

F. University 1721

Chapter 1721: The First World Cup Pre-Match, Battle with Thai

The atmosphere between the two sides suddenly became tense and confrontational.

The key issue is that guy Wang Dachao from the Hengtai Team looks like he's ready to lash out.

If Coach Liu Changjian hadn't come over, Wang Dachao probably would have really started something. If such a conflict were to erupt, the future of the national team would be truly in jeopardy.

"What's going on with you guys?"

Coach Liu Changjian approached, sternly saying, "On the field, teammates are our own people. How could you get angry at our own people? Huh?"

When everyone heard Coach Liu Changjian say this, their anger gradually subsided.

"Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan, Zhao Xuanming, Zhu Tan, you four come here."

Coach Liu Changjian then called Zhao Xuanming and the other three over, intending to have a talk with them at the side of the field.

"What's going on with you guys?"

Coach Liu Changjian immediately questioned them in a critical tone: "In the team, you need to get along with your teammates. What's the meaning of this? I don't want any conflicts between teammates in the national team I'm leading, understood?"

Well, Li Shuangying's anger grew even stronger after being reprimanded by Coach Liu Changjian.

Liu Zhan wasn't wrong in the first place; it was that Hengtai player Wang Dachao who was picking a fight. How is it now our fault? How does it become us not being united with our teammates?

It seems that Coach Liu Changjian is more biased toward players from clubs like Hengtai and Harbor.

Li Shuangying couldn't understand why this was happening.

Why even the coach is unfair, standing directly on Wang Dachao's side?

For a moment, Li Shuangying felt disheartened.

"Understood, Coach."

After taking Coach Liu Changjian's scolding, Zhao Xuanming and Li Shuangying nodded in reply.

"You all have good potential. I hope you can shine in the World Cup Pre-Match, but Wang Dachao and the others have experience in the Pre-Match. You need to cooperate well, complement each other, got it?"

After speaking, Coach Liu Changjian waved his hand: "Alright, go back to training."

As Zhao Xuanming, Li Shuangying, Zhu Tan, and Liu Zhan returned to the field to continue their training, Wang Dachao sneered at them from not far away, saying, "Look at you guys. I'm telling you, some things can't be resolved solely through effort."

Wang Dachao's words seemed to carry a deeper meaning, as if he knew from the start that Coach Liu Changjian would definitely stand by their side.

"Ying, even the coach isn't on our side but on Wang Dachao's."

Liu Zhan said helplessly.

"It's because they have money, you know." Li Shuangying understood the reason behind the arrogance of Wang Dachao within the team.

Whether it's Hengtai Club or Harbor Club, they're rich and can spend a lot of money in "necessary" places. That's why even the coach is so polite to them and takes their side no matter what happens.

Although Feiyue Soccer Club isn't lacking funds, Li Shuangying and his teammates would never do that.

"This whole situation is really disheartening."

Zhu Tan complained.

"Alright, alright. Let's try to avoid conflicts with Wang Dachao and the others and focus on training." Li Shuangying had no choice but to calm his teammates down and continue their hard and dedicated training.

In the evening, when everyone returned to the hotel, a phone call came through, surprising Li Shuangying and his teammates.

Because it was Principal Ding calling.

During this period, Ding Yue had been quite concerned about the Feiyue Soccer Club players' situation in the national team's training, so he called Li Shuangying, who was the captain of the Feiyue Soccer Club team, to ask about their situation in the national team.

"Hello, Li Shuangying, did you finish training today?"

After connecting the call, Ding Yue asked.

"Yes, Principal Ding, we've finished today's training, and we're in the hotel now." Li Shuangying replied.

"How's it going? Are you used to being in the national team?"

Ding Yue asked again.

However.

The air seemed to fall into silence, as there was no response from Li Shuangying on the other end of the line.

After about three seconds, Li Shuangying chuckled and said, "Yes, Principal Ding, we're fine and quite used to it. The coach here is pushing us hard in training."

"Principal Ding, don't believe what Ying is saying!"

At this moment, Liu Zhan's voice came from beside Li Shuangying.

"Hmm?"

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue felt that the situation might not be so simple.

When he asked Li Shuangying about his situation on the national team, Li Shuangying clearly paused for a few seconds before saying it was quite good.

The observant Ding Yue could sense that perhaps the reality wasn't as Li Shuangying stated, especially considering Liu Zhan's comment beside him. Could something have happened within the national team?

"Li Shuangying, what's really happening? Why won't you tell me the truth?"

Chapter 1722: The First World Cup Pre-Match, Battle with Thai_2

Ding Yue's tone suddenly became solemn.

"Principal Ding, this..."

Li Shuangying was momentarily at a loss for words.

After all, within the National Team, having conflicts with teammates and the lack of coordination is not something to be solely blamed on one party.

"Principal Ding, don't listen to Liu Zhan's stories. We're fine, there's still a month left, we'll work twice as hard in training, and in the first match against the Thai Team in the World Cup Pre-Match, we will give it our all and win the game!"

After some contemplation, Li Shuangying ultimately decided not to tell Principal Ding about the distressing issues within the National Team.

After all, this matter shouldn't be blown out of proportion; the conflict with Wang Dachao and the others, as long as I can endure a bit, there shouldn't be any major issues. As the saying goes, "A small reprieve leads to greater outcomes." There's still a month before the first match of the World Cup Pre-Match begins, and we can't afford any problems right now, especially within the National Team, it's best to keep everything stable.

"Alright, I just called to check on you. Train well with the National Team. Coach Liu Changjian, although his ability might be somewhat ordinary, a coach has his methods. He has rich experience in leading teams in the World Cup Pre-Match. You must listen to the head coach, focus on training, a month later it's the World Cup Pre-Match at home, I'll be there to cheer for you, watch you sweep past the Thai Team!"

After reminding them, Ding Yue also assured Li Shuangying that he would personally be there to cheer for them during the first match against the Thai Team in the World Cup Pre-Match.

With the added morale boost of Principal Ding attending the match to cheer them on, Li Shuangying and others immediately felt uplifted and their fighting spirit ignited.

After all, it's not a simple task for Principal Ding to be present to cheer them on. As the head of the school, with the entire Feiyue Group under his management, such a busy person being able to attend in person is definitely a motivational booster.

"Thank you, Principal Ding! We will certainly do our best, and won't let you down."

Li Shuangying said with great determination.

Liu Zhan, Zhu Tan, and Zhao Xuanming, among others, also felt highly motivated. Even though today the players from Hengtai like Wang Dachao caused conflicts, it seems insignificant now. As long as we train well and perform in the World Cup Pre-Match, that's all that matters.

Like this, Ding Yue inquired further about Li Shuangying, expressing genuine care. They represent Feiyue Football Club in the National Team, bringing honor to Feiyue Football Club and Mist City Arts and Science University's sports academy, and they're in Yancheng, not Mist City. So if there's anything they need, Ding Yue would certainly try to fulfill it as best as possible.

Over the next month.

Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan, Zhu Tan, and Zhao Xuanming dedicated themselves to training, trying their best to avoid conflicts with Wang Dachao and the Hengtai team. If Wang Dachao tried to stir up trouble, Li Shuangying would advise Liu Zhan and others to endure temporarily for the bigger picture, as everyone understood its importance.

Yet, during this month, even though Li Shuangying and others showed considerable restraint, Wang Dachao and Zhou Peng seemed to be provoked further, mocking Li Shuangying and the others every day.

Calling them foolish for working so hard.

However, Wang Dachao and Zhou Peng weren't completely malicious, because they too were football players. Despite not being particularly outstanding, within the National Team, you might slack but you can't entirely give up.

So, in the last month, when training began, Wang Dachao and others were diligent.

As professional football players, they also wanted to make themselves look better in the World Cup Pre-Match.

After all, losing to the Vietnamese team in the last World Cup Pre-Match was a humiliation for them, something Wang Dachao and others kept in their hearts even if unspoken.

Yet even so, facing Li Shuangying and the others, Wang Dachao frequently made things difficult or deliberately failed to cooperate.

Just like that, a month passed in the blink of an eye.

The World Cup Pre-Match began in the Asian zone.

The World Cup Pre-Match is conducted across different zones, mainly divided into Asia, Europe, Africa, and America.

In the Asian zone, there are quite a few strong teams, especially Japan and the Korean Team, which are very formidable. Besides, some Central Asian teams are not to be underestimated.

Of course.

According to predictions from netizens, the National Team shouldn't expect much against these strong Asian teams, especially those like Korean and Japan teams, whose strength often leads them into the World Cup.

Japan's team particularly almost always makes it to the World Cup, while the Korean team depends on circumstances.

In the eyes of netizens, this year's World Cup Pre-Match opponents for the National Team are still the Vietnamese team, as the National Team lost to them in the previous World Cup Pre-Match and missed the World Cup altogether.

Apart from the Vietnamese team, they need to be wary of the Thai Team, especially as the first match is against them. Based on the last World Cup Pre-Match results, losing to Vietnam was considered very disgraceful, and many believe this time the National Team will likely lose to the Thai Team.

Today.

Is the first showdown between the National Team and the Thai Team, also the National Team's first match in the World Cup Pre-Match.

Moreover, the National Team is at home, at Haicheng Sports Center, facing the national team from Thailand, widely regarded as the weaker team in the Asian zone.

"Sigh, now we just have to see if the National Team can win against the Thai Team."

"The National Team is just a joke."

"I heard the National Team has a few newcomers this year."

"I think Feiyue Football Club has some pretty impressive newcomers this year. Did any make it to the National Team?"

"The National Team roster has been announced; haven't you seen it? Feiyue Football Club has four players in the National Team, and they're in the starting lineup."

"Oh my! The four from Feiyue Football Club made it: Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan, Zhu Tan, and Zhao Xuanming, it's practically a star lineup!"

"Are they really that awesome?"

"For those who don't follow football, of course, you wouldn't know what they're about."

"Feiyue Football Club is currently the strongest club in the country, without a doubt. Even Hengtai, plus Harbor, and An Country likely aren't their match."

"These players are rather remarkable, and all are young players."

"I have great expectations for Li Shuangying and others; their abilities are unquestionable."

"Then we have a good chance against the Thai Team in this match."

"Go for it! Take down the Thai Team!"

"Don't just say winning against the Thai Team; we just hope not to lose too badly."

"I don't have high hopes for the current National Team."

"Please stop following the trend of bashing the National Team, understand the current situation better. Ever since Mist City Arts and Science University's football team emerged on the scene and Feiyue Football Club was established, things with the National Team have improved."

"Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan, Zhu Tan, and Zhao Xuanming are quite skilled, and with Wang Dachao and Zhou Peng in the National Team, I think there's a good chance against the Thai Team."

Even before the match started, netizens were already discussing fervently.

Clearly, genuinely concerned netizens are not many, and most are just following the trend. Additionally, the topic of the National Team versus the Thai Team is very hot, boosted by various media, thus elevating its popularity, drawing more netizens to notice today's opening match of the World Cup Pre-Match for the National Team!

So, what will the outcome of this showdown be?

Countless people have begun to anticipate, especially those fans who've witnessed the journey of Feiyue Football Club, they're extremely eager!

Chapter 1723: Lost a Ball Right at the Start?

Haicheng, Sports Center.

The first match of the 2026 Eagle-Canada-Mexico World Cup Asian qualifiers is about to commence.

And this first match is the debut of the national football team, playing on home ground, and most crucially, the opponent is the Thai Team.

Therefore,

This battle has attracted a tremendous number of online viewers.

Everyone wants to see whether this time the national team will lose to the Thai Team again and if this time, the national team will truly change.

On-site, major media outlets have started live broadcasting, including the Feiyue Home streaming media platform under the Feiyue Group.

"Dear audience, this is the Feiyue Home Streaming Media Sports Channel. We are broadcasting the 2026 Eagle-Canada-Mexico World Cup Asian qualifier matches, featuring our national team's first game, against the Thai Team."

On the Feiyue Home streaming platform, a professional live broadcast team has been dispatched to the Haicheng Sports Center to conduct live coverage.

After all, football matches are a crucial part of streaming media, and leveraging this World Cup Pre-Match opportunity, Feiyue Home plans to expand its content and strengthen its sports offerings.

Additionally, another reason is that players from the Feiyue Football Club are included in this national team, essentially making them "colleagues" of the Feiyue Group, necessitating a live broadcast of their World Cup Pre-Match battle.

Besides the Feiyue Home Streaming Media platform, other major sports platforms and NTS also conducted live broadcasts of this first national team match in the 2026 Eagle-Canada-Mexico World Cup Asian qualifiers.

And the reporter dispatched by NTS is Bingbing!

It so happened,

As Ding Yue arrived in Haicheng from Mist City and reached Haicheng Sports Center, he coincidentally met NTS reporter Bingbing.

"Hello, Principal Ding, we meet again."

Seeing Principal Ding, Bingbing proactively greeted him. At this time, Bingbing was appearing as a new media live room host rather than a sports channel host, making her live broadcast somewhat more relaxed.

The NTS sports channel, however, is different, featuring specialized football commentary and a professional camera team.

Actually, the Feiyue Home Streaming Media platform also has two specialized football commentators, who have undergone extensive training previously and now formally join the Feiyue Home Streaming Media Sports Channel. Their first task is covering the national team's World Cup Pre-Match!

"Hello Reporter Bingbing, it's nice to see you again."

Ding Yue warmly greeted Bingbing in return.

In this midsummer season, Ding Yue always feels a sense of chill in his heart, especially upon seeing Bingbing.

Bingbing still exudes such vitality, possessing an entirely unique aura.

"Principal Ding, both Mist City Arts and Science University's Sports Academy and Feiyue Football Club have made significant contributions to the national team this time, sending four players at once."

Bingbing smiled warmly toward Ding Yue.

"Ah, it's what we should do, for the rise of the national team."

Ding Yue scratched his head humbly and replied.

In all honesty, a club contributing four players to the national team lineup is quite rare. Teams like Hengtai, former powerhouses of the national team, usually have three players; typically, two start, and one serves as a substitute.

This time, Hengtai's starters are Wang Dachao and Zhou Peng, with one more as a substitute.

Feiyue Football Club, however, is different.

The national team's call-up includes four players from Feiyue Football Club. Not a single one is a substitute; all four are starting players. This illustrates that Feiyue Football Club's status and strength in the Xia Super League are unmatched.

"Let's look forward to our national football team having a brilliant opening match today," Bingbing said with a smile.

"Yes, I'm eagerly looking forward to it too," Ding Yue replied with a smile and nod.

Then, Ding Yue refrained from disturbing Bingbing's World Cup Pre-Match coverage and, with Huang, Bin, Secretary Wen Ruohan, and his AI robot Big White, proceeded towards the spectator stands.

However, given Ding Yue's status and wealth, he certainly wouldn't sit in a regular seat but a specialized VIP seat, as the cost is insignificant to him.

The real winner is Wen Ruohan, enjoying VIP seating just by being with Principal Ding; it's simply too fantastic.

Ding Yue brought Big White primarily because of a prior conversation he had with Bin, who mentioned Big White's capability of assessing and predicting the match dynamics in real time.

Hence, Ding Yue brought Big White along, partly as a bodyguard and partly to see if Big White could indeed forecast the match scenario.

Why bring Big White as a bodyguard?

Because, for this national team's match against the Thai Team, there are many domestic fans at the scene. These fans, despite experiencing repeated disappointments from the national team, still come to watch the matches, showing their deep love and earnest hope for the national team's success.

Chapter 1724: Lost a Ball at the Start?_2

If we lose this match against the Thai Team, the fans might really explode, and who knows what might happen then.

After all, I'm the president of Mist City Arts and Science University and personally trained Li Shuangying and the other three professional soccer players. These four make up the largest group

from Feiyue Football Club in the national team, so if the fans really do vent their anger on me, what should I do?

I might need Big White to be my bodyguard then!

Of course, the chance of all this happening is actually very slim. It's just Ding Yue's random thoughts, in reality, the fans are very restrained.

"This way."

After looking at the ticket in his hand, Ding Yue found his seat.

This VIP seat is truly worthy of the name VIP, with its height, angle, and seating being all excellent, no wonder the price is two or three times more than the best regular seats.

But no matter how expensive, for Ding Yue, it's just a drop in the ocean.

After arriving at the VIP seats and sitting down, Ding Yue had his secretary Wen Ruohan on his left, the AI robot Big White on his right, and next to them were Huang Youjie and Xu Bin.

"Yue, do you see how many people are here? If our national team loses, won't they come and beat us up?"

Huang Youjie teased Ding Yue.

The match hadn't started yet, so of course, they were looking for something to talk about.

"Pfft pfft pfft! Old Huang, what are you talking about!"

Xu Bin retorted, "The match hasn't even started, and you're already bringing us down. With Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan, Zhao Xuanming, and Zhu Tan playing, the strength of the national team has significantly increased, how can we lose?"

"Hey, I'm just joking, of course, I hope our national team wins, but in football, anything is possible. Just think back to how many upsets there were in the last World Cup!"

Huang Youjie shrugged, calmly saying.

"Let's see how it goes, I still have more faith in Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan, Zhao Xuanming, and Zhu Tan. As for whether the other national players are reliable, who knows, because football is a team sport and can't rely solely on those four to win."

Ding Yue remained cautious.

You shouldn't speak too confidently; otherwise, what if things don't go as planned!

The stadium at the Haicheng Sports Center quickly filled with people.

It was a sea of people, even though the national team had been really bad before, there were still a lot of local fans. After all, it's our home team playing at our home ground, and it's the opening match of the World Cup Pre-Match, so it's still worth supporting.

Even though fans criticized the national team, they were still hopeful for their progress towards the World Cup in this Pre-Match.

The match was about to start.

The players from both teams began to come onto the field.

When the national team players came onto the field, there was a wave of cheers, naturally, most of the audience in the venue were locals, and there were very few Thai Team fans, not even a tenth.

"National team, play well for me!"

"If you lose to the Thai Team today, it's going to be embarrassing."

"Brothers, if the national team loses to the Thai Team today, let's just disband the national team."

"This match is making me a bit nervous."

"Let's just support the national team first, as for the result, I've prepared myself mentally a long time ago."

Some spectators were hoping the national team would play well, some didn't have high hopes but still came to support them, and some were mentally prepared for a loss.

But some people were quite optimistic about this year's national team.

The Thai Team's soccer strength is generally weak in Asia, but today's match against the national team was highly anticipated, with many Thai netizens following the game closely.

As the players from both teams made their entrance and the referee determined which side would start, the first half officially began!

Right from the start, the Thai Team showed their usual level, mediocre in both attack and defense, with nothing outstanding.

On the national side, it was evident their morale was high, especially the four players from Mist City Arts and Science University, performing various interplays, interceptions, and passes on the field. Li Shuangying and Zhao Xuanming held crucial positions, but according to the main coach Liu Changjian, this match's main attackers were Hengtai's Wang Dachao and Haicheng's Ai Tianlun.

In fact, Liu Zhan believed that the offensive capabilities of Li Shuangying and Zhao Xuanming were much stronger than those of Wang Dachao and Ai Tianlun, but they had no choice but to follow the coach's arrangement.

However.

When opportunities arose, according to the coach's plan, Li Shuangying and Liu Zhan still had to pass the ball to Wang Dachao or Ai Tianlun, and Zhou Peng.

Now.

In the seventh minute, Li Shuangying found a good opportunity to pass the ball.

Given Li Shuangying's position, scoring wasn't very likely, but he could use his advanced passing skills and sharp cross to pass to Wang Dachao in the center line.

Sure enough.

Li Shuangying fully demonstrated his powerful skills, dribbling past two tightly marking defenders and then timing his pass perfectly to Wang Dachao at the center line.

If Wang Dachao controlled the ball well and seized the opportunity, he could directly shoot for the goal.

Everything happened at a critical moment.

Seeing Li Shuangying's pass, Ding Yue felt this ball was quite secure.

"Wow, that was a great pass by Li Shuangying!"

Huang Youjie exclaimed excitedly.

Ding Yue's emotions surged as well.

However.

Wang Dachao in the middle did not react in time, seemingly slow by half a beat, and the opponent was already closing in.

Wang Dachao staggered as he caught the ball. Originally, if he had partnered perfectly with Li Shuangying, he could have taken a shot right after receiving the ball.

But the situation was worse than expected.

After Wang Dachao got the ball, and with the opponent closing in, he evaded but lost the angle for a shot, and the Thai Team's defense was in place.

Faced with the risk of losing the ball, Wang Dachao took a hasty shot.

But as expected, the Thai goalkeeper didn't save it, but the ball didn't go in either, because the shot was way off target.

"Sigh! What a shame!"

"What a great opportunity to shoot!"

"Damn, and it didn't go in!"

"It was a nice chance, but the Thai Team's defense was too timely."

"Why do I feel this ball shouldn't have been crossed, but shot instead!"

The audience felt regretful for the missed goal.

Wang Dachao was frustrated too.

But since it happened, he could only move on and continue playing.

Li Shuangying was even more frustrated.

With this ball, if on the center line were Liu Zhan or Zhao Xuanming coordinating, it would certainly have posed a greater threat, scoring not guaranteed, but surely not this off target, pressured into a hasty shot which should've been avoided.

This ball should have been a calm, steady shot with a high chance of scoring.

But when it came to Wang Dachao, it ended up as a hasty kick, a perfectly good ball turned bad in an instant.

At that moment, Li Shuangying realized how truly lacking some of these previous national players were!

Yet!

Before Li Shuangying could recover from missing the goal, the Thai Team launched a lightning-fast counterattack, the national team's defense seemed to collapse instantly, and the Thai Team surged forward as if unchallenged.

"That shot was dangerous, our defense... shot, and it's in, oh no!"

Everything happened all too suddenly.

The Thai Team just scored a goal like that!

Chapter 1725: All-Out Attack

"Damn!"

"What the hell!"

"What the hell is this? Is this defense made of paper?"

"Eight minutes into the game, and a goal already conceded, truly consistent, national team!"

"Holy crap!"

"What kind of crappy soccer is this?"

"I'm stunned!"

The Thai team's attacking player dribbled the ball as if no one was there—no, to be precise, he really had no one stopping him. The national team's defense barely had time to react, and then the ball was in.

This goal happened because Wang Dachao's temporary shot didn't go in before. At the same time, the Thai team seized the opportunity and made a long pass, leaving the national team's players dumbfounded.

Despite Zhutan, as a midfielder, trying hard to intercept the ball, it was too far from him, leaving him hoping for the defenders.

However.

The defenders were just as clueless as Wang Dachao, as if realizing too late, their whole line was like paper, easily bypassed, and then just a shot at the goal. Even the goalkeeper couldn't salvage it then.

The domestic audience watching live were dumbfounded.

Fans started cursing in all sorts of ways.

"What the hell is this they're playing?"

"Oh dear, what a pity. The Thai team's blitz counterattack left the national team unable to organize a good defense." As a commentator, the anger boiled inside, but he couldn't show it directly.

"Damn!"

On the field, Li Shuangying was also dumbfounded.

What kind of teammates are these?

Li Shuangying, being a forward, naturally couldn't defend against this long ball, but he never thought his opponents would be so "underwhelming."

This crap can be considered playing soccer? This is blatantly throwing the game.

If it were his teammates from the Feiyue Football Club, they could have easily neutralized such a ball; no way it would allow a long pass leading to a goal with a breach of defense.

"This..."

In the VIP stands, Ding Yue was also speechless seeing this goal.

Never thought that yet another World Cup Pre-Match, and the national team's defense is still so weak, like it's non-existent against others' lightning counterattacks.

"The national team is still the national team, this goal cannot be saved even by our four players from Mist City Arts and Science University."

Huang Youjie sighed helplessly.

"What the heck!"

Even Xu Bin couldn't bear watching any longer.

Just eight minutes into the game, and a goal already conceded. Is this going to repeat the past defeat against the Vietnamese team?

The key point is, this is the national team's first World Cup Pre-Match and it's at home, conceding a goal just eight minutes in is simply unacceptable.

"Whoa whoa."

Ding Yue took a deep breath and then comforted himself by saying, "One point, there's still a chance to catch up, got to believe in Li Shuangying and the rest."

At this time, that's all he could do to comfort himself.

After all, it's not impossible to recover after conceding a first point. It's way better compared to when Samba faced the German Panzer, now that was true despair.

Although Ding Yue managed to keep his calm, knowing that there's a chance to recover a goal after conceding early, the fans and domestic netizens were far from composed like Ding Yue.

"Truly consistent, national team, you never fail to disappoint."

"Still the same formula!"

"I'm stupefied, guys."

"Just disband right here, what the heck is this playing?"

"Trash!"

"And they come to play soccer?"

"If I go up, I could do it too, since we're conceding anyway!"

The netizens have started, all sorts of cursing at the national team. This conceded goal was indeed too unexpected, even head coach Liu Changjian was caught off guard.

Wang Dachao, Zhou Peng, and Ai Tianlun were equally frustrated.

Initially, as central defenders and a forward, missing the goal already felt bad, but what's worse is the defense was that weak.

"Steady, steady!"

As Liu Zhan ran past Wang Dachao, he comforted his teammate.

Wang Dachao just nodded in agreement.

A goal has been conceded, but they can't get demoralized, right?

There are still over eighty minutes of play left, so now they must guard the defense well and launch a strong offense to equalize and even surpass the score. On this point, Liu Zhan and Li Shuangying are quite confident.

But Wang Dachao's confidence wasn't as strong.

In his view, with a first point conceded, the game seems challenging, but his mindset hasn't broken yet, after all, it's just eight minutes into the game; there's still plenty of time, and surely there's a chance, at least to tie, right?

After momentarily leading one to zero, the Thai team instantly gained high spirits, as if everyone was pumped up, their defense and offense became more coordinated.

Meanwhile, after a brief dip in morale, Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan, Zhu Tan, and Zhao Xuanming adjusted their mindset on the national team's side.

Even though while playing for Feiyue Football Club, they rarely encountered such a disadvantage of conceding a goal within eight minutes; usually, they would score within ten or twenty minutes, leading themselves, they were mentally prepared for today's situation, which is more than Wang Dachao, Zhou Peng, and Ai Tianlun could say about their mindset.

Chapter 1726: All-Out Attack_2

"Yue, look, Li Shuangying and the others have adjusted their condition well, but why do I feel like the collaboration and skills between Li Shuangying and Wang Dachao are not on the same level?"

Huang Youjie observed the situation on the field and couldn't help but express his doubts.

In fact.

Ding Yue had already noticed it too.

On the football field, Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan, Zhu Tan, and Zhao Xuanming from their own Feiyue Football Club were putting forth every effort, fully involved in interceptions, passing, and attacking throughout the game.

In contrast, looking at the other National Team members, even though they seemed to have become "serious" after conceding a goal, their defense, when examined closely, was still the same. If caught off guard by an unexpected attack, their defense might as well be made of paper.

This is fundamentally a problem with the defenders, but it frustrated Li Shuangying and the others, who had no way to change it since they were mostly in attacking positions. Zhu Tan was a central midfielder inclined to defend, but he wasn't the main force for defense in the backline; instead, he was tasked with defending in midfield and intercepting the opponent's possession.

"The defense is too weak."

Ding Yue shook his head helplessly and said, "With such a level of defense, if the forwards' attack doesn't result in a goal, and the opponent gets the ball, then our National Team's defensive line will be under severe threat, risking conceding goals time and again."

Ding Yue had figured out the current situation of the National Team, realizing that it's really due to the limited skills of the players, though there's also a possibility that they simply aren't defending with all their might.

Strong teams' defenses are such that every player is on high alert, and once there's an incoming attack, they can almost perform strong marking, only in the to-and-fro of various defenses and attacks might minor lapses occur, giving the opponent a shooting opportunity.

However, for the National Team, just being approached by the opponent with the ball is already a tremendous threat.

"If we replaced our defense with that from Feiyue Football Club, it certainly wouldn't be the current result... Damn! Almost let the Thai Team score again!"

Before Huang Youjie finished speaking, a thrilling moment unfolded on the football field.

The Thai Team once again launched a ball attack; after entering the National Team's defensive zone, they found an opening to shoot, but the shot wasn't that good and went wide.

Yet, that shot still made the National Team players take a cold breath and stunned the audience on the scene.

If that shot had gone in, it would have been terrible, right?

That would mean conceding two goals in just a few minutes, which would undoubtedly be a fresh embarrassment for the National Team!

"That was a close one!"

"Fuck, what kind of shitty defense is this?"

"This defense is like playing games!"

"With this kind of defense, more goals will be conceded later. Pay some attention."

The audience on the scene started complaining and cursing the National Team's defense, noting how it was almost non-existent. As long as the opponent did a bit of a serious attack, the defense pretty much couldn't stop them. The defense was purely reliant on the goalkeeper?

"Ying, our defense sucks."

At that moment, Zhao Xuanming ran past near Li Shuangying to remind him.

Through practical match experience, Zhao Xuanming realized that the defensive ability showcased by the National Team during training was nothing like when facing off against other national teams on the real field.

"Yes, yes, let's intensify our attack and shift the pressure of defense toward attack. Otherwise, I reckon we'll keep conceding goals!"

Li Shuangying thought for a moment, deciding on a stronger offensive approach to alleviate their side's defensive "weakness."

It's the only feasible tactic left.

The defense was unbelievably feeble, and whenever the opponent seized the ball to attack, it posed a huge threat. In such a scenario, what else could the forwards, wingers, and other players do? Should they rush back to their own defensive zones to desperately thwart the opponent's attack?

It was almost impossible!

Therefore, what Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan, and Zhao Xuanming, who were in attacking positions, could do was to amplify their attack level, using offense to relieve their defense, a classic example of the best defense being a good offense.

As for defense, Li Shuangying could only rely on his teammate Zhu Tan, who was the central defender.

Hence.

Li Shuangying raised a hand towards Zhu Tan's position, making a gesture only Zhu Tan could understand, indicating to strengthen central defense to counter the opponent's high passes as much as possible.

As a central defender, one of the primary tasks is handling the opponent's high passes, as the high passes are distant, with a high ball trajectory. Zhu Tan, being a tall and sturdy player, has the advantage of dissolving the opponent's high passes as a central defender.

Similar to the previous goal's high pass, except it was a side pass, making it impossible for Zhu Tan to rush and intercept or cut the pass in time, a situation beyond Zhu Tan's control, unavoidable.

But afterward, Zhu Tan needed to fully concentrate on managing the central defense, to ensure intercepting or disrupting any future high passes from the opponent.

Moreover.

Zhu Tan understood that Li Shuangying and others were preparing for an all-out offensive, and the gesture information from Li Shuangying instructed him to guard well against the opponent's high passes and fully undertake central defense to facilitate Li Shuangying and the others' full-scale attack, preventing the opponent from counterattacking swiftly.

In this manner.

The National Team, after warding off another attack from the Thai Team, passed the ball from midfield to Zhao Xuanming's feet.

But Zhao Xuanming was being heavily marked by the opponent.

For some reason, even though at the start of the match, Zhao Xuanming wasn't under tight marking, it became noticeably tighter now.

Maybe some of Zhao Xuanming's previous actions exposed his potential threat to the opponents.

Conversely, Wang Dachao and Zhou Peng over there did not seem intensely marked.

Seeing that it was practically difficult for him to break through while being heavily marked, and there was a possibility the opponent could snatch the ball back, Zhao Xuanming had no choice but to abandon the attack and pass the ball back to Liu Zhan.

Indeed, it was Liu Zhan who passed the ball to him.

Upon receiving the ball passed back from Zhao Xuanming, Liu Zhan understood that attacking opportunities on his end were unlikely.

At this point, after assessing the field situation, Liu Zhan sensed that Li Shuangying's chances for attack were also quite slim.

Hence, the initiative now was only with Wang Dachao.

And, crucially, Zhou Peng assisted Wang Dachao in easing some defensive pressure, creating an opportunity.

Thus, Liu Zhan passed the ball to Wang Dachao, but when Wang Dachao was ready to launch an attack, the two players who had been marking Zhou Peng swarmed over. As the goal was still quite far, a direct shot would hardly succeed.

This was also apparent to Li Shuangying.

Therefore, the best choice at this moment was to pass the ball and continue seeking opportunities.

Wang Dachao passed the ball to Zhou Peng, who also struggled to find opportunities and passed it back to Liu Zhan. After getting the ball, Liu Zhan realized that continuing like this would just trap them in an endless cycle of being tightly marked by the opponent, eventually leading to a helpless shot with a ninety-nine percent probability of not scoring, or a high tension mistake allowing the opponent to regain possession.

So, Liu Zhan made a decision to take the ball himself and prepare to attack full force.

Upon seeing Liu Zhan make such a move, Li Shuangying knew he was gearing up for collaboration with himself and Zhao Xuanming.

On the field, the rather small-statured Liu Zhan initiated a charge with the ball, with two opposing players coming to block him.

Liu Zhan maneuvered skillfully, bypassing the first defender's blockade with some fancy footwork, but the second was more challenging.

"What a beautiful pass!"

Chapter 1727: Everyone Stand Up!

At this moment, Liu Zhan became the focus of the entire field.

Especially when he brilliantly bypassed a defender from the Thai Team, the crowd erupted into cheers because that breakthrough was simply stunning, even Ding Yue couldn't help but marvel at it.

After Liu Zhan bypassed the first Thai Team defender, the second defender swiftly closed in.

However.

Liu Zhan remained calm and composed, facing such tight defense, he fully utilized the skills trained before and his quick thinking during the game, along with his impressive footwork in dribbling, Liu Zhan splendidly bypassed the second Thai Team defender.

"Amazing!"

"Liu Zhan, Liu Zhan, the eternal god!"

"This breakthrough is simply of top-level quality."

"Even Ronaldo and Messi would be impressed by such a breakthrough."

"This player is incredible."

"Beautiful, go!"

The audience cheered, especially the students from Mist City Arts and Science University who recognized Liu Zhan and started chanting his name, almost like a fan-gathering scene.

The Thai Team felt a grave crisis.

After all, Liu Zhan had continuously bypassed two players and quickly advanced into the Thai Team's penalty area.

At this moment, the defenders from other national teams moved to surround Liu Zhan, preventing him from having a suitable opportunity to shoot.

The Thai Team's blockade was indeed effective.

Even though Liu Zhan had bypassed two Thai Team defenders and reached the penalty area, he couldn't find the right chance or angle to shoot, while the Thai Team players were also desperately trying to seize the ball.

Facing such a situation, Liu Zhan had to make a quick decision.

Either shoot quickly or pass the ball.

But at this moment, passing would only mean passing backward, and after sending it back, all his previous effort to break through would be meaningless.

More importantly, Liu Zhan assessed, even if he passed the ball to Li Shuangying or Zhao Xuanming, they would face the same scenario.

If that's the case.

Then he should take the shot himself.

In this brief and intense moment, Liu Zhan made the best choice he could, which was to shoot within the enemy's blockade.

This shot had a possibility of being blocked by the Thai Team defenders, meaning it might hit their bodies.

However.

Liu Zhan's shot was surprising, choosing a good opportunity, the ball passed through a very small gap between two Thai Team defenders.

The flying football rushed towards the Thai Team's goal.

Even the live commentators of the football match got excited.

"Oh my! Caught by the Thai Team's goalkeeper, it's undeniable, the Thai Team's goalkeeper has skill. As a young goalkeeper, he's very cautious."

The commentator said regretfully.

This shot seemed highly threatening, after all, Liu Zhan dribbled past two players and suddenly shot, passing through the gap between two players, creating a huge scoring opportunity, but ultimately, unfortunately, the Thai Team's goalkeeper caught it.

"This shot was beautiful, but such a pity!"

Huang Youjie exclaimed in excitement.

Ding Yue's heart was in his throat, truly regretting that shot.

But it also demonstrated Liu Zhan's strong solo combat capability, Li Shuangying's and Zhao Xuanming's skills were even stronger than Liu Zhan's.

What does this mean?

Exactly!

It means that today's match still has potential.

After the regrettable shot, the ball was with the Thai Team, and they counterattacked, using the same tactic as before, with the goalkeeper sending a high pass.

The football drew an arc over the field, directly crossing midfield.

At this moment, two or three Thai Team players were already prepared at the forward position.

However!

The national team, having learned from past mistakes, wouldn't let it happen again.

Besides Zhu Tan who already kept an eye on the rapid strike, another national team player was also fully focused.

As the ball descended, Zhu Tan rushed in, engaging in a "battle" with the Thai Team player, and ultimately headed the ball away.

Another national team player quickly followed, catching the ball headed by Zhu Tan.

Thus, the Thai Team "errored," losing possession despite it being theirs, after a high pass the ball was now with the national team.

The player controlling the ball passed it to another, who promptly passed it to Zhu Tan who had already broken free.

After observing the situation, Zhu Tan noticed that the offensive formation of his side was very favorable.

So, Zhu Tan decisively passed the ball to Wang Dachao.

Upon receiving the ball, Wang Dachao made a judgment, finding no good opportunity, he passed it to Li Shuangying, who passed it to Liu Zhan, and Liu Zhan passed it to Zhao Xuanming.

Chapter 1728: All Rise!_2

After a series of passes, the Thai Team's defensive strength was mobilized.

In this process, Li Shuangying seemed to see an opportunity and signaled Zhao Xuanming, who was controlling the ball.

Seeing Li Shuangying's signal, Zhao Xuanming directly passed from the right side to the left side.

The Thai Team's players started running frantically, trying to capture this ball, yet Li Shuangying waited patiently and easily controlled the ball passed by teammate Zhao Xuanming, and then directly shot!

However!

This shot was a bit unfortunate; the angle was decent, but the Thai Team's players rushed over, almost using their bodies to block the ball, and it flew out of the field.

The referee then decided on a corner kick.

Since the ball was touched by the Thai Team's defender last, crossing the goal line but not scoring, it was generally given as a corner kick to the attacking side.

Great!

Li Shuangying secured a corner kick.

Li Shuangying, Zhao Xuanming, and Liu Zhan loved corner kicks because they could coordinate well in the attacking formation and had great tacit understanding.

The field quickly adjusted; Zhao Xuanming, due to his tall stature, was positioned centrally, while Wang Dachao and Zhou Peng knew that this corner kick was created by Li Shuangying, so they had to coordinate accordingly.

Liu Zhan, being smaller and agile, became the winning formula by positioning himself in a relatively discreet and unobtrusive spot.

After Li Shuangying kicked the corner, the ball was moderately forceful, targeting the center.

Wang Dachao and Zhou Peng made a feint.

Zhao Xuanming used his height advantage, jumped up for a header in a scoring posture.

The Thai Team's goalkeeper saw this, preparing to dive, his body already moving with Zhao Xuanming's header.

Then, suddenly.

Zhao Xuanming increased the force of his head tilt.

Yes.

The ball was not intended for a header but was a pass to the side.

In that instant, Liu Zhan's figure flashed by, kicking at the goal from the side. The Thai Team's goalkeeper was too late to react and adjust, already committed due to Zhao Xuanming's maneuver.

But unexpectedly, Liu Zhan's shot was completely blocked by another Thai Team's defender, the ball bouncing off the defender.

And then the Thai Team's players controlled the ball.

Once again, a quick counterattack ensued, but this time, the Thai Team opted for shorter passes, steadily moving toward midfield to keep possession, foregoing the blitz effect since the national team was already prepared for defense.

That corner kick was regretful, but it showed Li Shuangying, Zhao Xuanming, and Liu Zhan's full effort and excellent teamwork.

Yet everything on the field changes in an instant—it's impossible for everything to unfold as expected. Just like Liu Zhan's unexpected shot was met by the Thai Team's surprise defense blocking all shooting angles with their bodies.

"There's only ten minutes left in the first half; can we retrieve this point?"

Huang Youjie commented pensively as he observed the situation on the field.

The first half was indeed nerve-wracking; losing a point within the initial eight minutes and yet failing to reclaim it by now, despite several attempts by Liu Zhan and Li Shuangying.

Ding Yue could tell that regardless of Liu Zhan, Li Shuangying, Zhao Xuanming, or Zhu Tan—they all gave it their all, yet there were players who haven't unleashed their full potential.

Especially Wang Dachao, Zhou Peng, and Ai Tianlun—those three seemed rather mediocre, lacking the drive. Football is a team sport; relying solely on Liu Zhan, Li Shuangying, Zhao Xuanming, and Zhu Tan won't suffice.

The national team's defense seemed as fragile as paper, with defenders not committing to defense aggressively. How could such a defense become a steel wall?

"Alas."

Ding Yue shook his head helplessly.

Up to now in the first half, the national team's demonstrated resilience stemmed entirely from the efforts of these four players from the Feiyue Football Club. Perhaps one or two other players were inspired by Li Shuangying and started putting in effort, but the majority lacked the warrior spirit.

"Brother Yue, why the sigh?"

Though Huang Youjie was pensive, he couldn't help but ask upon hearing Brother Yue sighing beside him.

"Did you notice, Old Huang, this national team solely relies on our four relentless players, Li Shuangying, while others... sigh, it's really beyond words."

Ding Yue expressed helplessly.

"Brother Yue, I've also noticed." Xu Bin stated earnestly, "They aren't willing to exhaust themselves playing this match, consequently giving the Thai Team many opportunities. The chances we've had were created by the hard efforts of Liu Zhan, Li Shuangying, and others, yet no goals have come from those efforts."

As spectators, Ding Yue and Xu Bin identified the national team's current issue.

In fact, not just Ding Yue and Xu Bin, many spectators discerned the national team's problems clearly; it's evident that inside the team, unity seems absent, with only a few players sweating

profusely and the rest seemingly strolling the field nonchalantly, not conveying what exactly they intend—surely football isn't played this way?

Gradually.

As the first half neared its end, Li Shuangying and Liu Zhan felt a sense of powerlessness.

Even if their ball handling and passing between teammates were excellent, some teammates were lagging behind, making Li Shuangying and Liu Zhan very uncomfortable.

Despite this.

Li Shuangying's spirit and determination still surged fiercely within.

Just a few minutes left in the first half, and Li Shuangying seized the ball, initiating an offensive, first passing to Liu Zhan, who dribbled past opponents, while Li Shuangying sprinted forward with all his might, finally outpacing his opponent.

"Zhan!"

Li Shuangying shouted swiftly, hardly audible amid the field's chaos.

But Liu Zhan understood.

As Liu Zhan rushed forward with the ball, numerous Thai Team players surrounded him.

At that moment, Liu Zhan lifted the ball high, passing it to left-winger Li Shuangying.

Li Shuangying handled the high ball well, trapping it with his chest before the ball landed at his feet, accelerating swiftly.

The Thai Team's defenders had reacted, but facing Li Shuangying's explosive speed, seemed unable to keep up, thus resorted to defending the center, narrowing Li Shuangying's shooting angle.

This time.

Li Shuangying faced no interference, positioned the ball well, and selected a suitable angle.

Despite two or three players and a goalkeeper defending in front of the opponent's goal, Li Shuangying decided to shoot.

At this moment, Liu Zhan and Zhao Xuanming charged in, mingling with the opponents, their aim to disrupt the defense!

"Shoot!"

Li Shuangying struck!

"We can see, Li Shuangying shoots!"

"The ball is in!"

"Scored! It's in! A beautiful and clean ball!"

The commentator finally reacted with excitement at this moment.

Finally a goal!

Suddenly, the stadium erupted with thunderous cheers.

On Mist City Arts and Science University's campus, dormitories echoed with joyous cheers!

Chapter 1729: The Player Collapsed from Exhaustion on the Court

As the first half was about to end, finally a good news came.

Thanks to Li Shuangying's shot.

That ball went in!

National soccer commentators were extremely excited, and the fans at the scene cheered even more, finally scoring a goal, recovering this point.

The shame of conceding a goal in the first eight minutes was washed away by this shot!

"Nice!"

Huang Youjie clenched his fist and said excitedly.

On the field, after scoring the goal, Li Shuangying started to sprint, at this moment he was arguably the most eye-catching.

However, Li Shuangying knew that being able to score this goal, while his shot was crucial, the cooperation with his teammates Liu Zhan and Zhao Xuanming was equally key.

Before this, there were actually two or three chances to score, but none resulted in a goal. Finally, this time a goal was scored, making up for the one-point deficit.

"Li Shuangying is awesome!"

"That ball was beautiful."

"Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan, and Zhao Xuanming's cooperation is really good."

"Finally made up that point, scared me to death."

"You can actually tell, the national team does have some skills, at least Li Shuangying and these attacking players are pretty good."

"Do you get the feeling that Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan and the others are much better than other players?"

"Yes, yes, yes, that Wang Dachao is simply just eating for free."

"Wang Dachao also participated in the last World Cup Pre-Match, just a good-for-nothing!"

"The defender players are all dragging down the team, I've noticed."

"If all the players were at the level of Li Shuangying and Liu Zhan, not to mention beating the Thai Team, we might even stand a chance against the Japanese Team, not ending up in a situation where the national team isn't even worthy of carrying Japan's shoes, sigh!"

Netizens were also praising Li Shuangying's goal one after another, and many expressed that within the national team, Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan and others seem to be on a different level compared to most other players.

In this regard, the netizens weren't wrong.

The strength of Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan, Zhao Xuanming and Zhu Tan is really on a different level compared to these "old masters" of the national team, in the Xia Super League, they just beat them down hard.

Therefore, forming the national team with them actually lowers the overall strength of Li Shuangying and the others, frankly speaking, Wang Dachao and the defenders are just burdens, purely dragging Li Shuangying and the others down.

Speaking of their true strength, Li Shuangying is probably among the top across the entire Asia region.

If the entire Feiyue Football Club were to be brought up, even facing the Japanese Team or Korean Team, Ding Yue feels there shouldn't be any problem.

But it's a pity.

The football association won't give such a chance.

Unless...

Ding Yue thought, unless we encounter a truly dire crisis, or the whole nation is outraged and demands the football association to do so, perhaps the football association and the General Administration of Sports might make some compromises.

On your football field in Haicheng Sports Center, the whistle for the end of the first half sounded.

The players' tense nerves finally eased at this moment, of course, this might just be Li Shuangying, Zhu Tan, Liu Zhan, and Zhao Xuanming who eased their nerves, as for Wang Dachao and the others, perhaps since the start of the match they never really had tense nerves.

Li Shuangying and Liu Zhan could see on the field, Wang Dachao and Zhou Peng seemed not to exert their full strength, as if it didn't matter whether this match was lost or won.

Purely slacking off.

However, to the audience, it's not so easily perceived, giving them the impression that this is just their level of ability.

But in reality, Li Shuangying knows very well, during training, during confrontations, Wang Dachao and Zhou Peng show some level of skill, not so much that they're truly a bunch of useless people.

Yet when it comes to the actual national games, they just seem to turn into useless people.

"Ying, that ball was well played, let's coordinate like this well in the second half."

As the first half ended, on the way off the field, Liu Zhan came up to Li Shuangying and said with a smile.

"It's still your passes that are good, we do need to strengthen our coordination, otherwise, today's match against the Thai Team won't be easy to win."

Li Shuangying thought for a moment and nodded.

"Mmhhh, so Ying, do you think we can win?" Liu Zhan asked curiously.

For this match, although before playing everyone said they were confident, but once on the field, they realized the opponent's actual strength.

The Thai Team has always been standing in the Asia region with generally average strength, basically never making it into the World Cup, which shows their level, and though the national team has been very bad in recent years, around twenty years ago they did make it into the World Cup once.

"Zhan, I think you have seen it too."

Li Shuangying couldn't help but take a deep breath, then said: "This current Thai Team, their fighting spirit is strong, and the strength they show is several levels stronger than before, but they also have weaknesses, their overall strength may not be better than ours, but their attitude towards this match is surely much better than those few guys."

Chapter 1730: The Player Exhausted on the Court_2

"Yeah, yeah, I noticed that in the first half, the Thai Team posed quite a threat to us, especially with their blitz counterattack leading to the first goal, catching us off guard."

Liu Zhan nodded in agreement.

Soon, the players of the national soccer team returned to the midfield resting area, where the head coach, Liu Changjian, was already waiting for them.

"Li Shuangying, the goal you scored was pretty good."

Head coach Liu Changjian clapped his hands and said to Li Shuangying.

Li Shuangying slightly nodded, neither boasting nor being overly modest, keeping a low profile. After all, given the current atmosphere inside the national team, being too high-profile might not be a good thing.

"Next, I'll explain how we should play in the second half. After observing the Thai Team in the first half, I've discovered more detailed insights."

Liu Changjian started explaining to the players.

The players listened attentively.

"Firstly, in the second half, I won't be making any substitutions. Any player who can't hold out during the second half can signal to me for a substitution." Liu Changjian started with the basics.

Regarding the strategy for the second half, Li Shuangying and Liu Zhan were quite looking forward to it.

After all, head coach Liu Changjian is a master tactician, surely having a deeper understanding of the whole match, unlike Li Shuangying and the others who could only see their immediate situations on the field.

For example, Li Shuangying and others were aware of how fiercely the Thai Team defended, but weren't really sure whether their offensive power was also strong.

This was because the national team's defense was so bad that Li Shuangying couldn't judge whether it was due to the inadequacy of their defense or the strength of the Thai Team's offensive power.

"Let's talk about you, Li Shuangying. The goal you scored in the first half will surely make the Thai Team target you closely. They'll send more players to mark you, so in the second half, your main role will be to attract their defensive forces, thereby giving the main attacking rights to Wang Dachao. Understand?"

Head coach Liu Changjian first glanced at Li Shuangying, then turned to Wang Dachao.

"Hmm... yeah."

Li Shuangying nodded, indicating understanding.

He understood the reasoning behind it. In the first half, he had the main attacking responsibility, but having scored a goal in the first half, as Coach Liu Changjian said, he would be tightly marked in the second.

So at this time, he was indeed not suitable to be the main attacker.

But Li Shuangying wasn't happy with one thing—that since he couldn't be the main attacker, why not let Liu Zhan or Zhao Xuanming take up that role? Giving it to Wang Dachao, what was the meaning of that?

Previously, when talking with Liu Zhan, Li Shuangying had said that Wang Dachao didn't have the skill.

If Wang Dachao becomes the main attacker, scoring a goal?

That's very unlikely!

"In the first half, I had many chances to score, but Liu Zhan didn't pass the ball to me. If he'd passed it to me, in the second half, we could surely overturn the Thai Team by a couple of points without any problem!"

At this time, Wang Dachao suddenly began boasting, and he was loud and clear about it.

The most surprising thing was that head coach Liu Changjian seemed to acknowledge Wang Dachao's words, even nodding slightly.

Seeing this, Liu Zhan dared not speak despite his anger. He was angry because he didn't want Wang Dachao to be the main attacker. Taking away Li Shuangying's attacking responsibility was understandable, Liu Zhan understood that, but even if Li Shuangying was drawing the defense, giving the main attacking role to Zhao Xuanming would be a better choice. Why specifically give it to that guy, Wang Dachao?

"Zhou Peng, as the secondary attacker, you'll need to be ready to replace Wang Dachao. Understand?"

Head coach Liu Changjian instructed again.

"Yes, Coach Liu!"

Zhou Peng heard this, he happily nodded in response.

Oh my!

Wang Dachao as the main attacker!

Zhou Peng as the secondary!

They're marginalizing Liu Zhan and Zhao Xuanming at once, and upon hearing this, Li Shuangying felt very dissatisfied, but this was the tactical arrangement for the second half by the head coach—they were helpless.

It seemed, in the second half, they could only give it their all to cooperate with Wang Dachao and Zhou Peng.

Li Shuangying had a speculation which was that head coach Liu Changjian possibly wanted to create a "balance" within the team.

After all, if everything were left to him, Liu Zhan, Zhao Xuanming, and just people from the Feiyue Football Club, what would happen to players from other clubs?

Thinking about this, Li Shuangying felt helpless, also sensing that coach Liu Changjian really had too many thoughts, which were not beneficial for the national team.

Clearly, everyone should unite in the World Cup Pre-Match, to play well together, coaches and players united as one. But unexpectedly, there were undercurrents and complex relationships which were exhausting mentally.

To avoid letting these things disrupt his focus, Li Shuangying chose not to think too much about it, as any more thoughts could affect his performance on the field.

Just like that.

The national team followed the coach's arrangements for the second half and started the second half against the Thai Team.

For the second half, Ding Yue and Huang Youjie were still full of confidence.

But Ding Yue was still a bit worried.

That was the stamina issue for Li Shuangying and others.

Throughout the match, Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan, Zhao Xuanming, and Zhu Tan were tirelessly running around the field, doing their utmost to resolve crises and create attacking chances.

In contrast, other teammates of the national team weren't as relentless, thereby increasing the "burden" on Li Shuangying and the others, which led Ding Yue to worry whether the stamina of these four could last until the end of the match.

The worrying situation slowly started heading in the direction of his concern.

As the second half began, the Thai Team seemed like they had a surge of adrenaline, frantically creating threatening opportunities, prompting the national team's players to sprint back and forth. Since other players seemed unwilling to exert themselves on the field, it led to more running for Li Shuangying and the others.

The second half quickly passed twenty minutes, although the Thai Team didn't pose much of a shooting threat, Li Shuangying, Liu Zhan and the others were repeatedly forced to move to the midfield.

Every time Wang Dachao and Zhou Peng got the ball, they failed to organize a successful counter-attack. In those twenty minutes, Wang Dachao had two touches but couldn't deliver an effective shot.

Zhou Peng had one chance but was easily blocked by the opponent before he could shoot.

Every time Li Shuangying saw Wang Dachao and Zhou Peng with good opportunities yet falter, he felt a pang of dissatisfaction!

"Damn it!"

Li Shuangying muttered to himself, but the ever-changing dynamics on the field left him no time to remind Wang Dachao and the others to decisively take a shot, because when the ball landed in the Thai Team's hands, he had to fight for it.

Thus, Li Shuangying continued to tirelessly shuttle across the field; he was there for offense, he was also there for defense!

If he couldn't intercept the ball near midfield, once the Thai Team rushed into their penalty area, there would be a significant threat. Li Shuangying didn't want to see such a threat arise since he had no absolute confidence in his defender teammates.

Sure enough.

Unable to intercept a ball at midfield, the Thai Team's offense surged more fiercely.

The national team's defenders quickly arrayed a defense line.

But their defense line always offered unexpected surprises.

In the 29th minute of the second half, the Thai Team's offense finally took effect—breaking through the national team's defensive line, a crucial shot!

This shot was deflected by the goalkeeper.

However, the deflected ball was promptly picked up by another Thai Team player, who took another crucial shot.

And this time, with virtually no defense, he straight-up scored!

"Number 07 quickly came in, oh no, he scored!"

The domestic commentator said regretfully.

At that moment, the stadium sighed collectively again.

And on the field, seeing his team's defense breached once more and allowing a goal, Li Shuangying reached his breaking point. Initially exhausted, he felt disappointed, his body suddenly relaxing from tension, and he fell onto the ground.