

Avatar 1071

Chapter 1071: Tyranny's Rookie

Chen Guo said she was going to scold Chang Xian, but she was just saying it. Chang Xian had good intentions, although it was rather depressing that his help ended up doing no good. Chen Guo and Ye Xiu had wasted time and effort going there to not get a sponsor, but they didn't lose anything either, so it wasn't too bad.

So in the call, Chen Guo still expressed her gratitude before giving a simple explanation of why they couldn't get the sponsorship from Ch'ien Tea Green. Then, she asked if Chang Xian had any other recommendations.

Cao Guangcheng, who was listening in, knew that Happy had wasted their time on this and basked in secret delight. He had been Excellent Era's team reporter for all these years, so he naturally knew what the deal with Ch'ien Tea Green was and what kind of person Xia Zhongtian was. He knew from the beginning that Happy wouldn't get anything from Xia Zhongtian. From the phone call, it sounded as if Xia Zhongtian had asked them to visit. This was unexpected. He had thought it would be pretty good if Happy just got no response. He hadn't thought Xia Zhongtian would have called them to visit. He definitely managed to mess with Happy.

Cao Guangcheng found it unfortunate that he couldn't have witnessed it in person. He could only imagine it himself to cheer himself up. He had no idea that although Ye Xiu and Chen Guo had been stood up at their scheduled appointment, in return, they had also bullied Xia Zhongtian for a good while.

Chang Xian wasn't an idiot either. He didn't know about the situation regarding Ch'ien Tea Green, but Cao Guangcheng had followed Excellent Era for so long, so how could he have been ignorant to this? Chang Xian had realized that this was Cao Guangcheng's little trick. But even if he knew, he couldn't do anything about it. Nothing would be gained by arguing about it. Except that this time, he wouldn't ask this senior. After agreeing to Chen Guo's request, he prepared to take a look over things himself.

With what had occurred, Chang Xian realized that it wouldn't be easy for Happy to take Excellent Era's sponsors. However, Chang Xian was clever. If it wasn't convenient for Excellent Era's sponsors to sponsor Happy because of Happy defeating Excellent Era, then what about these sponsors' competitors? If they sponsored Happy, wouldn't that be a win-win situation?

Competition was omnipresent, even in business. Chang Xian decided to bring his thoughts in a different direction and went to look for the competitors of Excellent Era's sponsors. However, this was outside of Chang Xian's area of control. This information wasn't something that Chang Xian had at hand, so it would be slower. Yet he hadn't even managed to do anything before Happy received their first phone call that expressed interest in sponsoring them.

而这电话的来处,则正好证明了常先思路的正确性.

This phone call also managed to justify the logic in Chang Xian's thought process.

Feike.

This was a well-known computer peripheral brand with their keyboards and mouse being the most famous. These two things were doubtlessly the sharpest tool for esports athletes. With how the Glory Alliance flourished, it would be strange if they didn't sponsor anyone. In reality, Feike was already sponsoring a team in the Alliance.

Tyranny!

The team Feike was currently sponsoring was Team Tyranny, who many thought would win the championships. In addition, Feike was the archrival of a peripheral device company sponsoring Excellent Era, Speed Serpent. Speed Serpent chose Excellent Era and Feike chose Tyranny. The sponsors were archenemies as well. What Feike was thinking of when they chose to sponsor Happy was clear as day.

Feike's headquarters weren't in City H. After getting in contact through the call, Feike and Happy had two video meetings to negotiate the sponsorship. Although Happy was a hot topic right now, their fame and influence was nothing compared to Tyranny and Feike's contract for Happy showed their caution. The contract would be a year long for 1,500,000 RMB along with the request that their sponsorship would be put above all others.

The year length of the contract was clearly a representation of Feike's wait-and-see attitude to Happy's continued survival in the Alliance. The request to be considered above all other sponsors showed that they actually had quite a bit of optimism towards this. As for the one and a half million, it wasn't much if you considered the entirety of the Glory circle, but for a team that had just arrived in the Alliance, it was a considerable amount. This was all thanks to how Happy managed to defeat Excellent Era and gain public attention. Otherwise, for other teams that had managed to fight their way back into the Alliance, it wasn't unheard of for them to be completely ignored.

After negotiating back and forth for a while, the sponsorship money was eventually raised to 1,800,000 RMB. The other requirements didn't change. Both sides were very satisfied with this contract. Then, the time came to officially sign the contract. Although this was a small contract, Feike wanted to use Happy's current popularity to hold a press conference for the contract signing. However, the playoffs were still ongoing, and the Glory circle was focused on the competition, so this sort of promotional activity had to be delayed.

After completing the contract with Feike, the business doors to Happy were completely opened. They received more and more calls inquiring about sponsorship. Chang Xian had managed to compile a list of worthwhile sponsors, but by then, Chen Guo was already too busy to initiate any attacks. Just the sponsors that were calling was already making her more than busy. Some were sincere, but some were there to try and profit in the chaos. Some even tried to bully Happy through Happy's lack of experience by directly tricking or scamming them. Some even had no idea what was happening and just called to be a part of the action. Chen Guo was finally finding the feel of running a pro team and being the boss. She hadn't really done much in the past.

At the same time, the playoffs were already at the semifinals. Tyranny versus Tiny Herb, Samsara versus Wind Howl.

The first match was Team Tiny Herb's home game against Team Tyranny.

Team Tiny Herb had gone through a lot of changes this year. The All-Star level account Flying Drops had been sold to Samsara and Tiny Herb's lineup lost a Grappler. The original player of Flying Drops, Li Yihui, had also left the team in summer. Xu Bin, the Grind King from 301 Degrees had taken over the retired Deng Fusheng's Knight, Angelica, and managed to become an All-Star with his excellent performances. Then, prodigy Gao Yingjie had debuted this season, becoming a part of the Witch Duo with his captain, Wang Jiexi. There was also the hand speed expert, Liu Xiaobie, who had grown into a very dependable player. He had been mere steps away from becoming an All-Star this season. Team Tiny Herb was almost had a four All-Star lineup.

As for Tyranny, it wasn't just four All-Stars, but four top Gods of their classes. The only one who was in a little awkward of a position was Lin Jingyan. The other three still counted as the top of their respective classes.

With this lineup, curiosity towards the person in the other position of their starting lineup was aroused.

Since the team competition needed five people to fight at once, who would be the fifth person who stood beside the four gods?

In the summer transfer window, since they were bringing in powerful aces and changing up their lineup, a lot of Tyranny's players and accounts had left. From that time on, everyone had been wondering who would appear beside these four gods, but the one who appeared was a person that no one was familiar with.

Qin Muyun.

Before this season, no one had ever heard this name. He was such a plain and obscure player, yet he had become the last puzzle piece in Tyranny's starting lineup.

Qin Muyun had come from Tyranny's training camp. He hadn't had any sort of fame before this and he was already 21 when he became a part of Tyranny's starting lineup.

This debuting age was rather late. Compared to Lu Hanwen who wasn't even of age yet, he should've been a senior, but now, they were rookies of the same generation.

Qin Muyun had a Sharpshooter character and in this position, Tyranny originally had Wang Chixuan. Wang Chixuan wasn't a God, but he was still a very good player. However, Tyranny still decided to pick Qin Muyun from the training camp, while Wang Chixuan left in the summer transfer window.

What was special about this Qin Muyun? What allowed him to squeeze out this skilled, experienced Wang Chixuan, who was also familiar with the team, making him a core member of the team that stood next to these four Gods?

Everyone held high expectations for Qin Muyun, but soon enough, they were all disappointed.

Qin Muyun gave no striking performances on the field, and the data from each match seemed to point out that he was normal. He was just a very average player.

Soon enough, no one paid him any attention any longer. Rookie? There were more striking rookies this season. Wasn't Team Blue Rain's 14 year old Lu Hanwen a riot right now?

Thus, if you asked who Qin Muyun was, most players would probably shake their heads in confusion.

This was the media, the public's attitude.

However, pro teams wouldn't do this. They wouldn't underestimate any opponents, especially in the playoffs, especially a core member of a team like Tyranny.

Qin Muyun's data was very average, but don't forget who he's standing next to.

Apart from Zhang Xinjie, who was a Cleric, Han Wenqing, Zhang Jiale and Lin Jingyan weren't just normal All-Star players. In their old teams, they were all core DPSers. Next to people like that, what sort of data are you expecting a rookie to the pro league to have?

The media and the players didn't think Qin Muyun important, but Tiny Herb wouldn't do that. A slight mistake might mean that their journey this year would be over.

Thus, against Qin Muyun, Tiny Herb put equal attention in research on him as the four Gods.

Often, in the data for this season, the reports concerning Qin Muyun always started with: this player's data is average but he hasn't met the Rookie's Block.

That's right, he hadn't met the Rookie's Block.

In all nine seasons, only two players had never met the Rookie's Block: Wang Jiexi and Sun Xiang.

Now, a third had appeared, but compared to the previous two, he had very average performances. His lack of Rookie's Block might be because of some objective reasons like, with Tyranny's lineup, the four Gods took too much attention from players and attacks.

Tiny Herb wouldn't reject this sort of possibility, and in reality, they hoped that this was the reason. Otherwise, if it was because Qin Muyun had some sort of hidden talent, then that might become the biggest variable in the match.

The unknown was always the scariest.

Chapter 1072: God of Healing

The public paid great attention to Tyranny and Tiny Herb's opening match. Happy Internet Cafe also continued its tradition of streaming the matches. However, it was no longer convenient for Ye Xiu and the others to watch in the Internet cafe with everyone else. After the Challenger League, they could all be considered famous. Although they couldn't be compared to Gods, getting surrounded on their home turf wouldn't be anything surprising. Thus, Happy stayed at home, using their projector to watch the first match of the semifinals.

By then, the group arena had finished and Team Tiny Herb won 5 to 4. It could be seen how intense the match was just from the results. Each team had fought to their last person.

The players took a break and the broadcast replayed a few spectacular moments from the group arena. Then, it was time for the team competition.

Tiny Herb's starting lineup consisted of Wang Jiexi and Gao Yingjie's Witches, Vaccaria and Kind Tree, Xu Bin's Knight Angelica, Liu Xiaobie's Blade Master, Flying Swords, and Yuan Boqing's Cleric, Aweto.

The player list wasn't anything surprising. This was Tiny Herb's typical starting lineup this season. However, those familiar with Tiny Herb would discuss these characters..

"They're using a Cleric!" There were plenty of voices discussing this.

This was because Team Tiny Herb had two healers, not just one. One was the Cleric in the lineup this time, Aweto, and the other was the character that had made great contributions to Tiny Herb's two championships, Paladin Wind Guard.

During Tiny Herb's two champion seasons, they had a player with the title God of Healing, Fang Shiqian. This player was a dual healer expert, and was immensely skilled in both healer classes. Using a different healer class depending on the circumstances and needs was a large part of Tiny Herb's strategy back then. A Cleric's attack support and a Paladin's defense, Fang Shiqian was able to flawlessly utilize both a more offensive-oriented Cleric and a more defensive-oriented Paladin.

However, in the two matches that brought them their championships as well as when Fang Shiqian was voted into the All-Stars, he had always appeared as Wind Guard's player. So, those who only looked at the data might forget his true identity. However, those who were familiar with Tiny Herb would never forget this point.

Tiny Herb had continued with this style even today. It was just a shame that a player like Fang Shiqian, who could reach the top in both classes, was a rare case. The successor Tiny Herb had found, Yuan Boqing, could also play both classes, but he couldn't reach Fang Shiqian's level. He had trained hard for two whole seasons, but had yet to make any breakthroughs. It always felt like the heart of their adaptable strategy wasn't always quite there. Was there really a value to this strategy anymore? This question had been subject to much debate.

Apart from the five starting players, the sixth player was Zhou Yebai's Ghostblade, Rangoon Creeper. When Qiao Yifan had still been present, Rangoon Creeper was still a pure Phantom Demon, but in accordance to the needs of the team this season, Rangoon Creeper had his skill points reset and became a Hybrid Sword and Phantom Ghostblade. Zhou Yebai seemed to be performing better with the Hybrid Ghostblade, too.

As for Tyranny, the starting five consisted of Han Wenqing's Striker, Desert Dust, Lin Jingyan's Brawler, Dark Thunder, Zhang Jiale's Spitfire, Hundred Dazzling Blossoms, Qin Muyun's Sharpshooter, Negative Nine Degrees, and Zhang Xinjie's Cleric Immovable Rock. Their sixth player was Bai Yanfei's Elementalist, Rota.

Neither lineup held any surprises; they were both using the same lineup they had stayed with throughout the regular season. In the regular season, each team had one victory against the other, both having won their home games. However, the playoffs used a headcount point system, so some went back and took a look at the detailed scoring in the team competitions for the two matches and found that the headcount for the two matches were completely the same as well.

As for the data on their matches prior to that, there was little use in looking that far back because both teams had gone through huge changes in the summer. As for the only matches they had fought this season, the only decisive factors to their victories seemed only to be the home advantage.

This was Tiny Herb's home stadium.

Thus, they had won the group arena by a point, but no one could say how large the home advantage was just yet.

Next up was the team competition. Although the heart of Tiny Herb's Healer Switching Strategy was no longer present, the chosen healer class would still, to some extent, reveal their approach towards the current match.

Clerics focused on offense, Paladin focused on defense, so with the Cleric in the lineup this time, Team Tiny Herb was evidently aiming for a more offense-oriented playstyle. As soon as the match started, they pressed forward.

However, in Tyranny's lineup, Han Wenqing, Zhang Jiale, Lin Jingyan and Zhang Xinjie had all had quite a bit of experience fighting against Fang Shiqian. There was no one more familiar with this strategy of Tiny Herb's than them. Having experienced fighting Fang Shiqian and then experiencing Yuan Boqing, the four felt that it was shame that they evidently weren't on the same level.

Fang Shiqian's title was God of Healing, but in reality, his skill often made people forget he was a healer. His ability to attack and defend was much more troublesome to deal with.

As for Yuan Boqing, no matter if he used a Cleric or a Paladin, he played well, but the deepest impression that he gave people was of his healing.

This was where he differed from Fang Shiqian and the reason why it didn't feel like there was any value in Tiny Herb's use of this strategy.

Tyranny's veterans knew this very clearly. Against Yuan Boqing, they just had to treat him as a normal healer. They didn't think he'd have the ability to give support like Fang Shiqian could and make things hard for them.

The experience of these veterans helped them make a quick decision.

Experience was a treasure and it was the one treasure these veterans were most proud of.

However, experience could sometimes hinder you too because sometimes experience was outdated. This sort of experience wasn't correct for the present and therefore would cause errors in judgement.

The judgement made by Tyranny's veterans had erred this time.

The support from Yuan Boqing's Cleric was causing them trouble to the point that they were reminded of back when they used to fight against Fang Shiqian.

Had this player managed to grow so much?

The veterans of Tyranny were shocked, seeing the old God of Healing's aura around Yuan Boqing's Aweto.

This was an oversight and this sort of oversight would always have a price.

Tiny Herb won the team competition.

The headcount points weren't important any longer. Having already won the group arena, there was no need to calculate the points to know that Tiny Herb was the victor of the opening match.

Public opinion of Tyranny's chances at the championship title were highest this season, but being defeated by Team Tiny Herb wasn't exactly completely unexpected.

In the post-match press conference, the veterans of Tyranny seemed calm.

"Tiny Herb played well." There would always be words that needed to be said out of courtesy.

"Every person will achieve growth every season. Some are noticed but others are ignored." There was no explicit mention of anyone's name, but in reality, Tyranny was scolding themselves.

The lineup for Tiny Herb's team competition this year truly was full of the air of growth.

Gao Yingjie and Xu Bin were both first-timers in the All-Stars, so that didn't need explanation. Apart from them, Liu Xiaobie was no longer that player who brainlessly used his hand speed. He was only a step away from the All-Stars, too. Amongst this striking growth, Yuan Boqing had been overlooked. Had he managed to master the key to Fang Shiqin's title of God of Healing without notice?

"Everyone performed well this match, but Yuan Boqing's performance was the key to our victory. He performed amazingly with his support, suppressing our opponents. He guided us to victory this time." When Tiny Herb went up for the press conference, captain Wang Jiexi didn't bother hiding his admiration of Yuan Boqing's performance this time.

This was a surge that no one had ever expected before the match.

Everyone was more willing to look at those famous Gods or the players that had striking performances in the past. Qin Muyun was the silently ignored fifth, and Yuan Boqing was often overlooked.

The victory of this match had been decided by this overlooked player. Discussions about him continued throughout the night.

Then, the match on the following day was practically the antonym of Tiny Herb and Tyranny's match.

The one who was key to victory this time was the God that everyone had been paying attention to and eagerly waiting to see.

Zhou Zekai, it was still Zhou Zekai.

This extremely silent and shy player off the field had become an uncounterable presence on the field.

Everyone knew to take him seriously. Everyone was trying to find a way to deal with him. Everyone was making arrangements to counter him, but it was no use. The Zhou Zekai on the field was just ever-triumphant like that. Team Wind Howl had exhibited a fierce momentum in this season. Their ace player Tang Hao was a fearless person who could say "the junior will succeed the senior" in the Rookie Challenge. But they were defeated.

In their home game, Wind Howl was destroyed by Samsara.

There was no need for much tactical analysis. Samsara's victory and Wind Howl's defeat only had one reason.

Uncounterable.

Zhou Zekai was uncounterable.

All the players that wanted to defeat him all ended up defeated by him. Those who wanted to suppress him with tactics would only end up the one being suppressed.

With this sort of defeat, Wind Howl could only accept it.

In the post-match press conference, captain Tang Hao only said one sentence: "Next time, we'll win."

This was determination. This was his attitude.

But, how would they win? No one could tell. Not even his teammates seemed to have much enthusiasm when Tang Hao said that. Did Tang Hao himself even believe what he was saying? People were doubtful.

The mighty Wind Howl had been dealt a direct hit by Samsara.

The team that most people were placing their bets on getting the championship, Tyranny, had been defeated because of an abrupt outbreak from an overlooked player.

The Four Heavenly King's combo wasn't undefeatable.

Zhou Zekai, on the other hand, really didn't seem to have a counter.

Who would the champions be?

Chapter 1073: Veterans and Rookies

The first round of the semifinals had cast a shadow over Team Tyranny, whose chances at the championship seemed to be the highest. Last year's champions, Team Samsara, had managed to take a firm step on their path to defend their championship with their impressive performance.

Soon enough, the second round of matches of the semifinals began and Tyranny and Samsara met Tiny Herb and Wind Howl respectively on their home turfs.

In the group arena, Team Tyranny won 5 to 3.

The veterans wouldn't fall just because of one loss. They had experienced too many victories and defeats, and no matter which one it was, it would become their motivation to go on.

The veterans performed powerfully in the group arena, ending it at their fourth player, Han Wenqing.

Then, in the team competition that followed, Yuan Boqing became a focal point. How would the player who had exhibited the air of the God of Healing last match perform this time?

In this match, Yuan Boqing used the Cleric Aweto once more.

Logically speaking, you would be more cautious and defensive in an away game, which suited a Paladin's style more, but Tiny Herb still chose to use a Cleric.

This was a sort of attitude. It seemed like Tiny Herb didn't want to drag this out to the third round. They wanted to take their final victory in this away game. They would probably fight even more fiercely in the team competition.

That's what everyone thought, but Tyranny didn't seem to think that way.

Was it another oversight?

Of course not, they were just continuing at their own pace, completely unaffected by their opponent's changes in tactics.

This time, they would pay more attention to Yuan Boqing's Cleric, but not too much. This was because they knew very clearly that Yuan Boqing wasn't Tiny Herb's core. Even if the actual God of Healing Fang Shiqian was on the field, Team Tiny Herb's core was still forever another.

Wang Jiexi, Vaccaria!

This was Team Tiny Herb's true core. Don't even dream of the veterans of Tyranny overlooking this order of importance.

At the beginning of the match, Team Tyranny immediately launched a fierce assault. Under the cover of Zhang Jiale's Hundred Blossom Style, Han Wenqing's Desert Dust darted into the enemy's formation.

Zhang Jiale managed to integrate himself into Tyranny extremely quickly, extremely smoothly. Some people said that this might have been because Tyranny's captain, Han Wenqing, had a very similar style to Zhang Jiale's old partner, Sun Zheping, so Zhang Jiale easily found a place on the field.

Then, whenever there would be the slightest opening, another figure would appear to patch it up.

Dark Thunder, Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder. Speaking of fame, Lin Jingyan was the one with the least fame in Tyranny's four Gods. Speaking of ability, he was also the one whose ability was slipping the most clearly, having already been surpassed by his junior. No longer being the tactical core, he had much more room and choice in his play. When there was Zhang Jiale's Hundred Blossom Style to provide cover, he would hide within and throw a few sneak attacks. When Han Wenqing's Desert Dust couldn't come over, he could turn into a strong DPSer. The Brawler class was one that was suited to multiple styles and its potential was fully unleashed under the hands of an old veteranlike Lin Jingyan.

Team Tyranny launched a powerful offense. They would no longer overlook any player in Tiny Herb, but they wouldn't cast away their own style aside either. They had to keep the tempo at their pace, otherwise they would be led around by the nose. Team Tyranny held the initiative from the very beginning, accumulating advantages and walking towards victory step by step. As for their Master Tactician, Zhang Xinjie carefully watched over the entire battlefield. He was like a machine, always making sure to minimize possible mistakes. This sort of healer was the most secure shield at your back.

Victory!

Tyranny eventually managed to earn back a victory on their home turf.

Yuan Boqing, who had been the center of focus before the match, had performed well as well. It was just that, this time, he wasn't a surprise for Tyranny anymore. To a group of people who had experience fighting Fang Shiqian, Yuan Boqing wasn't an uncounterable presence for them.

In the post-match press conference, the words of Tiny Herb's captain, Wang Jiexi, were very cliché, but were also an accurate depiction of the match. "We played well, but our opponents did better."

Just like when the two teams fought in the regular season, neither side committed any serious mistakes that had clearly affected the victory of the match. Everyone had performed well, they exchanged blows, slowly accumulating their advantage until, in the end, Tiny Herb fell and Tyranny still stood.

Tiny Herb and Tyranny had fought to a tie, 1 to 1, and needed to use the third and last match to decide their victory. It would be held on Tyranny's turf, but they wouldn't have the right to choose the map.

In the other match of the second round of the semifinals, Samsara fought their home game against Wind Howl.

Wind Howl, who had lost their home game, was obviously not in the right headspace for this match. Although their captain Tang Hao had expressed a determined attitude after the last match, the fact that Team Wind Howl lacked playoffs experience was clear in this match. They weren't like Tyranny's veterans who could face a loss with such ease, their mindsets remaining unaffected. The young members of Wind Howl had been obviously over cautious and hesitant. Their uncertainty in tactical decisions were extremely apparent.

The Wind Howl of the regular season pressed forward with determination. They were fearless, and their spirit was indomitable. However, in the playoffs, they began to become afraid. This was because the rules of the playoffs were different. A single loss might cut off their future path and turn all their efforts to dust. Now, they were standing at such a crossroads. Victory meant that they might be able to survive, but failure meant that everything would end there.

This sort of pressure wasn't something that was present in the regular season. They had managed a smooth journey in the first round of the playoffs, crushing Misty Rain in two rounds and entering the semifinals. That was all until they had lost their home game to Samsara in the first round of the semifinals. Team Wind Howl had suddenly fallen into a dire situation.

The pressure they were under caused the members of Wind Howl to panic. Even though they had a veteran like Fang Rui, he couldn't save the whole team. Fang Rui wasn't the head of this team, and his dirty playstyle wasn't one that gave him any advantage in boosting everyone's morale.

The second round ended in Team Wind Howl's defeat. Team Samsara walked towards the finals with their heads high and shoulders back, and Wind Howl? They had caught everyone's attention during this season, yet ended on such a pathetic note. All the players who hated Tang Hao's attitude were delighted.

However, Wind Howl was young, no matter if it was Tang Hao or Zhao Yuzhe, they still had plenty of time to fight for what they wanted. It all depended on if they could learn something from their defeat or not.

After two rounds of the semifinals, Samsara had managed to get into the finals, while Tiny Herb and Tyranny would have to duke it out in a third round.

After three days, the final match between the two began on Tyranny's turf and a foreign map. The two had been careful from the group arena, eventually fighting to each of their last members again. In the end, it was Tiny Herb that won 5 to 4, taking the lead.

Entering the team competition with a lead of 1 point was still some form of an advantage. However, in the team competition, Tiny Herb, who had the lead, seemed to be even more cautious than Tyranny.

On a foreign map, the two sides didn't rush to fight. The characters of both team were scattered across the map, but within supporting distance. It seemed that they were trying to get a hold of the terrain before striking.

After two minutes, the two sides still hadn't met, but they had swapped places. Tiny Herb's characters were all in Tyranny's half of the map while Tyranny's characters had all come to the side of the map Tiny Herb started on. Both sides continued to scout out the map.

The first contact between the two sides finally occurred then.

It only occurred, but it didn't erupt because the contact they had was rather shameless. Team Tyranny's Lin Jingyan had seen Tiny Herb's Aweto as he wandered across the map and dexterously hid his character, Dark Thunder. He didn't immediately find a chance to attack and carefully began to tail the other instead. At the same time, he kept up a string of messages to the team chat, reporting on what was occurring. Team Tyranny began to make a tactical movement. All the characters closed in on Aweto's position.

However, the audience could see with their omniscient view that even if Tyranny successfully trapped Aweto, they would only be able to steal the initiative. It wouldn't be so easily to take out Aweto in one wave. This was because Tiny Herb's characters weren't scattered at random. They were all within supporting distance. If anyone sent out a message for help. Other characters would be there to support them within seconds.

However, Team Tyranny's members weren't impatient either. Their characters arrived at the appointed positions one by one, but no one rushed forwards to attack. Even when all five had arrived, they were still adjusting their positions.

Tiny Herb's possible support was all within their expectations! Their current arrangement was made to restrict this sort of support. With these veterans, they would still pry out openings even if there were none. Now that this chance had appeared in front of them, they had to take hold of it firmly. Everything had to be prepared before they struck.

These adjustments without any sort of direct clash was boring to watch. However, any spectator with a bare minimum knowledge in Glory would feel the tension in this situation.

Was it time to strike?

They could strike, right?

Are they still not going to strike?

Countless spectators felt that the time was ripe again and again, but reality told them, again and again, that these veterans of Tyranny were far calmer than they. With these three veterans and the careful and precise Master Tactician Zhang Xinjie, did Team Tyranny intend to make a flawless arrangement?

There was no such thing as a flawless arrangement on the battlefield. What Zhang Xinjie hoped to do was simply minimize the chances of an accident occurring.

"Forward!" The order appeared into the chat.

Bang, the sound of a sniper rifle split the air. Qin Muyun had been aiming for a while now, and finally shot upon receiving this order.

With that gunshot, he was exposed. However, once the battle started, everyone would be exposed. Tyranny's arrangements were made to deal with what would happen after they were exposed. The five characters had already charged forth as one.

Chapter 1074: Tyranny's Tempo

The spectators could see everything far more clearly than any of the players.

The ten characters had originally been scattered around the map, but after the gunshot, all of them suddenly headed towards the same location. In the blink of an eye, blossoms sprouted all around the map as battles formed. Only now did spectators realize Team Tyranny's intentions. Team Tyranny didn't seem to be targeting Team Tiny Herb's Cleric, Aweto. Their aim was to cut off Aweto's connection with everyone else. Battles had bloomed all over the map. Yuan Boqing suddenly discovered that there was nothing for him to do. Tyranny had led all of the conflicts away from him.

Where do I go?

For an instant, Yuan Boqing was faced with this question. There were sounds of battle all around him. Which location should he go assist?

Fortunately, an order quickly came from the team chat. It wasn't just him. All of Team Tiny Herb was heading towards a single rendezvous point. Since Tyranny had started these waves of attacks, there was no need to question who held the initiative at the moment. Tiny Herb clearly didn't want to start a fight with Tyranny under these circumstances. If they did, they would only fall into Tyranny's tempo.

First, group up. Then, counterattack!

Wang Jiexi's decision was clear and precise, but it wasn't anything surprising.

This type of response was completely within Tyranny's plans. In a map with lots of dips and slopes like this one, a player's line of sight would often be blocked. No one could see the entire situation with just a glance. The only ones who could were the spectators, who possessed an omniscient view of the map.

The spectators could see that Tiny Herb's attempt to convene together would be obstructed because of this. Tyranny cut off Tiny Herb's characters from each other. They didn't immediately choose a main target to attack. They made adjustments according to the situation.

Team Tyranny moved quickly. The communication going on in their team chat was also very rapid. They used concise but comprehensive words to communicate. Only the most coordinated teammates could instantly understand the meanings behind their short messages. As for the spectators, they could only see a bunch of letters and numbers being spewed out. They had no idea what anyone in Tyranny was saying.

However, they could still see the results of their communication.

In the end, Team Tiny Herb's players were successfully partitioned off from each other. Gao Yingjie's Kind Tree and Liu Xiaobie's Flying Sword were cut out and pushed towards a location that Tyranny wanted them to be at.

"Attack!"

Another order. This time, Tyranny was truly attacking now.

Dazzling Hundred Blossom's attacks instantly swallowed up that location. Zhang Jiale never attacked solely to damage the target. Oftentimes, he would provide cover for others. The brilliant lights only hit the ground, but who would be coming out from the light? Would it be Han Wenqing's Desert Dust? Would it be Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder? Or would it be no one?

No matter what the choice was, the opposing players needed to be on guard. The purpose of Zhang Jiale's Hundred Blossoms Style was to confuse the opponents and have them question what decision to make. This time, under the cover of the Hundred Blossoms Style, Han Wenqing's Desert Dust shot out.

Liu Xiaobie reacted extremely quickly. Flying Sword brandished his sword and welcomed Desert Dust. Without any hesitation, he unleashed his explosive hand speed.

Against a waning old general at the end of his career, explosive hand speed was a smart way to match his biggest strength against his opponent's biggest weakness. Liu Xiaobie knew what the current situation was, so he wasn't polite at all.

The crowd exclaimed in surprise at Liu Xiaobie's explosiveness. The screen displayed a number. Liu Xiaobie's APM had surpassed 300.

In Glory, each player could only control one character. It wasn't like RTSes, where there was a lot of room to get to a high APM.

300 APM. In Glory, this was already an unimaginable number. For many, it wasn't a question of whether they could move their hands fast enough, but rather what to do with each action. And right now, Liu Xiaobie's 300 APM was just a starting point. It was still going up.

Shadow Steps!

The moment Flying Sword clashed with Desert Dust, seven shadows split up. With the level cap increasing along with Liu Xiaobie's frightening hand speed, what players could only dream of had been achieved in just an instant. Each and every shadow seemed real. Which one was real? Which one was fake? Perhaps not even an experienced God like Han Wenqing could distinguish them in a short amount of time.

As a result, he simply didn't bother trying.

Playing rock-paper-scissors with his opponent wasn't his style. He was always simple and direct. Seven shadows? Desert Dust charged past them directly towards Gao Yingjie's Kind Tree.

Liu Xiaobie immediately had Flying Sword turn around and chased after him with a sword slash. But when he turned around, a Brick flew out from the cover of Dazzling Hundred Blossom's light cover. In the next moment, the Hundred Blossoms Style stopped being just a simple cover and swallowed up

Flying Sword. The viewers could see Flying Sword's health rapidly dropping. Liu Xiaobie and his explosive hand speed had been denied by these two seniors simply and easily.

As for Liu Xiaobie, after being engulfed by the Hundred Blossoms Style, the damage was secondary. More importantly, he felt like he couldn't see anything. Slowly, he started getting used to it and saw Dark Thunder. When Liu Xiaobie saw an enemy, he got ready to rush forward. Suddenly, a white light blazed around his body. A Sacred Fire had been cast beneath his feet.

Dazzling Hundred Blossom's interference must be stopped!

Liu Xiaobie was still clear-headed. Tyranny was a formidable opponent that they had already fought two matches against in the playoffs. At this point, both sides had a good grasp of each other's methods. Hundred Blossoms Style must be cut off from the source. If not, they would be harrassed endlessly. It would be delusional to think that this cover was also a cover for him. That type of Hundred Blossom Style would just be a fake. The Hundred Blossoms Style from Zhang Jiale was absolutely a targeted one. It wasn't just cycling through different skills to produce a dazzling effect. Whatever attack came out and wherever that attack hit had careful thinking behind it. As a result, those who were locked down by a true Hundred Blossom Style would be the only ones locked down. Only Tyranny's players and the spectators would be able to clearly see the situation when a true Hundred Blossom Style was unleashed.

Liu Xiaobie determined Dazzling Hundred Blossom's position. He ignored his silenced skills and rushed over. Zhang Jiale obviously wasn't going to let him come close. He attacked while retreating, maintaining the distance between the two of them. Several seconds soon passed, and the silence on Flying Sword wore off. Liu Xiaobie sprinted forward and activated Triple Slash. Sword light flashed in a straight line along with a handful of sand towards it.

Liu Xiaobie's hand speed really was fast. Without any delay, he was able to tilt his Flying Sword's head a bit. However, a Brick immediately followed and hit the back of his head.

Liu Xiaobie wanted to cry. This Lin Jingyan hadn't been so dirty back when he played on Wind Howl. But after coming to Tyranny, his style had changed a lot.

After being put into a Dizzy state, how could Flying Sword be in a good spot? A new wave of attacks suddenly washed over him. His teammate, Gao Yingjie, had noticed that the situation wasn't looking good a long time ago. He had been trying to come over to rescue him, but escaping from Han Wenqing couldn't be accomplished with just a sweep of his broom.

Tiny Herb's other three members had convened without a hitch. But then, they immediately received messages from Liu Xiaobie and Gao Yingjie. And at this moment, the three could still hear sounds of gunfire nearby. Tyranny's fifth player, Qin Muyun, was a Sharpshooter. He deceitfully misled Tiny Herb. By the time Tiny Herb reacted, the team had already been split into two.

The three immediately went to rescue their teammates. Qin Muyun obviously couldn't stop them alone. He could only hinder them a bit. But by the time the three rushed over, Liu Xiaobie's Flying Sword was on the brink of death. Yuan Boqing hastily had his Aweto go over to save him, but to his surprise, Dazzling Hundred Blossom's attacks instantly enshrouded them. With his sight blocked, Yuan Boqing was unable to find Flying Sword's location.

On the other hand, Liu Xiaobie's vision suddenly became clear. His spirit rose. Even though he didn't have much health left, he still went after Zhang Xinjie's Cleric, Immovable Rock.

Bang!

A gunshot.

Tiny Herb's three players arrived. Tyranny's Qin Muyun naturally returned to his team as well. When he returned, he saw an opening and accurately shot Flying Sword's head with a Thunder Snipe. Thunder Snipe's hidden effect: headshots dealt double damage. A spurt of blood flew out from Flying Sword's head. This attack looked as if it actually blew up his head as Flying Sword fell. In the team competition, Team Tyranny won the first point.

Killing Flying Sword gave Tyranny a numbers advantage for a short period of time. They didn't waste it and immediately began attacking.

With an advantage already established, these old generals definitely wouldn't let it go to waste. In this instant, they seemed to have forgotten their age. Just like Liu Xiaobie, they disregarded everything else and burst out with explosive hand speed. On the screen, the statistics showed that the APM from the players on the two teams rose and rose. The intensity of the battle could be seen just from these statistics. Team Tiny Herb's captain Wang Jiexi had broken through to the 350-400 APM range. His Magician style was originally a style that required a lot of actions.

Tiny Herb was able to get their sixth player into the battle intact, but intact was just in terms of the number of their players. Tyranny still dealt Tiny Herb a huge amount of damage during this time. Tyranny's old generals knew how to utilize their numbers advantage. Even though they weren't able to kill off anyone in Tiny Herb, their advantage only increased with this wave of attacks.

Five versus five. Tyranny slowed down their tempo. Competing hand speeds wasn't their strong point. Seizing an opening to do a single wave of attacks was fine, but if they tried to keep up that hand speed, these old generals would be dying.

The advantage had been established. As a result, Tyranny did not try to end it in one go and instead slowed down to play the long game with Tiny Herb. As the two went back and forth, many viewers discovered that Team Tyranny's Qin Muyun received a very pitiful amount of healing. It was as if he was being intentionally cast away.

This type of slip-up wouldn't happen to someone like Zhang Xinjie. This was a tactical decision. Those with a certain amount of Glory knowledge could determine that Team Tyranny was trying to switch out their player. Even though Team Tyranny had slowed down, they did their utmost to maintain their advantage.

Surely and steadily, Qin Muyun successfully swapped out with their sixth player Bai Yanfei. The healing saved by not healing Qin Muyun was effectively distributed to the other four, so their conditions were very good. The full health and full mana sixth player on Tyranny swapped with their dead Sharpshooter, Negative Nine Degrees, and Tyranny's advantage moved one step further.

In the end, Tyranny didn't let their advantage go. In the team competition, Tyranny beat Tiny Herb 6 to 3, winning the semifinals 10 to 8 and progressing to the finals.

Chapter 1075: A Samsara You Shouldn't Underestimate

"Congrats to Tyranny, I wish them luck!"

In the post-match press conference, Tiny Herb's captain, Wang Jiexi, put a full stop to Tiny Herb's journey this season with a well wish for their opponent. Even though they failed to reach the end this season, everyone had seen Tiny Herb's future. Xu Bin, Liu Xiaobie, Gao Yingjie, all of Tiny Herb's players had talent; they were all young, with much room to grow. Even Yuan Boqing, who had been rather overlooked, had shown everyone something amazing in the match. There was also their captain, Wang Jiexi. Even though he wouldn't be able to stay in his peak state for too much longer, he had valuable experience that he could use to help his team. He would always be Tiny Herb's pillar.

As for Tyranny?

"Next up, the finals!"

Captain Han Wenqing's brief but clear words showed everyone the team's determination. Why these veterans all got together and what this was all for was clear as day. Now, they had come this far. Only two victories stood between them and the championship. Even the opponent they had just beaten had sincerely wished them well.

The announcement regarding the finals quickly spread. This was the annual *crème de la crème* match in the entire Glory circle. It was just a shame that Samsara and Tyranny didn't have anything between them to really talk about. The players of the two teams didn't have any particularly striking past clashes and relationships that could be discussed either.

This was purely a fight to be the champions. On one side was the veterans who had allied together to achieve their long-awaited dream. On the other side, it was the defending champions who wanted to build a new dynasty.

Tyranny was very focused on performing as a whole, while Samsara was always known as a one-man team. This seemed to also be a clash of two kinds of ideals in Glory. Who would be the champions?

With the finals being promoted everywhere, there would obviously be public polls in regards to who would win. In the end, Team Tyranny held a whopping 72.65 percent, far ahead of Samsara.

However, over at Happy, Ye Xiu couldn't give an answer to Chen Guo's question of "who do you think will win?"

"They both have a chance. It wouldn't be surprising for either of them to win" was how Ye Xiu answered.

This was the most rational answer.

Although Team Tyranny had won an extreme high percentage of votes in the public poll, most of the votes were an emotional decision. Team Tyranny's veterans didn't have many more chances. Their fight, backs to the water, was a moving tale for people. In addition, Tyranny was filled with widely renown names. On paper, their lineup couldn't be more magnificent.

The 72.65 percent vote was more of a hope and support. The gap between Samsara and Tyranny's combative ability wasn't nearly as absurd as the poll made it out to be.

One man team?

This mocking title was a underestimation of Samsara's abilities. However, out of the in the pro scene, how many people would actually agree with this phrase?

In their eyes, the idea of a one man team was no more than a joke.

Samsara definitely wasn't a one man team. It was just because Zhou Zekai was too strong, too striking, too eye-catching, that there would be the illusion of a one man team. Team Samsara was also a very talented team. Their entire team could keep up with Zhou Zekai's pace, and that was already the best proof.

Although they sometimes relied on Zhou Zekai's forceful momentum to take the upper hand, seeming like they had no strategy, in reality, this forcefulness was a unique strategy of Samsara's, a strategy that only they - having the uncounterable Zhou Zekai - could use, a strategy that many teams wished they could use too.

The only people who underestimated Team Samsara because of the saying "one man team" were all clueless outsiders. This sort of mistake would never happen in Team Tyranny. They would carefully gauge Samsara's strength.

The uncounterable Zhou Zekai. That was what everyone would think of when Samsara was mentioned. But apart from that? Had anyone realized that, out of the semifinalists, Samsara's lineup was the most stable?

The other three teams had all gone through massive changes in the summer. Only Samsara kept their original lineup, a lineup that stayed the same for three whole years. This sort of stability was something the other semifinalist didn't have.

Apart from that, Samsara's skill point advantage was extremely apparent in the last playoffs. After this season, it was no longer a secret. But, even if it wasn't a secret, what could they do about it? You could only keep in mind and beware of this sort of solid advantage, but you would never be able to get rid of it.

When people thought of Zhou Zekai the moment Samsara was mentioned, they hadn't noticed that they had covered up a lot of other terrifying aspects about Samsara with the Zhou Zekai Halo. Jiang Botao, ranked five in the All-Stars, seemed to be just a random passerby under the Zhou Halo, never mind the thirteenth ranked Lu Boyuan.

On Samsara's side, they also had three All-Star players, and they were all in their peak years of their career. Tyranny's four All-Stars was a number advantage, but if you considered their age and state, was this four against three any significant advantage?

"How it will end up will be decided by the match." That was the judgement Ye Xiu gave in the end. By then, Tyranny and Samsara's players were already standing on the stage.

The first round of the finals would be held in City S, Samsara's home turf. There wasn't a single empty seat in the stadium. In the group arena that had just finished, Samsara took a lead of 5 to 4. It wasn't a big advantage, but the venue exploded with excitement from it. The fans filled the stadium, raising their self-made flags and signs, eagerly anticipating their team's second championship. The lineups for the team competition were already being broadcasted through the PA system.

Team Samsara: Zhou Zekai's Sharpshooter, Cloud Piercer; Jiang Botao's Spellblade, Empty Waves; Lu Boyuan's Grappler, Chaotic Cloudy Mountain; Wu Qi's Assassin, Cruel Silence; Fang Minghua's Cleric, Laughing Song; Du Ming's Blade Master, Moon Luring Frost.

A lineup that had stayed the same for three years, the lineup that had taken last year's championship. When they came out, the entire venue erupted with thunderous cheers.

Tyranny didn't give everyone any surprises either. The four gods would obviously be fighting. Their fifth player was still the ever lowkey Qin Muyun and his Sharpshooter, Negative Nine Degrees. The sixth player was Bai Yanfei and his Elementalist, Rota. This was also the lineup they had stayed with throughout the playoffs.

The players entered their competition booths and, soon enough, the match that would decide the finals began.

As the home team, Samsara had taken the initiative ever since the group arena, and the team competition was no different. They had only just loaded when the entire team flew towards the center of the map, as if not wanting to waste a single second.

However, the visiting team, Tyranny, also showed a vigor that didn't lose to the home team. As soon as they were loaded, they also sped straight for the center of the map.

"Wow, this... both sides seem very impatient!!"

The commentators for the broadcast were also very surprised at the scene before them. In the finals, the final battleground that a year of hard work had taken them to, even the most fierce and eager teams would gain a hint of caution. This was because the results of this match were too important. Most teams would first consider how to establish a secure advantage and then carefully execute their plans for victory. However, right now, Samsara and Tyranny were both charging forward boldly, seeming like they wanted to end this battle as soon as possible. They were treating the saying "the nameless finals" as a joke**.

Clash!

An intense clash!

The gunners of each team fired the moment they got into shooting range. However, on one side, it was the Great Gunner of Glory, while on the other side, it was a barely known rookie. The disparity between them was large enough that even the commentators didn't have the heart to call it a face off. However, soon after, Dazzling Hundred Blossoms' Hundred Blossom Style covered the area with flashing lights. Tyranny had began their breakthrough into Samsara's formation under the cover of these explosions.

Team Samsara didn't show any form of weakness, Jiang Botao's Empty Waves immediately set down two Wave Formations, creating a hard to penetrate barrier, but the light and shadows of Hundred Blossoms Style immediately came down on them.

They wanted to brute force their way through?

Tyranny's unyielding momentum was rather unexpected for Samsara. Although the Wave Formations of Spellblades didn't have all sorts of status inducing attacks, they had far higher damage output than Ghost Boundaries. Charging through the Wave Formations, they wanted to launch an offense regardless of the damage they had to take.

However, this adhered to Team Tyranny's usual attitude!

Didn't this team always charge forth no matter what obstacles there were? Just two Wave Formations wouldn't scare them.

Then, what about two more?

Jiang Botao wasn't stingy with his skills at all, immediately sending out two more Wave Formations.

Light, darkness, ice and fire.

Wave Formations of the four great elements overlapped and shone, clashing with the Hundred Blossom lights and creating chaos. Lu Boyuan's Chaotic Cloudy Mountains and Wu Qi's Cruel Silence were hidden outside the Wave Formations, waiting to ambush whoever charged out.

Who would have expected that no one jumped out of the flashing lights and, instead, the flashing lights moved forward.

The lights of the Hundred Blossoms Style were all Spitfire skills, and all dealt damage. Lu Boyuan and Wu Qi had to back away. However, after that, the two took a side each simultaneously, going around the Hundred Blossom Style's light cover to get to Dazzling Hundred Blossoms. No one expected that the two would be welcomed with two powerful skills upon going around.

Ferocious Tiger Flurry!

Tyrannical Chain Punch!

The moment those two characters went around the light cover, the two Fighter class characters of Tyranny charged forth. Desert Dust punched and kicked, forcing Cruel Silence into a retreat. As for the Grappler, Chaotic Cloudy Mountain, who was good at grab skills, he had been pressed into the ground and beaten by Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder.

The two characters weren't hiding within the lights?

Then what about Dazzling Hundred Blossoms?

The Hundred Blossom Style lights were still advancing, but there was no sign of Dazzling Hundred Blossoms. There was only one possibility; the one advancing under the cover of the lights was Dazzling Hundred Blossoms himself.

"Be careful!!" The two hastily sent the message.

Misjudging Dazzling Hundred Blossom's positioning meant that they had misjudged the area Hundred Blossoms Style could affect. So in the next moment, the lights of Hundred Blossoms seemed to have teleported, suddenly appearing farther away and directly onto Samsara's Cleric, Laughing Song. But this time, Dazzling Hundred Blossoms wasn't providing cover for anyone or hindering visibility. He had launched a fierce offensive on Samsara's Cleric. Team Tyranny's opening was shocking. Dazzling Hundred Blossoms had covered for himself and charged into shooting range before directly unleashing a strong assault on the opponent's Cleric.

"We have to win!!!" Zhang Jiale roared. The light cover left Dazzling Hundred Blossoms right before he darted past Empty Waves, shooting at Laughing Song as he ran.

Chapter 1076: Samsara's Weakness

Laughing Song took heavy damage.

Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms wasn't someone who only knew how to protect his teammates through a light screen. After Sun Zheping retired, he had to be the main attacker and a support for his teammates. He had put Team Hundred Blossoms on his back and had carried them forward. Now, he had reliable teammates helping restrict the opponents, allowing Zhang Jiale to concentrate on attacking and dealing serious damage to his target.

No one would have imagined that Samsara would be torn apart and be forced to sell their healer as soon as the match started. Jiang Botao's Empty Waves immediately went back to rescue their healer. However, those who were following Samsara this match, whether it was the viewers or the cameraman, couldn't help but look for for a certain player.

Where's Zhou Zekai?

Where's his Cloud Piercer?

Zhou Zekai was obviously still alive. His Cloud Piercer had decisively turned back. Rescuing their healer was obviously Samsara's biggest priority at the moment. But under the explosiveness of the Hundred Blossoms Style, Zhou Zekai's long-ranged attacks were significantly weakened. He was unable to clearly make out his target's location. He could only rely on his intuition and instinct to attack. In comparison, Jiang Botao's Empty Waves was closer. Moreover, for Spellblades, whether it was their magic wave swords or magic wave formations, all of them were ranged AoE attacks. Even if he didn't know his target's exact location, he could still throw out his skill in the general direction.

The moment Empty Waves turned around, Jiang Botao saw something flicker from below him. He immediately looked down and saw that a Grenade had rolled to his feet.

Jiang Botao hastily leaped backwards. As Empty Waves was pushed back by the shockwave from the Grenade, sounds of gunfire could be heard. Bullets rained down on him.

Negative Nine Degrees?

When did he get here?

Jiang Botao was surprised. A strange feeling arose in his heart.

He suddenly realized that after Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees shot two times when the two sides collided, he had no impression of what Negative Nine Degrees had done since then. This type of invisibility shouldn't exist in the finals. In the finals, everyone was fighting with all they had. How could there be a cheerleader among them?

But the moment he tried to rescue their healer, Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees suddenly appeared. And Jiang Botao didn't seem to know when he got into such a perfect position.

A rain of gunfire forced Jiang Botao back. After Desert Dust and Dark Thunder tossed aside the two characters that they had been pinning down, they rushed towards this location. Zhang Jiale's attacks were just the prelude. Next was the follow up. Tyranny seemed to be planning on directly sending off Samsara's healer in one go.

How could Samsara let Tyranny do as they pleased!

Jiang Botao's Empty Waves slashed with an Earthquake Sword, blocking off these two characters.

Even though Spellblades wore high defence plate armor and were Swordsman, extremely close-combat wasn't their strong point. When Jiang Botao saw Desert Dust close in, he instinctively stepped back twice. However, Desert Dust's charge had been a bluff. As soon as Empty Waves retreated, Desert Dust seized this opening to directly pass him. Lin Jingyan didn't fall behind. His Dark Thunder ran even more smoothly than Desert Dust.

I was tricked!

Han Wenqing's bluff didn't only trick Jiang Botao. Most of the viewers were astonished when they saw Desert Dust's bluff. This wasn't how the champion of Tyranny played.

For the championship title, how much had Tyranny's players sacrificed?

Zhang Jiale carried the burden of a blackened name. Lin Jingyan abandoned his position as the core of a team. Even Han Wenqing had let go of his courageous and stubborn style that had never changed since the start of his career.....

All of them had changed. The only thing that hadn't changed was their desire to be champions!

"Forward!!!"

The two Fighter classes entered the fray. Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms suddenly turned. A light flashed from his gun and flew towards Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer. Team Tyranny's coordination was loose yet tight, completely controlling the pace of the battle.

Tyranny fought ferociously. However, their fighting was not at all reckless.

Rapidly closing in for a melee battle seemed a bit impatient for an away team. However, Team Tyranny's speed wasn't just fast. It was a speed that reached the pinnacle. The two sides quickly entered a chaotic brawl. What was Samsara's home game advantage? It was their familiarity and utilization of the map. But by rapidly forcing the two sides to fight an intense battle, Samsara wasn't given any time to utilize the map and utilize their tactics. Samsara could only rely on their instinct and intuition to counter. This was the importance of having the initiative. In this match, Team Tyranny gave every team a thorough lesson on how to quickly and tyrannically seize the initiative.

Four minutes and forty seven seconds into the match, the home team's Cleric, Laughing Song, was killed. No one could have expected this result. Healers were too crucial in a team competition. They were absolutely the most protected team members. In a high level match, attacking the healer was an extremely important goal. However, the strategies for that were usually to restrict the healer. It was very rare for a healer to be directly taken out in one go.

But in the finals, in this match that represented the pinnacle of Glory, Team Tyranny achieved it in 4 minutes 47 seconds. Was this a record? Data needed to be pulled up to check. However, Samsara's home stadium was already in complete silence. Everyone in the crowd was dumbstruck. Everyone knew what it meant to have the healer taken away. If this wasn't an important match, people could understand if the team typed GG and then forfeited. However, this was the finals. It was the final stage after one year of struggles. No one would choose to give up so easily.

Without a healer, it could be said that Samsara had less burden on them. At least, they didn't have to constantly need to defend a key character. When Laughing Song fell, Samsara immediately let loose a fierce counterattack. No one held back. Samsara quickly obtained solid results. One of Tyranny's players fell, Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees.

But a strange feeling once again arose in Jiang Botao's heart.

When Negative Nine Degrees was there, it was like he couldn't feel his existence. Now that Negative Nine Degrees was truly gone, he felt like nothing seemed to have really changed. But they had killed an enemy player! How could such an important breakthrough not have any impact?

This feeling made him feel too uneasy.

Jiang Botao tried hard to calm himself and examine the situation carefully. They had no healer, so they needed to end things quickly. However, ending things quickly required a plan to succeed. What? He's already attacking!

Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer didn't seem to have any intentions of resetting the tempo. He continued to launch a frenzy of attacks so much so that Jiang Botao felt like it was a bit excessive. However, in the next second, he no longer thought that. When he examined the situation again, he realized that Team Tyranny had pulled back into a fully defensive position.

Team Samsara needed to be fast, but Team Tyranny wouldn't let them. Zhou Zekai had seen through this point, so instead of resetting, he continued to increase the speed to break Tyranny's tempo.

Can it be done? Zhou Zekai's charge through the enemy lines had opened up the battle countless times, but this time, against the steady defense from Tyranny's four Gods, while Zhou Zekai's assault was as fierce as ever, it was unable to open up the situation. Zhang Jiale's Hundred Blossom Style was a huge hindrance to a Sharpshooter, who needed absolute precision to attack. Rush in and fight with Gun Fu? It wasn't like Zhou Zekai had never done that before. However, Tyranny had the number one close combat fighter Han Wenqing and his King of Fighting, Desert Dust. Employing Gun Fu to compete with Han Wenqing was definitely not a smart idea.

"Team Samsara's weakness has been exposed..." Ye Xiu suddenly said. He had been quietly watching the match the entire time.

"What is it?" Chen Guo immediately asked.

"They lack an attacker that can charge forward and break open the situation." Ye Xiu said.

"Uh, don't they have Lu Boyuan, Wu Qi, and Du Ming?" Chen Guo asked.

"Grappers don't have very good movement skills. However, they need to get close to display their combat power. Just trying to close in is difficult enough already."

As Ye Xiu explained, Chen Guo looked at the match again. She discovered that Lu Boyuan's Chaotic Cloud Mountain was having a rough time. Grappler wore leather armor. Their movement speed was considered fast, but trying to break through with just movement speed alone would be extremely difficult.

"As for Assassins, I don't think I'll need to talk too much about them? They're not a class that charges into battle." Ye Xiu said.

Wu Qi's Assassin, Cruel Silence, seemed to be in an even rougher spot than Chaotic Cloudy Mountains. He was searching for an opening. However, Tyranny wasn't giving him any. As a result, it just looked like he was doing nothing, circling around the battle.

"As for Du Ming..... His skill isn't quite there." For Du Ming, his class wasn't the big issue, but Du Ming himself was a bit of a problem. Ye Xiu was quite polite in his evaluation. Getting rid of "quite" would probably have been more accurate. Starting from when he closed in on Tyranny, Du Ming's Blade Master seemed to be in a panic. After closing in, he was hit by a Brick from Lin Jingyan and then a punch from Han Wenqing. If his ability to escape wasn't good, he might have been dragged directly into Team Tyranny.

Team Tyranny calmly played the long game with Samsara. Samsara tried again and again to break through, but they were unable to shake Tyranny's defense. When Tyranny's sixth player, Bai Yanfei, and his Elementalist arrived, Tyranny's defense became even more solid. In the end, Samsara had no other choice but to attempt a suicide charge and find victory within chaos. However, Tyranny stood firm. Finally, the match ended with Tyranny winning 6 to 2 in the team competition. Tyranny turned around their loss in the group arena and won the away game.

Champions?

Tyranny won their away game. Next, they would have the home game advantage. This type of situation was too advantageous for them. Many media sources were already declaring Tyranny as the champions. The question mark after the word champions was an attempt to hide that.

Who would have thought that three days later, in Team Tyranny's home game in City B, it was Samsara that won 11 to 7, overturning Tyranny's home game.

Chapter 1077: Tyranny in Danger

The away game victory finally caused everyone to notice Samsara's consistency.

This was a team that had worked together for three years. They supported each other, depended on each other. The members of the team had a deep trust in each other and worked very well as a unit. They had the same conviction, the same confidence. Their loss in their home game didn't cause them to lose faith. In their away game, they were powerful in how united they were, standing firm and fighting steadily, not at all affected by their loss in the first round. After two hours of competing, they had eventually taken down Tyranny.

In this match, Samsara had displayed a tenacity and patience that didn't lose to the veterans. No matter if it was as an individual or as a team, every little thing was executed at its best.

A faultless performance. A flawless victory.

During the second day, the media's headlines all discussed how to describe Samsara's performance this round. This time, they had shown everyone that Samsara definitely wasn't a one man team, but a unit. A unit that operated close to flawlessly. The reason that the power of this unit was magnified was because they were influenced by the previous match.

The hindrance of Team Tyranny's Zhang Jiale's Hundred Blossoms Style on Zhou Zekai was exceptionally striking. Ranged combat meant he couldn't shoot accurately, but close combat meant he had to face a master of melee like Han Wenqing. Zhou Zekai, known as uncounterable, might not have fallen to a disadvantage in a direct face off, but he had still been suppressed.

Samsara had realized that this was where the problem lay, and thus focused more on operating as a team. The presence of the other members of the team suddenly became much more striking. In this match, Zhou Zekai uncharacteristically didn't give an explosive performance, but everyone witnessed Samsara's power as a team that didn't lose to any other team in the Alliance.

After two matches, the two teams were tied. The victory would be decided in the last match. Three days later, it would be at Tyranny's home turf, but with random maps.

Who would win?

With the battle having reached this point, theoretical analysis was meaningless. The two teams were continuously rewriting what everyone knew about them, breaking through their limits and improving themselves each time. Everything would be decided on the field.

The tickets for the final match in three days were nigh impossible to obtain. The match started exactly at 8 PM, and the group arena came first as usual.

The previous two group arenas were all won by Samsara and the results were both 5 to 4. Although Tyranny's veterans had a lot of experience and honed awareness, Samsara was a very mature team by now. The members of the team were all skilled and everyone had a lot of match experience. For the old veterans, this was the hardest sort of opponent to deal with. However, the difference of a single point didn't have much influence on the team competition. Under the new rules, the group arena was already being considered a starter to the real match. They wouldn't be too relaxed, but not too nervous either.

But the situation that had remained stable for two rounds ended in this round. The winner of the group arena was still Samsara, but this time, they had won 5 to 3, ending the group arena at their fourth player.

A 2 point deficit caused some commotion in the venue as Tyranny's fans began to become anxious.

Looking at the overall situation, Samsara hadn't gotten any overwhelming lead in any of the face offs. Samsara's 5 to 4 victory was slowly accumulated through each fight. It was this sort of situation that made people feel insecure. This meant that the entire team had fallen to a disadvantage. What was wrong with Tyranny?

The audience didn't know, they just hoped that the team could adjust and end up one step short of success. As for the Samsara fans in the venue, they were excited. This sort of beginning gave them the hope for victory.

After the break between the two sections, the team competition began. The lineups for the teams didn't have any sort of change from the previous two matches. The map was unfamiliar, except for the fact that the two teams would spawn in opposing corners. After the characters loaded, Team Tyranny's characters charged forward at once, not bothering to look at their surroundings.

The stadium fell into a stunned silence before it exploded with cheering. Didn't this scene happen in the away game that Tyranny won beautifully? Not hesitating, aiming for a direct frontal assault, and keeping the match at their pace? Tyranny's fans hoped for this scene to repeat itself and cheered for their team.

On the other hand, Ye Xiu frowned immediately upon seeing this.

"Is something wrong?" Chen Guo had developed the habit of keeping an eye on Ye Xiu's reactions during a match, getting Ye Xiu to give a few words of explanation whenever there was a chance.

"They're too impatient," Ye Xiu said.

"Ah? Didn't they play this way in the first match?" Chen Guo said.

"That's different. In the first match, Samsara had the map advantage. Tyranny's playstyle was unexpected, eventually managing to negate their advantage and suppress Samsara's momentum, controlling the pace of the match. However, this map is unfamiliar to both sides and doesn't give an advantage to either side. Tyranny's current playstyle won't give them any benefits." Ye Xiu said.

"They can't help it," Wei Chen suddenly said, "Tyranny's stamina can't keep up."

Stamina!

No one would know better than Wei Chen as to how this affected a player's state. The long team competition in the Challenger League had given him too much strain and then his performance after that had clearly slipped. Although the veterans of Tyranny were much younger than Wei Chen, how could the intensity of the Challenger League compare to the intensity of the playoffs?

Not only were the playoffs more intense, the matches were spaced close together. The regular season was one match per week, but the playoffs had one match every three or four days. The playoffs were using the new rules too, so there was a large chance that three matches would have to be fought. Team Tyranny had fought two three-match battles in a row to enter the finals. As for Team Samsara, they had two two-match battles to decide the victor.

Samsara had fought two fewer games than Tyranny. That meant they had a week to rest. Especially since, before the finals, Samsara had already rested for three days when Tyranny was fighting their third

game against Tiny Herb. They hadn't even rested for three days before having to rush to City S to fight the well-rested Samsara.

Tyranny had managed to take that game down in one, but after returning to their home turf, they were defeated by Samsara after two hours of ceaseless fighting. Tyranny's stamina was probably already running low by the second game. After the exhaustion from a season of battles, then the successive intense battles of the playoffs, age was mercilessly dragging these tenacious veterans down.

However, they didn't back down at all and wouldn't surrender. They knew that stalling wouldn't be good, so they fought in the last game with the same attitude and style from the first game despite knowing that they wouldn't gain the same sort of advantage. Falling behind in the group arena might've been a way of preserving their stamina. They had to make sure that they had as much energy as possible for the team competition.

Now it was time for their final battle. Maybe they were all exhausted, but their willpower pulled them through every action.

Charge! Team Tyranny charged.

As for Samsara? Samsara was displaying a completely different attitude to Tyranny. As soon as the match began, they didn't charge. It was obvious that they were trying to avoid a direct confrontation. Team Samsara's entire team moved tactically, swerving to Tyranny's flank. Team Tyranny had fiercely charged forth, but met no one.

Those who realized the problem probably felt a chill in their hearts by now. For such a key battle, every detail would be carefully considered. Samsara's tactical decision at the beginning probably wasn't a coincidence. They had already realized that Tyranny's stamina was failing. Having fought them on the field, Samsara was better able to sense Team Tyranny's worsening state, maybe even better than Tyranny themselves.

Thus, they weren't impatient for this match. They would slowly drag this out into an endurance match with Tyranny.

The battle eventually turned this guess into reality. Samsara avoided a direct confrontation with Tyranny, continuously feinting to harass and wear Tyranny down with a top ranged attacker like Zhou Zekai and a mid-ranged AoE cannon like Jiang Botao's Empty Waves. In addition, there was Wu Qi, who would unleash a torrent of attacks whenever there was the slightest opening, as well as Lu Boyuan who was great at single-target control; whenever the Grappler caught a target, he would throw the target away from the team... Samsara's lineup was great at harassment. Team Tyranny had Zhang Jiale's Hundred Blossom Style for cover, but the Hundred Blossom Style was exhausting for both the player and the character. So it would only be used at crucial times, not thrown out like free candy.

Tyranny had managed to brute force their way at Samsara a few times, but despite getting an upper hand several times, they never managed to deal a critical blow to Samsara. Even worse, they still hadn't managed to make any changes to the situation at hand. If they didn't have problems with stamina, they could continue to go back and forth like this and keep the upper hand. However, everyone who could tell that this problem existed knew that with every advantage they managed to gain on the field, their situation worsened.

Their focus was weakening, their reactions slowing, their mechanics stiffening... Willpower would help them endure, but only endure. You couldn't win a match by just enduring. They needed to perform at their peak if they wanted to beat the powerful Samsara.

However, they couldn't do that anymore now. When another wave of harassment came, Team Tyranny was visibly a beat too slow, and this opening was immediately captured by Zhou Zekai. He, who hadn't performed explosively in the finals at all yet, finally gave the decisive blow in the final game. Cloud Piercer shot wildly, suddenly exploding into action and completely messed up Tyranny's formation. The other characters swarmed forth, taking this chance to storm Tyranny with their whole team. This time, Samsara didn't back away, fighting to the end. As for Tyranny, the veterans had long since reached their limit. Though they were still doing their best, their declining play caused them to expose many openings.

In the team competition, Team Samsara won by a huge lead: 6 to 1. The final score of this match was 11 to 4. Team Samsara once again won the championships and became the second team to defend their title after Team Excellent Era. And all of this took place at Tyranny's home stadium. The venue was silent.

Chapter 1078: The Same As Always

It's... over?

Zhang Jiale's hands still remained on his keyboard and mouse. In fact, five minutes had past since his Dazzling Hundred Blossoms fell.

The first to fall from Team Tyranny was Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder, then it was Dazzling Hundred Blossoms. He hovered in midair as a ghost as he continued to watch as Team Samsara pursued his team relentlessly.

Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees fell.

Zhang Xinjie's Immovable Rock fell.

Only Han Wenqing's Desert Dust and Bai Yanfei's Rota were left. The two didn't give up and used up all their strength to take away Wu Qi's Cruel Silence from Samsara. The three then fell down together.

Glory!

Like in the online arena, this word also appeared after the end of the team competition. However, the glory didn't belong to him because he had lost again.....

How many times have I lost?

Zhang Jiale was unwilling to think about it.

He had given up everything. He had endured criticism from his fans and the torture in his heart.

Just once. Just once is enough.

He kept telling himself that. However, he was once again one step away. He just needed that one step, that one win. He had won countless times in his career. Why did he always fall here?

Zhang Jiale couldn't believe it. He didn't know what to do, and even forgot what he should be doing at this moment. It was until someone started knocking from outside the player booths did he suddenly snap out of it.

Han Wenqing, Tyranny's core who didn't know the word cower.

Zhang Xinjie, the Master Tactician who never made a mistake.

There was also Lin Jingyan, who was let go of by his team and found himself a new place in Tyranny. He was also an old player who started in the second season like him.

Also, Qin Muyun and Bai Yanfei.....

All of his teammates were standing outside. Everyone looked pained after losing the match. They all tried their best to hide it, but he could see through it. Lin Jingyan even managed to squeeze out a smile. It was probably the most unsightly smile Zhang Jiale had ever seen in his life.

"What a shame..." Lin Jingyan even managed to speak. Even though he was upset, everyone in Tyranny knew that Zhang Jiale was suffering more than any one of them.

This was because he carried such a heavy burden yet still fell at this same step again.

Han Wenqing and Zhang Xinjie had at least won the championships once.

As for Lin Jingyan, it was the first time he had fought in the finals. He felt that he had already gained a lot by coming this far. Although he felt very regretful for their final loss, at least his mental burden wasn't as great as Zhang Jiale's.

Only Zhang Jiale.....

"I..." Zhang Jiale wanted to speak, but stopped.

"Don't tell me you're going to retire again?" Lin Jingyan spoke.

"That's no good."

"It's still too early for that."

"Right, we still have opportunities."

"Next season is going to arrive in the blink of an eye."

"Yeah, it already feels like it's tomorrow."

"I can't wait for it."

"I..." Zhang Jiale opened his mouth to speak again. Everyone shut their mouths and looked at him.

"I wanted to say that I'm fine." Zhang Jiale said.

Everyone looked at one another. When the match had finished, everyone apart from Zhang Jiale had walked out from the player booths and showed no signs of activity. At that moment, they even predicted the worst situation that could happen. It wasn't until Zhang Jiale walked out did everyone feel a bit relieved. Everyone started to comfort him, but he said he was fine.

It's true, I'm fine. Zhang Jiale looked around him. It seemed as if everyone in the stadium was watching him as well. But he was fine. Even though he had carried a heavy burden, it all came from his own choice. Sun Zheping told him to clean up all those distracting thoughts in his mind. Zhang Jiale tried to do that, but he realised that he couldn't do so. Perhaps, only people like Sun Zheping were capable of doing that, right? In the end, Zhang Jiale wrapped up all those distracting thoughts and carried it on his shoulder. This was his method; he wasn't able to give up, but neither would he be weak. He would carry those things clearly on his back! As for now, he merely had another package to carry on his shoulders.

"Yeah, I'm fine. How about you guys. Are you guys alright?" Zhang Jiale even managed to ask everyone in return.

Everyone looked at one another once again.

"Since everyone's fine, let's go." Han Wenqing waved and turned around with no hesitation. The six members of Tyranny walked down the stadium with their heads held high. Applause started to ring in the stadium. Even though the fans felt disappointed in the loss, they had seen how the team performed. From beginning to end, they didn't see the team weaken or see them give up. They continued to fight and struggle. Their performance was worthy of the applause, so they didn't need to feel ashamed for their loss.

The applause grew louder, and the six from Tyranny motioned towards the audience by waving their hands. Despite losing in the match, they wouldn't fall. No matter what burden they carried, that wouldn't ever happen.

The audience was clapping, so the workers on site put down whatever they were doing to clap as well. Even members of Samsara, who won the championships, stood on the side and clapped. It was not for themselves, but for Tyranny. Despite losing the match, they won respect from every single person.

An award ceremony was held on the stage for Samsara. Like last year, the team collected the trophy and didn't really celebrate. However, they were the second team to win the championships twice in a row after Excellent Era, so they might just create a new dynasty. This was a fact no one would ignore.

In the press conference after the match, Team Tyranny went first. All six members that appeared in the team match sat on stage. They gazed at the reporters below them and realised that every one of them seemed to look more solemn than them.

"Can we start?" In the end, it was the team captain, Han Wenqing, who asked first.

"Uh, it was a very regretful loss. Do you have anything to say?" A reporter seized the opportunity to ask.

"It was regretful indeed, but there's no other way because there can only be one champion." Han Wenqing spoke.

"What are your thoughts on how each team performed?" Someone asked. By losing the competition with a clear gap in the scores, Tyranny's performance needed to be deeply looked into. However, their situation was different from their first match. By the time the finals had reached this point, everyone had thought about the problem of Tyranny's players running out of stamina. The reporters were clear about this, otherwise, the team wouldn't receive such applause from losing, and their questions wouldn't be so courteous.

"Both sides worked very hard. I think no matter who won, both teams would have been worthy of the title." Han Wenqing said.

"As for the coming year, does Tyranny or the players of Tyranny have any plans or intentions?" The reporter asked. Here, the reporter purposefully emphasised "the players of Tyranny". All the reporters peeked intentionally or unintentionally towards Zhang Jiale. It was like how all the players of Tyranny cared about him when they lost. The reporters knew that Zhang Jiale would be the one who was impacted the most by this loss.

"The same as always." In the end, Han Wenqing replied in such a brief manner.

However, the reporters cared too much about this matter, and no longer cared if they were being cruel. One of them finally named specifically in his question. "I would like to ask for Zhang Jiale's personal opinion, would you like to say something?"

"Me?" Zhang Jiale looked at the reporters below when he was named. He even gave a laugh as he said, "Aren't I already used to this?"

The reporters were startled.

This was a self deprecating joke, but no one was able to laugh.

Did he make this kind of joke because he had lost heart?

However, then they heard Zhang Jiale continue to speak. "As for the future, it's what our captain said: the same as always."

"Mm, nicely summarised. The same as always." Lin Jingyan nodded.

The reporters originally wanted to ask Lin Jingyan as well, but when he showed the same attitude, they fully understood. Even though this was a painful loss, it wouldn't be able to strike down any of them. In the upcoming matches, they would still see these unyielding old generals continue to struggle and strive for the glory that they had been pursuing for all these years.

The reporters had nothing left to ask about the finals. The other members in Tyranny weren't old players that were about to retire. Taking Zhang Xinjie for example, he was part of the Golden Generation and was still at the peak of his career. This was why everyone's sorrowful emotions weren't targeted as deeply towards them.

"Uh, next season, Ye Xiu and his Team Happy will be in the Alliance. With how the league is usually arranged, it's very likely for them to be matched with Tyranny in the first round. Do you have anything to say to him? You guys are old acquaintances after all!" The reporters started to ask questions outside of the topic.

Everyone in Happy was watching the broadcast. They were all in sync as they looked towards Ye Xiu. Ye Xiu drank his tea calmly.

"Too bad... I would definitely be made fun of by that guy." Zhang Jiale muttered.

"Ah? What do you mean?" A reporter asked immediately, but Zhang Jiale chose to stay quiet.

"I hope he can focus on the matches, so he won't bring trouble to everyone online." Lin Jingyan said.

"Hm, what do you mean by that?" The reporter immediately asked again, but Lin Jingyan also chose to stay quiet.

Everyone looked at Han Wenqing.

"Beat him. The same as always." Han Wenqing said.

The same as always again. The problem is that you haven't beaten him that many times in the past! Isn't saying "the same as always" a bit inappropriate? The reporters criticised silently. Most of the information they got from Han Wenqing would include this motto.

In the end, all the reporters looked hopefully towards Zhang Xinjie, hoping to get some hot topics out of him.

"Time's up." Zhang Xinjie looked at the time. "We should finish!"

"Ah ah ah... Vice-captain Zhang, could you talk a bit more about Ye Xiu?" The reporters wailed with grief. Unfortunately, the time was up, and Zhang Xinjie cared more about the time than Ye Xiu. Team Tyranny's players got up one by one and left the press conference.

Chapter 1079: Happy, Champions?

After Team Tyranny, the reporters interviewed Team Samsara. Defending their championship title was obviously an incredible achievement. As soon as Team Samsara went up on stage, they were met with fervent congratulations from the crowd. But after contrasting this excitement with the disappointment from Tyranny's old generals, some of the crowd felt sad, especially the old reporters that had followed Glory for so many years. Han Wenqing, Lin Jingyan, Zhang Jiale. Their work always revolved around these few players. How could they not have a bit of emotional investment into them?

The clash between the new and old was difficult to avoid. The joy and elation flowing from Samsara's side made it seem like it was the coming of a new era for both Glory and the news scene. As for them? Would they be like the old generals of the pro scene and gradually fade away?

Definitely not! Everything must continue on like in the past.

The old reporters suddenly felt a wave of empathy surging inside them. Immediately afterwards, the incisive questions flew towards Samsara.

"First of all, congratulations Team Samsara for defending your title. What I want to ask is whether or not the war of attrition employed to win the third match was chosen because you saw that the old Team Tyranny players lacked the stamina and energy to maintain their peak conditions?"

"Yes." Zhou Zekai said.

"In the second match, we realized that Team Tyranny didn't seem to be too good at long wars of attrition. This is why we decided to employ this type of strategy in the third match." Jiang Botao

immediately added. For touchy subjects like this, who knew how the reporters would spin these types of one-word answers from Zhou Zekai.

Not good at long wars of attrition..... Jiang Botao summed it up with what seemed to be a good explanation, but the crucial question about Team Tyranny's stamina issues was dodged. How could the reporters let him get by so easily?

"Then why do you think Tyranny isn't good at long wars of attrition?" A reporter asked despite already knowing the answer. He had already made his decision. If Samsara dared to act stupid answering this question, he wouldn't let these shams go no matter what.

"Uh, during this period of one month, Tyranny played nine intense matches for the playoffs. This must have been very exhausting. Their stamina issues in the later stages were the key to our Samsara's victory."

In the end, Samsara gave a clear reply to this question.

"Oh, then let's say if Tyranny had only played four matches before the finals like Samsara and had enough time to fully recover, would that have made any impact on the results?"

"The match would have definitely been more difficult." Jiang Botao replied.

"Then, do you think Samsara would have still won the finals?" This reporter's questions were becoming more and more harsh. He was practically implying that Samsara had won with an unfair advantage.

"Competition is filled with countless variables. This is why we keep playing on stage. If you could accurately deduce the outcome of a match, then what's the point in competing? From an objective perspective, I'm not able to answer your question. However, from Samsara's position, I believe that Samsara would have won no matter who our opponents had been!"

Jiang Botao's reply was powerful and resonating. This reporter was clearly unable to counter it because he also knew that there was no such thing as having an unfair advantage. Every element was a part of a victory. If not, when a powerhouse beat teams due to having better players and better characters, wouldn't that also be considered as having an unfair advantage?

"Captain Zhou, is that what you think too?" Unable to make a counter argument, the reporter immediately switched targets. He also knew that once he switched to Zhou Zekai, this interview topic would stop here.

"Yes." Zhou Zekai's reply didn't disappoint him.

"I have no other questions." This reporter immediately followed.

Afterwards, there were no more questions with malicious intentions. Once the unoriginal questions like what are your thoughts on the victory, the reporters once again switched topics and gave a similar question to what they asked Tyranny: "Next season, Ye Xiu and his Team Happy will be in the pro scene. What are Samsara's thoughts about them? Do you think Happy can succeed?"

When everyone in Happy heard the first part of the question, they were almost about to look at Ye Xiu to see his reaction. But in the end, the reporter asked about Team Happy as a whole. This was different from Tyranny. The reporter had considered that Samsara was a part of a different generation than Ye

Xiu. Samsara wasn't like Tyranny, who had players that had old relationships with him. As a result, the reporter didn't concentrate on Ye Xiu.

"That depends on how you define successful." Jiang Botao said.

"It seems like they intend on becoming the champions." The reporter said with uncertainty.

Pfft!!!

This time, quite a few people at the scene laughed. Samsara's players were sitting on stage and knew that the camera was on them, so they were able to maintain their composure. However, expressions of astonishment could clearly be seen on all of them. The reporters weren't like them. After laughing, no one waited for Samsara to reply. The reporters crowded around that poor reporter: "Where'd you hear that from?" The press conference erupted into an uproar.

"I heard a player from Heavenly Swords inadvertently leak it!!" When that reporter saw how everyone wanted to gnaw at him, he immediately confessed.

"How could someone from Heavenly Swords know?" Someone asked.

"After the Challenger League finals, Happy stayed over at City B. They have a good relationship with Heavenly Swords and are constantly in touch with one another." That reporter immediately replied.

"Is what that person said reliable? Or was it just a joke?" As soon as someone heard it was a private exchange, he didn't believe it.

"I don't know either!" That reporter said bitterly. He had just overheard it while passing by. He couldn't confirm it either, so he didn't know if it was the truth or a joke.

"It was probably a joke. It has to be." The reporters gradually calmed down.

"What are Samsara's thoughts on this?" A reporter suddenly remembered who the main characters were and promptly threw the question over to Samsara.

Jiang Botao stared blankly. He felt like if he had to answer, he would probably say that he felt like it was a joke. Even though Happy beat Excellent Era, miracles couldn't keep happening over and over again, no? Happy's strength was still rather limited. Saying that Happy wanted to win the championships was too much. But if he actually said that it was a joke, it would be hard to avoid people from thinking that Samsara held contempt for Happy. But if he said that it was probably the truth, then.... it would be hard to avoid people from thinking that he was just saying fake words!

This is a difficult question to answer!

Jiang Botao, who had been very adept at answering questions the entire time, was actually stumped. After a long while, he finally replied: "It doesn't matter what Happy's goal is. Samsara will always try our hardest and beat our opponents."

The question was dodged with an ambiguous answer. However, the question had been a joke itself, so the reporter let it go. Soon afterwards, the press conference for Samsara concluded. After the crowd dispersed, quite a few reporters became reinvigorated and started opening up their address books to confirm what exactly had been said.

The broadcast for the finals had ended. Everyone in Happy was still stunned from the commotion from that question. Not long afterwards, Chen Guo's cell phone rang. Chen Guo took out her cell phone. The call was from Lou Guanning. After picking it up, Chen Guo was able to get a profound understanding of how terrifying reporters could be. Didn't the press conference just end? The reporters interested in this question had already found ways to ask Heavenly Swords. One of those reporters had found a way to directly contact Heavenly Sword's boss, Lou Guanning. As a result, Lou Guanning quickly called Chen Guo, asking how he should answer.

"How should he answer?" Chen Guo asked Ye Xiu.

"Of course I was serious." Ye Xiu said.

"He was serious." Chen Guo replied to Lou Guanning.

"Haha, how fun!" Lou Guanning seemed to be looking forward to the exposure and hung up the phone with a laugh.

"You're not staying low-profile at all!" Chen Guo held her cell phone and sighed. Starting from when the Challenger League first started, Happy had been quite high-profile. As soon as they began, they came out saying that they would topple Excellent Era and received quite a bit of ridicule for it. Now that they had actually done it, who knew where those haters went. But now, Chen Guo knew that when news came out with Happy's statement that their goal was to win the championships, these haters would probably come out again. The confidence from those haters would probably be even higher, no?

"It doesn't matter." Ye Xiu said nonchalantly, "In any case, no matter what happens, we have to strive for victory."

"For this goal, everyone is going to need to work even harder!!" Chen Guo encouraged the team.

"Of course!" Steamed Bun replied excitedly. Tang Rou smiled, showing her ambitiousness. The one who couldn't stay calm was the one who was usually the calmest, Qiao Yifan.

Become the champions? Their next goal was actually going to be the top of Glory. Qiao Yifan felt like he was going dizzy. But when he saw his teammates, he knew that they weren't joking. Happy was going to be rushing for the championship title? This was all going too quickly!

"Okay, it's getting late. Everyone should get ready to go to bed!" Chen Guo looked at the time and called out. Happy had a fairly strict work and rest schedule now. No one would be allowed to live a disorderly lifestyle like before. The memory of Ye Xiu sleeping for a very long time due to exhaustion was something still fresh in her mind. Next up, they would be preparing for the Pro League. Everyone in Happy needed to be in their best state the entire time. A disciplined sleep schedule was essential.

The next day, the various esports media put the finals as the lead story.

Samsara defends their title. A tragic conclusion for Tyranny. But between these two teams, another team had squeezed its way in.

Happy, Champions???

The title of the story added in three question marks. The article itself was filled with incredulity. You could say that maybe Happy didn't understand their situation. But Happy had Ye Xiu; how could he not

have a good grasp of his team? You could say that he was being serious... maybe after Happy beat Excellent Era, even Ye Xiu was so excited that he couldn't tell east from west anymore?

The mainstream media reports were already polite about it. But in other places, articles with titles like "This Century's Biggest Joke" quickly popped up. The various teams also soon received inquiries from the media asking about their thoughts on this matter, making all the teams feel gloomy. During this period of time, how many questions relating to Happy had they answered? What's up with this team!

Chapter 1080: Splitting Rewards

Aiming to be champions?

Happy's statement was dismissed with a laugh by the pro teams.

If it wasn't that Happy had Ye Xiu, the pro teams would probably think that these guys were having delusions of grandeur after their unexpected victory against Excellent Era. However, since Ye Xiu was present, they wouldn't be so childish.

"It's joke, right?"

"They're probably doing this to get more publicity."

"They don't really need to keep coming up with these things. They already have a strong enough presence."

The teams all said different things, but their tone was generally full of ridicule. Aim to be champions? The majority of the teams in the Alliance wouldn't dare say this. Happy really was daring!

Happy was flourishing. After obtaining a sponsorship from Feike, Happy managed to obtain another two more sponsors. These were all from sponsors who had always taken an interest in the Glory Alliance and didn't mind giving a share to Happy. However, they were like Feike, already sponsoring other teams in the Alliance. They invested in Happy, wanting to watch how things went.

With these three contracts, Happy had already received nearly 5,000,000 RMB in sponsorship money. For a grassroots team, this was a very solid support. After that, the prize money for winning the Challenger League, their share of TV broadcasting revenue, their share of ticket revenue, etc. all arrived. With the amount of attention that the Challenger League received, no matter if it was the TV broadcast or the venue tickets, the revenue gained was far greater than previous years. The Alliance was very sincere and generous with their competitions. The teams didn't just get prize money, but also shares of all sorts of profits. Many other competitions would just deal with this through just the prize money.

Just winning the Challenger League was worth 5,000,000 RMB. Considering the influence of the Challenger League, this was no small amount. The Alliance had clearly considered how the winner would be entering the pro league the following season. This money was also a source of support for the team. With the prize money on top of their shares for everything else, Team Happy had managed to earn over 10,000,000 RMB through just the Challenger League alone. This showed Chen Guo exactly how financially powerful the Glory scene was now. Of course, due to the special circumstances of this year's Challenger League, the shares of profit were naturally higher than previous years.

With over 10,000,000 RMB for funds, Chen Guo felt much more secure. Although the 18,000,000 RMB earned with the materials from selling the skill point guide could have been invested into the team by Wei Chen, this was just too much. If they really invested it all into the team, Chen Guo felt that her title as the boss would be more of a title than actual reality. But now that the team had managed to earn some money on their own, Chen Guo felt much better about using it.

As soon as the money arrived, Chen Guo didn't hesitate to take out the 5,000,000 RMB in prize money and divide it up between the members of Happy. Even though Happy's players had never seemed to care much about this sort of thing, they couldn't just go with the flow and continue like this. In the past, they didn't have the funds, so they just got by like that. Now that they had gained a significant amount of profit, it definitely had to be shared.

The division of this money was very overwhelming. Luo Ji and An Wenyi were both just university students. Suddenly gaining several hundred thousand made them at a loss as to what to do with it.

As for Ye Xiu, the bank card he was given was immediately thrown into the drawer, becoming a member of his large pile of Glory smurfs.

Wei Chen? He was a person with 18,000,000 RMB in his hands. After obtaining the several hundred thousand, he simply nodded, saying nonchalantly, "Mm, not bad." Chen Guo wanted to hit him for that.

Tang Rou smiled, thanking Chen Guo as she accepted the bank card, not at all intending to decline it. However, Chen Guo knew that she had even more of a right than Wei Chen to act nonchalant. Chen Guo looked down on Wei Chen for his response. Then, that night, after everyone had gone to bed, Chen Guo realized that Tang Ruo had forgotten her card on the table and nearly cried. With a weak password like 123456, anyone could just take the card and the money. My lady, you were never this careless with Soft Mist's account card!

Steamed Bun, having been a bouncer before for an Internet cafe, had very little wealth. He was delighted with the sum of several hundred thousand, and emotionally exclaimed that he had truly found a good boss, his future was really bright!

Wu Chen and Qiao Yifan came from pro teams. Wu Chen was even the ace of his team. Although his team had been rather weak and their income couldn't compare to the Gods, getting several hundred thousand a year wasn't hard. Qiao Yifan was a rookie, so he wouldn't have that high of an income, but since he was a part of a powerhouse team, he had a good understanding of their scene. This prize money was nothing unexpected for him.

Chen Guo had been a little hesitant when giving Mo Fan his share. Mo Fan rarely went on the field and Chen Guo had split the prize money evenly, not bothering with taking contribution into account. In these beginning stages, the team was still growing in many ways and Chen Guo felt that this sort of thing was far too troublesome to deal with. Plus, Ye Xiu, who had made the greatest contributions, had agreed with her decision wholeheartedly. Then what was there to worry about? It was those like Luo Ji and Wu Chen, who hadn't had much play time, that felt a little bad about getting the same as everyone else, but they still ended up accepting the money under Chen Guo's resolute attitude. Chen Guo's hesitation towards Mo Fan was because she wasn't sure about him. In truth, it was because they didn't interact and therefore, she had no idea what that guy was thinking. She didn't know if he was planning on staying with Happy on their journey.

But on the other hand, Mo Fan had stayed with them throughout this year. It had nothing to do with what he would do in the future. Although he had made limited contributions, he shouldn't be left out if everyone got it. Therefore, Mo Fan ended up with an equal share. After hearing the amount, he had uncharacteristically shown a hint of shock. It seemed like he didn't come from a wealthy background either.

There was another, who was resolute in declining this money.

Sun Zheping. Chen Guo called him about transferring his share of the money over, but Sun Zheping, who had already left Happy, simply laughed and told her not to bother before directly hanging up.

That was too generous, wasn't it?

Chen Guo didn't want to give up, but then Ye Xiu had said, "There's no need. He isn't someone who will change his mind."

Chen Guo, holding the final card, didn't really know what to say. Ye Xiu glanced at her. "Did you forget your own share?"

"Ah?" Chen Guo was stunned for a moment. She really hadn't thought about herself. Even if she did, she wouldn't think she deserved a share.

"Just take it as leftovers. For the capitalist." Ye Xiu said.

"Hey hey, who're you calling a capitalist?" Chen Guo objected.

Happy was dividing up their small reward while over with the Alliance, the champions had been decided and were receiving all their large rewards. The Alliance Championship prize money was, considering the influence of the Glory Alliance, a very small amount, only 10,000,000, twice as much as the Challenger League. Apart from that, there were rewards for regular season rankings, but the amount was even less substantial. Twenty teams, a total of 16,800,000. With the money split according to ranking, the highest ranked team only received 1,600,000. The last ranked team received a measly 80,000.

It was obvious that the Alliance no longer depended on prize money to sustain itself. 10,000,000 RMB in prize money? That definitely wasn't the reason any team fought so hard.

What everyone sought was the glory that the championship trophy represented, What teams depended on for survival were things such as broadcasting profits, sponsorships, ticket fees, and similar forms of revenue. And these forms of revenue were affected by the influence the team had. As for the most direct way of increasing their influence, it was winning the championships. Happy's Challenger League championship victory had brought them all sorts of income. In reality, this was a perfect example of the current system.

The season came to a close with the champions decided. However, because of this year's update, there had been a break in the middle of the season, so once the championships ended, July soon arrived. The players of the pro teams began their holiday, but the summer transfer window opened and the managers of the clubs began to get busy.

Over with Happy, the press conference Feike had wanted to hold, but never had the chance to, finally occurred, officially declaring their sponsorship of Happy. Even though they weren't giving much funds,

with Happy's current popularity, they managed to do something big with very little cost. Feike was very satisfied with their investment. In this press conference, Happy had taken the chance to announce Su Mucheng's free transfer. This wasn't unexpected for anyone, but, following that, the announcement that Dancing Rain was coming to Happy with Su Mucheng was big news.

Dancing Rain was an All-Star level account. A grassroots like Happy somehow had the courage to obtain it. It looked like their goal to win the championships wasn't a joke.

Su Mucheng was free transferring, so naturally there was no transfer fee. But the media was enthusiastically discussing Dancing Rain's transfer fee. However, in the contract for Dancing Rain's transfer, the transfer fee had an NDA protecting it. Tao Xuan had obviously not wanted the special price for Dancing Rain to affect the sale of Excellent Era. If everyone thought that Excellent Era was doing a huge clearance sale and came with offers of just a few hundred thousand, Tao Xuan would probably die crying.

With Su Mucheng and Dancing Rain, Team Happy suddenly seemed far stronger. Counting Ye Xiu, Happy was a team with two All-Star level players! Not even half the teams of the Alliance had such a lineup!

What moves would Happy make next? The day the summer transfer window opened, Happy had unexpectedly become the main show. The media was making all sorts of guesses. Excellent Era was also a hot topic. The transfer window was open and Team Excellent Era had quite a lot of characters and players. After so long, the transfers should have come to the end of their negotiations. Where would they all go?

As for the Golden Generation that everyone had once been clustered around, they weren't much of a topic anymore these days. This year was the second year where the Golden Generation would have to renew their contracts, so everyone had been attentively waiting to see if any would leave their teams. But in the first half of this year, all the teams had declared that the players of the Golden Generation wouldn't be leaving their teams, apart from Su Mucheng and Xiao Shiqin who were unknowns back then.

Now, Su Mucheng had joined Happy. What about Xiao Shiqin? Where would he go? As someone who could also free transfer, he had a lot of choices.

But before any news about Xiao Shiqin came out, Excellent Era's first bomb, since the news that it was being sold, fell.

Sun Xiang, One Autumn Leaf. The two were transferring to Team Samsara for 28,000,000 RMB.