

F. University 821

Chapter 821: Stepping onto the World Stage, the Battle Begins!

This was still considered lucky.

In the semifinals, the FY team faced MBQ team from Baxi Country, while the other semifinal match was between the always strong European team CP and the team DLH from Korea.

"What? Don't you even have the confidence to win the semifinals?"

Ding Yue suddenly became serious and asked sternly.

"This... Principal Ding, I really can't guarantee it. We've made the decision to substitute in Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo for the quarterfinals. Right now, the condition of Qian Yu and Wang Shilin is not that great."

"And what about Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo?"

"Although Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo are relatively stable, their synergy is lacking since we haven't had much time to integrate them. There won't be much of a problem in the quarterfinals, but for the semifinals, I'm worried there might be mishaps."

Jian Zihao said helplessly.

As the head coach, the FY team suddenly having two players with condition issues was quite irritating for him.

Even though Qian Yu and Wang Shilin themselves did not wish for these problems, it was almost impossible to say they weren't affected by real-life issues.

"Alright."

Ding Yue also sighed slightly, then urged, "Tell Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo to relax, play well, and try to integrate more with the team members."

"Yes, Principal Ding, we have been actively doing so these days," Jian Zihao said earnestly. "This time, facing Baxi Country's MBQ team, from the current overall strength, we have about a sixty percent chance of winning."

"Good, I'll await your good news. Tell them I will be watching the livestream and to give their all. If they win the semifinals, I will personally come to the venue for the finals!"

Ding Yue definitely couldn't make it to this semifinal.

Because the semifinals were happening next year, while the finals were in the following week.

If the visa was processed smoothly, and assuming his FY team won the semifinal, then Ding Yue could go to Baxi Country's Rio de O'Neill to support the FY team on-site.

"Principal Ding, I will definitely pass on your words!"

"By the way, regarding student Qian Yu, it's the issue of his parents' divorce. What about Wang Shilin? What's his situation?"

Ding Yue asked curiously.

Having two players encounter issues all at once was quite troublesome.

After understanding the situation with student Qian Yu, Ding Yue also needed to know about Wang Shilin's circumstances so that he could address the issues accordingly when he went to Rio de O'Neill in Baxi Country.

Ding Yue could exchange cards or items for psychological adjustment in the system store, which were available since Mist City Arts and Science University offered a psychology major.

Once in Baxi Country, he intended to provide guidance to Qian Yu and Wang Shilin, striving to help them recover their peak condition as soon as possible.

Otherwise,

with Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo as substitutes, Jian Zihao had mentioned that even facing Baxi Country's MBQ team would be difficult.

Let alone facing any team from the European CP team or Korea's BLH team.

"Wang Shilin... He... um... got cuckolded."

As Jian Zihao spoke up to this point, he found it somewhat difficult to say.

After all, it was a significant blow to anyone.

"What!"

Upon hearing this, Ding Yue was also taken aback.

Good gracious!

So his girlfriend cheated on him, no wonder his condition was affected. Ding Yue could understand that now.

What rotten timing for Wang Shilin's girlfriend not to cheat earlier or later, but specifically at this moment?

But after thinking it over, it was just as well that it happened during the mid-season championship. If it had happened during the S Competition, the impact would have been even greater.

There was at least the summer season and playoffs before the S Competition, with several months' time ahead, enough for Qian Yu and Wang Shilin to adjust their mental state.

But the issue was,

What about the current mid-season championship?

They had reached the semifinals, and winning it would mean FY team was just one step away from their first world championship.

Therefore,

Ding Yue had decided to help the two students recover their mindset.

"Sigh, these kinds of issues are truly... As a principal, I can understand. Director Jian, you're their coach. If their performance is affected, you have to be understanding and not too harsh; comfort them more."

Ding Yue sighed and then urged Jian Zihao.

He was worried that Jian Zihao might become irritable due to the drop in performance of the two players, especially since they had fought hard to reach the world competition, but now the hope for the championship seemed dim.

Under such circumstances, it was easy to lash out at the players, which was certainly not a desirable outcome.

"Don't worry, Principal Ding, I've always been comforting Qian Yu and Wang Shilin, trying to ease their mental state. However, to return to competitive form, I think they will need even more time," Jian Zihao acknowledged.

"Alright, then prepare well for tomorrow's semifinal, and good luck. Qian Yu and Wang Shilin aren't playing tomorrow, right?"

Ding Yue asked after giving some instructions.

"Yes, tomorrow Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo will be playing throughout," Jian Zihao replied.

"Okay, then. Create a Whatsapp group for Qian Yu and Wang Shilin, and add me to it. I'd like to have a good chat with them."

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Ding Yue, having some free time on his hands every now and then, decided to take the opportunity to stabilize the mindset of Qian Yu and Wang Shilin in advance.

"Alright, Principal Ding."

After hanging up the phone, Ding Yue was quickly added by Jian Zihao into a Whatsapp chat group.

In this chat group, there were only Qian Yu, Wang Shilin, and Ding Yue, who had just joined. After adding Ding Yue, Jian Zihao left the chat group.

Qian Yu: I'm sorry, Principal Ding.

Wang Shilin: I'm sorry, I...

As soon as Ding Yue arrived, he saw both students apologizing to him.

Speaking of which.

They must feel quite guilty in their hearts.

After all, facing a global competition like the mid-season championship, they didn't want to have any issues with their form, but that's just how real life is.

The frustrations of real life are bound to affect a person's state of mind.

And both Qian Yu and Wang Shilin were dealing with major life issues.

One's parents were divorcing, and the other was cheated on by his girlfriend; either situation would be hard for anyone to accept instantly.

"You don't need to say sorry, and it's not just me, but also Director Jian and your teammates—we all hold no blame towards you."

Ding Yue explained to the two students.

Wang Shilin: Sigh, life is not worth it.

Seeing Wang Shilin utter such words, Ding Yue immediately knew how low his spirit was at the moment.

Such an emotional and psychological state was definitely not conducive to playing well in games.

After all, if while playing, he saw the green bushes, or the water dragons, he might suddenly remember 'the green, green grass of home' on his head.

That feeling would be just too sour, okay.

"@Wang Shilin, how can life not be worth it? You haven't won the world championship yet. Wait until you've won the world championship, won the S Competition world championship, and then let a certain someone feel regret! [Go get 'em emoji.jpg]."

Ding Yue comforted Wang Shilin a bit.

Wang Shilin's situation was actually quite easy to resolve, as long as he could rekindle hope in love.

Or, to put it another way, rekindle hope in women.

Wang Shilin: You're right, Principal Ding, I still have to win the world championship, but... with my current state, it's probably hard, sigh.

Every word from Wang Shilin was filled with gloom.

Ding Yue continued his encouragement: "@Wang Shilin, don't lose heart. When you return from the mid-season championship, I'll reward you big time, invest big time in your club, and then you'll work hard to also bring back this year's S Competition championship. At that time, Principal Ding will have substantial rewards for you. Just think about it, when that time comes, driving luxury cars, living in mansions, the 'green, green grass' on your head will be replaced by the glorious crown of the world champion. Then, what will a girl who left you matter? At that time, what kind of good girls won't you have?"

Ding Yue's encouragement was arguably the most suitable among men.

At this time.

Qian Yu also stepped forward to encourage Wang Shilin.

Qian Yu: Yeah, Wang, Principal Ding makes so much sense. We must work hard, we must succeed. The woman who left you won't be worthy of your love then.

With the encouragement of his close teammates and the inspirational words from Principal Ding, Wang Shilin felt that there might indeed be some truth to it.

A flame seemed to ignite in his heart.

This was the flame of anger and emotion, and such a flame could become a driving force!

But...

The drive from this flame might not last long, as Wang Shilin's mind was filled with thoughts of his beloved girlfriend.

Yet his girlfriend gave him 'the green, green grass of home,' leaving his heart shattered.

Wang Shilin: Sigh, but I can't forget her, yet I hate it!

Seeing Wang Shilin's mood turn pessimistic again, Ding Yue realized that simply comforting him in the chat group was mostly ineffective.

It would be better to go to Rio de O'Neill in Baxi Country later and provide proper consolation in person with props.

"@Qian Yu, you also need to cheer up quickly. The matter with your parents is their generation's affair. Now that you're twenty years old, an adult, you should understand that your future life and path need to be walked by yourself. Of course, you can find a girlfriend to walk with you, hahaha."

Ding Yue began to console Qian Yu as well.

Qian Yu: Thank you for your consolation, Principal Ding. I'm actually doing quite okay, just sometimes I feel really upset. I'm now trying my best to adjust my state, and I will strive to find my rhythm before the finals start.

"Good, I'm looking forward to our FY team going all the way. We must win tomorrow's semi-finals, otherwise, there'll be no chance for the finals."

Ding Yue felt that Qian Yu's state seemed to be slightly better than Wang Shilin's.

However, there was still a significant gap to be closed before Qian Yu, the star jungler, could return to his peak form.

Otherwise, facing teams like the North American CP or Korea's DLH in their current state could be a losing battle.

Actually, between the North American team CP and the Korean team DLH, Ding Yue naturally hoped that the CP team would take down DLH.

To turn the Big Tiger into a defeated tiger!

That way, it would be a bit easier for his LPL region's FY team to play against the CP team from North America.

Chapter 823: Stepping onto the World Stage, the Battle Begins!

But we can't let our guard down.

In the Whatsapp group chat, Ding Yue talked with Qian Yu and Wang Shilin for a long time, and it seemed that Qian Yu's mental state was gradually improving.

However, Wang Shilin was still having a hard time getting out of the slump caused by his girlfriend's betrayal.

The next day.

Ding Yue arrived early at his office, turned on the projector opposite his desk, and waited for today's Mid-Season Championship semi-finals.

"Hello everyone, this is Vale and I'm Miwa, and today we're bringing you the semi-finals of the Mid-Season Championship, a match that is the focus of public attention for all of us LPL fans."

"That's right, today's semi-final will be between our LPL's Spring Season champions, the FY team, which has overturned the strong domestic team QD as a dark horse, and the MBQ team from Baxi Country. Today is the home game for the MBQ team, which has a certain advantage, so let's see if our FY team can claim another victory!"

In the game's live broadcast room, two well-known League of Legends commentators took on the commentary duties for today.

At Mist City Arts and Science University.

Tens of thousands of students were paying close attention to this semi-final.

After all, it is their school's team, representing the LPL district, representing Xia Country's esports, in an important match on the world stage.

In the dormitories, nearly all the male students were watching the live broadcast of the match.

Even students who didn't play the game League of Legends were sitting in front of their computers watching the live stream.

The same was true for the girls' dormitories.

Everyone was cheering for the players of the FY team, and although they were not playing at home, most alumni could not go to support them on-site, so online cheering was definitely something to be done properly.

In the esports college's classroom, many students from the esports major had spontaneously organized to come to the classroom to watch the live broadcast using the classroom's large multimedia screen.

In the cafeteria

Apart from Mist City Arts and Science University.

There were actually countless other colleges with students who loved esports and loved League of Legends, and they were all following today's Mid-Season Championship semi-final.

This year, Mist City Arts and Science University's FY team performed impressively in the Spring Season, went through as a dark horse, and ultimately defeated QD, which had adjusted its conditions well, to win the LPL Spring Season Championship.

Therefore, the FY team attracted countless fans.

Now the official Weibo account of the FY team had exceeded 3 million followers.

So.

Today's Mid-Season Championship semi-final is being followed by many netizens who are supporting the FY team.

But.

What the netizens and audience don't know yet is the situation of Qian Yu and Wang Shilin.

They only know that the two players have often been replaced due to poor condition, with substitutes Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo coming on.

Especially in the quarterfinals, after Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo came on, even though their performance wasn't great at the beginning, they quickly entered the zone and their coordination with the other three teammates was not off at all.

Plus, the strength of Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo was not bad either, so the audience didn't have much to say about it during the quarterfinals.

After all, they had already made it to the semi-finals.

However, the audience was curious as to why Qian Yu and Zhou Genshuo's conditions hadn't improved, and whether they would be the starting players today?

Before the match officially started, no one knew whether Qian Yu and Wang Shilin were in the starting lineup.

Everyone, of course, hoped to see Xiong Jiahao, Feng Jin, Qian Yu, Wang Shilin, and Yao Jing — the five players — take the stage.

After all, in the FY team, these five players had always been the starters, and as a team, their combined strength was extremely formidable.

Yet.

Only Ding Yue knew that today, Qian Yu and Wang Shilin would not be able to play.

"But we know that the current player situation for the FY team is a bit pessimistic, it is said that the jungler Qian Yu and the top laner Wang Shilin may be unable to start due to personal condition reasons," commented one of the commentators.

"Yeah, in the previous quarterfinals, the two players were successively replaced by substitute players," added the other commentator.

The two commentators shared some information with the audience based on what they knew.

What?

Qian Yu and Wang Shilin might not start?

This news took many fans of the FY team and some of the general audience by surprise.

After all, this was the semi-finals, and if the two players didn't participate, bringing in substitutes might reduce the chances of winning.

Everyone naturally wanted the original players Qian Yu and Wang Shilin to play.

At this time.

Actually, at the match venue in Rio de O'Neill, Baxi Country, Qian Yu and Wang Shilin were also feeling helpless.

Qian Yu's condition had recovered somewhat, but Wang Shilin was still mired in self-blame and low spirits.

It was regrettable.

After all, this was the semi-finals, and winning would mean stepping into the finals, but losing meant they'd have to pack up and buy tickets back to Mist City Arts and Science University.

If they had to return to Mist City Arts and Science University like this, Qian Yu and Wang Shilin could imagine what kind of situation it would be.

At that time, the whole internet would be criticizing them, and they would feel ashamed to face the enthusiastic support of their schoolmates.

Back home, the outcome of a League of Legends match is exactly that: win, and everyone cheers "awesome"; lose, and unless it's a glorious defeat, you're bound to be ruthlessly criticized by netizens.

Ding Yue vaguely remembered that the only team that didn't get a severe backlash after losing the S Competition finals was Shu Ning Team, renowned for the legendary 'Five Kills Descending from the Sword Saint'.

Chapter 824: Stepping onto the World Stage, the Battle Begins!

"Wang, do you think if we lose and go back, we'll be flamed into recluse?" Qian Yu said helplessly in the player's lounge backstage to Wang Shilin.

"Let them flame, that's how netizens are, you know, sigh, I..." Wang Shilin sighed with a dejected mood: "Why the heck are they trashing me, damn it!"

Regarding whether they would be savagely criticized by netizens after a loss, Wang Shilin was somewhat more open-minded, but now his mind was preoccupied with the fact that his girlfriend had cheated on him; it was infuriating and frustrating.

"We still need to believe in Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo, their strength is still quite formidable."

Qian Yu pumped himself up.

The scene.

The semi-finalists had already announced their starting lineups.

There wasn't much to say about Team MBQ, they had always been the same five starters.

But for Team FY, the players everyone was hoping for, Qian Yu and Wang Shilin, were not in the starting lineup.

"Alright, as you can see, our Team FY's starting lineup is: top laner Ming Qiang, jungler Zhou Genshuo, mid laner Yao Jing, ADC Xiong Jiahao, and support Feng Jin!"

"It seems just as we discussed, Jian Zihao probably didn't start Qian Yu and Wang Shilin due to their poor condition, it's just uncertain whether the latter two players will be substituted in later on."

The two commentators said during the live broadcast.

When the audience saw Team FY's starting lineup, they were somewhat disappointed.

Nevertheless.

Everyone still fervently supported their own country's team.

"No matter the starters, we still hope Team FY will fight hard! Push into the finals!"

"Go FY! Bring out the excitement in international competitions and achieve good results!"

"It's a pity that Qian Yu and Wang Shilin aren't playing; I wonder if having two substitutes will have some impact?"

"Actually, everyone can rest assured, Team FY's Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo are also very strong players."

"It's not that people don't trust in Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo's abilities, it's just the concern about the cooperation and tactical integration that will undoubtedly be affected with them now taking the stage."

"Let's just hope all the players do their best!"

"This year's Mid-Season Championship is really unexpected, Baxi Country's MBQ team has even made it to the semi-finals."

"This year's Baxi Country's MBQ team seems pretty strong."

"After all, it's their home turf, with so many Baxi fans watching on site, they have to put up a good show."

After introducing both teams, they entered the competition area.

Then, after a short while, the match began.

From the banning phase, Team FY didn't seem to have any issues, and both sides targeted their bans accordingly.

This was a best-of-five series, and if it went the distance, it was destined to be a tough battle.

If it had been the in-form Qian Yu and Wang Shilin, domestic viewers really believed Team FY could have swept Baxi Country's MBQ team.

But now.

Domestic fans no longer had that confidence, not even the two well-known commentators on-site dared to predict the outcome of today's matches.

The first game officially started.

It was evident that Team FY was doing decently, but the coordination between the two substitute players and the other three was clearly a bit immature, which both the audience and commentators already noticed.

Even so, Baxi Country's MBQ team seized this opportunity to start gaining advantages in the jungle and the top side of the map.

Ultimately.

MBQ's mid-jungle synergy took advantage of a misjudgment by Team FY's jungler, catching out the mid lane and forcing out a flash.

In the second engagement, MBQ targeted mid again, and this time Team FY's jungler Wang Shilin responded in time, but MBQ held the advantage.

This fight ended in a two-for-one trade favoring the opposition, putting Team FY at a disadvantage.

The audience in the LP region immediately became tense.

"Damn! The very thing we didn't want to see still happened!"

"The two new substitutes for Team FY had no issues with their plays, but they just lacked experience."

"Crap, mid lane just exploded."

For a moment.

Whether it was netizens or commentators, they all started to sweat for Team FY.

This couldn't be a loss in the first game, could it?

Chapter 825: Narrow Victory!

Mist City Arts and Science University.

One mournful wail after another, and sighs, filled the campus.

"Sigh, how did we get trounced like this?"

"It's over, it's over, the MBQ team's economy is already leading by 3,000 yuan."

"Hold firm, bros!"

"The MBQ team is kind of formidable, honestly didn't see that coming!"

"MBQ team's secret weapon, damn, caught us completely off guard."

The Mist City Arts and Science University alumni watching the live broadcast were all nervously clenching their fists for this first match.

In the Principal's office inside the Administration Building.

Ding Yue watched the match with growing anxiety. It was clear now that his own FY team was at a disadvantage, with the MBQ team's strong performance further widening the gap.

"Yue, how come this Baxi Country's MBQ team is so strong?"

Huang Youjie, who was watching the live game with Ding Yue, couldn't help but complain.

Xu Bin also nodded, adding, "Indeed, Baxi's MBQ team seems to have improved a lot from before. Their overall coordination has gotten much stronger, while our FY team has weakened somewhat in that aspect because of the two substitute players."

The two pals were right.

Ding Yue saw this too.

In the original starting lineup of FY team, Qian Yu and Wang Shilin didn't play due to being out of form, replaced by substitutes Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo.

Although Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo were also strong players, the overall coordination of the team was definitely somewhat weakened.

Plus, as Huang Youjie and Xu Bin mentioned, Baxi Country's MBQ team had apparently improved very quickly.

Now, the MBQ team seemed very strong, even stronger than anticipated!

As a result, in the first match, the FY team was clearly at a disadvantage, with the economic gap growing larger and larger.

"We were careless."

Ding Yue couldn't help but mutter, "It seems like Baxi Country's MBQ team had been holding back their strength, waiting to explode during the semi-finals."

"Really quite something, MBQ team!"

Xu Bin couldn't hold back his criticism either.

Because this MBQ team from Baxi Country had kept too much hidden.

Before this.

The MBQ team had always displayed a calm and even-tempered approach, relying on stable strength to advance to the semi-finals.

But what no one expected was that their strength was far beyond that.

When facing the FY team with slight flaws, they suddenly displayed the power of a super strong team and started playing with increasing confidence.

Good grief.

Ding Yue felt frustrated; it seemed his FY team was being used by the MBQ team to build their confidence and experience, right?

But there was no other way.

As two key players, Qian Yu and Wang Shilin were in poor form and just couldn't play.

The replacements, Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo, needed time to integrate with the team, despite an array of training sessions before the semi-finals.

But training is training, and when it comes to a real match, things are different.

Firstly, even the pressure is different, and secondly, during training, there was no Baxi Country's MBQ team to spar with them.

In other words, the strength of the MBQ team was unclear at that time.

Now, after suffering from this disadvantage, the first game might just come to an end because of it.

At this moment, Ding Yue made a voice call to FY team's head coach, Jian Zihao, to discuss the current situation in the semi-finals in real time.

They couldn't just suffer a crushing defeat in the semi-finals and lose to the MBQ team on their home turf.

"Hello, Principal Ding."

As the voice call got through, Jian Zihao's voice came through.

"Our FY team is already at a huge disadvantage now; is there any chance we can turn this round?"

Ding Yue asked Jian Zihao.

"It's tough. In this game's lineup, as time goes on, the MBQ team gets the advantage. That is, the longer the game goes on, the greater the MBQ team's win rate, unless there's a miraculous team fight."

Jian Zihao replied helplessly.

As a former LOL professional player and now coach of the dark horse team FY, Jian Zihao's analysis of the situation on the field was quite accurate.

Actually, even the two well-known LPL casters had almost lost faith in the game.

The situation on the field indicated that at any moment, the MBQ team could end the game with a team fight.

"Sigh, let's think carefully about the next match then, Director Jian. Do you have any ideas for the next game?"

Ding Yue sighed, then continued to inquire.

If there was little hope for this round, they might as well start considering the tactics and strategy for the next round earlier.

After all, this was a bo5 series.

Losing one match is not scary, but what's frightening is failing to find form after the first defeat.

If so, they're likely to lose three straight games and get a clean sweep of 3-0.

If the FY team ends up with such a record, once they return home, Ding Yue could hardly imagine the online pressure they would face.

Furthermore.

Ding Yue was still hoping to win the semi-finals.

After coming this far to their first world contest, it would be such a pity to lose just like that.

These young guys really worked hard.

Jian Zihao had once told Ding Yue that Xiong Jiahao, Feng Jin, Qian Yu, Wang Shilin, and Yao Jing, including the substitutes, Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo, were all very diligent and serious during training.

Chapter 826: A Narrow Victory!

Sometimes, it took training all through the night to produce this year's strongest dark horse in the LPL.

But no one could have expected that during the Mid-Season Invitational, an issue would arise with Qian Yu and Wang Shilin.

It was a situation nobody wanted to see.

While expressing his understanding of Qian Yu's and Wang Shilin's predicament, Ding Yue also hoped his FY team would go further.

The best outcome would be to win the Mid-Season Invitational. If they did, it would be FY team's first world championship.

"For the next game, we'll need to change our approach. We can't keep synergizing according to the current strategy, otherwise the MBQ team will always catch our vulnerabilities."

Jian Zihao analyzed the situation and spoke earnestly.

As a coach observer, Jian Zihao's analysis of the on-field situation was very accurate.

Why did his FY team's strategy get dominated by the MBQ team this round?

It was because Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo had been found wanting in their synergy with the team by the MBQ team.

The MBQ team exploited this weakness to breakthrough, exhibiting their true strength, and from there, the FY team had virtually no chance of winning.

"Alright, elaborate on that."

Upon hearing Jian Zihao's words, Ding Yue found them acceptable, and the general idea certainly seemed to have no issues.

They must make changes.

"In the second game, we should let Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo temporarily give up on rhythm with the mid and bot lanes. They're usually in sync with each other."

Jian Zihao continued his analysis.

"Are you suggesting we let the top and jungle work together to create their own cycle, and then have the mid and bot lanes unite to engage in smaller skirmishes as much as possible, maximizing our strengths and leaving the opponents unable to pinpoint our weaknesses?"

Ding Yue had a good understanding of League of Legends.

After all, he had been playing for over ten years.

"Correct. With fewer vulnerabilities, when it comes to individual strength on the lanes, I personally believe Ming Qiang is no less than their opposing players. Our team has great individual lane strengths, and with the experience from this round, I believe they will handle it better in the second game,"

Jian Zihao continued, "As long as the MBQ team doesn't get to roll their advantage in the early game, we'll be fine."

In the current version of League of Legends, if you let a professional team with seasoned experience and fierce strength gain an early advantage, they typically wouldn't give you any opportunity to catch your breath or turn the tide.

The first game had proven this point.

The MBQ team from Baxi Country hardly gave the FY team any chances to catch their breath.

Despite the FY team managing to grab a Dragon and a slightly favorable team fight of two-for-three, thanks to ADC Xiong Jiahao's burst of output, the rest of the game was dominantly a snowball by the MBQ team.

"That's a good strategy."

Ding Yue agreed with Jian Zihao's strategy for the second game.

Now, he looked forward to seeing their performance.

"Keep the voice comms on. After the players come down from the first game, I'll have a few words with them."

After discussing the strategy for the next game with Jian Zihao, Ding Yue added.

"Understood, Principal Ding."

The FY team struggled at a disadvantage for thirty-two minutes in the first game, only to finally succumb to the MBQ team's superior equipment and teamfight strength. Following a team fight that ended with a two-for-four trade in favor of the enemy, only a support remained for the FY team.

The remaining players' respawn timers were simply too long.

The enemy's top laner teleported back into the fray after returning home with low health, and then the push toward the towers was relentless. Support Feng Jin simply couldn't hold back the onslaught.

The first match ended amid expectations and disappointments.

"Alright, MBQ team secured the victory in the first match. Let's congratulate them and at the same time, hope that the FY team's players adjust their mentality. It's only the first game of a bo5, there's still a chance!"

The commentator spoke with regret but also encouraged the FY team.

The five players of the FY team were clearly in a downcast mood after losing the first match.

But this dip in spirits was just a slight one, compared to the slump experienced by Qian Yu and Wang Shilin.

Well.

To be precise, it wasn't on the same level.

After the match, Xiong Jiahao, Feng Jin, Yao Jing, Ming Qiang, and Zhou Genshuo walked off the stage and back into the team's backstage resting area.

"Don't be discouraged, we will definitely score in the next game!"

Seeing his team members return with heads hung low, Jian Zihao immediately offered words of encouragement.

That's what a coach should do.

After experiencing defeat, players need encouragement, not blame. Blaming could only lead to further issues with their mindset.

"This round's on me; I definitely didn't keep up the right pace in the jungle,"

Wang Shilin said with remorse.

In Wang Shilin's view, the first turning point was his failure to provide timely support when the jungler ganked mid lane.

This led to Yao Jing in mid lane losing a Flash.

Then the butterfly effect ensued: during the second mid lane gank, they were countered with a one-for-two trade, and Yao Jing remained at a disadvantage, which started the snowball.

"It's not just your fault,"

Yao Jing, the mid laner, immediately replied.

"Alright, everyone, pick yourselves up."

Just then, a familiar voice suddenly rang out in the resting room.

Chapter 827: A Narrow Victory!

That's right!

It was Principal Ding's voice.

But you could tell, Principal Ding was speaking to everyone through a voice message.

"Principal Ding?"

Xiong Jiahao and the others became excited upon hearing Principal Ding's voice.

They had been officially competing in major tournaments for about half a year now, from the LPL to the Mid-Season Championship, and had even won the LPL Spring Championship.

But Principal Ding had been really busy with school matters and hadn't paid much attention to them.

Unexpectedly, Principal Ding was present at this time.

Principal Ding must have been watching the live stream, they had lost the last game, and naturally, Principal Ding had seen it.

Thinking of this, the five players felt even more ashamed.

After all, losing the game while Principal Ding was watching the live stream was a feeling they couldn't quite put into words.

"I watched the last game, forget about that one, and listen to Director Jian for the next, let's play well, I believe in you!"

Ding Yue encouraged the five players.

At this time, encouragement was all that could be given, after all, they had already lost one match, and the goal now was to win back that loss in the next game and bring the match to a best of 3 (bo3) situation.

"Yes, yes, alright!"

Xiong Jiahao, Yao Jing, Feng Jin, Ming Qiang, Zhou Genshuo, all nodded and responded in unison.

"Good, now let Director Jian tell you how to play the next game."

Ding Yue didn't want to say too much.

A little encouragement was enough.

If he said too much, it might inadvertently put even more pressure on Xiong Jiahao and the others.

Then, Jian Zihao began explaining the strategy for the second game to the five players.

After the first game ended.

The domestic internet exploded, especially in the live stream rooms, where the netizens began to go wild.

It was somewhat better in the Bilibili live stream room.

Most of the audience were encouraging the players after feeling that the first game was a pity.

The audience at other live streaming platforms seemed to be a bit lower in quality, as they had started to bash the five players of the FY team.

Indeed, it was a case of shouting "666" when winning, and bashing straight away when losing!

On Twitter.

The topic "FY team loses the first game of the semi-finals to Baxi Country's MBQ team" started to trend rapidly as well.

The Twitter netizens began bashing the FY team.

"What the hell was that first game about!"

"Is the coach brain-dead? It's the semi-finals, and they're letting the substitutes play?"

"Exactly, just put Qian Yu and Wang Shilin in the game already!"

"The coach of the FY team is Jian Zihao, we all know what he is like."

"Oh, oh, it's the bath dog."

"If they lose, they best be prepared to be bashed when they get back home."

"Might as well let QD team play instead."

"QD team should not seek attention here at this time."

"What's going on with the FY team, why aren't Qian Yu and Wang Shilin playing? Is there some internal issue?"

"I guess there must be some conflict between Qian Yu, Wang Shilin, and the team, right?"

"After the Mid-Season Championship, I have a premonition that there will be some big news!"

As more and more netizens joined the discussion, the topic's heat rose even higher.

Once again, FY team's coach, Jian Zihao, successfully drew the netizens' fire.

The vast majority of netizens believed that FY team's loss in the first game was due to Coach Jian Zihao's problematic arrangement of troops.

The starting lineup had issues.

Even though they won the last match in the quarterfinals with substitute players Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo after Qian Yu and Wang Shilin had a dip in form, this was the semifinals!

Why weren't Qian Yu and Wang Shilin playing?

In fact, Jian Zihao had not explained the condition of Qian Yu and Wang Shilin in advance, also to avoid demoralizing the team.

At the same time, Jian Zihao believed that Ming Qiang and Zhou Genshuo would perform well.

Indeed, the two substitute players did not perform poorly, but Baxi Country's MBQ team was a bit unexpectedly strong.

"Principal Ding, the internet has blown up, and many netizens are bashing our FY team," Secretary Wen Ruohan said after finishing a phase of her work and checking Twitter.

If she hadn't looked, it would have been fine.

But with one look, she noticed a massive amount of netizens bashing the FY team, and even some crazy fans of QD team were jumping around.

They were saying that FY team's performance was so poor, it would have been better to let QD team play.

"Don't pay attention to those critics on the internet," Ding Yue had long been too lazy to look at those foolish and retarded comments online.

Facts speak louder than words, as long as his FY team won the semifinals, it would be the best response.

Of course.

If there was an upset and they did not get through the semifinals, then the situation could be quite bad.

At that time, the FY team, from top to bottom, might get drowned in the fury of netizens' criticism.

Principal Ding didn't even want to imagine what the domestic online environment would be like for the FY team then.

Scary!

So.

In his heart, Ding Yue silently prayed, hoping that Jian Zihao, Ming Qiang, Zhou Genshuo, and Xiong Jiahao would not disappoint him.

The rest time after the first game had also ended.

The second game was about to start.

The two famous commentators from the LPL region began to explain the ban-pick process, which was pretty much the same as in the first game during this process, neither FY nor MBQ teams had any major flaws.

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Compared to the first game, both teams made some minor changes to their lineups.

The early game capabilities of the FY team were still decent, and their late game wasn't too bad either. The MBQ team was the same, perhaps with a bit more dominance in the mid game.

After the ban-pick phase ended, the second game officially began.

Xiong Jiahao, Feng Jin, Yao Jing, Ming Qiang, and Zhou Genshuo, the five players, carried out Coach Jian Zihao's strategies and principles, completely forgetting their defeat in the first game.

They then began the strategic tactics of the second round.

Starting with a synergy between the jungler and the support, forming a small circle.

And then with a synergy between mid and bottom lane, forming another small circle.

This way, they hoped to prevent FY's team members from coordinating well with each other, and stop MBQ from finding any weakness to exploit.

Thus, when MBQ found it impossible to take the initiative and both sides were drawn into a stalemate, it came down to team fights and the individual skills of the players.

And at such a juncture, Jian Zihao's confidence in his five players under his command was stronger.

"Everyone, play well," Jiahao, the team captain, encouraged everyone after the kickoff.
"Principal Ding has high expectations for us, and the entire school is watching us. For Mist City Arts and Science University, for our future, let's do this!"

"Let's do this!"

After the start of the game, FY's performance was indeed much better than in the first round, hardly leaving any significant openings for MBQ to exploit.

MBQ tried to replicate the situation in the mid lane from the first round.

But Yao Jing in mid lane was apparently playing with more caution, and MBQ's jungle's attempts to gank him turned out to be fruitless after camping for about a minute.

MBQ's jungler thought that FY's jungler, Zhou Genshuo, would come to mid lane.

But instead, Genshuo didn't focus on mid lane this time around and chose to visit MBQ's top lane instead.

With the synergy of the top laner and jungler, they successfully burned a Flash from MBQ's top laner, forcing them to return to base and burning another Flash in the process.

Now things were looking up.

MBQ's top lane was directly left without Flash or teleportation.

"Genshuo, let's continue doing this," Ming Qiang said to Zhou Genshuo with a smile.

"Alright."

MBQ's jungler quickly realized the pressure on the top lane and began preparing to support, thus, relieving some of the pressure on the mid lane.

During this time, Yao Jing, relying on personal skill and the advantage in the mid lane, directly gained control over the minion wave.

Once Yao Jing secured this advantage in mid lane, he followed Coach Jian Zihao's strategy and began roaming towards the bottom lane.

Although the first bot lane roam didn't yield much, Yao Jing maintained his economy by continuing to farm minions in the mid lane without much loss.

On the second bot lane roam, Yao Jing successfully collaborated with the bottom lane duo and managed to exhaust a number of summoner spells from the MBQ team's bot lane pair.

Not only that, but MBQ's support was also successfully taken out for first blood.

Just like that, FY turned the tide of the game!

When the audience saw this turn of events, their spirits began to lift.

Because the situation in the second game started to tilt in favor of FY, with advantages in economy, kills, and tempo—pretty much everything was under FY's firm control.

They didn't give MBQ any chance throughout the game.

"This is a good start!"

"666, they should've played like this from the start."

"Honestly, MBQ took us by surprise in the first round because they had been hiding their strength."

"Keep up this rhythm."

"FY is still strong!"

When FY started to pull ahead, the online comments flipped sides, with many acknowledging the team's tactics and strength.

In the Bilibili stream, the viewership for this midseason championship semifinal had reached 20 million, indicating incredibly high popularity.

When FY smoothly claimed first blood, the students of Mist City Arts and Science University couldn't help but cheer.

"Nice one!"

"666!"

"Wuhu, take off!"

"FY rules!"

Cheers erupted everywhere, and anyone unaware might have thought FY had won the world championship.

Ding Yue, seeing the turn of events in the second game, couldn't help but reveal a smile at the corner of his mouth.

The changes had indeed been good, and the players executed Coach Jian Zihao's tactics particularly well.

"Nice pacing there."

"Not bad, not bad, they've played quite well," said Huang Youjie and Xu Bin, praising the team's performance.

They typically compliment when the play is good and are quick to criticize when it's poor.

Since FY was their team, both Huang Youjie and Xu Bin did not criticize after losing the previous round but instead joined Principal Ding in encouraging Jiahao and the others.

"I feel we've got this round in the bag; as long as we give Jiahao, the ADC, a substantial advantage in the lane, the opponent's bot lane will basically collapse," mused Principal Ding confidently about Jiahao, the talented ADC.

At that moment, Coach Jian Zihao said confidently over the voice call, "Principal Ding is right, Jiahao is indeed a rare and supremely stable and strong ADC, he reminds me of myself at my peak."

As it was known, Jian Zihao himself used to play as an ADC.

He was once touted by netizens as the world's top ADC; of course, given the current circumstances, Jian Zihao had not yet won an S Competition championship, but his individual ADC skills were indeed very strong.

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"Director Jian, why do I feel like Xiong Jiahao's ADC might actually be stronger than you?"

Ding Yue said with a faint smile to Jian Zihao.

"Hahaha, Principal Ding is right, Xiong Jiahao is still on the rise, and it shouldn't be a problem for him to surpass me. After all, the waves behind drive on the ones before, and each new wave is stronger than the last."

Jian Zihao said, laughing.

Upon hearing this, Huang Youjie and Xu Bin didn't know any better and almost thought that Jian Zihao was flattering Ding Yue.

However, Ding Yue felt that what he just said was correct, and Jian Zihao was also quite self-aware.

Because Xiong Jiahao's ADC capabilities were indeed very strong.

In all the competitions, Xiong Jiahao's ADC had hardly ever been suppressed by an opponent, and he often managed to create his own advantage during the lane phase.

If there were mid and jungle coordination with the bottom lane together, as long as Jiahao got a kill during the coordination, then basically his ADC would take off.

This was something that Huang Youjie and Xu Bin didn't pay much attention to, so they probably weren't too clear about it.

The competition continued.

After FY team took the early advantage in the second game, they continued to snowball with their economic and rhythm advantage.

At this point, the five young men of the FY team were thoroughly playing with confidence.

Their economic advantage grew larger and larger.

Several skirmishes were well-fought.

In the end, a team fight at Canyon Pioneer turned into a 5v5, and all five players performed very well.

In the team fight at Canyon Pioneer, the FY team not only took down Canyon Pioneer but also managed to take out two MBQ team players without any losses.

With that, FY team's advantage was basically solidified.

In the previous game where the MBQ team had the advantage, they didn't give us a chance to turn the game around. This game, FY team also wouldn't give you the chance to come back.

The whole map's vision and dragon control were pretty much dominated by the FY team.

At this point, whether it was the netizens watching or the commentators, they all could basically see the light of victory for FY team this game.

As expected.

Last game, we lost to MBQ team in thirty-two minutes.

This game, FY team counter-attacked in just twenty-seven minutes.

As MBQ team's nexus exploded, the second game ended with a victory for FY team.

"Okay, let's congratulate the FY team. It's clear that our FY team has adjusted well and found their form, the guys played incredibly well."

"Yes, now the score is even at 1-1, turning the bo5 into a bo3, entering a very tense and exciting phase."

Vale and Miwa, the commentators, were also quite excited to see the FY team's victory.

After all, it's the LPL's own team, and as commentators of the LPL, of course, they hoped for their own region's team to win.

However, while commenting, the two renowned commentators were still quite fair.

That's professional integrity for a commentator.

In the second game, through the concerted effort of the five individuals, Xiong Jiahao and his team finally pulled back a point.

After returning to the FY team lounge, Jiahao and the rest heard Principal Ding's congratulations.

"Congratulations on pulling back a point, keep it up, continue to work hard!"

Ding Yue said to the five players with a smile.

"Mm-hmm!"

All five players replied in unison.

At this time, Jian Zihao's face also showed a smile.

With the score at 1-1, and having won back a game, the most crucial thing was that they had regained the momentum.

Next, as long as they set up their strategy well and took another point before the MBQ team could fully react, or simply won the next two games in a row to finish the match, that would be good.

"For the next third game, let me tell you how we should play it. The current situation is like this . . ."

Jian Zihao continued to discuss the strategy for the third game with the players.

Over at Mist City Arts and Science University.

Having watched the second game, Ding Yue felt a bit more at ease.

Huang Youjie and Xu Bin started discussing from a spectator's point of view the reasons they won the second game and analyzed how to play the third game to win.

Meanwhile, Wen Ruohan went online to check out the public opinion amongst the netizens.

As expected, it was just as Wen Ruohan predicted.

After losing the last game, the netizens were furiously criticizing the FY team, but now that they had won the second game, the netizens started shouting "666" again.

Wen Ruohan couldn't help but mutter softly, "Hmph, these netizens really are like the grass on the top of the wall."

"You're just realizing that now?"

Ding Yue said to Wen Ruohan with a faint smile.

People on the internet are indeed like the grass on the top of the wall, and more often than not, they are even more fickle.

They are easily swayed by the crowd, with many mindlessly criticizing.

"Xiao Wen, you better not look at those brain-dead netizens on Twitter anymore; it has become a landfill nowadays, filled with all sorts of trash," Xu Bin laughed and said to Wen Ruohan.

"Huh?"

Wen Ruohan was a bit puzzled and looked at Director Xu Bin, asking, "Why do you say that?"

Xu Bin shrugged and said, "According to my statistics, Twitter's current user base partially consists of feminist fighters, fan circle nutcases, marketing accounts, and a number of users who lack independent thinking and are easily swayed by trends, along with a portion of

overseas accounts leading those trends. It's not for jokes when they say that the intelligence level is low."

Xu Bin, being in computer science, had covertly surveyed Twitter's user base and ultimately came to this conclusion.

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"So that's how it is."

After listening to Director Xu Bin, Wen Ruohan felt a bit of an epiphany.

Indeed,

When Wen Ruohan recently browsed Twitter, she could always see countless feminist fighters waving the banner of "women's rights," with their varied techniques leaving people utterly bewildered and devoid of logic.

Then there were the brainless fans of various popular figures, who, under the influence of marketing accounts and paid posters, frequently behaved in ways that quite shocked everyone.

The most critical point was that no matter how inferior those idols of the brainless fans were, the moment you said their acting was poor or that they had character flaws,

These fans would rush out like defending their parents on steroids, fiercely attacking you and then blocking you, not giving you a chance to respond.

No wonder Director Xu Bin had said that Twitter had become a complete dump; he really had a point.

Even the media on Twitter also engaged in all sorts of false reporting, deliberately shifting the focus to create sensational headlines and incite conflict, which was absolutely nauseating to see.

"Actually, it's mainly because those netizens have such poor discernment, including the fans of those traffic-attracting celebrities,"

Ding Yue shook his head helplessly and said, "If only they came to Mist City Arts and Science University to study and further their education, it wouldn't be like this."

Upon reflection, Ding Yue thought that his job as a university teacher was indeed arduous and important.

After all, for Xia Country to elevate its citizens' quality and become a soft power superpower, the education level of many netizens was very important.

Ding Yue believed that

every student at Mist City Arts and Science University loved learning and had the ability to think independently.

They would definitely not be easily swayed by trending topics.

Moreover, the more knowledge one acquired, the more aligned their values became.

Ding Yue couldn't guarantee that all the students from Mist City Arts and Science University would become outstanding talents in the future, but he was sure that ninety-nine percent of them would be fine.

"Hahaha, Brother Yue, with so many netizens out there, our Mist City Arts and Science University couldn't possibly admit them all. I bet the number of new students this year will explode,"

Huang Youjie said to Ding Yue with a laugh.

"Mhm, I heard from Qi that this year's new student count may exceed our initial estimates by quite a bit. Huang, your logistics department must ensure that there are no issues with logistical support when the students arrive at campus,"

Ding Yue said while taking the opportunity to remind Huang Youjie.

"Don't worry about that, Brother Yue. I've got logistics under tight control; there definitely won't be any issues. Besides, you've been very generous with the logistics funding,"

Huang Youjie said confidently with a smile.

Huang Youjie, as the person in charge of the logistics department, had this confidence in doing a good job mainly because Brother Yue had met the financial needs to the greatest possible extent.

With money, what logistical support couldn't be assured?

Even if the school were on the high plateau of the Himalayan Mountains, logistics would still be up to the task.

"That's good, money isn't an issue,"

Ding Yue said with a calm smile.

Because to Ding Yue, money was merely a number, and he had never considered accumulating personal wealth.

Having money meant it could be directly invested in the school's development and construction, thus creating a cycle that promoted the continued development and construction of Mist City Arts and Science University.

This year, in addition to collecting tuition fees, the Feiyue Group's graphene industry would also rise rapidly, followed by the 3D bioprinting industry.

And then there was the Big White healthcare robot industry, which was far from reaching saturation in Xia Country.

Though big city hospitals were almost fully equipped with Big White healthcare robots,

community hospitals, small city hospitals, and rural clinics would certainly need to be equipped with Big White healthcare robots in later stages.

The goal of Feiyue Group was to integrate Big White healthcare robots into Xia Country's daily medical practices.

In this aspect, the country also provided a certain degree of subsidies.

With national subsidies promoting them, Ding Yue believed that in one or two years, the country would likely have a comprehensive healthcare robot system in place.

By then,

Feiyue Group would also have export demands!

All these would provide a steady stream of income, and occasionally, Ding Yue could earn some extra money by undertaking certain tasks.

Furthermore, Mist City Arts and Science University owned some intellectual property in the film and entertainment sector, and the animated series "Love, Death, and Robots" had already started production and was expected to air within the year.

If all went well, this would also bring in a significant amount of money.

Therefore,

aside from not blindly investing a large amount of money into the photolithography machine experiment project all at once, Mist City Arts and Science University could ensure sufficient funding in all other respects.

Of course, owning dozens of faculties and hundreds of majors,

Ding Yue's funds couldn't possibly support every faculty and major with an abundance of teaching and research funding.

So Ding Yue's goal was to prioritize the development of departments that had the capacity to do so first, and then, as needed, provide financial support based on the situation.

Just like this year's newly supported College of Forestry and the upcoming College of Aeronautics and Astronautics.