

Glory 301

Chapter 301 – The Show Begins

The venue for the All-Star event bustled with noise. As the main host, after finishing the Alliance's requirements, Club Samsara obviously put in all of their efforts to show off their power. On the brochure, each of the 24 players chosen for the All-Star event had their own page. The page had a photograph, the player's information, an introduction, and a hand-drawn picture of the player's powerful Glory character. The production was quite good.

Who were the 24 chosen players? A fan like Chen Guo knew the answer way before the event started. Right now, she was holding the brochure. The more she flipped through it, the more excited she became, especially when she got to Su Mucheng's page. She was so enamored that she had even forgotten to move.

Chen Guo had seen these types of All-Star brochures before. Those times, Ye Qiu would certainly be beside Su Mucheng. Except his photo would always be a shadow, making him look like an enigma. This time Excellent Era's new core member, Sun Xiang, was next to Su Mucheng's page.

One Autumn Leaf looked as mighty as ever, but his owner had changed.

These were the only two players that were chosen from Team Excellent Era. If the players were chosen based on the team's performance, then it would be very hard to argue for the dismally-placed Excellent Era. Even though they were recently moving along a positive trend, it was still pretty much hopeless for them to enter the top eight. Su Mucheng's popularity had no relationship with the team. With her popularity, even if she was never put into a match, it was very possible that her fans would push her onto the All-Stars list anyways.

As for Sun Xiang, he had only just transferred into Excellent Era mid-season. He had an extraordinary run with his previous team, Conquering Clouds. He had led the very ordinary team into the top eight. After transferring to Excellent Era, Team Over the Cloud's performance immediately fell, while Team Excellent Era's performance rose. This could be considered proof of his extraordinary ability. He had been titled the Most Outstanding Rookie last year. His popularity this year had clearly gone up a level.

Amidst the liveliness, the three found their seats. The event had not yet officially started. Chen Guo looked all around and seemed indescribably excited as if she had discovered something new.

They sat like this for half an hour. The spectators gradually trickled in as the official start of the event grew nearer and nearer.

At eight o'clock sharp, the music that had been playing the entire time stopped. The venue suddenly turned pitch black, as if a movie were going to be shown. Not waiting for people to cheer, a pillar of light dropped down onto the stage. In the middle of the light, a projection of a Glory character appeared. One after the other, in a circle, characters descended down onto the stage as if they had come from the heavens. The audience immediately erupted into cheers and shouts. Chen Guo was also extremely excited. She pulled at Ye Xiu and Tang Rou, pointing at those glowing characters.

Tang Rou obviously couldn't identify them. Ye Xiu was more familiar with them than Chen Guo, but he didn't say anything. He only smiled as he heard Chen Guo excitedly point out every character she recognized.

"One Autumn Leaf! That's One Autumn Leaf!! Look, look, look!!"

Amidst Chen Guo's cries of joy, One Autumn Leaf with his Silver weapon, Evil Annihilation, descended down. This character didn't have a life, but at this moment, it looked alive. While Chen Guo was shouting, she suddenly recalled the player behind the character that had recently retired. Her voice suddenly stopped and her expression dimmed.

However, it was only for a short moment. The character that closely followed One Autumn Leaf's character quickly ignited Chen Guo's spirit again. The shout she made that instant was completely unrecognizable to Ye Xiu and Tang Rou.

Dancing Rain!

The character that followed closely behind One Autumn Leaf was Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain. She heaved a cannon on her shoulder and her long hair fluttered in the wind. She clearly looked like a warm and kind-hearted girl, but she had chosen a character that used heavy artillery. Ye Xiu thought of this and couldn't help but smile.

"What are you smiling at?" Chen Guo looked strangely at this guy's weird smile. Then she thought of her recent excessive fangirling. The people around her had been startled by her and were now all staring at her, making her feel a bit embarrassed. Seeing Ye Xiu's smile again, she immediately felt that he was mocking her.

"It's nothing. Su Mucheng! Cool!!" Ye Xiu shouted, while applauding wildly, relieving Chen Guo of some of the attention. Many of the people were now staring at Ye Xiu instead of Chen Guo.

"Yeah, yeah! If you're coming to watch it live, you have to join in with the crowd!" Chen Guo was very pleased with Ye Xiu's attitude. She didn't care if her fangirling was a bit excessive. She turned to look at Tang Rou: "What do you think, Little Tang?"

"I don't know. I don't know them....." Tang Rou shrunk back. She pretended that she didn't know who the two people beside her were.....

"Come, come, come. I'll introduce them to you." Chen Guo was very enthusiastic and she began introducing the characters in the pillar of light to Tang Rou. Chen Guo knew who the 24 chosen players were long before the event started. As long as she saw the character's class, she could pretty much guess who it was seven times out of eight. She pointed at each one and didn't make a mistake.

Finally, 23 characters had been shown. For the final character, the character's descent was slightly slower. By stopping and moving repeatedly, the action beautifully created a feeling of anticipation. It made it seem as if the 23 characters prior had been little soldiers opening the way for the great general to arrive.

Club Samsara had taken advantage of their powers as the host to have this 24th character be the last one to come out. This character was obviously their Samsara's trump card, Zhou Zekai's character, known as the Great Gunner: Cloud Piercer.

Even though Chen Guo was a fan of Excellent Era, she didn't have any ill will towards Zhou Zekai's character and applauded. However, since this was Samsara's home grounds, Samsara clearly had more fans here. Cloud Piercer appeared majestically on stage. The applause and cheers from the audience were simply deafening. The people who had turned their heads to glare at Chen Guo and Ye Xiu had lost their own poise and were clearly Samsara fans.

Apart from the audience's reactions, there was no other noise. As Cloud Piercer descended, the pillar of light flickered into 24 pillars. The pillars flashed in an alternating manner, shining on all 24 All-Star characters.

The audience's cheers grew even livelier. Then, the 24 characters, which had been quietly standing there, suddenly sprang into action.

Dashing, attacking, dodging, jumping.....

The 24 characters displayed all sorts of movements. The audience erupted into another wave of cheers. The projections looked as if real people were moving around in a cosplay act.

After they all performed a set of movements, the pillar of light suddenly dimmed, leaving the audience in darkness again. The audience's cheers also calmed as the stadium darkened. Everyone was waiting for the next part of the show.

A pillar of light..... a pillar of light once again dropped down, shining on a single character. This was the first character that had descended down. The leader of last year's Champions. Team Tiny Herb Captain Wang Jiexi's Magician: Vaccaria.

The audience wondered if the character was going to do something again. Then, they watched as Vaccaria hopped onto his broom and flew into the air. Vaccaria turned his head in mid-air and lifted up his arms. The pillar of light followed as he flew and the audience focused their attention onto the red potion bottle in his hands. Players who were familiar with the Witch class would recognize this Witch skill: Lava Flask.

"Shatter....."

In the absolutely silent stadium, the breaking of the Lava Flask could clearly be heard. It was exactly the same as in the game. Following the shatter was an explosion. Lava burst forth from the flask onto the stage. The flames burned and surged.

As the audience watched, stunned, Vaccaria lifted his hands again. A white fog-like item was thrown into the air. Puffs of clouds formed and blue rain poured down. The audience immediately recognized this as another Witch skill: Acid Rain.

Then, Vaccaria revealed a few more skills. The visual effects were exactly the same as in the game. The stunned audience only now realized that these visual effects were only projections. In that instant of realization, shouts and cheers erupted across the stadium. Vaccaria's pillar of light faded away and the darkness returned. The second character followed with another display of skills.

After each of the 24 characters performed, the audience awaited the next scene.

The previous performance had been done individually. If all of the projections began shooting out their skills and engaging in battle, what would the scene be like then?

The host didn't disappoint. After the individual performances, they immediately began the battles.

1v1, 2v2..... even a 12v12 fight!

The skills from the various characters mixed into a flurry of colors. The Silver weapons in each of the God-level characters' hands glittered like gems.

The scene in front of the audience's eyes was no longer as if they were in the game, but rather a movie. It looked as if each and every character was standing in front of them. It was much more vivid than looking at the game. As for the chaotic battle, no one noticed the skills that were being used. They had been entranced by the splendid visual effects. They hoped that it would never end.....

However, since these 24 characters represented the 24 All-Star players, they couldn't show a winner or a loser. After enjoying the on-stage effects, Samsara's trump card, Cloud Piercer, suddenly jumped into the air and flew towards the top of the stadium. The other characters ascended like stars as if they were chasing after him. The 24 characters flew up to the top and then exploded with a bang, like fireworks. The audience stuck out their hands to touch the lights, only to confirm that the projections truly weren't real.

Soon after, the lights on the stadium lit up. The large screens hanging in the air broadcasted the images of real fireworks that had been shot into the air above the stadium. The host's voice boomed: "This year's All-Star Weekend has officially begun!"

Chapter 302 – Rookie Challenge Competition

The audience had their spirits excited by the opening. The fireworks that were going on outside, the commentator's commentary, and the highlight reel from the past year felt somewhat lacking comparatively. The audience still hoped that it would continue. Even if the opening repeated itself, they still felt that it would at least be more exciting than the current program.

Amazing! Beautiful!

This was the impression that the audience received from the opening. But for professionals like Ye Xiu, the stunning opening was no more than just that. What he wanted to know was whether those characters' movements had been planned beforehand or whether they were being controlled at the scene.

If it was the latter, then this opening would be the mark of a new era. Utilizing projection technology to display Glory's matches — if that concept had truly become a reality, then the audience would be able to see projections of the map, as well as the characters. The scene from the matches could then be shown to the audience. At that moment, not only the audience, but also the players themselves would feel as if it were real.

The scene! This was what it meant to be at the scene!

While the audience was entranced by the opening, Ye Xiu had quickly thought about all of this. Such a change would affect the business more. With the development of the business, more attention would

naturally come. This would then, in turn, attract more people to Glory's eSports scene and increase the competitiveness of it. It would indirectly push the game forward.

The use of this technology would become an important milestone in Glory. Even though Ye Xiu couldn't be certain, using it in the opening of the All-Star Competition was already an indicator. Or perhaps the Alliance was doing it to test the technology. The All-Star Competition wasn't an official match, but it would attract a lot of attention. There wasn't a more suitable place to publicly test it out.

Would they still continue to test the new technology? Ye Xiu couldn't be more familiar with the All-Star Competition's layout. On the first day, after the opening, the first event would be the Rookie Challenge Competition.

The participants for the Rookie Challenge Competition didn't need to be chosen. As long as you hadn't been a pro for at two full years, you had the qualifications to sign up. Afterwards, you would then be allowed to freely choose from non-rookie players and 1v1 them. The two parties usually wouldn't use their own accounts, but rather they would use two equally strong characters provided by the host to fight. This was clearly done to take care of the rookies. If they had used their own accounts, then the majority of the rookies wouldn't compare to the veterans' characters. As a result, by equalizing the characters the two parties used, they would both fight on equal grounds.

Since the rookies signed up on their own, their information wouldn't be announced to the public. As a result, every year during the All-Stars Weekend, guessing which rookies would participate was a huge part of the fun for the audience. The rookies' popularity definitely wouldn't be able to compare to the Gods', but for Glory fans, as long as they were on the host's team, any of the team members would attract a huge amount of attention to them. Even more so, there were a few rookies whose names were quite renowned.

This time's Rookie Challenge Competition had quite a few rookies the fans were looking forward to, so everyone was filled with anticipation towards this Challenge Competition.

At this moment, the host, who was only heard but not seen, finally announced the first participant in the Rookie Challenge Competition: Team Thunderclap, Dai Yanqi.

When the name was announced, the applause from the audience wasn't too crazy, but it wasn't too quiet either. Dai Yanqi wasn't considered outstanding by any means among the rookies. If something had to be said about Dai Yanqi, then it'd have to be that she was a female player. For female players, fans always harbored a different type of anticipation and attention. That was why, when compared to the others at the same skill level, they received a bit more attention.

The age of the rookies usually weren't very high. Dai Yanqi was only 17 years old. However, she was quite outgoing and wasn't afraid of going up on stage. As she walked on stage and became the focal point, she waved her hands to everyone and then announced in a loud voice who she would challenge: Chu Yunxiu.

"Sister Chu has always been an idol for us girls. I respect her a lot. I'm using this opportunity to challenge Sister Chu and I hope I'll be able to receive her instruction." Dai Yanqi's issue of challenge had been filled with reverence. She clearly wanted this battle to be a chance for her to greet her respected senior. Whether she lost or not wasn't important. The audience clearly wasn't too excited about this match and

only gave her an applause as a sign of courtesy. And at this moment, Chu Yunxiu entered the stage from the players' seats.

Players who had been called could not refuse the challenge, even if they had fought consecutively. And in the history of the event, the most tragic participant was Ye Xiu. At his very first All-Stars Competition, he was the rookies' most respected player, as well as their opponent whom they most wanted to try and beat. That year, all seven rookies who had participated in the Rookie Competition had chosen Ye Qiu. The final participant that went up no longer had a good reason to fight him and just simply said "Same". Ye Xiu had also created a record for "The Player to be Called Out the Most in the Rookie Challenge Competition". Whether it was in a single competition or the total times overall, he was the champion.....

Chu Yunxiu was also someone who had seen the stage before. After going up on stage, she naturally said a few warm words to her junior. The two then chose their classes, took the character accounts provided by the host and headed to the competition stage.

The two walked in opposite directions. As they walked farther and farther from each other, the audience finally noticed that in this year's All-Star Competition, the competition stage wasn't set in the middle, but rather on opposite corners of the stadium.

The audience felt a bit uncertain because of this, but Ye Xiu had noticed something.

As the two walked to the competition stage, the display screen above the stage began to show the match interface. The entire stadium's lights dimmed. As the match was being set up, the empty space in the middle of the stadium began to glow. Not long after, along with the audience's shouts of astonishment, the map chosen by Dai Yanqi appeared in front of everyone's eyes.

When the match began, the two characters emerged onto the two ends of the map. The audience had finally realized what was going to happen.

In order to fit the entire map onto the stage, the projection couldn't be shown at a 1:1 scale; it had to be shown on a different scale. The two characters would naturally be affected and their characters were smaller than the ones in the opening scene.

Because of this, some of the details couldn't be seen clearly. The surrounding display screens played like they had in the past. However, at this moment, everyone's attention fell on the unclear projection.

"This this..... Is too amazing!!" Chen Guo said, stunned. Her reaction was the same as the audience's.

The conjecture Ye Xiu had made earlier had been verified and he understood that this was a new age for Glory. However, it looked like the scaling seemed to be a big issue. The scaling was too small and couldn't be seen clearly. It didn't seem likely like it could replace the display screens, though this issue would most definitely be solved sooner or later.

While the audience was still astonished by this, Chu Yunxiu and Dai Yanqi had already met. They hadn't chosen to do any sort of special movement and simply met with each other in the middle of the stage in the fastest way. Afterwards, the two politely asked whether the other side was ready in the chat box and they began to fight.

By looking at both the display screens and the projection, they discovered that the projection synchronized perfectly. No one cared at this moment who would win or lose. They had been completely captivated by the new competition display. As they watched the two characters go back and forth, everyone had already forgotten their names.

In the end, the match ended without too much suspense. Chu Yunxiu easily beat Dai Yanqi. The two then, once again, politely gave their respects and the match ended.

The applause afterwards and the quality of the match was quite an illusion. Even Chu Yunxiu and Dai Yanqi themselves knew quite well that the majority of the applause wasn't towards them, but rather it was towards the new technology that allowed them to feel a new experience.

The projection disappeared and the stadium lit up once again. The fans continued to discuss the new display, while the host announced the second rookie to come up on stage: Team Tiny Herb's Gao Yingjie.

The applause was deafening!

This applause this time was the real deal. Gao Yingjie's recognition as a genius, whether or not it had been pushed forward by Tiny Herb, had always been well known in the Glory scene. He had already been designated as the player who would inherit Vaccaria and, up until now, he hadn't appeared in an official match. Just how good was this genius? Glory's fans had been curious about this since long ago and now they finally had the chance to see it.

Gao Yingjie also walked around the stadium in a circle and said a few words. But compared to the girl Dai Yanqi, he was much more modest. With his head lowered, and both his hands and feet stiff, he walked onto the stage. He quickly raised his head, waved them around, and said a simple, "Hi everyone. My name is Gao Yinjie." His voice went from loud to soft. His last three words were said so quietly that he himself might not have been able to hear them.

At the seats for the pro players, Tiny Herb's members were quietly shaking their heads. If Gao Yingjie had decided this on his own, then he definitely wouldn't have signed up for the match. The reason that he had signed up was because Wang Jiexi had acted in place of him and signed him up. This child truly needed some discipline.

"The player who I want to challenge is our Tiny Herb team captain, Wang Jiexi." Gao Yingjie's voice was as soft as ever. However, at least Wang Jiexi's name had been said. The reason for his challenge was even softer than the noise made by a mosquito. The host once again reminded him to speak a bit louder through his earpiece, but it proved to be no use.

Helpless, and not waiting for the child to finish, Wang Jiexi came up on stage to rescue him. The God was naturally able to control the stage and, after quickly saying a few simple words, the two players sat at their respective seats amidst the audience's applause.

The lights dimmed and the projection once again appeared after the map was chosen. Both players chose the Witch class and their characters appeared at opposite ends of the map.

Chapter 303 – Intentional

Even though they were players who played the same class, the skills they were used to using and their equipment styles might not have been the same. This was why the hosts provided players with Level 70

Blank accounts. Their skill points hadn't been added yet and their equipment could be chosen freely. Of course, they didn't have Silver equipment though. They were using all common equipment from the game. Since the All-Star Event was in cooperation with Glory's gaming company, the required accounts and equipment needed for the All-Star Event weren't lacking.

Wang Jiexi and Gao Yingjie's Witches entered the stage. Their skill points and equipment had been chosen. Gao Yingjie was the player who was going to inherit Wang Jiexi's Vaccaria, so in terms of skills they chose and their equipment choices, the two weren't too different from each other. At this moment, the two Witches were headed towards the middle of the stage. It was practically impossible to see who had moved first.

Similar to the last match, the two directly dashed towards the middle. As players from the same team, they knew about this battle beforehand, which was why they hadn't said any greetings or anything at all before the match began, like Dai Yanqi and Chu Yunxiu had done. The two Witches on their brooms gradually flew closer and closer to each other. The first to act was actually Gao Yingjie as he raised his hands and sent a Magic Missile towards Wang Jiexi's character.

This match would truly be a beautiful fight.

In comparison, the audience had placed most of their attention onto the projection's visual effects in the prior match. This time around, the audience had been pulled back to the main theme through Gao Yingjie and Wang Jiexi's brilliant fighting. The projection's true effects had returned to its original purpose. It complemented the performance instead of surpassing the match's beauty.

The two Witches danced around the map like butterflies. Lava, acid, and traces of their skills laid everywhere. All sorts of magic items had been thrown onto the ground. Let alone the projection, but even with only the broadcasted scenes, the match was already astonishing enough. It could be seen from just how many times the commentator wowed. Because this was a one on one match, the two sides' tempo was truly too fast. By the time the commentators finished explaining an exchange of blows, the two sides had already moved on and exchanged who knew how many more blows by then. How could the audience care to pay attention to the commentators' sputter. In the end, the commentators decided that it'd be best to just keep quiet.

"Is this match for real....."

At the pro players' seats, quite a few had already started discussing the match. Apart from Tiny Herb, all of the other teams were greatly surprised. Not only players from the same team, but even players from different teams rarely fought so seriously at an All-Stars event.

Simply speaking, this was only a show planned by the Alliance. It was said to be a Rookie Challenge, but in reality, very few rookies would refuse to allow the old generals to leave the stage with their heads held high. There also weren't any old generals who would go all out against a rookie. For example, Dai Yanqi and Chu Yunxiu's battle was a perfect example. Everyone politely did their act and that was it. Currying a senior person's favor may not be something rookies understood, but there were always people who would remind them.

But in Gao Yingjie and Wang Jiexi's match, since both of the players were from the same team, the two unexpectedly fought so seriously and intensely. For the senior, if the senior won too hard, it would feel

as if the big were bullying the small. But if the senior lost, then that'd be even more embarrassing. And as for the rookie? The rookie didn't have a lot of experience in the Alliance. If the rookie refused to let the senior leave the stage with his pride intact, then later on, if he were met with a revenge attack, then his development would certainly take a hit. Right now, Gao Yingjie's opponent was his team captain. If the team captain were truly offended, then Gao Yingjie's position within the team would be perilous.

All of the pro players were discussing this and glancing over at Team Tiny Herb's members, but all they saw was that Tiny Herb's members looked on as if this was very normal. Those who were familiar with Tiny Herb's team members moved closer to ask what exactly was going on but nothing came out of it. Tiny Herb's atmosphere seemed to be frozen.

As the audience cheered and yelled, the battle grew even more intense. Originally, the two had been fighting at the center of the map but now they had shifted to a corner. The two sides' health bars were about the same, but by looking at their characters' advances and retreats, the one at a disadvantage was unexpectedly Wang Jiexi. It looked as if Gao Yingjie's Witch was chasing and attacking, while Wang Jiexi was defending and retreating.

Gao Yingjie was called a genius, but since he had never gone on stage, no one knew how good he actually was. Previously, when the genius shyly climbed up onto the stage, quite a few had laughed in their hearts. But who would have thought that when the match started, after taking his character, he would immediately turn out to be so fierce. They watched the high-level battle and saw that Wang Jiexi was actually the player who was being suppressed. Everyone's impression of him had immediately changed.

Team Blue Rain had once stolen the food from the tiger, taking away Team Tiny Herb's Championship title once and ruining Tiny Herb's chances at being consecutive Champions. The relationship between the two were like fire and water.

Team Tiny Herb having such a talent wasn't good news for Blue Rain. The team members were turning their heads to talk in each other's ears about this Gao Yingjie.

"What do you think?" Team captain Yu Wenzhou continued to watch the match. His head didn't turn as he asked Huang Shaotian.

"The little kid's playing is extremely quick. He might even be above Wang Jiexi and is using it to pressure him. But because it's so quick, openings sometimes appear. But these openings are only for an instant and are very difficult to catch. I think he knows about these short, temporary openings but he just doesn't care and lets them be in order to increase his speed even further. As a rookie, how could he know to do this? Wang Jiexi definitely taught him. Why does it seem more and more like the kid was specially taught to deal with me?" Huang Shaotian chattered a whole bunch.

"And Wang Jiexi?" Yu Wenzhou naturally filtered out all the rubbish in what Huang Shaotian said and only paid attention to the important parts.

"His fame's about to get destroyed. I can't wait to call and congratulate him. Where's my phone....." Huang Shaotian began to search around.

Just as he said this, the audience gasped in astonishment. The two characters each fired a violently strong attack towards each other. Neither side benefited and the two were blown away, flying. Soon after, they immediately grabbed their brooms and flew into the sky to fight in a flurry once again.

The two characters had been fighting for a while and their health bars had been dropping the entire time. In the beginning, it was hard to see who had more or less health. But at this moment, without much health left, it was clear who had the advantage.

The player who was unexpectedly losing was Wang Jiexi! In this match, the rookie Gao Yingjie was unexpectedly winning and was about to send out the final blow to his team captain.

Gao Yingjie was still a rookie after all and hadn't gotten any spotlight in an official match. Even though he was known as a genius, his popularity couldn't compare with Wang Jiexi's. In this match, in terms of emotions, Wang Jiexi had way more supporters. Those who wanted to see Gao Yingjie win were only those that wanted to see an upset or perhaps they just didn't like Wang Jiexi. After seeing Wang Jiexi losing, the entire crowd's atmosphere had become restrained.

"This kid..... is pretty amazing....." Chen Guo said to Ye Xiu and Tang Rou. She didn't care about Wang Jiexi or Gao Yingjie and didn't want to see an upset. She had come to purely enjoy the show.

Tang Rou couldn't help but glance at Ye Xiu and saw Ye Xiu let out a sigh.

"Wang Jiexi shouldn't lose to him." Yu Wenzhou suddenly said on Team Blue Rain's side.

"Yeah, this kid's too outrageous. No rookie in our team would dare to act like that. He'd be put on clean-up duty for a month, no two months! Uh..... maybe three months. Yeah, three months sounds about right." Huang Shaotian said.

Automatically filtering out Huang Shaotian's nonsense, Yu Wenzhou continued to pay attention to the scene: "Wang Jiexi didn't add all of his points."

"What?" Huang Shaotian heard this and was startled.

Yu Wenzhou's mechanics greatly limited his ability, but in terms of game knowledge, Yu Wenzhou was undoubtedly among the top. The issue of Wang Jiexi's Witch not adding all of his points was something that Huang Shaotian hadn't noticed. He had been paying more attention to the openings when the two fought. He hadn't really noticed something so minute.

"As a result, the damage from his skills were slightly lower. In such a blow for blow exchange, the minute differences add up." Yu Wenzhou said.

"So you're saying.. that he intentionally lost to the kid?" Huang Shaotian said.

"Seems like it and it looks like he doesn't want anyone to find out....."

"Does he have to support him so carefully?" Huang Shaotian whispered.

"It's different for everybody..... some people rise up after being beaten badly. Some people needs this type of victory for confidence. We don't need this child well. Wang Jiexi must have his reasons for doing this." Yu Wenzhou plainly said.

“Then, how can we let him succeed? Let’s hurry up and expose him.” Huang Shaotian said.

“Let’s be nicer! In order to help him, Wang Jiexi has already sacrificed a lot. Plus, it’s risky. If we expose them, the opposite result might happen. The difference in skill levels definitely won’t be large. It looks like only two skills are a level lower, that’s all. To make the match so close is also intentional!” Yu Wenzhou sighed.

Huang Shaotian didn’t say a whole bunch after hearing this. He finally said after a short pause: “How confident. Did he not think we’d see through him?”

Yu Wenzhou only chuckled. He then turned his head to ask: “Did Ye Qiu come?”

“How would I know!” Huang Shaotian said. He also turned his head, except he did it towards Excellent Era’s side, towards the beautiful girl there. He pinched the two fingers on his right hand together and put it in his mouth, letting out two shameless whistles.

Excellent Era’s players looked over. However, the girl only tugged on her neck collar and then turned her head in the opposite direction.

“D*mnit , that f*king girl!!” Huang Shaotian was extremely depressed.

Yu Wenzhou looked at him and laughed helplessly. He saw that Excellent Era’s players were all looking towards them. He waved his hand and greeted them. Excellent Era’s players waved their hands back, confused.

Chapter 304 – Shouldering the Future of Tiny Herb

“Wang Jiexi’s has already done what he can for him. Whether or not it works will depend on the child.” After waving his hands towards Excellent Era’s players, Yu Wenzhou turned his head to continue speaking.

Huang Shaotian understood what he meant. Wang Jiexi would let him win, but not by too much. He had to rely on fighting with two less skill points and then show his weakness after an intense fight. If Gao Yingjie made a mistake, then Wang Jiexi couldn’t let the opening go and would ensure his victory. Even though Wang Jiexi was letting him win, if he wanted to win, he still had to perform well.

Would Gao Yingjie make a mistake?

The two who knew the truth about these two competitors were already thinking about this. Amongst the audience, these two weren’t the only ones to harbor these thoughts.

Ye Xiu!

Yu Wenzhou hadn’t asked about him for no reason. He asked because he was certain that Ye Xiu was well aware of this.

The amateurs watched the excitement, while the experts looked for the truth.

Very few experts were able to see the truth in this match.

“Shatter!” Another Lava Flask broke and a large piece of land was eroded away by the magic item, turning the area into a field of burning lava.

“Oh.....” And at the same time, two people at two different seats of the stadium let out a sigh. One of the sighs came from the audience, while the other came from the pro players’ seats. And in the pro players’ seats, many had come to a conclusion from their discussions: Wang Jiexi was going to lose.

At this moment, Wang Jiexi’s Witch had already retreated to the corner of the map and had no place left to run. The Lava Flask had been thrown down by Gao Yingjie’s Witch and the field of lava burned Wang Jiexi’s character. With no place left to run and under attack from a Witch’s AoE damage skill, there wasn’t much he could do to come back.

Wang Jiexi’s Witch suddenly flew up and tried to escape out of the corner, but his student Gao Yingjie had seen through his intent. He flew over to block him and threw down an Acid Rain. He swept his broom and engaged in combat once again with Wang Jiexi’s character.

The consecutive damage and battles had already made it so that Wang Jiexi’s Witch no longer had any room to use any skills. The deadlock had been broken and Wang Jiexi was completely at a disadvantage. His character only had a few health points left and he clearly had no way of escaping this predicament.

Wang Jiexi never stopped trying however, but it was to no avail. His Witch was swept down by Gao Yingjie’s character and never stood up again.

The entire stadium gasped in astonishment and then was dead silent. After a short moment, people began clapping here and there. The few claps spurred more claps and the noise grew louder and louder. Even though the end result was very different from what the majority of the audience wanted, they couldn’t deny that it had been a splendid match.

Amidst the applause, two figures had even stood up.

Yu Wenzhou in the pro players’ area.

Ye Xiu in the audience.

In their eyes, the brilliance didn’t come from the match, but rather, from Wang Jiexi’s sacrifices.

By not fully adding in his points, he wrote the plot for the match and the momentum of the battle. Everything had been completely engineered by him. The worry that Yu Wenzhou and Huang Shaotian had over whether Gao Yingjie would make an error had been taken into account by Wang Jiexi long beforehand.

When was it most likely that Gao Yingjie would make a mistake? Of course, it would be at the end of the battle. Once he became aware of the fact that he was about to strike down a God-like player in the Alliance, who was also his respected team captain, the timid and shy child would definitely become shaken. For him, it truly was a difficult obstacle to overcome.

However, Wang Jiexi had anticipated this. At the ending parts of the battle, he had his character retreat into a corner. Attacking an opponent in a corner was the most fundamental method of attack for a Witch. Let alone Gao Yingjie, no pro player that played a Witch would make any mistakes in that type of situation. Even though Gao Yingjie’s heart had been shaken, being placed in such an easy and practiced scenario was enough to help him overcome the obstacle. As a result, he obtained the victory.

Yu Wenzhou hadn’t seen everything, though.

Wang Jiexi had done even more than he had analyzed. He had even chosen the routes he would take to reduce the probability of Gao Yingjie making a mistake. This was something that he had been doing all the way till the end. Yu Wenzhou and Ye Xiu, who had figured out Wang Jiexi's intent long ago, had only recently become aware of this when Gao Yingjie threw down his Lava Flask.

This Tiny Herb team captain truly did his utmost to ensure Gao Yingjie's victory. He had succeeded and his brilliant sacrifice had won the two Gods' sincere applause.

"What a brilliant match!" Ye Xiu said to Chen Guo.

Chen Guo was also applauding, but she couldn't quite understand why Ye Xiu would suddenly stand up like that. She had originally believed that it was because her ability to appreciate the match wasn't good enough and that she wasn't able to see just how brilliant the match was. But when she looked around, she saw that among the audience, besides Ye Xiu, no one else had jumped up so enthusiastically. Many of the people surrounding them were already giving him gazes of doubt as if they were looking at a noob.

"Brilliant, brilliant! It sure was brilliant. Hurry up and sit down!" Chen Guo said while pulling on Ye Xiu.

But Ye Xiu unexpectedly stayed standing and refused to sit down. Chen Guo pulled down twice, but he just wouldn't budge. Helpless, all she could do was to sit sideways, learning from Tang Rou, and using the "I don't know him" technique.

On stage, Wang Jiexi and Gao Yingjie had already left their playing platforms.

Gao Yingjie had returned to his shy look, walking out with his head lowered. The surrounding applause made him feel as if he were in a dream. What just happened? He couldn't believe it. It seemed like he beat his captain? And in front of so many people, too?

He had been told to sign up for the All-Stars Challenge by his captain and challenging his captain was also his captain's idea. Being in a match, where victory or defeat wasn't important, and wanting to feeling the stadium's atmosphere, was something Gao Yingjie felt he should experience. That was why he had agreed to the captain's orders.

And then, the team captain required that he had to pretend that he was playing in the finals and had to go all out. Gao Yingjie did as he instructed, but to have actually beat his team captain was something he would have never imagined.

The victory had made Gao Yingjie somewhat surprised, somewhat scared, but also somewhat happy.

When he walked to the middle of the stadium and faced his team captain, Wang Jiexi, the feeling of fear took over Gao Yingjie. He had heard of the unwritten rules of the Rookie Competition from his seniors before. But his captain had told him to go all out, so he went all out, because, in his heart, he felt that going all out wasn't going to result in anything anyways. He felt like he didn't even have a one in a millionth chance of beating his team captain.

But he had done it and now that he was standing in front of his team captain though, thoughts of what his seniors had told him of what not to do flooded into his mind. He immediately felt like he had let his captain down. In a stadium where millions of people were watching, to have beat his captain, this, this, this.....

Gao Yingjie's head drooped lower and lower. He was the winner, but his heart was filled with guilt and he didn't want to meet with anyone.

Suddenly, his left hand was grabbed. He immediately looked and saw that he was holding his captain's right hand. And then, he watched as his left hand was raised high up into the air, along with applause from all around the stadium. The instant his hand went up, the applause seemed to have become louder.

"You played very well." Wang Jiexi said.

Gao Yingjie was somewhat astonished because there seemed to be a trace of a smile on the captain's face.

"You're going to be the one to shoulder Tiny Herb's future! Yingjie." Gao Yingjie heard the captain say this to him. In that instant, his surroundings seemed to have turned silent. He saw the captain let go of his hand and slowly walk off the stage. When he regained his composure, he was already the only one on stage with his arm up in the air, receiving the applause from all around the stadium.....

"Do you think Wang Jiexi is mad? To be beaten so embarrassingly by some little kid in his own team?" Chen Guo whispered when she saw Wang Jiexi leave Gao Yingjie alone on stage. When Ye Xiu heard this, he just smiled. The less people knew about Wang Jiexi's motive, the better.

The second match of the Rookie Challenge ended and Gao Yingjie left the stage soon after. However, the news of Tiny Herb's genius beating his team captain, Wang Jiexi, had already become the headline story. In their eyes, there was nothing more worth seeing in the Rookie Challenge Competition. Right now, the reporters were trying their hardest to get an interview.

But the Rookie Challenge Competition wouldn't stop because of this unusual occurrence. After Gao Yingjie left the stage, the host announced the next challenger.

Tiny Herb team member, Qiao Yifan.

The audience was in an uproar. The challenger was a completely unknown player. Not just them, but even in the pro-circle, they were all whispering in each other's ears to find out who this person was. "Who is this? Who is this?" Chen Guo was also unsure. Tang Rou quietly looked at Ye Xiu and all she saw was a completely calm face.

A youth stood up from Tiny Herb's seats. Amidst his team's indifferent gazes, he walked onto the stage.

The whispering didn't stop, but the host continued to follow the program.

"Qiao Yifan wishes to challenge the owner of the number one Phantom Demon, Sobbing Ghost, Team Void Captain, Li Xuan!"

This time, the audience and the pro players weren't too surprised. The targets in the Rookie Challenge were usually these types of ace players. However, Qiao Yifan's own Team Tiny Herb, on the other hand, was in an uproar.

The Rookie Challenge Competition was completely up to the rookie. Signing up didn't have to be done through the Club or the Team. However, rookies usually gave their Team a heads up beforehand. Clubs would sometimes publicize their rookies and would also sometimes ask their rookies to sign up.

Qiao Yifan obviously didn't belong to the latter. With a genius like Gao Yingjie, if the Club was going to publicize a rookie, it most certainly wouldn't be him. Participating in the Rookie Challenge Competition was Qiao Yifan's own idea. He had given the Club a heads up, but everyone was just surprised, that's all.

For someone like him to participate in the Rookie Challenge Competition, he was somewhat overestimating his abilities. This was what everyone was thinking about and it was something Qiao Yifan had thought about too, but it hadn't changed his decision. It was just when the news got to the captain, he still felt somewhat uneasy. If the captain didn't support his decision and he was still going to be stubborn about it, then even though the rules said that no one could stop him, his future in the Club might be gone.

However, aside from the Rookie Challenge Competition, there was no other chance for Qiao Yifan to appear on stage. This was his only chance and he hoped that he'd be able to seize it.

He had succeeded!

Team Captain Wang Jiexi didn't have any objections to his decision and he wasn't treated coldly, like how the other team members treated him. Wang Jiexi simply gave him the attitude a team captain should have by giving him a few words of encouragement and hoping that he would perform well and learn.

"I will!" Qiao Yifan was very excited. Afterwards, he prepared for this day the entire time. No other person cared so much about the Rookie Challenge as much as he did because he knew that it was just for "show". Qiao Yifan also understood this, but he hoped that he'd be able to "show" something different in this "show" in order to win a turning point in his career.

Qiao Yifan versus the number one Phantom Demon, Li Xuan.

The host announced the contestants. The players and the audience responded normally. A few of them were excited, and they were mostly Li Xuan's fans.

They didn't know what was so astonishing about this match, but Tiny Herb's players knew.

They knew because Qiao Yifan played as an Assassin, but he chose to challenge a Phantom Demon, Li Xuan. It was somewhat unheard of.

The rookie had complete control over his decision and he also had his reasons. Usually, rookies would choose to challenge seniors they liked in the Alliance, which was why it was very common that players who played the same class fought in the Rookie Challenge. Outsiders would only think this type of reasoning when Qiao Yifan chose to fight Li Xuan, but to the more familiar players of Tiny Herb, they had no idea what the reason was for Qiao Yifan decision.

After Qiao Yifan went up on stage, he said some common words on how he wanted to learn from his senior, which made Tiny Herb's players even more puzzled.

"The kid likes Li Xuan?"

"No idea!"

They were completely at a loss. And only now did they discover that they knew very little about their younger teammate. They all looked towards Gao Yingjie. Qiao Yifan and Gao Yingjie had a very good

relationship with each other. This was perhaps the only thing they knew about Qiao Yifan's situation and the reason for this was because of Gao Yingjie's existence.

Gao Yingjie was also at a loss, perhaps even more puzzled than his seniors. This was because he understood Qiao Yifan well, but he couldn't understand why he would challenge Li Xuan..... He recalled how Qiao Yifan was always very busy, how he was often alone, and how they hadn't been talking much lately. Gao Yingjie felt like something had happened.

Li Xuan had already walked on stage. As an ace and a God with the status of a team captain, his bearing was much greater than Qiao Yifan's. After going up on stage, he said a few kind words to his younger generation and then the two walked to their competition platforms.

From the audience's perspective, this match would be the same as the first one. Only Tiny Herb's players felt that it was unordinary. On the other hand, Ye Xiu completely guessed Qiao Yifan's intent, but.....

"Sigh....." Ye Xiu let out another gentle sigh, which had coincidentally been seen by Tang Rou again.

Another sigh? Tang Rou muttered in her heart. In the last match, she had seen Ye Xiu sigh, but she hadn't seen anything worth sighing for in that match. And in this match, he sighed once again. Qiao Yifan..... Tang Rou obviously recognized him as the one who played with them as One Inch Ash because when they partied together, he didn't hide his name. Then did Ye Xiu's sigh mean that Qiao Yifan couldn't win?

Tang Rou was a new Glory player through and through. Chen Guo knew that the All-Star Weekend was more for show than it was for competition, especially the Challenge Competition. However, she hadn't thought of explaining this to Tang Rou, who thought it was a serious competition. At this moment, since she knew the player, she was hoping for the youth to win. But Ye Xiu's sigh made her aware that her hopes would probably fall through.

The map had already appeared on stage. The two players chose their characters, added their points, and then chose their equipment. Soon afterwards, they entered the match.

Li Xuan choosing a Ghostblade wasn't a surprise to anyone.

Qiao Yifan choosing the same Ghostblade wasn't a surprise to anyone except for Tiny Herb's players.

"What's the kid doing?" Everyone was puzzled again.

"He's going too far." Tiny Herb's teammate Xiao Yun said.

"Luckily no one knows that he doesn't actually play Ghostblade, right?" The female team member Liu Fei said.

The Rookie Challenge was more of a show, but the rookie had to show his respects, too. Challenging a God with a class that he didn't even play was simply too disrespectful. After seeing Qiao Yifan choose a Ghostblade, even captain Wang Jiexi wrinkled his brow.

However, what Liu Fei said wasn't wrong. Besides their Tiny Herb players, no one knew that Qiao Yifan played as an Assassin. The audience probably didn't even know who Qiao Yifan was.

On stage, the match quickly began. Just like the first and second matches, the two sides headed straight for the middle of the map.

The match's map was a ruins map. There were a lot of walls and the terrain was quite good for Ghostblades to perform on. This type of terrain allowed for the player to hide themselves behind something, throw down a Ghost Boundary and then lure the enemy into the boundary. This was a very common tactic among Phantom Demons.

In a duel between Ghostblades, the duel was very rarely a battle between hand speeds or mechanics.

They often competed in decision-making, game knowledge, and..... dirtiness.

As the number one Phantom Demon, God Li Xuan's abilities were naturally first class. The two sides closed in towards the middle of the map, but way before the two met, Li Xuan's character halted.

This halt just happened to be outside of the Ghost Boundary set by Qiao Yifan's Ghostblade. He then stepped over to the side twice and hid behind a wall. The audience could see the entire map and they could see this very clearly. But if they looked at Qiao Yifan's point of view, Li Xuan's character had already disappeared.

In the Rookie Challenge, the first to take action was unexpectedly the God-level character.

The audience might not be too surprised, but the pro players understood very clearly that, in normal circumstances, the "fatherly" senior always gave the rookie the first move before showing off. But Li Xuan? He snatched the first move.

Li Xuan wasn't someone with no style, but after seeing the match between Tiny Herb's members, he couldn't help but be a bit careful.

The previous match had clearly been a real fight and Tiny Herb's rookie had been merciless even to his own team captain. In this match, how could he dare consider this a "show" like the first match.

Even though the rookie in front of him wasn't a genius like Gao Yingjie, who knew if he was Tiny Herb's secret weapon? Perhaps they wanted to use this Rookie Challenge to have this rookie step on him to make a name for himself.

It couldn't be said that he was being overly suspicious since it was very reasonable. If any other senior had come up, they probably would have thought the same way, too. However, even so, they might still maintain their style. But Li Xuan had no choice because Phantom Demons were extremely adept at controlling the field. If he fell into a disadvantage at the start and was controlled by the opponent, then turning the situation around was much harder to do than any other class. This was why Li Xuan had to be the first to act. Losing a bit of style in the opening was still better than Wang Jiexi's losing to a rookie.

After Li Xuan's character hid behind the wall, Qiao Yifan immediately stopped as well. The field paused for a moment like this.

In a competition between knowledge and decision-making, the match would sometimes be dry and dull like this. The parties would constantly stop in order to make an assumption about the other side's intent. Right now, the two hadn't even fought and yet the situation was already like this.

Behind the wall, Li Xuan's character didn't move. Qiao Yifan's character took a few steps, crouched, and then continued to slowly move. Crouching made the character's movements slow, but there wouldn't be any noise from his footsteps. Of course, that depended on the terrain, but it was definitely the case for this map.

Li Xuan's character stuck to the wall as if he was focused on trying to hear the other side's footsteps. The short pause between the two had cut off. Now, the two were inching closer. Even though the audience could see it all, it was still nerve-wracking.

Watching as Qiao Yifan's character moved closer, everyone was guessing what the two sides would do next, when Li Xuan's character suddenly jumped up from behind the wall in such a grand manner that it looked to be unblockable.

Qiao Yifan had thought of this possibility long beforehand, but with the distance between the two, it was a bit too late to cast a Ghost Boundary. Qiao Yifan didn't hesitate. The instant Li Xuan's character jumped out, a Ghost Slash was already heading towards him.

As for Li Xuan? His character slashed downwards. A dark purple glow arced down; it was a Ghost Slash as well.

The same skills had been executed and they had been done at the same time. After the skills hit, the two sides both took damage. There shouldn't have been any advantage. But that was not the case here. After the two skills flashed and then faded away, Qiao Yifan's character flew backwards. But Li Xuan's character stepped forward like an arrow. He turned his hands over with a Moonlight Slash and launched his opponent into the air.

"Ah!" Everyone cried out in astonishment. With just one move, the opponent was launched into the air. Things didn't look good.

The experienced pro players had already figured something out: Li Xuan's Ghostblade wasn't his specialty Phantom Demon. In this match, he had unexpectedly chosen to use a Sword Demon instead.

Chapter 305 – Exceeding Everyone's Expectations

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For someone like him to participate in the Rookie Challenge Competition, he was somewhat overestimating his abilities. This was what everyone was thinking about and it was something Qiao Yifan had thought about too, but it hadn't changed his decision. It was just when the news got to the captain, he still felt somewhat uneasy. If the captain didn't support his decision and he was still going to be stubborn about it, then even though the rules said that no one could stop him, his future in the Club might be gone.

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Chapter 306 – Hopelessly Worried

Phantom Demons and Sword Demons were two different types of styles. Their skills were chosen based on whether the Ghostblade wanted to mainly use Sword Skills or Ghost Boundaries. In terms of PvE, Phantom Demons were actually better than Sword Demons. But in terms of PvP, Sword Demons were clearly the winner. This was especially true in a 1v1 PK, where Phantom Demons were publicly accepted as a weaker class. Even for Li Xuan, the user of the number one Phantom Demon Sobbing Ghost, he rarely came out during the Individual or Group Competition.

This wasn't an issue of mechanics. It was simply because the class wasn't set up for duels. Anyone who was able to join the pro scene wouldn't be bullied easily by anyone, which was why, even for a Phantom Demon master like Li Xuan, even he wouldn't play a 1v1 match against one.

But the Rookie Challenge Competition was, after all, only a show. Winning or losing didn't matter too much. Normally, Li Xuan would use his Phantom Demon to do battle. But today, with Gao Yingjie and Wang Jiexi's previous battle looming over him, Li Xuan was too afraid to think of this match as just a show match. Moreover, he wasn't sure whether or not the other side had wanted to lure him into playing his Phantom Demon and then use his Sword Demon to suppress him. As a result, Li Xuan cautiously put in his points into making a Sword Demon.

In the end, Qiao Yifan actually chose to use a Phantom Demon. Li Xuan had figured this out when he made his first move.

Apart from the difference in skills for Sword Demons and Phantom Demons, they also chose different equipment.

Sword Demons mainly used Sword Skills, which were all instant casts, so they sought after attack speed. On the other hand, Phantom Demons mainly used Ghost Boundaries, which were all cast abilities, so they sought after cast speed like mages did. After the two Ghostblades chose their equipment, one of them would have a faster attack speed, while the other would have a faster cast speed.

When the two contested with Ghost Slashes and attacked at the same time, the Sword Demon had the advantage, which was why Qiao Yifan's Phantom Demon had been hit.

In a duel between Phantom Demons, the players contested against decision making and wretchedness. It could be said that Qiao Yifan couldn't compare to Li Xuan. That guy had wretchedly chosen to create a Sword Demon instead of a Phantom Demon.

His hit had connected. But in Li Xuan's mind, even though he knew that the other side was a Phantom Demon, he couldn't relax just yet. Not just him, but these fundamental combos were already reflexes to him. When the Ghost Slash hit, the follow-up Moonlight Slash was practically done without any thought.

As for Qiao Yifan? He had studied the Ghostblade recently and knew about this. The instant his attack hit, he realized that Li Xuan was unexpectedly using a Sword Demon. Qiao Yifan was still a rookie, after all. A lot of his thinking wasn't as deep as those veterans. He had originally thought that the other side would definitely pick a Phantom Demon against him. This sudden change instantly messed up his plans and he had made a mistake because of it. It was also his very first time being on such a large stage and he had initially been very nervous. The sudden difference between reality and what he had imagined caused his mind to turn blank.

Moonlight Slash, Full Moon Slash. Ghost Claw into a Sword Boundary into an Upward Slash, a Gore Cross, and then another Moonlight Slash.

Li Xuan was incomparably skilled with this combo. Sword Demons mainly focused on Sword Skills and only learned a few skills from other Swordsman classes, such as the Blade Master's Upward Slash, the Berserker's Gore Cross, etc. These low-leveled skills weren't learned for damage, but rather as links for combos to allow cooldowns to come off.

Li Xuan didn't let up while comboing. This player wasn't a monster so it wouldn't just passively take a beating while it was in the air. This was especially true for pro players, who practiced thoroughly in escaping from mid-air predicaments. But for Phantom Demons, no one was more clear than Li Xuan on what methods could be used in mid-air. He watched very closely and set up plans for dealing with whatever movements the opponent would make. However, in the end, he had done all that thinking for nothing. After being launched into the air, his opponent was just like an NPC. He didn't respond in any way and just flopped around, taking a beating. Li Xuan had even been able to complete the full combo.

The audience went into an uproar. The long combo had caught everyone's attention, but the pro players were all looking at each other. A pro player being hit by a full combo was something that was completely unheard of. Was Tiny Herb's rookie that bad? It looked like he didn't even attempt to escape. Could he even be called a pro player? Even a normal Glory player would randomly hit their keyboards and struggle, no?

Uncertain, bewildered, and disdainful..... all sorts of gazes were sent towards Tiny Herb's players. Tiny Herb's players were all uneasy, too. Liang Fang, who had a more explosive personality, had already jumped up: "What is Qiao Yifan doing? His play is too embarrassing, no?"

It was true that the Rookie Challenge was just for show and it was true that no rookie truly wanted to beat their senior, but going up there to act like a sponge really was too embarrassing.

"Sit."

Liang Fang had only just vented his anxiousness, when he heard his captain Wang Jiexi coldly order him. Liang Fang immediately quieted down and sat down. He had a lot of words he wanted to say, but he didn't dare to speak now.

Others who wanted to speak also quieted down. They also thought that Wang Jiexi must be in a very bad mood right now. No one cared as much about Tiny Herb as their captain. If Qiao Yifan really did lose like this, then it would definitely leave a black mark on Tiny Herb.

The outsiders all cheered, while the insiders were puzzled. Li Xuan was one of the insiders. After completing his combo, the other side's health bar had dropped to half, but he was confused now.

He had originally thought that his opponent would be like Gao Yingjie with a fierce and godly skill, which was why he had made a Sword Demon to defend against him. But how could he have known that he was facing such a noob? The rookie didn't even know about such a fundamental skill like escaping from a mid-air situation. Against such a noob, no matter how brilliantly he won, his victory wouldn't look good. Yet he had actually been so wretched at the start. Right now, Li Xuan was starting to regret what he had done and was doubting that this Tiny Herb rookie had specially come out to defame him. But he also couldn't figure out why his opponent was acting like this and being so incomprehensible.

Li Xuan was feeling a bit embarrassed, so he didn't follow up.

After Qiao Yifan's Phantom Demon was hit by the combo, he finally woke up. He Quick Recovered and then heard the applause from all around. His life had dropped to half, while his opponent was far away, as if he didn't intend on following up.

What am I doing!!!

Wide awake now, Qiao Yifan was somewhat angry. This was a battle that he had put careful thought into. His goal was very simple: to use the stage to show his ability. It wasn't just for Tiny Herb to see. He hoped that there would be someone, in any of the teams watching, who was like God Ye Qiu watching him, would see his ability and then let him continue playing in the pro scene.

But the result? With just a small, unexpected change, he was immediately at a loss. Why was he such a lost cause?

Sword Demon? So what? Was he so amazing that he'd be able to beat Li Xuan if he had picked a Phantom Demon? All he had to do was perform. Why did it matter whether the opponent went Phantom Demon or not?

After clearing his head, Qiao Yifan discovered that he had been hopelessly worried. He had been anxious about things that weren't worth paying attention to. What he had to do was show his ability. That was it.

He looked at his health bar and saw only half of it was remaining. However, he had finally cooled down.

'There's still hope!' Qiao Yifan quietly reminded himself. His Phantom Demon began to move.

Li Xuan's Sword Demon didn't move, though. Against a rookie who didn't even know how to get out of an aerial combo, he felt too embarrassed to act first. He was still puzzled. How was such a rookie scouted by a Champion team like Tiny Herb? What was so special about him?

Li Xuan's attitude had completely changed.

He had previously been worried over whether or not his opponent would eat him, but now he was only curious to see what the rookie had in him. Seeing that his opponent was moving again, he stood still and began looking forward to see what was to come. This type of attitude was normal for a Rookie Challenge.

Qiao Yifan's Phantom Demon rushed forward and when he reached a certain distance, he let out a purple slash.

Li Xuan smiled and raised his sword to do the same.

Even though he had acted slower, he already grasped the two sides' attack speeds. He was slow, but his attack still reached his opponent first.

He hadn't expected his opponent to suddenly cancel his Ghost Slash. His opponent rolled forward, dodging Li Xuan's Ghost Slash, and was going to take advantage of Li Xuan's not-yet-finished Ghost Slash animation to close in two positions.

Following right after, the tip of his sword glowed, but it wasn't a sword attack. White-blue ice crystals formed on his blade. He was preparing to cast an Ice Boundary.

"Oh!" Li Xuan understood Qiao Yifan's intent, but he didn't panic. After finishing his Ghost Slash, he immediately jumped. The Ice Boundary had already begun to condense. The Sword Demon raised his sword with both hands and swung down with the Blade Master skill "Falling Light Blade."

This attack wouldn't arrive in time to interrupt Qiao Yifan's Ice Boundary. However, if Qiao Yifan finished the cast, he wouldn't have enough time to dodge the attack, either.

What was he going to do?

They didn't have to wait long to see Qiao Yifan's decision.

He didn't dodge. He continued to finish his Ice Boundary. The Boundary congealed, but his Phantom Demon had already been knocked down by Li Xuan's Falling Light Blade.

Qiao Yifan immediately Quick Recovered.

Then, Qiao Yifan heard a "bo" sound and he suddenly felt delighted.

"He's been frozen!" Qiao Yifan thought as he turned his camera. Sure enough, Li Xuan's Sword Demon had turned into an ice cube. Qiao Yifan didn't delay and immediately sent a slash.

"Bo!"

Another sound came the same time the slash was released. The ice cube shattered and it looked as if Qiao Yifan's Phantom Demon had broken it.

Li Xuan's Sword Demon seemed to have anticipated this. The ice shattered and his character shot out, leaping backwards, while unleashing a Berserker's Gore Cross towards the Phantom Demon.

A blood red cross. Qiao Yifan had to dodge to the side. Even if he took the hit, he still wouldn't have been able to close in on his opponent, because the Gore Cross had a slight knockback effect.

Chapter 307 – Dazzling Stage

Qiao Yifan's character rolled diagonally and it looked like he had made his way through the empty space beneath the blood cross. His dodge had been extremely dangerous. He had done it because he didn't want to miss the opportunity to attack, while his opponent was still in the Ice Boundary.

Avoiding the Gore Cross, Qiao Yifan's Phantom Demon raised the tip of his sword. He wanted to open another Ghost Boundary in order to seal off his opponent's escape route. Using a successive Ghost Boundary to trap the opponent into a Boundary was a commonly used tactic among Phantom Demons. Qiao Yifan's Ice Boundary surrounded Li Xuan's Sword Demon. He believed that he had had opportunity and began casting another Boundary. But as soon as he began chanting, Li Xuan's Sword Demon suddenly turned around and swung.

The two were quite a distance away from each other and a normal slash definitely wouldn't hit. But after swinging his sword, the ground inside the Ice Boundary suddenly surged like a wave towards Qiao Yifan's Phantom Demon.

Spellblade Skill: Earthquake Sword.

Li Xuan had only put in one point into this low-leveled Spellblade skill. This could be seen from the length of ground that had been swept forward. But it didn't matter, so long as it reached where Qiao Yifan's Phantom Demon was standing.

This time though, Qiao Yifan didn't have a choice. If he was swept away by the Earthquake Sword, then his casting would definitely be interrupted. Helpless, he cancelled his casting and dodged the attack.

From Falling Light Blade to Gore Cross to Earthquake Sword. These low-leveled Blade Master, Berserker, and Spellblade skills had only been ranked up once. They weren't learned for damage, but rather for their effects. By using these three low-leveled skills, Li Xuan's Sword Demon safely escaped from the Ice Boundary, while Qiao Yifan was unable to set up another Boundary to trap his opponent.

Qiao Yifan felt that it was unfortunate. It hadn't been easy to confine his opponent in the Ice Boundary. The Freeze effect had even worked. It had been a great opportunity, but he hadn't been able to seize it.

But PK were always ever-changing. If an opportunity could be fully grasped so easily, then PK would be way too simple. Furthermore, his opponent was a God among Ghostblades. Even though Qiao Yifan felt that it was a pity, he wasn't discouraged. He carefully observed the position of Li Xuan's Sword Demon and rushed forward again.

Li Xuan wasn't alarmed in the slightest, however. With just that single exchange, he fully grasped Qiao Yifan's ability. His performance had been orderly and methodical, but it couldn't be said that he was extremely skilled. Seeing Qiao Yifan rush forward, he didn't hurry. Instead, he casually set up a Sword Boundary.

Qiao Yifan looked and immediately came to a stop. He wouldn't let himself enter his opponent's Boundary. Standing outside the boundary, he began to chant. Purple flames jumped up from his Phantom Demon's blade, congealing into a flaming figure. He had cast a Flame Boundary.

With the ghost out, numerous dark-purple fire ghosts leapt into the area within the boundary. The ghosts scattered around as if they were looking for a target to burn. The Flame Boundary had been cast inside Li Xuan's Sword Boundary. The two Boundaries overlapped. However, Li Xuan's Sword Demon had already jumped backwards and didn't set foot into the Flame Boundary.

Qiao Yifan didn't think that the Flame Boundary would trap his opponent. The Boundary had been cast for his own protection, so he'd be able to enter the opponent's Sword Boundary.

Everything sounded complicated, but in reality, it had all happened within the span of a few seconds. Inside the boundaries, the two moved around extremely quickly. Inside his Flame Boundary, Qiao Yifan's Phantom Demon quickly dashed into Li Xuan's Sword Boundary. But to his surprise, Li Xuan's Sword Demon also suddenly rushed into his area as if he wasn't afraid of the Flame Boundary's damage.

Li Xuan's charge forward had been outside of Qiao Yifan's expectations. Li Xuan's Sword Demon raised his sword with a Moonlight Slash and then slashed down. He would then naturally follow up with a Full Moonlight Slash closely after. Players had even given the combo a name: Double Moon Slash.

Qiao Yifan didn't have the time to defend and the two strikes connected. The damage from a Sword Demon's strike buffed by a max-leveled Sword Boundary was quite terrifying. The health bar on Qiao Yifan's Phantom Demon went down a chunk, but he immediately stood back up with a Quick Recover. The opponent had rushed into his Flame Boundary. It was another opportunity for him.

But the audience could see the situation more clearly than he could.

The instant Li Xuan's Sword Demon rushed into the Flame Boundary, those dark-purple flame ghosts immediately pounced at him. In that short interval, Li Xuan's Sword Demon had used the Double Moon Slash and then leapt back. Even though those flame ghosts were quick, they hadn't been able to hit him. Li Xuan's Sword Demon had escaped from the Flame Boundary.

The audience cheered wildly.

Going into the Flame Boundary without being entangled by the purple flame ghosts was undoubtedly a testament to his extremely precise mechanics and decision-making. Li Xuan deserved to be called the number one Phantom Demon since no one else had a deeper understanding of these things than he did.

When Qiao Yifan got up, he saw that Li Xuan had escaped from the Flame Boundary. This time, he was surprised. At the same time, he faintly felt that he had failed to consider a few things when he had made his decision.

Li Xuan retreated and stopped moving again. He was waiting for Qiao Yifan to move up. He had entered his persona now and had completely taken this match as a teaching opportunity for the new rookie. He hoped to be a bit more stylish and more technical in order to erase the audience's previous impression of him as wretched and without style.

Qiao Yifan no longer had a way out and could only move forward.

He used the terrain, pathing, and his character.

Dual Chain Boundaries, Triple Boundaries.....

Qiao Yifan used everything he knew and without any mistakes either. Everything he did had been done 100%. However, it was no use. Every strategy he used was crushed by Li Xuan. From the audience's cheers again and again, Qiao Yifan could tell that they weren't towards him. His health continued to drop. After all these exchanges, he hadn't even been able to take off a fifth of Li Xuan's health.

Qiao Yifan was at a loss again.

The first time was because he had panicked after encountering something unexpected. After adjusting his attitude, he resolved that panic feeling. But this time, he felt completely powerless.

Qiao Yifan was already at wit's end. All of the tricks and tactics he employed were all useless. None of them had made a difference. Every single one of his plans was destroyed by a single move from his opponent. The only thing that had happened with every exchange was his health bar depleting.

And his opponent? Throughout these numerous exchanges, his opponent never made the first move. He didn't even dodge. He would always wait for him to rush forward. Then he would proceed to tear down his plans, calmly dissolving his attacks and easily countering back. Even when there was an opening, he wouldn't combo him to death like he had done in the beginning. He would always let him go and have Qiao Yifan continue.

Beat his opponent?

Qiao Yifan no longer carried any hope of this fantasy. Even his ultimate goal of displaying his ability hadn't been achieved. His thoughts and intents had been completely seen through and no matter how hard he tried, they never worked.

His health was already red. In the next exchange, he was afraid that he would go down.

Fight!

At this moment, what else could Qiao Yifan do? He once again focused and rushed forward. His fingers fluttered and his movements were quicker than before. His character quickly met with Li Xuan's Sword Demon and he instantly set four Ghost Boundaries.

His opponent?

His opponent was once again standing outside of the boundary. He had been moving like this ever since Qiao Yifan's first Ghost Boundary. His character constantly moved and slipped out from the small cracks in the four consecutively casted Ghost Boundaries.

Qiao Yifan felt hopeless. Movements he wasn't even able to do in practice had been easily accomplished by his opponent. Li Xuan's Sword Demon pounced on him and from his poker face, Qiao Yifan felt like he saw a cynical smile. No, not one, but two, no, three, no, even more..... some he recognized, some he didn't.

The sword light swept down. Amidst the cheers, Qiao Yifan's Phantom Demon fell.

Qiao Yifan stood up from his platform, dizzy. He knew that he had been completely crushed.

Two pillars of light dropped down onto the two contestants. In the Rookie Challenge, both sides were given the same treatment.

Qiao Yifan walked down from his platform to the center of the stage. He saw Li Xuan standing in front of him, full of smiles. Li Xuan said a few words to him, but Qiao Yifan couldn't hear any of it. He shook hands mechanically and then silently walked away from the stage.

Behind him, Li Xuan was waving his hands and calling out to the audience. Many of his words were in praise of Qiao Yifan's performance. But Qiao Yifan knew that these words were just common courtesy. The other side was only showing off his style. The praise didn't have anything to do with him. Even if he had just sat there stunned like he was in the beginning, Li Xuan would still praise: "Not bad. You played very well."

Qiao Yifan walked over to his seat and saw his teammates. They were supposed to be the people he knew best, but they felt like strangers now.

Qiao Yifan ground his teeth. He didn't walk towards them and continued along the path past them.

"Yifan!"

He heard someone call him from behind. He could tell that it was Gao Yingjie's voice. He didn't stop and walked even faster.

The stadium's lights were focused on the stage and were scattered sparsely around the audience's seats. In order to enhance the effects for today's projection technology, these unnecessary places were even darker. Gao Yingjie chased after him, but it was already too late to find which direction Qiao Yifan went.

After reaching the exit, Qiao Yifan couldn't help but look back.

The stage was as dazzling as ever. It had been his first time going up onto such a beautiful stage, but he was afraid that it might be his last.

Chapter 308 – Opportunity Goes to Those Who Are Prepared

The passageway leading outside of the stadium wasn't completely dark. There was still some light. Qiao Yifan silently walked towards outside, but after going around in a few circles, he discovered that he had gotten lost.

Qiao Yifan didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He really was unfamiliar with these official stadiums! By himself, he couldn't even find the exit.

He had met with a crushing defeat on stage. Aware that it was very likely that his career was about to end, Qiao Yifan had walked away. Lost, he couldn't bear the aching in his heart anymore as tears began flowing out of his eyes. Qiao Yifan raised his arms, wiping off his tears.

His heartache only drove his stubbornness, though. He refused to believe that he didn't even have the ability to find the exit. Wiping away his tears, Qiao Yifan didn't try to find where he was and blindly pressed forward.

"You were too reckless."

Suddenly, a sound echoed out from the gloom. Qiao Yifan stopped, startled. He then shook his head. This was just a passageway. What was so strange about hearing someone's voice?

Thinking this, Qiao Yifan took a step, when he heard the voice again say: "I'm talking to you! Don't run!"

Qiao Yifan startled. Was he talking to himself? He halted, turned his head, and saw a long shadow stretched out in the passageway. A person stood there, but in the darkness, it was hard to see the person's features clearly.

"Are you..... talking to me?" Qiao Yifan didn't recognize him.

"Yes!" The person walked towards him, while continuing: "I know what you're thinking. You wanted to use the stage to show to everyone your ability as a Phantom Demon, but you went too far with your opponent, no? You actually chose Li Xuan? What were you thinking?"

The person's voice echoed in the passageway. With this, Qiao Yifan suddenly felt that, whether it was the person's voice or tone, they both felt familiar. He waited until the other side walked over. He saw his face clearly, but he didn't recognize him. Qiao Yifan was still puzzled as the other side finished talking. Qiao Yifan replied with a complete loss: "I want to play as a Phantom Demon, so....."

"If you were there to learn and you wanted to greet your senior, then choosing Li Xuan would obviously be the correct choice. But if you were there to showcase your ability as a Phantom Demon, then Li Xuan is the one person you don't want to choose."

Qiao Yifan stared blankly. On stage, he had felt that there were places where he hadn't fully considered. Now that he heard this, he suddenly came to a realization.

"In the entirety of Glory, no one is more familiar with Phantom Demons than Li Xuan. If you wanted to show your ability as a Phantom Demon in front of him, then of course you'd be restrained. You're displaying your slight skill in front of a master. How could you even be able to show a tenth of your strength?"

Qiao Yifan understood. He completely understood.

He had taken the line of thought that other rookies used in the Rookie Challenge and chose the expert who played the same class as him, Li Xuan. But he forgot that his reasoning for participating in the Rookie Challenge was different than that of the others. He wanted to show off his Phantom Demon, but he ended up choosing the opponent who was most familiar with Phantom Demons. He had directly given himself the hardest obstacle there was.

"And besides....." The other side continued, "Phantom Demons are most valuable in a team. It's difficult to showcase your team awareness and mechanics in a 1v1 match like the Rookie Challenge. In addition, you still have very little experience. You haven't even practiced for a month and you want to challenge Li Xuan already. I'm completely speechless....."

"God Ye Qiu!!" Hearing this, Qiao Yifan finally figured out who the person in front of him was. Not many knew of his identity, nor that he was practicing a Phantom Demon. At first, everything had been muddy. He only felt that the voice sounded familiar, but he just couldn't think of anything. Now that he saw that this person knew so much about him, he connected the two together and finally figured out the person's identity.

"Yeah, it's me." Ye Xiu nodded his head. He practically never showed himself in public, so the only pro players that did know him were those at a certain level. For players like Qiao Yifan, who hadn't even

participated in an official match, even though he was in the pro scene, he had never seen Ye Xiu's true face before.

“

“You don't need to doubt your ability.” Ye Xiu said, “But don't think that you'll be able to catch anyone's attention right now. There are quite a lot of people with potential, but if you want to be seen by a pro team, then you first need to have, at the very least, some substance. You're still very far from being an expert at playing a Phantom Demon. But you're still young. You still have time to continue practicing. Keep waiting for the opportunity to come. It's only been a month and you want to challenge the number one Phantom Demon? Glory isn't as simple as you think.”

With this, Qiao Yifan's face reddened.

In the past, he had always thought that he was no good. But after hearing the God's encouragement, he suddenly had renewed confidence in himself. He had thought that if God Ye Xiu was able to see his potential, then others would be able to see it, too. All he needed was a chance, a stage.

This was why he had participated in the Rookie Challenge.

He hadn't thought hard enough when choosing Li Xuan as an opponent. He understood the reasoning now, but he wouldn't get wrapped up in it anymore.

It was because his choice wouldn't have made a difference. Even if he had picked a different opponent, with only a month of practicing his Phantom Demon, did he really think that he'd be able to move a pro team's emotions with his ability right now?

Ye Xiu wanted him to understand this. He wanted him to understand that his thinking had been too reckless.

Qiao Yifan's thoughts turned and he quickly acknowledge this. He had never thought that he was as talented as a genius like Gao Yingjie. Even Ye Qiu had never given him such an evaluation.

He recalled their first meeting. God Ye Qiu had only told him that an Assassin wouldn't be able to show his potential and that a Phantom Demon suited him more. That was all.

He still needed to practice. He needed to practice until the day he would truly glimmer.

Qiao Yifan wiped away the last tear from the corner of his eyes. The despair in his heart had suddenly been swept away. Because this time, he finally truly understood himself. He finally knew where he was at.

Opportunity? Stage?

It was still much too early to think of these things. Opportunities were left to those who were prepared. As for him? He wasn't even close to being prepared, yet he anxiously wanted to grab at an opportunity he thought looked good, which had only resulted in his falling.

But from now on, Qiao Yifan decided that he wouldn't think of all this. He just had to focus on practicing. After the season ended, would he still be admitted into the team? His greatest worry had finally been seen through.

Would there be a team that would accept him? What was even the point in worrying over it? He first had to train hard before an opportunity would come. Even if he was kicked off his team after this season, it didn't matter. He was still young and could still practice. In the worst-case scenario, he would start over from the beginning as a new rookie.

The passageway was still as dark as before, but after understanding all of this, Qiao Yifan's heart was a field of light.

"Thank you, Senior." Qiao Yifan expressed his gratitude to Ye Xiu.

"You can do it!" Ye Xiu nodded his head and turned around, ready to leave.

"What about you, Senior?" Qiao Yifan suddenly asked, "Why did you choose to retire so early?"

Tiny Herb's players could be considered as having the most interactions with Ye Xiu after his retirement. They would spar every week and they would always lose miserably. It was true that unspecialized characters had a class advantage, but everyone was still at a pro level. Losing every match like that was a bit too much. Besides having a class advantage, it was clear that the user's skill level had to be respected.

Choosing to retire with such skill had been discussed in Tiny Herb long before now. Qiao Yifan had broken from his spell and asked Ye Xiu.

Ye Xiu turned his head and smiled: "I'm looking for an opportunity, too!"

Qiao Yifan stared blankly: "You're going to come back?"

"Of course! Even though I'm a bit old, I'm not done yet!" Ye Xiu said as he turned around. He waved his hands at Qiao Yifan and slipped away into the darkness.

Qiao Yifan stood there silently for a while and then began walking. After coming to a sudden understanding, the direction he should go cleared up. The passageway was still the same passageway, but after a few more steps, he quickly came out. But the direction that he came out from wasn't the exit, but rather the stadium. He had returned to look at that dazzling stage.

In the stadium, the next match had already begun. Because the characters in the Rookie Challenge were all temporary, the audience usually couldn't tell who the player was from the ID. But in this round, the IDs on top of the two characters weren't unfamiliar.

Delilo, Three Hits.

These two were undoubtedly active characters in the Alliance. In order to not let the veterans have an advantage in characters, they set up the rule so that they wouldn't use their accounts. But if the rookie wanted the veteran to, then the veteran could use his account.

The rookie had clearly put out the requirement in this match.

Tang Hao had been an unknown rookie in his first year. But after the summer passed, it was as if he had suddenly gained enlightenment. He took off in the competitive season and became a core member of Team Hundred Blossoms after their captain Zhang Jiale suddenly retired.

The only pity was that his Brawler character, Delilo, couldn't match his beautiful God-level performance.

As a second-year rookie, Tang Hao still had the qualifications to be in the Rookie Challenge. With his not quite God status and also a rookie status, it was beneath him to join the Rookie Challenge. But Tang Hao had chosen to sign up and he had chosen to fight against a player playing the same class, Lin Jingyan, and proposed the request for him to use his active account.

The challenged veteran could not refuse. Lin Jingyan had no choice but to use what was considered the number one Brawler character, Three Hits.

Tang Hao's purpose wasn't to show his respect and it definitely wasn't to ask for advice. In the pro scene, although Tang Hao's name resounded far and wide, many regarded Lin Jingyan as the same. He was old, but still vigorous. This challenge was a true challenge. Tang Hao seemed like he wanted to use this opportunity as proof of his superiority.

This was because when he went up on stage to speak, Tang Hao only said five words: "The junior succeeds the senior."

Chapter 309 – The Junior Succeeds the Senior

Qiao Yifan watched the match as he felt his way back to Tiny Herb's seats.

"Yifan!" Apart from Gao Yingjie's shout of surprise, the others only glanced at him.

If this was the past, Qiao Yifan would definitely feel ashamed, but now, his attitude had already completely changed after going out and coming back. The team's cold treatment towards him was no longer important. As long as he had enough strength, he wouldn't need to worry anymore.

"I went to the restroom." Qiao Yifan smiled to Gao Yingjie, while quietly moving to Gao Yingjie's side, where his original seat was at.

"Tang Hao's challenging Lin Jingyan! He's being very disrespectful. As soon as he went up on the stage, he said that the junior would succeed the senior. Both of them are using their own accounts and both are truly sparked." While Qiao Yifan sat down, Gao Yingjie hastily told him the match's situation.

"Oh, oh." Qiao Yifan nodded his head and immediately focused on the match. He felt very grateful in his heart. He knew that his best friend wasn't just saying all of this to have him catch up on the parts he had missed. He had said all that to help distract Qiao Yifan from his worries. No one would feel happy with the results of that previous match. Gao Yingjie was a very shy person. He wasn't the type to directly say any consoling words, so all he could do was use this type of method to help Qiao Yifan bring up his spirit.

There was quite a bit of discussion among the pro players and some of it made its way to Qiao Yifan's ears. Everyone was discussing the current match. Quite a few of them were comparing it to the previous match between Gao Yingjie and Wang Jiexi.

It was clear that this year's Rookie Challenge was abnormal. Gao Yingjie and Wang Jiexi had fought seriously and the new rookie had mercilessly struck down his captain.

Also, during this match, which had Tang Hao versus Lin Jingyan, everyone could tell that it would be another great match just from Tang Hao's attitude. Sure enough, as soon as the match started, the two sides rapidly met and began to battle without any signs of holding back. Tang Hao's words had been

announced wide and clear. If Lin Jingyan backed out, no one would see it as style. If he was going to back out, he would have to at least convince Tang Hao through fighting. Then, if he said something nice, that would be true style.

However, this was just a theoretical situation. Tang Hao wasn't a normal rookie. If this was during any other time, this wouldn't only be considered a challenge by a rookie. In everyone's eyes, he was already at the same status as a senior.

The Alliance did desire this type of challenge by a highly skilled rookie, though. Putting the rookie experience limit to two years had been a result of this consideration.

Tang Hao's conduct wasn't consistent with the Rookie Challenge's intentions, but it was certainly eye-catching. This could be seen from the audience's loud cheers and shouts. The atmosphere right now was even more intense than it had been for any previous match.

The reporters who had originally thought that nothing today would ever top the match between Gao Yingjie and Wang Jiexi had their spirits rekindled once again.

It was true that Gao Yingjie beating Wang Jiexi had been surprising news, but the genius rookie himself didn't have a very suitable persona. How could he be more eye-catching than Tang Hao's "the junior succeeds the senior" words?

The reporters were all appreciating the match. Quite a few of them had already started writing down things. The battle on the field was extremely intense, but any experienced Glory player could tell that Lin Jingyan's situation was looking very bad.

In his former years, he had been the King of Brawlers, but it was already a fact that his condition had greatly fallen. Although his Three Hits was much stronger than Tang Hao's Delillo, in a direct match, he was still much worse overall.

Tang Hao's play was quicker and he was practically always on the offensive. Lin Jinyan's reaction speed and mechanics were no longer as acute as they were before and he was only barely keeping up through his experience. He knew that, for this match, there was no point in talking about any style for winning. Leaving the match as a whole was already looking like an extravagant hope.

His only hope was that Tang Hao would make a mistake.

It wouldn't be surprising if someone, who had only been playing as a pro for two years, made a mistake. The efficient and shrewd Lin Jingyan tried his hardest to keep up. As time went on, he hoped that he'd be able to catch Tang Hao in a mistake and counterattack. He truly wasn't capable of clashing directly with him anymore.

Lin Jingyan had already carried out every method he knew, but things never turned out the way he expected.

Tang Hao had obviously made a few mistakes, but his reactions had been faster and he made up for it quickly, too. Half of these openings were seen by Lin Jinyan, but he wasn't able to seize any opportunities and could only watch as Tang Hao closed the openings. Aside from these, there were those he was able to seize, but the damage he returned couldn't even compare to Tang Hao's repeated fierce attacks.

Lin Jingyan knew that he was too slow. He saw many openings, but he wasn't able to capitalize on them. Tang Hao's quicker hands were always able to dissolve his counterattacks.

Was there no chance?

Many thought this way. However, the veteran's perseverance wouldn't let him give up. Lin Jingyan persevered and continued to wait for an opportunity. Until the very last second, no one would know of the result. Perhaps a huge mistake he could capitalize upon would come. It was still too early to give up.

So the match continued.

The junior succeeds the senior. The main theme was being displayed beautifully right now.

Tang Hao and Lin Jingyan weren't home players, so there was a clear divide between the fans. After all, Tang Hao wasn't someone like Gao Yingjie and Qiao Yifan who hadn't participated in an official match. His godly performance in the season had quickly helped him gather quite a few fans.

The match's situation could be seen from the two sides' supporters.

On Lin Jingyan's side, the fans were encouraging him.

And Tang Hao's side? His fans were already yelling like crazy. They were no longer shouting anything of substance and had already entered a party animal state.

Tang Hao's fierce attacks looked even madder. Brawlers weren't a class that directly fought. Brick, Sand Toss, Apply Poison. Just from these skill names, people could figure out this class's wretchedness. However, Tang Hao's Delillo looked as if he were a Striker.

Attack, attack, attack. Continuous attacks.

Waiting waiting waiting. Patiently waiting.

The fans' emotions wouldn't affect a veteran like Lin Jingyan. He was still patiently waiting for an opening to arrive.

Here!

Just as he entered a Red Blood state, Lin Jingyan's eyes brightened. The fierce Tang Hao finally failed to follow up on one of his attacks, creating a huge opening. With the match nearly over, such an opening might not be enough to reverse the situation, but it could be the start of one.

Lin Jingyan didn't overthink it and seized the opportunity to fiercely attack Tang Hao.

His right hand shot out. Three Hits executed a Strangle towards Tang Hao's Delillo.

However, Delillo suddenly somersaulted as if he knew the attack was coming.

Lin Jingyan started. He hastily tried to adjust himself, but then his screen turned black. Delillo's legs kicked forward and smashed into Three Hit's forehead.

Brawler skill: Powerful Knee Strike.

Lin Jingyan knew that things weren't looking good. So his opponent was ready for it... Had the previous opening been a bait?

The Powerful Knee Strike wasn't enough to make the opponent fall, but the instant Delillo struck Three Hits, he grabbed him with his arms and used the skill Tiger Flipping Mountain to knock Three Hits to the ground.

Delillo also flipped over, but he Quick Recovered faster than Lin Jingyan. Three Hits wasn't able to get up in time and was pressed to the ground by Delillo, which was followed by a flurry of fists.

High-level Brawler skill: Tyrannical Chain Punch.

Lin Jingyan well understood the skill's damage. He looked at his health and saw that there was no longer any hope.

Under Tang Hao's quick hands, the Tyrannical Chain Punch came out even faster. And after this move was completed, Three Hits' health disappeared and he was not able to stand up anymore. Along with the word "Glory", the announcer announced the final winner.

The junior had succeeded the senior.

The media only wanted more things to talk about. They wouldn't favor any one side because of their feelings.

The two players came down from their platforms and shook hands in the middle of the stage.

"You played well....." Lin Jingyan forced a smile. After playing in the pro scene for so many years, he was already used to hiding his true emotions.

"The junior succeeds the senior." Tang Hao shook Lin Jingyan's hands. Only these five words were said.

Even the master of ceremonies felt that the situation really was somewhat awkward. Just as he was about to interrupt, the two players finished shaking hands. Tang Hao stood up, waved his hands towards the audience, and then left the stage.

The master of ceremonies looked pitifully at Lin Jingyan. He didn't know what he should do.

But Lin Jingyan only continued to smile at the host and then after waving his hands to the audience, he silently left the stage. By normal standards, he wasn't considered old at all. But on the eSports stage, his leaving figure made the audience feel as if he was doddering a bit.

The pro players looked at each other. Tang Hao's actions had challenged the tradition. Even though Gao Yingjie had beaten his team captain, from start to finish, he hadn't been disrespectful in the slightest.

Amidst everyone's discussion, the commentators announced the next match.

Rookie challenger: Team Excellent Era, Sun Xiang.

Veteran challenged: Team Tyrannical Ambition, Han Wenqing.

Soon after, the commentators excitedly announced that for this match, the rookie requested that the veteran use his own account.

The shouts and cheers from the audience were earth-shattering.

With this request, the hype for this match far exceeded the last one.

Tang Hao's Delillo was a very mediocre character in the pro scene. And even though Lin Jingyan's Three Hits was considered the number one Brawler character, it wasn't considered a God-level account. But the accounts owned by Sun Xiang and Han Wenqing were very different.

Battle God, One Autumn Leaf.

King of Fighting, Desert Dust.

Ever since the Glory Alliance was founded, these two God-level characters had never stopped fighting.

Chapter 310 – A Conclusion

It could be heard from the audience's cheers just how sensational the appearance of these accounts were.

It was already difficult enough to see a God-level account come out in the Rookie Challenge. For there to be two God-level accounts coming out as opponents, this was definitely a first in the history of the Rookie Challenge. Every reporter today was destined to be busy tonight. They hadn't yet finished switching the lead story to "The Junior Beats the Senior", when suddenly, an even more explosive story had come out.

Of course, the more explosive the story, the more excited these diligent reporters became. The previous drafts they had didn't need to be trashed. All they had to do was switch their positions on the page. Right now, they were hoping that Sun Xiang would be like Tang Hao and say a challenge similar to "the junior beats the senior". If that happened, the reporters would certainly go crazy.

On stage, Sun Xiang loftily walked up.

Without a doubt, no rookie had a greater reputation than he did. He was in his second year as a pro like Tang Hao, but he was far more eye-catching than Tang Hao. In his first year, his god-like performance won him the Most Outstanding Rookie title. His performance in this season also continued to be outstanding. Halfway through the season, he transferred to Excellent Era and after receiving the God-level account, One Autumn Leaf, it could already be said that Sun Xiang stood together, alongside the top Gods. Critics even praised that his control over One Autumn Leaf was more than enough to allow Excellent Era's fans to forget about Ye Qiu. The majority of players probably even forgot that he was still a rookie.

If Sun Xiang went up and respectfully greeted his senior, he probably won't win many people's approval. After all, his status was already different. If he put himself as a regular rookie, then that would be too excessive. Undue modesty was conceit.

Furthermore, Sun Xiang had never been a modest person. The keen reporters predicted that Sun Xiang definitely wouldn't let this match be a dull one.

Sun Xiang's appearances weren't bad either. After walking up on stage, he had already begun waving his hands to the audience as if he were already the winner.

The host walked forward and asked for Sun Xiang's reason for challenging Han Wenqing as if he were interviewing him.

"The reason is very simple." Sun Xiang smiled with a manner of a God, "For Excellent Era and Tyrannical Ambition, I will settle the old grudge between One Autumn Leaf and Desert Dust."

After the audience heard this, they were at first, stumped for words. But then they began to shout and cheer loudly again. Sun Xiang's words weren't as ruthless as Tang Hao's "the junior beats the senior", but what it represented was extremely rich. Tang Hao's words were only limited to the contest for the number one Brawler, while what Sun Xiang planned on doing was a true God vs God battle. In addition, his words represented the rivalry between two of the oldest Clubs in the Alliance.

Sun Xiang was Excellent Era's team captain and used One Autumn Leaf. He was worthy of taking the responsibility. Although the majority of the people here were Samsara fans, no one would ever dare to object to watching an exciting match. As long as they were a Glory fan, no one wanted to miss the rivalry between these two teams.

Amidst the mass of cheers, there was also a small portion of cursing, which were naturally from Tyranny's fans. Sun Xiang's challenge was too much to bear, so they impolitely began cursing.

If there were Tyranny fans, then naturally there would be Excellent Era fans. Except Excellent Era's fans were the only ones cheering, so they looked about the same as the majority of the audience and didn't stand out.

However, the Excellent Era fan next to Ye Xiu was quite eye-catching. She jumped up and down, waved her arms, and shouted: "Beat Han Wenqing!!!"

"Slow down....." Ye Xiu hastily called. He was afraid that Chen Guo would stumble from being too excited and fall into the front seats.

Under the host's introduction, Tyranny's team captain Han Wenqing finally walked onto the stage.

Even though Sun Xiang wasn't modest, under the audience's eyes, he didn't want to appear impolite, so he extended his hands: "Please advise me, senior." He would still say the polite words any player should say.

"It's an honor." Han Wenqing shook Sun Xiang's hands and emotionlessly replied.

Sun Xiang chuckled and turned around to walk towards his competition platform. The host wanted to ask Han Wenqing few questions, but when he got up close and saw Han Wenqing's cold gaze, his heart trembled and he was unable to utter a single word. Han Wenqing waved his hands towards the cheering audience and then headed over to his platform.

The two were both using their own accounts, so they could skip choosing the equipment and adding skill points part. The lights quickly dimmed and the projection appeared onto the stage. One Autumn Leaf and Desert Dust had already appeared at the two ends of the map.

The commentator was even more enthusiastic for this match. He already knew that the two would quickly begin fighting, so without wasting a breath, he quickly introduced the two players and their characters.

“Battle Mages and Strikers are classes that excel at direct confrontations. If we take a look at this market street map that Sun Xiang chose, the map doesn’t favor either of the two classes. It doesn’t seem to have been chosen for any tactical purpose.” After introducing the two sides, the commentator began talking about the map. These types of commentary were quite rare in the Rookie Challenge, but the commentator had already recognized that this match would be a true fight, which was why the commentator began analyzing the match from the very start.

“Okay, the two sides didn’t do any unnecessary actions and headed straight for the middle of the map.” The commentator said.

The two characters met at the corner of one of the streets.

The Silver weapon, Evil Annihilation, held in One Autumn Leaf’s hands glinted a dark, cold light. The Silver weapon, Flame Fists, worn by Desert Dust were two fiery flames that enveloped his fists.

Right now, the two sides were about ten positions away. Both stopped there for a short while as if they were sending their respects and then rushed forward, practically at the same time.

In terms of attack range, the Battle Mage’s long weapon was undoubtedly much greater than the Striker with the shortest fist weapon, so the first to attack was of course, Sun Xiang. A black light flashed and One Autumn Leaf’s Evil Annihilation initiated with a Dragon Tooth.

Han Wenqing didn’t dodge. His Desert Dust continued forward as his two hands twisted towards Evil Annihilation answering with an Empty-Handed Blade Block.

Sun Xiang obviously wouldn’t give him an opportunity and immediately turned the stab into a slash, turning the Dragon Tooth into a Sky Strike.

The Empty-Handed Blade Block hit nothing and the skill couldn’t be used immediately again. Desert Dust sidestepped Evil Annihilation, although it looked like he really didn’t want to. As soon as his body passed by the attack, he immediately punched forward.

The blazing fists shot out like a fierce mountain tiger. Sun Xiang hastily jumped back to dodge. Han Wenqing, who didn’t know about the word retreat, once again went forward to attack. The advantage of the Battle Mage in attack range wasn’t able to be shown. From just that quick exchange, Han Wenqing had already broken through the advantage and sent Desert Dust up next to One Autumn Leaf.

Sun Xiang looked to be having some difficulty warding off the flurry of fists. However, not just anyone could show this. Against someone with slightly less skill, who knew how much damage Han Wenqing’s fists would be able to do.

The tempest of attacks stopped. Sun Xiang heaved a sigh of relief and just as he was planning on attacking, he saw Desert Dust crouch into a horse stance. His left hand swayed in front of him, while his right hand pressed on his waist.

“Not good!” Sun Xiang startled. This was the starting animation for the Striker skill “Emperor’s Fist”. This skill had an extremely long cooldown and was usually used in the middle of a combo to inflict heavy damage while the opponent had no place to run. Right now, Sun Xiang’s One Autumn Leaf wasn’t in this type of situation. Using this huge type of skill in this situation would prove to be extremely easy to dodge for a pro-player. It really was a huge waste.

Sun Xiang hadn't thought that Han Wenqing would use the skill at such a moment, but Han Wenqing had done it. Sun Xiang didn't dare to try and attack. Just from the name, it could be seen that "Emperor's Fist" wasn't an ordinary skill.

Punch!

A sharp whistle split the air. Emperor's Fist was only a single punch, but the power and speed of it was at its extreme.

Sun Xiang dodged in a flurry and avoided it. But the wind from the punch caused One Autumn Leaf to stumble. Sun Xiang's mechanics indeed weren't ordinary. Despite his character staggering and his camera being unsteady, One Autumn Leaf's Evil Annihilation did not stop dancing in front of his body. The blue waves emanating from it weren't jumbled. It was evident that his control was exceptional.

His Evil Annihilation shook and pierced through the waves of blue, which gathered onto the spear's tip.

Even though he hadn't been hit by "Emperor's Fist", the wind from it put Sun Xiang into an unfavorable situation. In this scenario, most players could only watch as their opponent followed up with a wave of attacks. But Sun Xiang was able to complete a powerful skill in this situation.

Dragon Rises from the Sea!

Evil Annihilation flew through like an ocean spray. The blue colored waves rolled along, sounding like an unceasing torrent.

Desert Dust was still in his end animation. The attack came quickly and could not be dodged. The strike connected. Sun Xiang seized this opportunity and followed up with a string of attacks, giving Han Wenqing a beat back.

The two went back and forth. Large skills and small. Amidst the flood of light from the visual effects, it was almost difficult to see the characters. The two were evenly matched. Apart from the starting exchange, neither side was ever able to combo more than three attacks again.

Lance and fist.

The surroundings had already been destroyed. The battle was clearly extremely intense. However, the amount of health that dropped was extremely small. In this type of intense battle, the majority of the attacks from the two were either dodged or blocked. The match was in a deadlock and in the blink of an eye, ten minutes had passed.