenger League. Excellent Era also joined because they were eliminated, so we happened to meet. That's all."

"So you're saying that, you were already preparing to create a team before Excellent Era was eliminated?" The journalist asked.

"That's right. After I left Excellent Era, I picked up my current character in the newly opened tenth server. I met some companions along the way, so we decided to create a team."

"Judging from what you just said, you guys didn't have that ambition at the start?" The journalist asked.

"Yep, everyone was just playing for fun in the beginning. If I had such ambitions, why would I retire?"

"What was it that caused you to make such a big resolution in the end? From what I know so far, your team was formed in an Internet cafe across street from Excellent Era. There was even a lot of unpleasant disagreements with Excellent Era fans at the time." The journalist mentioned.

"That's because I later found out that the people in my team had a lot of potential. They definitely had the skill, so they should have the opportunity to perform on a better stage. That's why I decided to give it my all in the Challenger League."

"Then why are you targeting Excellent Era in particular? Some people think that it's your way to promote the hype." The journalist asked.

"Of course we need to target Excellent Era. This is because Excellent Era is undoubtedly the strongest opponent in the Challengers League. By targeting Excellent Era, we can show our ambition."

"But you were once a core member of Excellent Era. Now you have to compete with Excellent Era in the Challengers League to get the one and only spot. How do you feel about it?" The journalist asked.

"Do all I can to beat them. This is my respect towards Glory."

"Have you ever thought that doing this would hurt a lot of people?" The journalist asked.

"This is not something I can decide. This is the nature of competition. There can one champion."

"Then what about the champion of this season's Challenger League?" The journalist asked.

"I would like to say that it's going to be Happy, but wouldn't that seem disrespectful towards our opponents? Let's wait and see..."

But you still said it... This remark came from Chang Xian, the interviewer.

Chapter 966: On Stage for the First Time

Owing to Excellent Era's leadership, why did Ye Qiu change his name to Ye Xiu? Although this question wasn't asked, it already wasn't the main point of the interview. During the whole interview, she couldn't help but wish that she would hear simple answers like "Excellent Era is a piece of sh*t. This senior is going to destroy it."

Except, Chen Guo also knew that everything Ye Xiu said was true. Revenge? In reality this was just something Chen Guo thought of every day. Ye Xiu had never revealed such thoughts. He only wanted to defeat Excellent Era because the two sides had encountered one another in the Challenger League, and only one could survive in the end. It was that simple.

It was a pity that saying this truth in an interview sounded like empty and polite words anyone would say in the situation. When the Friday news report came out, Chen Guo immediately went online to search. Sure enough, people were mocking Ye Xiu's hypocrisy and false politeness. However, Chen Guo had learned her lesson from last time. This time, she didn't dare go to fight with those guys again. Returning to the team, she also didn't dare tell them the news, afraid that it would affect everyone's moods for the match that evening. She could only smother her anger and endure.

Eight o'clock, the second round of the offline portion of the Challenger League began. Team Happy's opponent was Team Ten Steps One Kill.

Through the first round of the competition, they had gathered some information about Ten Steps One Kill. Before the match, Ye Xiu had created a few targeted plans.

A normal player team didn't have the qualifications and balance of a professional team. The strength of the players within these teams often varied greatly. Ten Steps One Kill had a total of seven players, in order to avoid forcing a healer to fight during the individual part of the match. However, their seventh member served more as a placeholder. With his skill level, which was close to that of any regular player, he would have trouble beating even Chen Guo. In addition, among the remaining three players, there were three that were clearly at a level far above the others. In the past, the tactics employed by Ten Steps One Kill relied heavily on these three winning in the group arena, earning two points. During the team competition, these three would also lead, usually being able to win and get the five points. As for the individual competition, they would let the other three non-healers fight. If one of them managed to earn a point, well, a point was a point.

From the previous round, it was obvious that this kind of arrangement had already become habit for them. During the individual competition, the three weakest members didn't earn a single point between them. This kind of opening would usually mean very low morale. However, because the players in Ten Steps One Kill were all very used to this kind of situation, they weren't affected one bit during the group arena, having three experts who could steadily take two points. Only, during the later team competition, Team Trader displayed a much more harmonious team strength and coordination. Ten Steps One Kill finally lost a team competition, only obtaining two points against the others team's eight points in Round 1.

The group placements were determined through total accumulated points. Every point could potentially affect a team's final standing, and so every point should be fiercely fought for. Team Ten Steps One Kill, using their present arrangement, was left in a helpless situation.

On Happy's side, if speaking about individual strength, there were also large disparities. However, at least every member was above the level of a normal player. Outside of Chen Guo, no one was merely serving as a placeholder. Thus, they didn't have to use this kind of sacrificial strategy**. They would vigorously strive for every point.

However, outside of fighting for points, Ye Xiu also hoped to let every player (especially the newcomers) experience the atmosphere of an official match. Therefore, in the space for the final individual round, Ye Xiu wrote in Luo Ji's name.

By this point, Luo Ji had played Glory for more than a year already. Having trained under the guidance of Ye Xiu, he had also greatly improved his skill. At his current level, beating Chen Guo wouldn't be a problem. This made Chen Guo feel both gratified and depressed. After all, she was also a veteran player of Glory! In the end, she had still helplessly watched as Tang Rou, Steamed Bun, Luo Ji... One by one, all these new players that had started from scratch quickly left her behind in a cloud of dust.

Chen Guo couldn't just not accept this. Happy's various training methods, she had obviously tried them all herself. While she had indeed gotten better, she was still far behind these new players, who had improved like lightning. Tang Rou and Steamed Bun were both extremely gifted from the start. With only on their hand speed, both had already been at a higher level than Chen Guo, so she didn't feel too strongly. However, Luo Ji had truly started from nothing, steadily improving until Chen Guo was far behind him. Throughout this entire process, every minute, every second, Chen Guo had vividly felt it all. She really was a bit envious, of these guys' youth, of them having so much room to improve, whereas she was entirely lacking. This, she knew well now after receiving so much high-level training. She knew exactly what her limits were now. It was like that whack-a-mole game 1 Ye Xiu had given her. At a certain level, no matter how hard she tried, she wouldn't be able to pass.

Therefore, after reaching the offline tournament, Chen Guo never again made a fuss about going on stage to play a round. She knew that her days as a player had since passed. Here was the stage, and it belonged to the ones who truly had the ability to stand atop it.

The individual competition would be fought by Wei Chen, Luo Ji, and Tang Rou.

The group arena consisted of Steamed Bun, Qiao Yifan, and Ye Xiu himself.

In the team competition, Tang Rou, Luo Ji, Qiao Yifan, Ye Xiu, and An Wenyi would fight, with Wei Chen as the substitute.

Young people really had so many opportunities. Except one guy. Although Mo Fan had come together with them, he still maintained a completely indifferent attitude. As a result, Ye Xiu continued his old method of ignoring the guy.

During the match that night, when their opponent's first player went on stage, Ye Xiu was dumbstruck. Team Ten Steps One Kill, which had always given up the Individual rounds in the past, had actually sent out one of their three experts this time!

"What? They changed their strategy?" Ye Xiu scratched his head.

The player from Team Ten Steps One Kill appeared very confident in this tactical move, taking sure and measured steps onto the stage. Seeing that Happy had sent out a raggedly old coot, one who had only tossed his cigarette after being berated by the referee, he silently laughed harder. Wei Chen, this name really did sound ancient. Although the online newspapers had given him an introduction once before, they had only mentioned him in once. There hadn't been any buzz at all. After all, there were very few people who would watch the Challenger League that closely.

Soon afterwards, both sides took a seat and loaded their characters from their account cards. The player from Ten Steps One Kill took a look at this Windward Formation's equipment.

Silver Letters, no description available.

Silver Letters, no description available.

Silver Letters, no description available . . .

The player from Ten Steps One Kill moved his mouse quickly, seeing that there was indeed only a silver name for each piece of equipment.

Silver equipment . . .

Eight...

The player felt numb. He really wanted to kneel . . . eight pieces of Silver equipment, what level was this character at? At the same time, the stadium was in uproar. By watching from this player's viewpoint, everyone was able to see that Windward Formation had actually been equipped with eight pieces of Silver equipment! The commotion didn't just come from the spectators. The competitors were in uproar as well, including those from Excellent Era.

A character with eight pieces of Silver equipment wouldn't be considered weak even in the Alliance.

The first match quickly began. Ten Steps One Kill's player was already entertaining thoughts of directly kneeling in surrender. The battle came to an end without suspense, with Wei Chen seizing the point. Afterwards, as Wei Chen walked off the stage in an exceedingly lofty manner, he turned to the audience and waved, drawing a lot of boos from the crowd. A majority of those who came to watch would be fans of Excellent Era, and in the eyes of Excellent Era's fans, Happy could only be called demonic.

"How about it? Seeing me suddenly come out with eight pieces of Silver equipment, I bet the opponent directly wet his pants in fear, right?" Returning to the player's preparation area, Wei Chen continued to brag.

"Amazing." Ye Xiu said halfheartedly. At this moment, the second pair of fighters had already begun to walk on stage. Ten Steps One Kill had sent out another of their three great experts, against Happy's Luo Ji.

Although this expert's level was a bit higher than Luo Ji's, he had clearly been affected by last round's conclusion. He looked a bit panicked. On the other hand, Luo Ji's Concealed Light was equipped with two pieces of Silver equipment. This, along with a full set of Orange equipment, including the Orange

Tiger Seal, gave him a stunning aura. The opponent was nearly trembling with fear. Yet, he quickly gained the upper hand, because in reality Luo Ji was even more nervous than he was.

This kind of competition stage was completely new to Luo Ji. He was so nervous that his entire body was stiff, from his fingers to his facial expression. His mechanics were a mess. He made mistakes everywhere. His movements were choppy and not at all fluid. His opponent had practically no difficulty at all in annihilating him.

Victory?

This match had been won far too easily. The player from Ten Steps One Kill couldn't believe it, stepping off stage with a blank look on his face.

Luo Ji also had an upset expression. Although, as a high IQ math major, he was well aware of why he had lost, it was unlikely that this one defeat would destroy his confidence. After all, Luo Ji had grown together with Team Happy. When the team members compared notes with one another in the arena, even Chen Guo had been able to suppress him easily in the beginning. To think that Luo Ji would be affected by one loss was completely unfair. Who knew how many times he had lost in the past year?

"How was it? It's quite different from normally fighting online, isn't it?" Ye Xiu smiled.

"It's really very different." Luo Ji sighed regretfully, "For a second there, I even forgot where I was...."

"It's good that you're getting used to it." Ye Xiu didn't say more. He let Luo Ji go onstage in order to help him adapt to this kind of atmosphere. Losing points because of this was to be expected.

After Luo Ji, Tang Rou was up. Ten Steps One Kill sent out their third expert. After a crushing defeat and a decisive victory, it was obvious that this player was at a complete loss. However, seeing Soft Mist's name, immediately his mentality was shaken. Soft Mist was currently Happy's most famous character after Lord Grim. Pretty much everyone knew that this person was a very powerful expert.

The match proved this point. In the third round, although the fight wasn't entirely one-sided, Tang Rou still won directly and efficiently, not giving her opponent the least bit of hope.

And so, the other side's three great experts had only obtained one point in total. These last minute tactics appeared as if they hadn't helped at all.

Yet in the later group arena, there would be no suspense about who would come out to fight. Ten Steps One Kill only had seven people total, so it could only be two weaklings and a placeholder.

From Team Happy, Steamed Bun was the first to go up, completing a magnificent 1v3. As he came offstage, he brandished his arm, showing off his biceps.

"Do you see this? Study this point well!" After coming down, Steamed Bun actually had an excuse to lecture his "little brother" Luo Ji.

The team competition afterwards ended with even less suspense. With Ye Xiu personally watching over, a win was basically guaranteed, so it was more about hoping everyone could adapt to the competitive atmosphere.

This match was also the debut of An Wenyi, who appeared completely unflustered and performed steadily. Even Luo Ji, who had been helpless during the individual match, returned to his normal self under the support of his team members.

In the team competition, they won another five points.

Chapter 967: Setback

Even when Team Happy concluded their match, they had no idea that the other match in their group had finished even faster.

This round, Team Mysterious Fantasy had taken their turn not fighting. The other matchup had been between Team Trader and Team Cloud Viewing Pavilion. Team Trader's strength wasn't bad at all. After beating Ten Steps One Kill 8 to 2 in the last round, they acted even more boldly this round, cleanly slaughtering Cloud Viewing Pavilion 10 to 0.

Up until now, two rounds had been completed. Surprisingly, Team Trader led the standings in Group B with 18 points, well above the other teams. Both Happy and Mysterious Fantasy had amassed 9 points, and were tied for second. However, compared to Team Trader, these two teams had competed in one less match. As for Ten Steps One Kill and Cloud Viewing Pavilion, both these teams were very pitiful. After two rounds, one of them had 3 points, the other had 1. Their futures looked very dim.

The other groups all finished at around the same time. In Group A, Team Jade Dynasty, the so-called "King of the Revival Tournament," was proving that their strength really wasn't the same year after year. After two rounds, although they had taken the lead with 14 points, they didn't show any of the strength that a pro team should have. The future of Group A wasn't obvious at all.

In the other half of the tournament, because Group C didn't have any pro players, they received the least attention. However, in reality, this group's matches were the most interesting to watch. Because all of the teams had a similar level of strength, the fights between them were very intense. The rankings were very close, and even more chaotic than what could be seen in Group A.

As for Group D . . . Excellent Era's overwhelming strength couldn't be measured through points alone. For them, getting ten points was no trouble at all. Their strength was better reflected in how much time they took to finish each round. For the past two rounds, they had concluded in twenty minutes or less.

Thus, in the next issue of Esports Home, in the headline for the least suspenseful Challenger League in history, the writers reported on the overpowering dominance exhibited by Excellent Era. As for the circumstances in the other groups, after the two journalists offhandedly mentioned the results, they silently lamented, "Do we really need to pay attention to this stuff?" These two had attached themselves to Excellent Era's legs, sparing no efforts in trying to climb up; the article was filled with flattering statements.

Cao Guangcheng, on the other hand? Using the resources and connections he had amassed after years as Excellent Era's team reporter, he had been allowed to write a special column on the Challenger League to discuss Excellent Era.

Cao Guangcheng's commentary was far more leisurely than those other two. He certainly disdained those two's method of yelling compliments until they were hoarse. With Excellent Era's strength and status, wasn't this kind of performance in the Challenger League expected? With you two yelling and making a big fuss like this, people who didn't know better would think it was some kind of fresh news! Are you guys writing satire or slapping faces or what?

The main focus of Cao Guangcheng's commentary wasn't Excellent Era's victories at all. After years of reporting about the Glory pro scene, Cao Guangcheng had gained quite a bit of knowledge about Glory as well. In the special column, he focused on analyzing the matches in order to let the readers know that this was how Excellent Era had always been. Even when giving examples of Excellent Era's strength, there was no way he would use the teams in the Challenger League for comparison. Rather, he would directly use one of the powerhouse teams in the Pro Alliance as a reference.

This season, Excellent Era was in fact one of the teams that had made major changes during the summer. It was unfortunate that they had sunk into the Challenger League, and as a result didn't have that kind of specialized reporting on their tactics. Only now, after they had reached the offline portion of the Challenger League, did they have specialized reporting. The new Excellent Era's tactics were only beginning to emerge before the eyes of the masses.

Consequently, Cao Guangcheng's special column received positive reviews for two issues in a row. However, Cao Guangcheng himself didn't feel proud at all. During these two issues, he was far more concerned with the news regarding Ye Qiu's name change to Ye Xiu.

Cao Guangcheng had always thought that within the reporter circle, he was the one who was closest to Excellent Era, and thus the mysterious character that was Ye Qiu. However, this time he discovered that in these two recent reports, both had nothing to do with him at all.

In the first report, Cao Guangcheng could easily see that Excellent Era was using this event to create pressure on Happy, through the mouths of the media. This kind of matter, Cao Guangcheng had long become accustomed to. The thing that made him depressed was the fact that this information had been put in the hands of those two idiots! Through what means had those two obtained this information? There weren't many people who could recognize Ye Qiu. If Excellent Era had been the first to discover this information, why had they gone to some other reporter instead of him?

However, in comparison to the first article, the second article, which had been Happy's response to this topic, had made Cao Guangcheng even more depressed.

Ye Xiu, who was also Ye Qiu, had actually personally accepted an interview? However, in the past seasons, God Ye Qiu hadn't been less talked about than he was now. When had he ever cooperated with the media to respond like this? Why had he broken his own rule now? Furthermore, why did this have to help that kid Chang Xian?

Cao Guangcheng could in fact be considered a pretty good senior, always giving Chang Xian plenty of opportunities in the past. Except that day, Chang Xian had locked him outside the door, making sole use of all the juicy information in the room. Afterwards, when Cao Guangcheng had asked about it, he had directly brushed it off and replied "Nothing." Just afterwards, this guy had actually gone and got an interview with Ye Qiu...

"This punk...." Seeing this issue of Esports Home with Chang Xian's name, Cao Guangchen could only grind his teeth. In this issue, Chang Xian had also provided commentary on Happy's first public match. Chang Xian's didn't have Cao Guangcheng's knowledge or his insider information about Glory, but how could Happy not have things to talk about? A Warlock with eight pieces of Silver equipment, a beautiful Battle Mage player, a former member of the championship team Tiny Herb, and the two other members who hadn't appeared on stage this round: one was the infamous Deception, the guy who had made countless players in the Heavenly Domain gnash their teeth in anger, and had also caused headaches for many teams. This guy, who ignored all the suffering he had caused, had unexpectedly joined Team Happy as well? As for the other member, he was even more well known. Sun Zheping! This former God, who was a senior to all three of Excellent Era's current All-Stars, had also surprisingly appeared on Team Happy's roster! Flipping through the information on the Challenger League, it was possible to confirm that Happy previously didn't have this member. However, when the offline tournament arrived, the team couldn't hide this person any longer, and suddenly a God had appeared out of nowhere! Just how many experts was Happy hiding?

Even Cao Guangcheng had no choice but to admit that while the Challenger League was in session, Happy was an even more eye-catching topic than Excellent Era. Excellent Era's current popularity came mostly from their original fans, who strongly supported and paid close attention to the team. Happy, on the other hand, used their fresh appeal to steal away the attention of the more neutral fans.

The third round of the offline tournament was set to begin the next day. In Group B, Team Mysterious Fantasy would be fighting Team Ten Steps One Kill, while Team Happy would face Team Trader. Team Cloud Pavilion would sit this one out.

During the matches against the non-professional teams Ten Steps One Kill and Team Cloud Viewing Pavilion, Team Trader had collected 18 points, exhibiting the strength similar to that of a pro team. In reality, this team wasn't really strong enough to be compared to a pro team. Their miraculous performance had been entirely caused by their mentality.

Group B had Mysterious Fantasy and Happy, and so it was publicly recognized as the Death Group. With these two teams locking in the spots at the playoffs, the other teams appeared as if they had become cannon fodder, without any opportunities. After that day when the lots had been drawn, the three teams that had drawn Group B had been in low moods, mourning as if they were attending a funeral.

However, after this, Team Trader had proactively adjusted their attitude. Even in this Death Group, even faced with unshakable opponents, they still weren't willing to give up. In the first two rounds, they had faced the other two cannon fodder teams. Team Trader had displayed a far more energetic and proactive style than the other two teams. In comparison, Team Ten Steps One Kill had employed their usual defensive strategy, looking as if they hadn't used their brains. With Group B's circumstances, if they had made an any attempt to think at all, the three should have done their best to completely crush the other two cannon fodder teams. Afterwards, facing Mysterious Fantasy and Happy, they could use a defensive strategy to accumulate as many points as possible. Only by observing the tigers fight could they potentially gain an opportunity.

A team like Ten Steps One Kill, which couldn't understand the current circumstances, would only thoroughly become cannon fodder in the end.

In contrast, the energetic and active Team Trader, had already pinned down the situation after two rounds. The next step would be to steal points from the two more powerful teams, and afterwards watch the two fight.

Having such a good opportunity in front of them, Team Trader's players were in an outstanding mood. In fighting against Team Happy, a few of their completely unknown members shone. They actually managed to suppress Happy 7 points to 3.

The entire competition had many twists and turns that day. In the eight matches that took place that day, this match was the last that took place. However, none of the previous teams had left. All of them had been attracted to this fierce battle...

The final team competition had lasted a full thirty minutes. When the result finally came out, Trader's six participants went crazy, rushing off the stage in a group hug with their seventh member. Like Ten Steps One Kill, Trader also had seven players. However, their seventh player was definitely not a placeholder, also possessing quite a bit of strength. The final victory had caused the seven to laugh happily as a group. What they had accomplished, gaining seven points from Team Happy, made them absolutely ecstatic.

The other competition in Group B had long since concluded, with Mysterious Fantasy winning 10 to 0 against Ten Steps One Kill. This gave them a small chance. After three rounds, Team Trader had amassed 25 points. After two consecutive rounds at the top of the Death Group, their morale surged. Mysterious Fantasy had obtained 19 points, in line with what was expected from a professional team. On the other hand, Happy, which had previously been considered a powerful team as well, had only taken 12 points.

This kind of result unexpectedly led to celebration among the crowd. Team Happy had never had a good reputation to begin with, especially in places where lots of Excellent Era fans were gathered. They had been hoping for Happy's boat to capsize for so long, yet round after round in the online matches, their faces had been slapped. Now, in these extremely important offline matches, Happy was met with unexpected failure**. This made them even happier than Excellent Era's heroic 10 point wins.

The entire stadium was filled with sounds of heckling and jeering laughter. Happy walked off the stage with their heads hung low. Chen Guo, seeing Ye Xiu next to her, felt extremely conflicted.

For the team competition, Ye Xiu had actually not arranged for himself to go on stage. Chen Guo thought this was very unusual. In the end, her premonitions were right, no matter how much she wished they weren't. Happy had lost the team round, throwing away not a small number of points. How would Ye Xiu feel at this moment? Would he also regret not going onstage himself? Would he blame himself?

Seeing everyone come down, Chen Guo directly went to offer greetings, giving everyone encouragement. "Everyone fought very well."

"Can you not talk nonsense . . ." Ye Xiu's voice came from behind. "If they had played well, they wouldn't have lost."

"You . . ." Chen Guo swiveled her head around, quite angry. At times like this, how could this guy continue being this straightforward?

As she turned around, she saw that Ye Xiu was completely ignoring the stadium's rules about no smoking. He lit a cigarette, giving it to Wei Chen, who had just come down. "Not bad eh?"

"It's really fucking exhausting . . ." Wei Chen took the offered cigarette and brought it to his mouth, collapsing sideways into one of the seats.

Chapter 968: Problem

Wei Chen sat paralyzed at his seat. He stretched his neck and sucked in a deep breath of air. He took his cigarette and adeptly flicked cigarette ash to the side. A puff of cigarette smoke rolled out from between his fingers.

Wei Chen looked at his slightly trembling hands. He stared blankly for a bit before forcing out a smile: "Refusing to give into old age really doesn't work!"

Calling yourself old at 31 years old sounded like a joke, but in the pro scene, this truly was a grandpa's age. Up until now, no one this old had ever appeared before in the pro scene.

"Look at that guy." Wei Chen pointed. Ye Xiu followed his finger and saw the unwilling face on Steamed Bun, who had just gone down from the stage. However, Steamed Bun wasn't the type of person to get angry. He was talking with Luo Ji about the round he just played in. He was a real person acting like a Brawler in real life. He gestured with his arms and legs like a lively dragon and animated tiger*.

In contrast, even though he wasn't as exhausted as Wei Chen, a half hour team competition was truly very tiring. Right afterwards, he needed to listen to Steamed Bun's non stop chatter. He could almost see stars spinning in the sky at this point.

Tang Rou, Qiao Yifan, and An Wenyi were the other three that participating in the team competition. They sat down at their seats silently. Their weariness was also obvious. At the same time, none of them were happy with the results. Everyone was brooding over the outcome of the match. They didn't pay any heed to the boos from the crowd though.

"Yo, you're resting!"

A delighted voice floated over. Everyone turned their heads and saw Sun Xiang excitedly walking over towards Happy. Sun Xiang saw them look his way and immediately clapped: "A brilliant match. Not bad, not bad."

"But if it's just that, how are we going to meet in the finals? You're really making me worry." Sun Xiang said.

Chen Guo was furious. Just when she was about to shoo him away, Sun Zheping suddenly said: "Who are you?"

Sun Xiang was startled. He hadn't seen this person in Happy before, but he had seen the other two, who had pretended not recognize him, before. Sun Xiang wouldn't fall for the same trap twice. He sneered and asked back: "And who are you?"

"You're grandfather." Sun Zheping replied calmly.

F*ck!

The others on Team Happy had been too tired and too lazy to mind Sun Xiang, but when they heard this response, they felt spirited again and looked at Sun Zheping with all sorts of reverent gazes. This reply was too powerful and too unexpected.

Sure enough, Sun Xiang couldn't hold back his anger. He shouted furiously "What nonsense are you saying?!"

"I'm not talking nonsense. Go back home and ask your father. Stop being such an annoying fly in front of me." Sun Zheping was as calm as ever.

"You you you...." Sun Xiang said you a bunch of times, but he couldn't say anything else. Sun Zheping ignored him and waved his hands. He called out to everyone: "Let's go back."

"We're going already? I still want to sit for awhile longer. That was so tiring!" Wei Chen said, but he had already stood up and was hobbling over to the player passageway. Who knew how he injured his leg.

The others followed behind him. The crowd saw Happy leaving and immediately gave their loudest boos. Chen Guo was indignant, but Sun Xiang had helped make her feel better. She waved her hands at the crowd as if those boos were cheers.

When they returned to the hotel, they obviously weren't in a good mood. Slapping Sun Xiang a few times wasn't enough to cover up their disappointment from losing. Chen Guo was hoping Ye Xiu would say something, but Ye Xiu remained silent. When everyone got back to the hotel, he told everyone to take care like it was a normal day and went back to his room.

Seeing the others go back to their room one by one, Chen Guo couldn't help but worry. She chased after Ye Xiu.

In the room, Wei Chen was lying flat on the bed like a corpse. Ye Xiu had turned on his computer and was browsing Internet with much interest.

"You're feeling quite good!" Chen Guo wasn't happy towards Ye Xiu's reaction. She felt very dissatisfied.

"Don't be so nervous." Ye Xiu turned his head and smiled.

"What do you mean?" Chen Guo asked.

"It's very normal for new players to be unstable. After all, our opponents can't be beaten with just a few clicks anymore" Ye Xiu said.

"Then shouldn't you at least say something to them?" Chen Guo said.

"Say what? Tell them losing is very normal? Don't be discouraged and work harder? You tell me. Do you think anyone in our team needs to hear those kinds of words?" Ye Xiu said.

Chen Guo stared blankly.

She felt like Ye Xiu should be consoling them and encouraging them, but when she heard Ye Xiu speak, she had second thoughts. Happy.....

Tang Rou? Losing only made her more spirited. Did she need encouragement?

Qiao Yifan? He had previous experience as a pro player, but he was an invisible person that had never gone on stage. He had experienced these kinds of difficult setbacks before. How could a loss be put in his eyes?

Luo Ji? He was the one bullied the most in Team Happy. He knew he was weak. Losing was something he could be considered as skilled at.

An Wenyi? He was extremely rational and calm. The feeling of losing was just light appetizer for him.

As for Steamed Bun? Right after losing, he started reviewing the match exuberantly with Luo Ji. How could that be called being struck a blow?

As for Wei Chen? He had already started snoring. He was sleeping very soundly! He had probably already forgotten about all the boos from losing.

Chen Guo stared blankly. She realized that Ye Xiu was right. Console? Encourage? No one in Team Happy needed that because all of them had their own ways of coping.

"Losing right now is actually a good thing. Everything had been going very smoothly for us the entire time. Even when we met with Team Everlasting, we beat them in an overwhelming victory. That sounds great, but it will actually hide a lot of problems. You're not thinking our team is already perfect and without flaws, right?" Ye Xiu said.

"Of course not." Chen Guo said.

"That's why discovering these problems early makes it easier for us to resolve them. It's much better than suddenly finding about these issues when we encounter a truly formidable opponent." Ye Xiu said.

"Then what's the current problem?" Chen Guo asked.

"From this match, the problem isn't anything new. It's just that new players aren't consistent." Ye Xiu said. His screen already had a recording of the match playing.

"I won't talk too much about Steamed Bun. He sometimes goes off the rails. Sometimes, that will make things difficult for the opponent, but sometimes, it makes it difficult for us. Just like when he got lost against Team Everlasting.... This problem will happen once, and it'll keep happening. This comes from his personality and it won't be easy to fix. In terms of the team, we can only increase our margin of error in our strategies. In terms of the individual, experience would be the best way to resolve this problem. The experience he has towards he has towards the same situation, the more options he'll have. Probability-wise, the chances of him going off the rails will be lower. The other thing we can do is pray. Pray that when he goes off the rails, the ones that'll be injured will be the opponents and not us..." Ye Xiu said. His screen was playing Steamed Bun's match. In this 3v7 match, Steamed Bun had lost a point in this individual competition. The reason was because of "external circumstances".

"As for the others, their weaknesses were more obvious in the team competition. Little Tang is tenacious and eager to win. The harder the adversity, the better she performs. For a player in the group arena, she couldn't be more suitable. But in a team competition, her explosiveness will sometimes make

the team fall apart. This is particularly obvious in this match. Speaking of which, Little Tang really should look at two players as references." Ye Xiu said.

"Which two?"

"Sun Xiang."

"That fool?" Chen Guo despised him.

"Uh, Sun Xiang is a reference for what not to do, especially in Excellent Era's matches last season. There were many cases, where his individual prowess made the team fall apart. Little Tang should take a look. They're the same class too. She can think about what she can do in those situations to truly be the turning point in a match." Ye Xiu said.

"Haha, I know." Chen Guo said happily, "Then what about the other one?"

"Zhou Zekai, of course. He's also an explosive player, but he can use his explosiveness to lead the team to victory. In terms of actual individual skill, Sun Xiang is no worse than Zhou Zekai, but in terms of his accomplishments in tactics and his ability to read the flow of the match, Zhou Zekai is N times better than Sun Xiang. Little Tang needs to improve in this area." Ye Xiu said.

"Oh oh, what about the others?" Chen Guo asked.

"Yifan is the most stable out of all the young ones. But even though he has prior experience as a pro player, he doesn't actually have any official match experience, even more so after he switched to a Phantom Demon. In a chaotic situation, his thinking isn't clear enough. This hesitation has to do with his mentality. Another part of it is because a pro player, who came from learning by the books, can't help but match his style with the standard methods. He needs to find his own path as a Phantom Demon. He's studied other pro players more than enough now." Ye Xiu said.

"Oh..."

"As for Luo Ji, he's still rather weak. When the others go all out, he can't keep up. That can't be forced. We can only wait for him to continue improving. He still has a lot of room to do so. As for An Wenyi, his foundation is quite good. He improved immensely during that period of specialized training. During these two months, he's accumulated a lot of high-level experience. His problem is the same as when he first came. His reactions are somewhat slow. However, he's very smart. He's trying to use more precise control of the pace to reduce the impact of this flaw." Ye Xiu said.

"But this is a match and not a boss! If it's just controlling the pace, that won't work in many sudden situations, no?" Chen Guo said.

"He's also found a solution to this problem." Ye Xiu smiled.

"What is it?"

"Prediction. He'll try to predict what will happen and respond to that. Relax. As he accumulates experience, he'll become an outstanding Cleric." Ye Xiu said.

"Okay..."

"As for Old Wei..." Ye Xiu turned his head to look at the sleeping corpse, Wei Chen, "Age is his problem. He can only rely on his own willpower to overcome it..."

Chapter 969: Mysterious Fantasy's Coach

The age problem. Chen Guo could understand this problem the easiest because she also had this problem. When she was just playing around for fun, age wouldn't really affect anything. But once she started delving deep into the game, this problem instantly stood out.

"If you've discovered so many problems, shouldn't you talk to them about it?" Chen Guo said.

"Of course I will. Aren't I currently organizing everything right now?" Ye Xiu said.

Chen Guo looked. It turned out that Ye Xiu was taking clips from today's match. Then, he would talk about these problems with everyone. Now, she could finally feel at ease.

"Is there anything I can do to help?" Chen Guo asked.

Ye Xiu felt his pockets. He nodded his head and looked at Chen Guo eagerly: "Yeah, help me buy a pack of cigarettes."

Black lines went down Chen Guo's head. She turned around and left. She originally wanted to directly go back to her room, but before she closed the door, she saw Ye Xiu working in front of the computer. Her heart softened. In the end, she couldn't steel her heart and ran to buy Ye Xiu a pack of cigarettes. When she returned, she gently placed into beside his hands and then quietly left.

When she returned to the room, Tang Rou still hadn't gone to bed. She was also in front of her computer. Chen Guo walked closer to take a look. Tang Rou was browsing through Battle Mage related material such as videos.

Chen Guo smiled. Ye Xiu was right. Their Team Happy members didn't need consolation or encouragement. Everyone was actively working to face their problems.

"Don't sleep too late. Go to bed early." Chen Guo was originally going to chat a bit with Tang Rou, but seeing how she was focused on studying Battle Mages, she softly said a few words and didn't bother her anymore.

"How'd you guys sleep yesterday?" Ye Xiu smiled as he asked everyone.

Everyone looked at each other. For a moment, no one said anything.

"We've been strolling through the Challenger League with ease the entire time. We only considered Excellent Era as our final opponents and overlooked our other opponents. In the last match, we've paid the price for that because with this loss. Our current situation in Group B is grim. We must do our best and win points in our following two matches. We can't be even the slightest bit careless." Ye Xiu said.

"Understood." Everyone nodded their heads. The atmosphere was unexpectedly solemn. It was truly a bit different from the usual atmosphere at Happy.

"Then let's first first review our previous match!" Ye Xiu said.

It was just like what Ye Xiu said. Winning concealed their problems. Losses exposed their problems. When they dominated their first match, Ye Xiu didn't really review the match much, but this time, the match review took up the entire morning.

The team was a whole. Every individual's problem was the team's problem. As teammates, everyone needed to understand each other's characteristics. This included weaknesses and strengths. Only by completely understanding one another could they coordinate well with each other. As a result, Ye Xiu directly took out every individual's problem and discussed it together with the team. An individual's efforts and the team's help would make solving the problem half the work with twice the results.

In the morning, the team analyzed the problems that happened during yesterday's match. In the afternoon, they underwent the usual training. The next day, Ye Xiu had already put together information on their next opponent, and they began making preparations.

In the blink of an eye, three days passed. The fourth round would begin Friday night.

Group B. Team Happy versus Team Cloud Viewing Pavilion, Team Mysterious Fantasy versus Team Trader, Team Ten Steps One Kill versus no team.

Team Ten Steps One Kill only had 3 points and had already been eliminated early. Today, they didn't even come to the stadium to watch. As for Team Cloud Viewing Pavilion, they had one last hope. This one last hope was originally no different from disappointment, but after seeing Team Trader capsize Team Happy, Team Cloud Viewing Pavilion's spirits were high. They were ready to put their all into this fight.

How could Team Happy give their opponents any chance? Like breaking a dead branch from a tree, they crushed Team Cloud Viewing Pavilion. After just half an hour, Team Happy ended today's match.

But in this round, Team Happy still lost a point.

In this Team Cloud Viewing Pavilion, there was an Assassin called Brilliant Move . He was mediocre in every aspect, but he had extremely good mastery over Life-Risking Strike. In the match versus Team Mysterious Fantasy, he had also been the one who won them a point.

This Brilliant Move clearly wasn't good in the group arena, so in their confrontation versus Team Happy, he appeared in the individual competition.

Ye Xiu had pointed out this person during their preparation stage. But in the individual competition, Tang Rou was still cheated by him. Tang Rou was incredibly depressed with the result. Tang Rou liked to fight face to face. She didn't like fighting dirty. She had trouble facing players like that. This match reflected another one of her problems.

As a result, after this match, Team Happy had 21 points. Team Cloud Viewing Pavilion was eliminated early as well.

On the other side, the match between Team Mysterious Fantasy and Team Trader was still underway. Because Team Happy lost quite a few points against Team Trader in the second round, their chances of making it out of groups went down. The outcome of this match was very important for Team Happy. After finishing up with their match, they directly headed over to watch that match. Chen Guo was a spectator, so she could pay attention to both sides. Her expression was not looking good.

The match between Team Mysterious Fantasy and Team Trader had already entered the team competition. In the individual competition and group arena, the results were unexpected: 2 to 3.

In the individual competition, Team Trader actually took 3 points from Team Mysterious Fantasy. If they beat Team Mysterious Fantasy in the team competition, they would have two upset victories under them, completely displaying their colors as a dark horse. With 8 points, they would be guaranteed to make it out of groups. In the final round with Team Happy versus Team Mysterious Fantasy, one of the teams would be eliminated.

But even if Team Mysterious Fantasy won against Team Trader in the team competition, would that make it any easier for Team Happy?

Ye Xiu glanced at the player seats. A person caught his eye. He had a little notebook in his hands, and he also looked over at Happy. When he saw Ye Xiu looking at him, he let out a smile.

"Hey! Great Gunner." Ye Xiu greeted.

"Haha, I wouldn't dare call myself that." The other side laughed. He turned his head back and continued to watch the match.

This person wouldn't go on stage, but in reality, he was the true core of Team Mysterious Fantasy.

Zhang Yiwei. He was a pro player, who joined the Alliance in season two. That year, he was an extremely famous Sharpshooter. However, nowadays, his glory had been masked by the younger generation. Nothing could be done about that. Zhang Yiwei's successor was too dazzling.

Most of Zhang Yiwei's career had been with Team Samsara. His character was Cloud Piercer, which was now the Great Gunner. It was the character currently being used by the number one player in the Alliance, Zhou Zekai. Ye Xiu called him Great Gunner, but Zhang Yiwei didn't dare to call himself that. He wasn't being modest. When he was still playing on Cloud Piercer, it hadn't been called Great Gunner yet.

Having such a successor was a blessing to the team, but for the senior, it was a rather sorrowful matter. Zhou Zekai's dominant performance with Cloud Piercer made him seem incompetent.

After Zhou Zekai succeeded Zhang Yiwei, he sadly left Team Samsara and drifted for two seasons. In the end, he announced his retirement in season six. He had a beautiful turn around though and became Team Mysterious Fantasy's coach. It could be said that he flipped a new chapter in the history of Glory. Before him, pro teams didn't have a coaching position. That year, the new Team Mysterious Fantasy successfully remained in the Alliance. Others immediately took after them. The next year, the new Team Bright Green also hired a coach to help the team.

Zhang Yiwei was responsible for at least half of Team Mysterious Fantasy's achievements. As a result, Team Mysterious Fantasy's true core member wasn't on stage, but on the side as the coach. Even when the team was relegated last season, it looked like the owner of Team Mysterious Fantasy had confidence in Zhang Yiwei and had him stay on the team.

"It seems like Team Mysterious Fantasy's situation is quite good?" Chen Guo asked Ye Xiu curiously. In the team competition, Team Mysterious Fantasy held a stable lead. It didn't seem like the dark horse Team Trader wouldn't be able to stay dark.

"As long as they aren't careless, Team Mysterious Fantasy shouldn't lose to Team Trader." Ye Xiu said. He glanced at Zhang Yiwei again.

"That's good." Chen Guo smiled.

"Good? What's good?" Ye Xiu asked.

"If Mysterious Fantasy wins, won't that make it easier for us in the final round?" Chen Guo said.

"Look more carefully at the points please!" Ye Xiu said.

"What?" Chen Guo was startled. She started calculating the points according to the current situation.

If the outcome turned out as expected and Team Mysterious Fantasy beat Team Trader, the final score would be 7 to 3. With that, after the fourth round, Team Trader would be completely done with their four matches. They would be in first temporarily with 28 points. Team Mysterious Fantasy would be done with three out of four matches and would be second at 26 points. Team Happy would be done with three out of four matches and would be at third at 21 points. The other two teams didn't matter.

In the final round, Team Trader would not have to play. Team Happy would be against Team Mysterious Fantasy. The other match didn't matter. The final point total made Chen Guo pale.

Team Trader's 28 points wouldn't change. The point total for Team Happy and Team Mysterious Fantasy would change though because of the final round. Team Happy was behind Team Mysterious Fantasy by 5 points and behind Team Trader by 7 points. In the final round, how many points did Team Happy need to win?

"8 points..." Ye Xiu gave the answer.

Only with 8 points would Team Happy have 29 points and make it out of groups. If they had one fewer point, Team Mysterious Fantasy would take first with 29 points. Team Happy and Team Trader would both have 28 points, but according to the tournament rules, if two teams had the same number of points, the match between the two tied teams would be looked at. Team Happy had lost to Team Trader 3 to 7, so Team Happy would be eliminated.

In this match, Team Mysterious Fantasy's advantage became more and more obvious. They still had all five players, but three players on Team Trader had already been killed. Zhang Wenyi let out a satisfied smile. He turned his head and looked at Team Happy again.

Chapter 970: Desperate Times

The fourth round of the match had come an end.

Team Mysterious Fantasy ended up defeating Team Trader in the team competition, winning this round seven to three. The two teams left the stage. Team Mysterious Fantasy's players seemed in high spirits, though the players of Team Trader didn't seem too down from their defeat either. As a grassroots team made up of normal players, Team Trader had the best performance among all the grassroots teams. Despite being seen as nothing but canon fodder, they had managed to snatch 10 points in total from two strong teams. After the four matches, they were in the lead with 28 points in a group thought to be a

lost cause. An average score of seven per round was already very amazing. Group A's pro team Jade Dynasty had only managed to gain a total of 29 points after four rounds.

Team Trader had already done the best they could and the audience applauded for them. After Team Trader's players accepted the liberal applause from the audience, they left the stadium with their heads held high.

Many people had already begun to understand what the situation of Group B was like. Many people reveled in Happy's misfortune, jeering at them. Chen Guo couldn't spare any energy to be angry. The situation was very worrying.

"We should go, too!" Ye Xiu called out and Happy's members rose to leave as well. Yet, they managed to bump into Team Mysterious Fantasy on the way out through the participant's passage.

Despite how this last battle would decide their respective fates, Team Mysterious Fantasy's players all seemed very relaxed, as if they had this in the bag already. The coach, Zhang Yiwei, looked over and saw three familiar faces from the past. However, these three were both top Gods back then and as for Zhang Yiwei? He might have been a core member of Team Samsara, but the Samsara back then wasn't the champion team it was now. As a core member, he couldn't compare to these top Gods.

Yet now, these big shots of the past had been tightly suppressed by him. This was a delightful feeling he had never had before. Zhang Yiwei hadn't ever though he'd be able to have such an experience in the Challenger League and he looked to be the happiest out of all the Team Mysterious Fantasy players.

"Hey there, you guys!" This guy even greeted them personally.

Happy's members looked at him, silent.

"It's the last round! Keep working hard, everyone!" Zhang Yiwei's words were directed at all of Happy's members, but his gaze was fixed on the three old Gods.

"If you accidentally get eliminated by Trader, then you would be a disappointment to all this attention you've gained!" A member of Team Mysterious Fantasy cut in from behind Zhang Yiwei. In the Challenger League, Happy was definitely the team that gained the most attention, if you didn't count Excellent Era. Meanwhile, Mysterious Fantasy hadn't gained any sort of attention ever since they had fallen to the Challenger League, making them a bit jealous. Now, seeing how this popular team was close to being swept miserably out of the competition, the team members of Mysterious Fantasy were no less delighted than their coach, even though it was directed at something different.

"We won't be eliminated," Ye Xiu replied calmly.

"Haha, as expected of God Ye Qiu, you're so confident. Have you calculated how many points you have to get in the last round yet?" Zhang Yiwei asked, smiling nicely.

Wei Chen then took a step forwards, staring directly at Zhang Yiwei. "Brat, are you trying to play some dirty trick on us?"

Zhang Yiwei had been a core team member once, having been a part of the Alliance for several years. Wei Chen's threatening demeanor didn't scare him at all, and he instead stared right back at Wei Chen. "What on earth are you talking about, Captain Wei?" He used Wei Chen's old title when referring to him.

"Do you think I can't tell?" Wei Chen asked.

"So what if you can?" Zhang Yiwei sneered, "I'm only choosing the best result for Mysterious Fantasy. Not only for now, but in the future, too. Your strength is undeniably above that of Trader's, so it'd be in my best interests if you were squeezed out of the competition."

"Heh, don't talk as if you've already won!" Ye Xiu suddenly said.

"It's the last round, keep working hard, everyone," Ye Xiu returned what Zhang Yiwei had said before to Mysterious Fantasy verbatim. "If you accidentally get eliminated by Trader, then you would be a disappointment to your ex-pro status!"

"Heh," Zhang Yiwei laughed lightly after hearing this. A veteran player like that wasn't easy to enrage, as expected. "Then let us see what happens!"

"See you at the match."

"See you at the match!"

The two teams returned to the hotel. Though Happy hadn't at all been at a disadvantage in the clash just now, it was undebatable that the last round of the competition did. Returning to the hotel, none of them could calm down enough to rest and soon enough they found themselves all gathering in the hotel Internet cafe, one by one.

Chen Guo saw their unity in this unspoken gathering, and was quietly excited.

"In the last round, we have to get eight points and wipe the floor with Mysterious Fantasy." Chen Guo didn't bother to lead in, going straight for the kill and encouraging their morale.

Yet then she heard Mo Fan, who was in the corner, say stoically without even raising his head, "We won't be able to wipe out Mysterious Fantasy with just eight points."

"What?" Chen Guo paused in shock and the others all turned their head to look. They had never thought it would be Mo Fan to respond first.

"Yes, that's right. If it's just eight points, Mysterious Fantasy would get two points and tie with Trader at 28 in total. However, they had won seven to three in their match against Trader, so then it would be Trader that's eliminated, according to the rules." Ye Xiu said before glancing over at Mo Fan. "I wouldn't have thought you cared."

Mo Fan didn't respond.

"Do you want to play this round?" Ye Xiu asked.

"I can." Mo Fan's answer wasn't "I do," but "I can."

Everyone stared at Mo Fan. They might not have interacted with him much, but they had lived together for a quite some time and everyone was used to having this emotionless, silent guy in the training room. Mo Fan wasn't exactly their friend, but he was still a part of their team, that's what everyone thought. As for Mo Fan's skill in Glory, everyone acknowledged it. Even though he might have not been able to integrate himself into the team at first, he had become part of the system after teamwork training in the

new dungeons and training against the pro players. However, his personality meant that he would never really be a team player and Ye Xiu wouldn't force him on that front.

Being a team player had nothing to do with having a place in a team. So long as their tactics were reasonable and they were able to carry them out well, a non-team player could also be a very important part of a team.

Tactics were also something that depended on people. Mature teams already had a tactical system they were used to, so finding players that suited their set of tactics was a big benefit for them. However, Happy was a new team so they didn't have their own set of tactics. This was why they needed to build up their own set of tactics according to the individuals where everyone could work efficiently.

Hearing Mo Fan's response, Ye Xiu smiled and nodded and then looked towards Luo Ji. "In the last round, we need to make sure we win by as large of a lead as possible, so I'm afraid you won't be able to play for now."

"I understand." Luo Ji nodded, though he was still a little dejected. In these critical moments, he was unable to contribute to the team. It didn't feel good.

"Continue to work hard!" Ye Xiu said. The reality of Luo Ji's skill wasn't any sort of taboo for Happy, so Ye Xiu could easily announce his arrangements at times like this without needing to make any excuses.

Then, Ye Xiu's gaze turned to Sun Zheping. "Are you alright with taking part in this round?"

"If I don't take part now, why am I even here?" Sun Zheping replied.

Ye Xiu smiled. Sun Zheping wasn't Happy's future, so Ye Xiu would usually give him less chances to take part although those matches probably wouldn't be any trouble for Sun Zheping. However, if he didn't have Sun Zheping take part in these critical moments, then there would be no point to his presence.

"Are you alright with participating in both the individual and team competitions?" Ye Xiu asked. He wasn't very clear on Sun Zheping's injury.

"I'll have no problem dealing with these characters," Sun Zheping responded.

"Ok, then you can take on the first individual competition!" Ye Xiu said. Being the first to participate would allow him to have more time to rest before the Team Competition.

"Then the second person had better prepare earlier. The match will probably end quickly," Sun Zheping said.

Ye Xiu didn't say anything about his underestimating of their opponents. This was his pride and freedom. A veteran like him wouldn't make the rookie mistake of truly underestimating their opponents.

"Mo Fan, you'll be second," Ye Xiu decided.

Mo Fan nodded.

As for the third... Ye Xiu was a little hesitant. He had narrowed it down to two choices, Wei Chen and Wu Chen. Wei Chen had expended a lot of energy against Team Trader that day and had yet to fully

recover; Ye Xiu could tell he wasn't in top form. As for Wu Chen, he had good skills. His form had been preserved quite well after coming to Happy, but the character he was using, Dawn Rifle, didn't have very good equipment. Compared to the fortifications done to the other characters, Dawn Rifle wasn't a character that Happy put importance on. After all, Wu Chen didn't come to Happy to continue being a pro player.

"The third competition is very crucial. So it seems like this is something only I can shoulder." That was when Wei Chen shamelessly recommended himself.

Ye Xiu smiled and accepted this arrangement.

"Group arena, Steamed Bun, Little Tang, me."

Steamed Bun and Tang Rou nodded, seeming to have guessed that they would be in this arrangement.

"And lastly, the team competition." Ye Xiu looked over the gathered

"No healer? That's crazy!" Even Sun Zheping was shocked at the team competition arrangements.

"You sure this will work?" Chen Guo was even more worried now.

Ye Xiu looked towards An Wenyi. "We'll be using as fast of a pace as possible in the team competition, so the current you might not be able to keep up."

"Ok," An Wenyi nodded calmly. He could accept any arrangement, so long as there was logic behind it.

"We have two days. Let's practice this formation as much as possible!" Ye Xiu finally said.