Football God 221



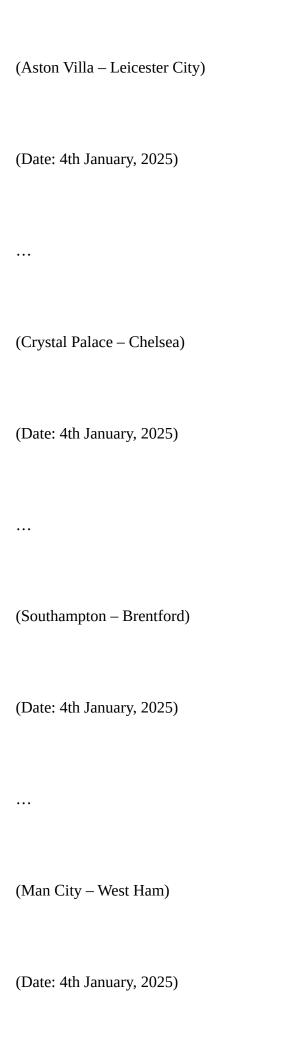


"If you don't eat well and take care of yourself, how do you expect your body to heal properly so you'll return to the pitch at the quickest time?"
"Besides, don't you even care about me? You being like this is affecting me, sometimes I can't even think straight!"
"It's almost like you're depressed every minute".
At this point, Sam finally realized, he was being too hard on himself and not just on himself but he was being too hard on his girlfriend too.
Click!
Unstrapping his seatbelt, with a grimace, Sam leaned closer and hugged his girlfriend on the driver's seat tightly. Kayla didn't resist it.
After breaking away from the hug, Sam forced a baby expression on his face. "I've been foolish babe; will you forgive me?" He did puppy eyes.
Kayla just glared at him, unimpressed.
Sam sighed. "I'm sorry for being so self-centered. I didn't think about how my teammates felt at all, and most importantly, I didn't think about you. I recognize my mistake now, from the bottom of my heart, I'm sorry".

Silence; still no response.
Suddenly thinking of something, Sam smiled. "You remember your suggestion the other time?" He grinned.
Kayla raised an eyebrow.
"That I should follow you to Netherlands so you'll take care of me and nurse me back to health properly, and maybe even follow you to school at times to socialize and meet new people?" He smiled. "I'm in for it now, let's go!"
Now, Kayla was moved. She looked at him, trying to hide her excitement. "Really?"
"Yes, let's go to Netherlands!"
And that confirmed it.
The next day, after informing his coach, with his one leg, Sam left England with his girlfriend as he followed her to Netherlands.
He would be spending the rest of his recovery time in Netherlands.

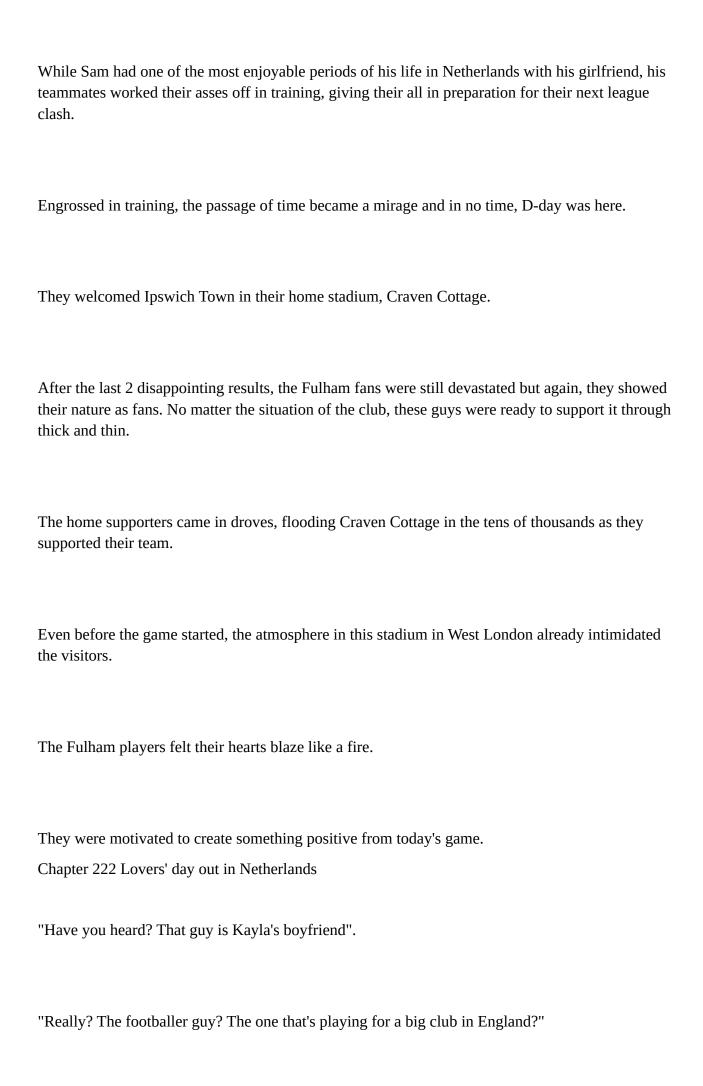
heir will and desire to turn the situation of the club around while focusing on recovering from hiown injury.
Premier league:)
Matchday 20 of 38:)
Tottenham – Newcastle)
Date: 4th January, 2025)
Bournemouth – Everton)
Date: 4th January, 2025)

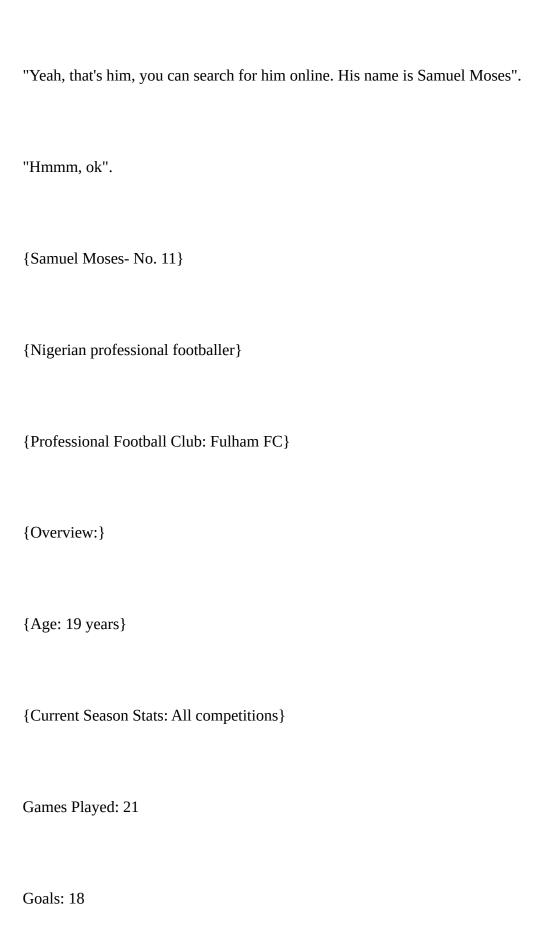
She was right, instead of wasting time worrying about the form of his teammates, he should respect





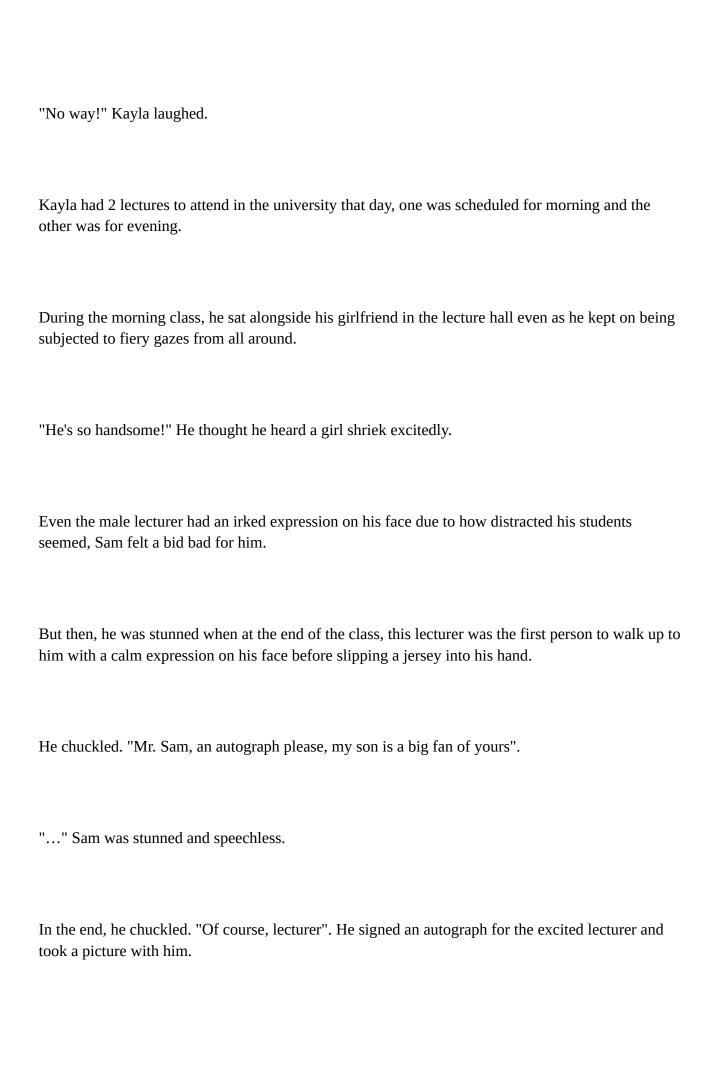








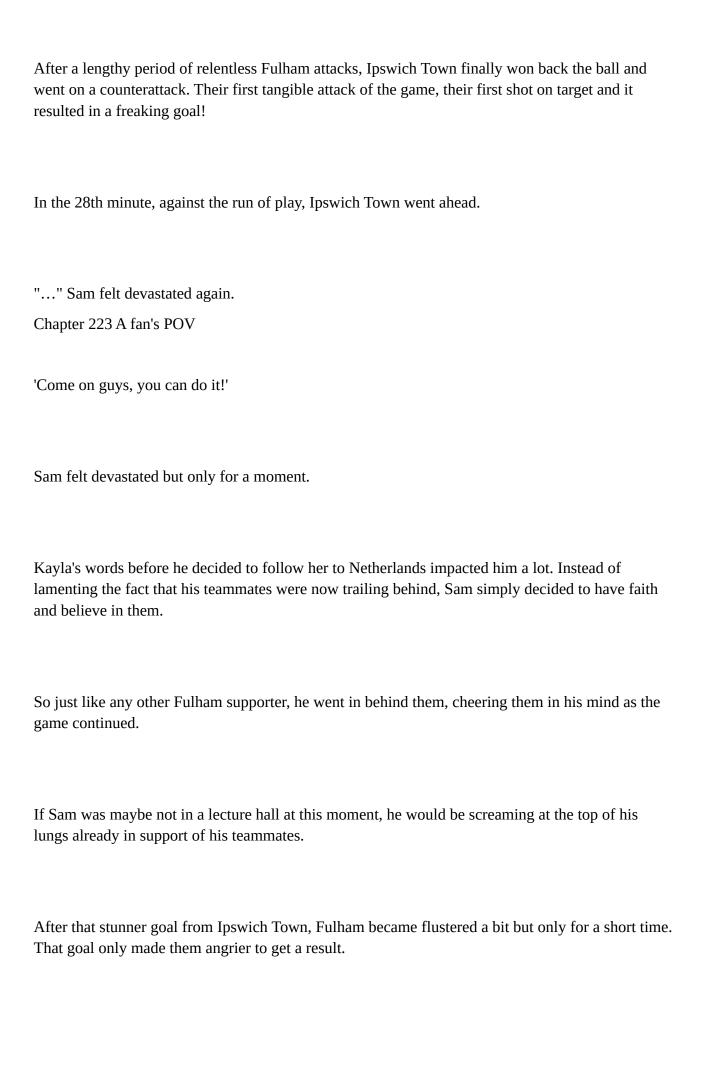




With their lecturer showing the first example, the students became emboldened as after the class, they swarmed Sam like the celebrity he was, demanding pictures left and right.
Some girls even secretly tried to separate him from his girlfriend but sensitive enough, Sam was firm and he did not let it.
In the end, it took some security interference before he was finally able to leave the university premises with his girlfriend.
"Hmph!" Kayla snorted. "Shameless girls".
Sam chuckled.
"What's funny?" She snapped.
"Nothing, nothing". He raised his hands in surrender, smiling.
After the morning class, Kayla took him to a restaurant where they had a nice local Netherlands meal and then later in the afternoon, she took him along for a modeling business appointment that she had.
News of Sam walking around in Netherlands with a girl already got to England long ago, and in the afternoon, he received a series of phone calls.

One was from his coach, one was from Emile Smith Rowe, another from Ian, while 5 staggering missed calls were from his doctor.
When he finally called back, they all expressed the same concern, was his leg strong enough to walk already?
His doctor displayed the greatest concern, the middle-aged man only calmed down when Sam reassured him that he felt no discomfort and also promised him that he would be extra careful.
Later in the evening, they finally returned back to the university for Kayla's last class of the day and this time, Sam was not idle in her class.
While Kayla focused on attending her lectures, blocking his ears with an apple air pod, Sam tuned in to DSTV where he watched the ongoing premier league game.
(Premier league:)
(Matchday 20 of 38:)
(Fulham – Ipswich Town)
(Date: 5th January, 2025)
The game already started.

Just like expected, amid the boisterous atmosphere in Craven Cottage, both teams started with their strongest lineups.
For Fulham, Raul Jimenez started up top while behind him was the trio of Alex Iwobi, Emile Smith Rowe, and Adama Traore.
Further behind them was the midfield duo of Lukic and Andreas Pereira. The 4-man defense comprised of Tete, Bassey, Diop, and Antonee Robinson who was recently being labelled as the best left back currently in the premier league.
FWEEEE!
After the referee's whistle, Ipswich Town started kickoff but the newly promoted premier league club were not allowed to take control over this game as with Alex Iwobi, Jimenez, and Emile Smith Rowe leading it, Fulham slowly took control over the game.
During the early proceedings, Fulham dominated.
They came close to scoring a few times, only the defiant performance of the Ipswich Town goalkeeper kept them afloat for now.
While he watched on his phone, Sam was all smiles till in the 28th minute, he felt like he was suddenly drenched in cold water.

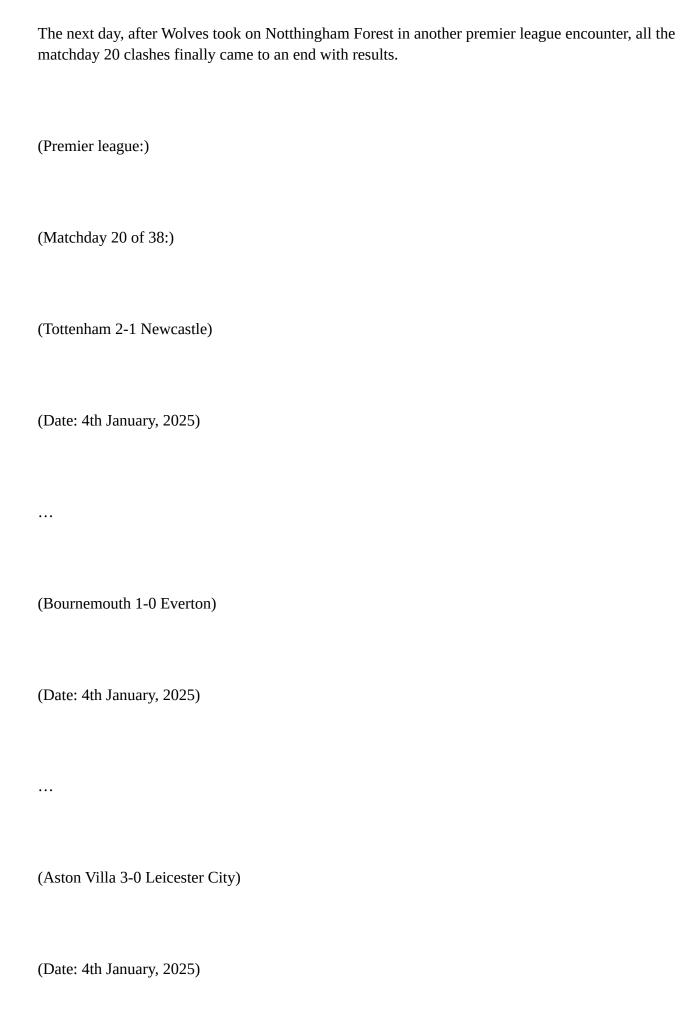


Their attacking raids became more urgent and aggressive as Ipswich Town was forced to pack the bus in their 18-yard box, defending with their lives.
In the end, such cowardly play paid off for the visitors in the first half as the game ended with Fulham trailing 0-1.
Sam did not think about the current scoreline much though, still fully behind his team as he cheered them on in his mind.
'Come on guys!'
When second half started, Fulham's domination continued but it was not as thorough as Ipswich Town had more opportunities on the break to go on a counterattack, threatening to make it 2 nil.
In those moments, Sam felt like his heart would leap right out of his throat but he held his nerve, watching and hoping as he clenched his fists tightly.
Noticing her boyfriend's antics, Kayla could not help but look at him weirdly, then at his phone. Seeing who was playing, she finally understood, she let him be.
Kayla's class was supposed to be a 2 hours long class, more than enough time for Sam to fully watch the game.
The second half was nervier than the first, testing Sam's patience and pushing his nerves to the limit but then, Fulham's relentless attacks finally paid off as they managed to find a way.

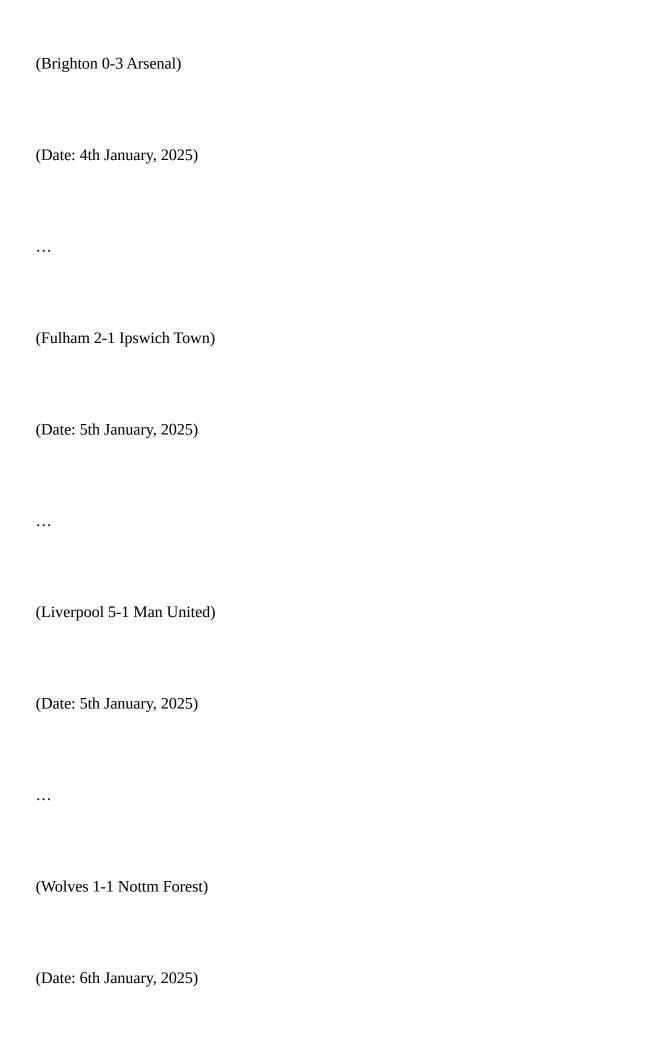
It was Alex Iwobi who broke the deadlock for Fulham.
After a long-lobbed pass from Lukic, Alex Iwobi ran in behind the Ipswich Town defense, calmly controlling the ball and taking it in his strides and then with his second shot, he whipped a powerful shot towards goal.
It was rifled towards the goalkeeper's new post but not expecting it, the goalkeeper was caught off-guard as the ball snuck in.
"GOALLL!" Craven Cottage exploded.
Sam squirmed where he sat close to his girlfriend, pumping a fist excitedly.
If he was not in a lecture hall, he would have screamed for joy.
In the 70th minute, the scoreline was finally level, 1-1.
'Come on guys, 1 more goal!' He kept on cheering them on.
When the game continued, Fulham rode the momentum from their goal, attacking the Ipswich Town 18-yard box even more as the visitors decided to forget about attack, focusing only on defending.

Their anti-football style did frustrate Fulham, Sam felt the most frustrated but still, fortune favors the bold.
In the 1st minute of additional time after 90 minutes, Emile Smith Rowe got a pass from Pereira and went on a mazy dribbling run and then setting himself up, this midfielder scored a goal of the season contender.
It was a powerful driven shot from outside the box, leaving the Ipswich Town goalkeeper no chance as Fulham finally went on the lead for the first time this game.
"GOALLLL!" Craven Cottage exploded again.
Feeling his body shivering in excitement, Sam could not hold it in anymore as he jumped in this lecture hall and pumped a fist excitedly. "Yes! Come on!"
""
Over a hundred eyes turned to look at him, including the lecturer's as Sam finally realized what just happened.
His girlfriend pinched him by the leg. "Sit down!" She growled.
Chuckling slightly and muttering a sorry, Sam finally sat back down but even that awkward moment was not enough to curb his joy.
That joy of his that disappeared for the past 2 days returned.

Fulham won the game and Pereira got the man of the match award after his impressive display from the base of midfield.
Fulham was back to winning ways.
Later that same day at night, the blockbuster game of this matchday was played as Liverpool welcomed Manchester United at Anfield.
Renowned as a stadium where Manchester United dreams were killed, tonight was no different as the Merseysiders humiliated their rivals from Manchester, thumping Man United 5-1 at the end of one of the most exciting games of this premier league season.
Having brought Ruben Amorim from Sporting CP to replace Erik Ten Haag as their head coach, Man United fans expected a swift turnaround in results but from recent results, the memes and trolling from rival fans would only continue.
Man United were in one of their worst periods since the club's inception.
That night, cuddling with his girlfriend in her bed, Sam slept peacefully and happily. Today could not have gone any better for him.









(Updated premier league table standings:)

(1. Fulham GP: 20/W:15/D:4/L:1/Pts: 50)

(2. Liverpool GP: 19/W:14/D:2/L:2/Pts: 48)

(3. Chelsea GP: 20/W:12/D:6/L:2/Pts: 42)

(4. Arsenal GP: 20/W:11/D:7/L:2/Pts: 40)

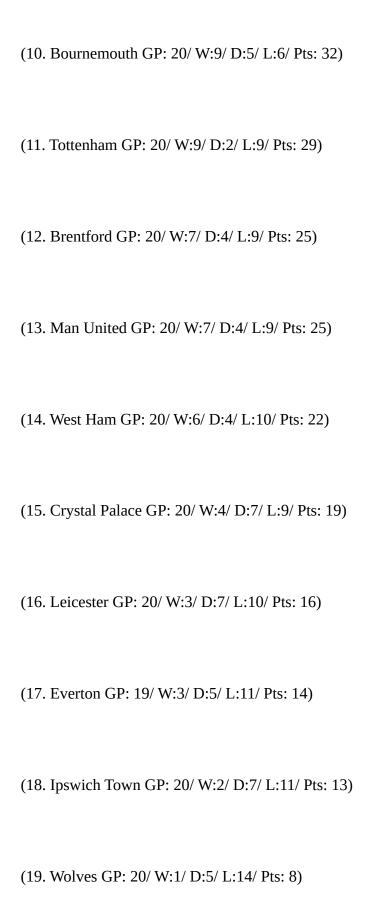
(5. Nottm Forest GP: 20/ W:9/ D:7/ L:4/ Pts: 34)

(6. Brighton GP: 20/W:8/D:6/L:6/Pts: 30)

(7. Man City GP: 20/ W:9/ D:6/ L:5/ Pts: 33)

(8. Newcastle GP: 20/ W:8/ D:6/ L:6/ Pts: 30)

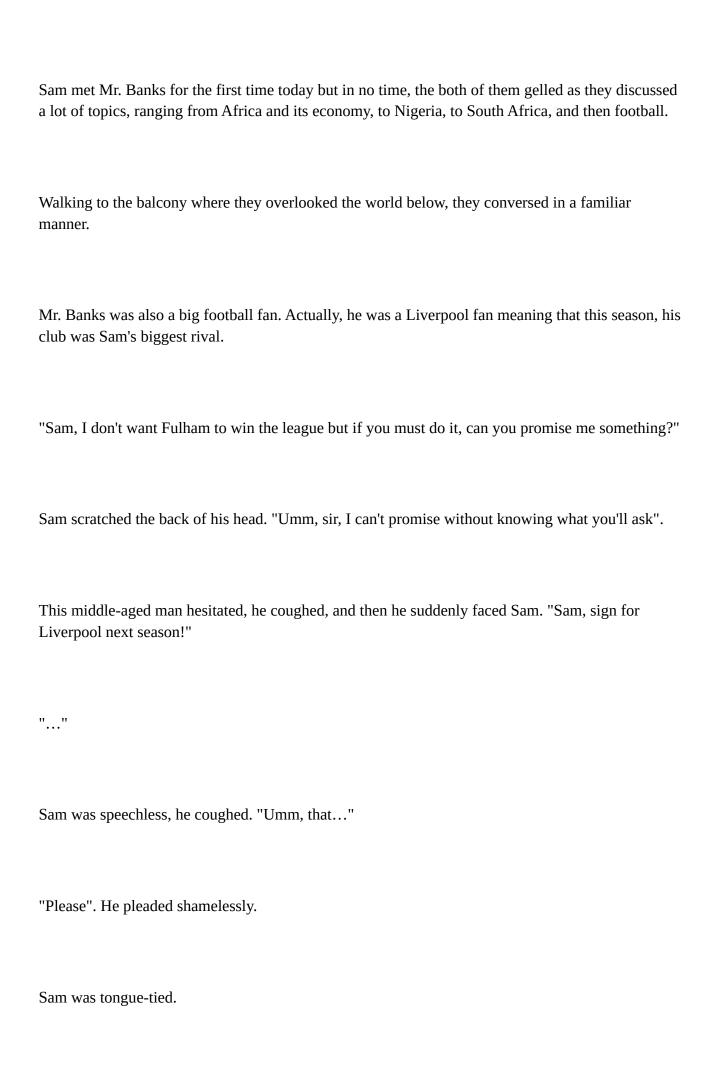
(9. Aston Villa GP: 20/ W:9/ D:5/ L:7/ Pts: 32)



(20. Southampton GP: 20/ W:2/ D:1/ L:17/ Pts: 7)
Chapter 224 Festive period
After 20 matchdays of the English premier league, more than halfway through the season already, incredibly, Fulham still led the line at the top of the premier league table rankings.
After the game against Ipswich Town, Fulham supporters regained their voice after their previous run of 2 games without a win.
They were having a truly terrific season.
Due to the tight schedule of football leagues, professional football players barely had time for themselves for festivities and even if they did, it was always limited. Despite this, the reality was that this was still a festive period.
It was still just early January and people were still enjoying the Christmas and New Year spirit.
Having played 4 games between 26th December and today, 6th January, the Fulham players barely had any meaningful time for themselves but coincidentally, Sam no longer suffered this with his teammates because of his injury.
His injury made him sad, but at the same time it gave Sam some-much needed time to catch up with his life outside football.
Because of the fact that he was in a rehabilitation period from his injury, he got the luxury of fully engaging in the festive period though it was already late.

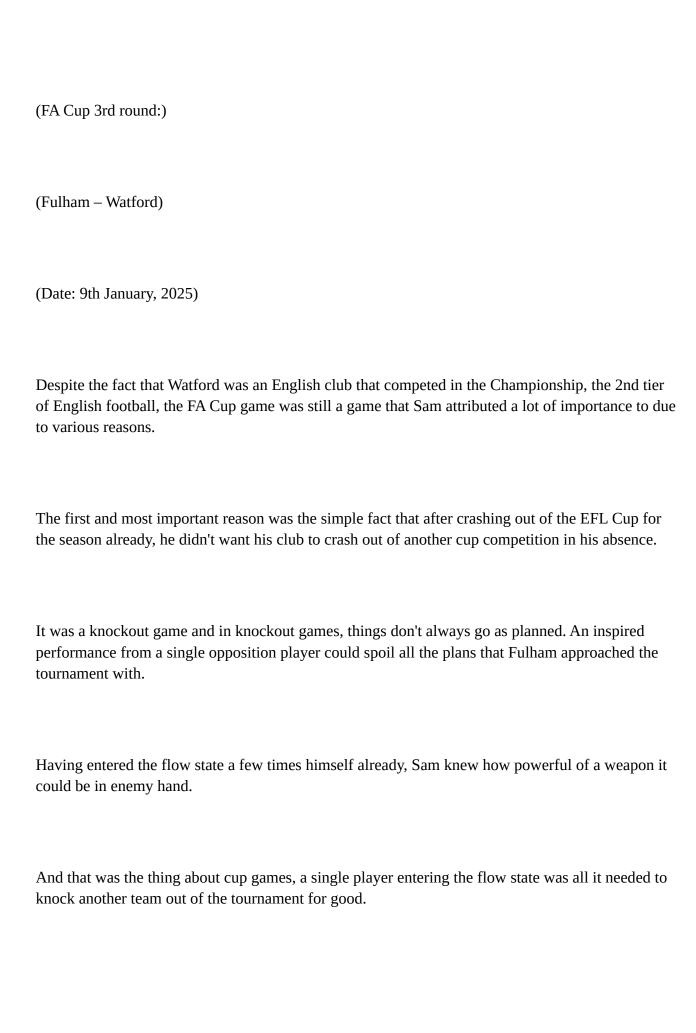
To Sam though, it was not too late, it was still a rare opportunity to enjoy himself with his girlfriend and that was what he did.
The next day after Fulham's win against Ipswich Town, still in a happy mood from his team winning, Sam finally decided to participate in the festivities.
Taking Kayla's car, on the 6th of January, 2025, they had another amazing lovers' day out in Netherlands as they went shopping.
Feeling generous due to his good mood, Sam splurged money, buying a lot of things for himself and his girlfriend.
He didn't stop at that as he bought souvenirs that he would give to his best friend, Ian on getting back to England; he also bought for Emile Smith Rowe too.
And finally, he did not forget to shop for his family too. From when he was younger, there were a few things that his parents always fantasized about but left it at just fantasy simply because they didn't have the means to get them.
But now, Sam decided to meet this old dream of theirs.
For his mom especially, he bought some expensive jewelries, those she always raved about when watching Indian drama series on Zee World back then.
Also, Sam decided to shop on behalf of his girlfriend's parents.

Yes, Kayla Banks' parents lived here in Netherlands.
Sam had heard a lot about Kayla's parents and vice versa but today, after speaking with his girlfriend about it, in a good mood, he finally decided that he was ready to meet them.
After the shopping session, they drove to an African food restaurant where they enjoyed themselves, and then they finally drove to Mr. Banks' home.
Kayla's parents were just like she told him about. Both were English citizens but her father was black, it explained her love for the black culture.
Kayla looked just like her mom. Looking at the older woman, Sam was stunned at the uncanny resemblance. 'Damn! They're cut from the same tree!'
And then, the middle-aged man initiated a conversation, smiling. "Sam, I hear that you're from Africa, how's Africa these days?"
Feeling the familiar energy in that question, Sam stared at this middle-aged man with wide eyes. "Sir, you've been to Africa?"
Mr. Banks chuckled. "I grew up in South Africa".
"Wow!" Now, everything made sense, but why did Kayla not tell him this? He briefly glared at his girlfriend who chuckled on seeing his reaction.





Mr. Banks was stunned, clearly, he did not expect that from Sam. In the end, he chuckled. "Goodluck then Sam, I'll follow your career closer from now".
Sam and Kayla spent the most of the day at her parents' home as Sam used the rare opportunity to bond with her parents.
At the end of it all, they finally returned to Kayla's apartment were taking his iPhone out, Sam dialed a number.
(Outgoing video call to Best Mom)
Click!
As soon as a familiar face appeared on the screen, she glared at him but once she noticed the other face beside Sam, her face lit up.
"Kayla my daughter!" Mrs. Moses' mood improved immediately. "How are you doing? Thanks for taking care of my son in my absence".
And just like that, the 2 women monopolized Sam's phone.
'I was the one who called!' Sam cried. Chapter 225 A crunch FA cup game- against Watford
After the game against Ipswich Town on 5th January, Fulham's next engagement was an FA Cup game against Watford in 4 days.



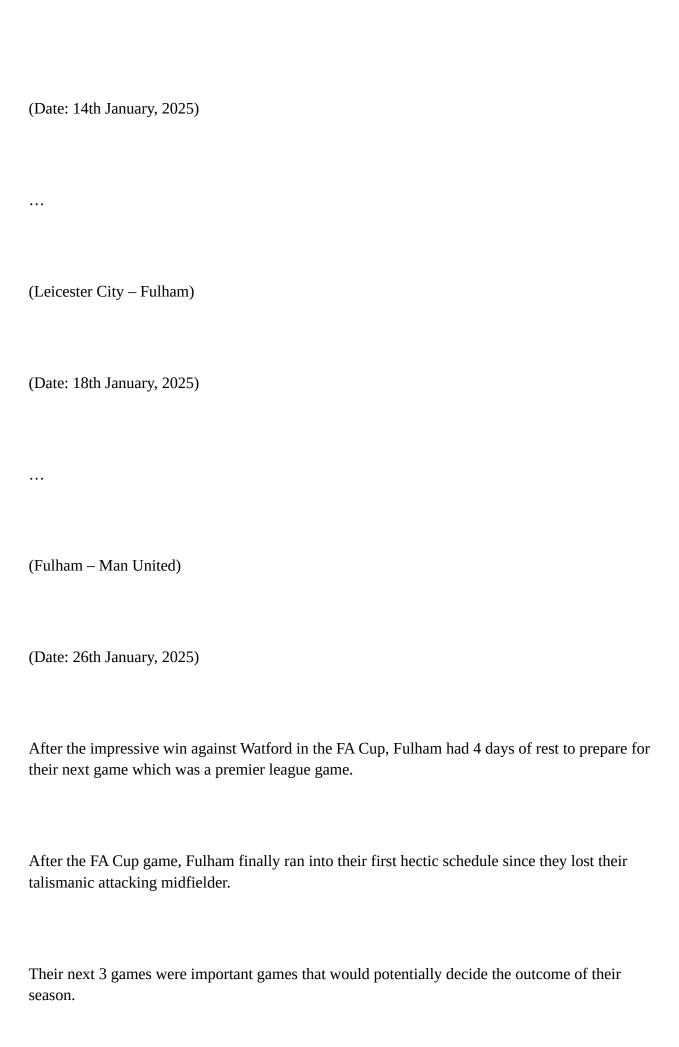
It was not like a league game where clubs could afford to stumble once and rectify their mistake in the next league game.
In knockout tournament games, it was win or lose.
Win and stay in the tournament, lose and crash out.
The buildup to this important game in their impressive season so far was grueling for the Fulham players. The fact that they already crashed out of one cup competition in Sam's absence already was still haunting them.
This was why they were determined not to crash out of another one.
This was why despite the fact that it was an FA Cup game and that it was against Watford, Coach Marco Silva started the game with a strong lineup.
He didn't just want his team to win, he wanted them to put out a statement display to show that they were still in the game even in Sam's absence.
Raul Jimenez was benched, allowing Muniz to start as the striker. Behind him was a dynamic trio of Harry Wilson, Emile Smith Rowe, and Adama Traore. Further behind them was the midfield duo of Lukic and Berge.
The 4-man defense comprised of the usual quadruple of Antonee Robinson, Diop, Bassey, and Tete. Castagne was still out injured. And of course, Bernd Leno started in between the posts this game.

Only few rotations were made by the Fulham coach.
As for Watford, starting in a 4-1-4-1 formation, Bayo started as their striker while behind him comprised the 4-man offense of Vata, Chakvatadze, Sissoko, and Bash. Behind the 4-man offensive players was Dwomoh in midfield as the anchor.
Behind the anchor was a 4-man defense comprising Larouci, Pollock, Porteous, and Ngakia, while Backmann started as the man in between the posts.
That night, Fulham fans gave the Watford players a reception to never forget as their loud noise blasted through the roof of Craven Cottage.
Even before the game started, the Watford players were already intimidated.
FWEEE!
As soon as the referee's whistle sounded, from the very first minute of this game, Fulham took the game to their opponents.
Fulham started kickoff and as soon as the first kick of the ball was played, the rapid Adama Traore charged down the field.
Before the Watford players could react
Bam!

Emile Smith Rowe played a perfect lobbed pass over their full defense for the rapid Traore to catch up to in no time, taking it in his strides.
"Oh! What is this? An early goal?"
The Watford goalkeeper charged out but keeping his cool, Adama Traore rounded the goalkeeper before poking the ball into an empty net.
In just the 1st minute of this game, Fulham went ahead.
"GOALLLL!" Craven Cottage erupted.
In a certain apartment in Netherlands, Sam also screamed for joy, making his girlfriend throw glances at him even as she idly ate popcorns.
That goal set the tempo for the rest of this game.
Fulham totally dominated Watford. They barely put up any resistance in the first half as the West London club ran them ragged with Smith Rowe pulling the strings from attacking midfield.
After setting up Adama Traore once already, Emile Smith Rowe orchestrated another moment of magic, playing Muniz in behind with an outrageous defense-splitting pass.

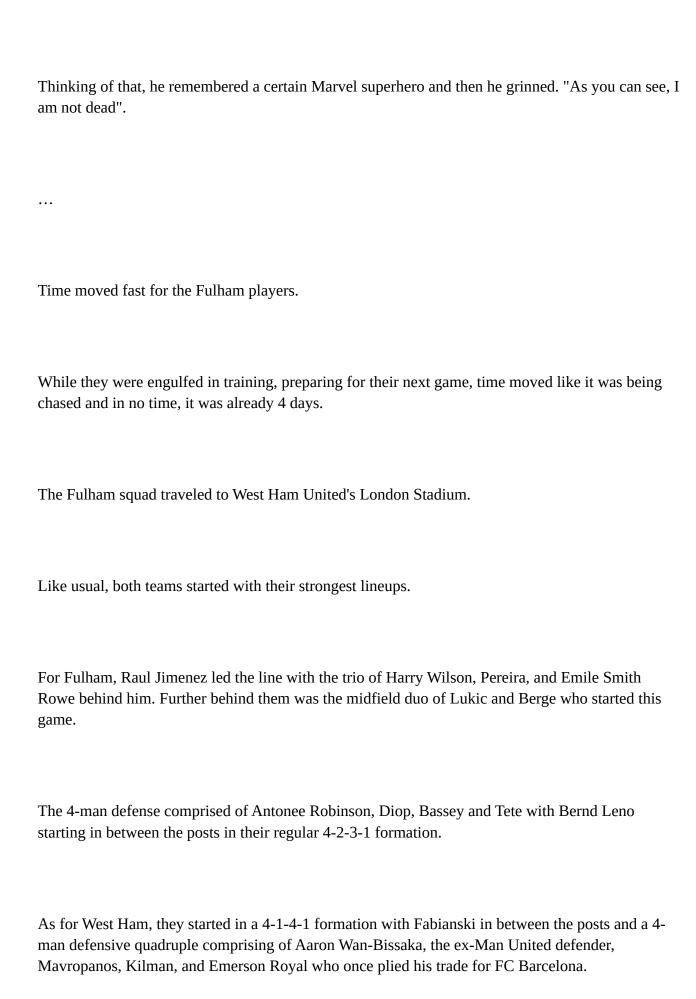
The lethal striker did not miss his mark, rifling the ball past the goalkeeper and into the net as Fulham scored its 2nd goal in the 22nd minute.
Just 3 minutes later, Adama Traore went on a powerful rampaging run with the ball, obliterating defenders with his pace before setting Muniz up again for the striker to rifle into the net on a powerful volley.
"Damn! Watford are being ripped apart!"
"What a run from Traore! What flawless shooting technique from Fulham too, they're in their groove!"
In the end, Sam's worst fears did not come true.
In the 25th minute of this game, Fulham was already 3-0 ahead and in the 40th minute, Muniz finally completed his hattrick after another bombing run and exquisite pass from Adama Traore down the right-hand side of the pitch.
40 minutes, 4-0
It was over for Watford.
During halftime, Coach Marco Silva pulled the plug, replacing majority of the starting players and refreshing his team with fresh legs, resting his stars.





Their first 2 encounters against West Ham and Leicester City were away games in tough away stadiums. No football club loved losing in front of their home fans, they would surely make things hard for Fulham.
In Sam's absence, the other Fulham stars would have to show up to win and of course, their hardest of the 3 premier league encounters was the 2nd clash against Manchester United for the premier league season.
This game was important because it was Fulham's last game for January 2025, and more importantly because it was against Manchester United.
Despite the recent dominance of Manchester City in the premier league, ask OG premier league fans and they would tell you that Manchester United are yet to be dethroned as the historical Kings of England.
Their history was still the best and most storied.
The memories created by ancient legends like George Best, more recent ones like Cristiano Ronaldo, Wayne Roonie, Robin Van Persie, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes, Edwin Van Der Sarr, all of it would not be forgotten so easily.
Besides, this season, Manchester United was a wildcard.
They win when you expect them to lose and when you do expect them to win, they'll go on and break your heart, losing in humiliating fashion.

In simple terms, they were unpredictable this season.
Despite their current form, it was still a team of elite professional football players in Marcus Rashford, Bruno Fernandes, Andre Onana, Lisandro Martinez and the likes. It was going to be Fulham's hardest game streak of the new year so far.
Personally, for Sam who was still in Netherlands with his girlfriend, the next run of games was especially important to him.
This was because after 26th January, the day when his team would take on Manchester United at home, the next day would be the day of his full recovery from his injury and when he would shock his teammates.
Till today, not even his girlfriend knew that he would recover in one month despite the fact that she was excited by how fast he was recovering.
Sam was ready to shock everybody, not just his girlfriend, his friends, his teammates and his coach, but also Fulham rivals.
A lot of people were secretly happy that he was injured, praying for their downfall, he could not wait to see the look on their faces on his return.
Thinking of my return,' he rubbed his chin. 'I think I should find a way to make it special and memorable'.
Something like, maybe a new celebration that is exclusive to me?'

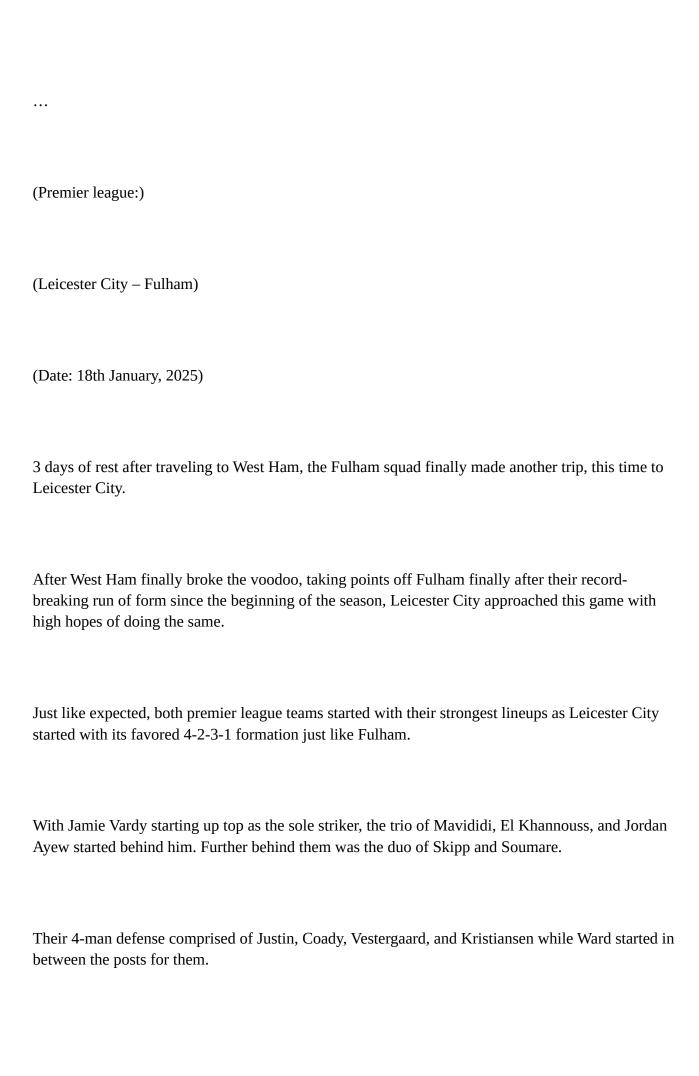


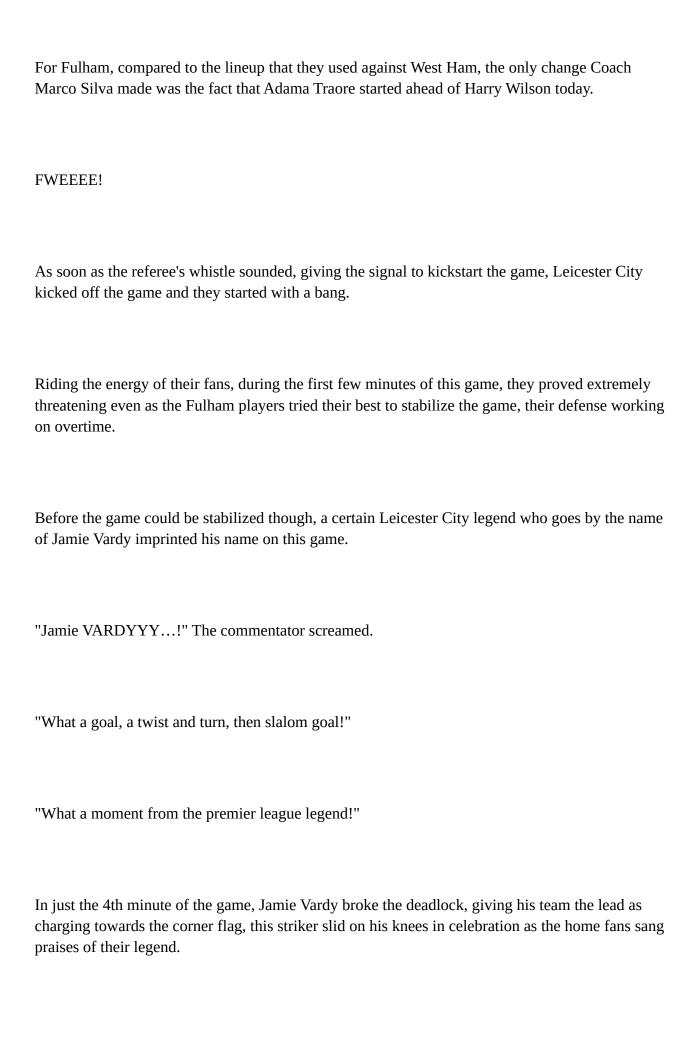
The sole man in midfield was Alvarez, while the 4-man offensive unit ahead of him comprised of Jarred Bowen, Lucas Paqueta, Soucek, and Mohamed Kudus.
Nikolas Fullkrug, the tall and imposing German striker was the sole man upfront for West Ham starting as their striker.
This was a formidable lineup and once the referee's whistle sounded, West Ham rode the momentum created by the home fans to play a wonder game.
This was Fulham in its current full power but during the first few minutes of this game, West Ham ran the Fulham defensive units ragged.
Mohamed Kudus especially was in imperious form as bolstered by his defense shutting out the Fulham attackers, this winger took the game by the scruff of the neck, consistently turning Tete inside out.
Their domination continued for over 40 minutes without a goal and during the late stages of the first half, as the pressure that they mounted on Fulham reduced, that was when their striker scored a wonder goal.
Mohamed Kudus created it.
After receiving the ball in the left-hand side, this winger wriggled past Tete again, wrong-footed Calvin Bassey before slipping a lobbed pass for the laser-focused German striker to hit on a powerful volley towards goal.

Bernd Leno reacted, his right hand touching the ball but the power behind the shot was just too much as it squirmed past him and into the net.
The London Stadium erupted as ecstatic West Ham supporters rejoiced.
The first half ended with West Ham leading 1-0.
When second half started, the Fulham players probably having taken a dose of motivation words from their coach started the game powerfully as they took the action to their opponents but it only lasted a short while before the West Ham domination continued.
Without Sam on the pitch, Fulham just seemed to lose that extra factor that would enable them compete at the very elite level.
They kept on trying but in the 60th minute of this game, the German striker pounced again, powering a header past Bernd Leno from a cross.
In 60 minutes, 2-0 to West Ham.
The away fan section deflated but, on the pitch, the Fulham players kept on trying their best and giving their all.
Late in the game, Fulham got a consolation goal for their troubles as Antonee Robinson, the Fulham left back scored a wonder goal from midfield.



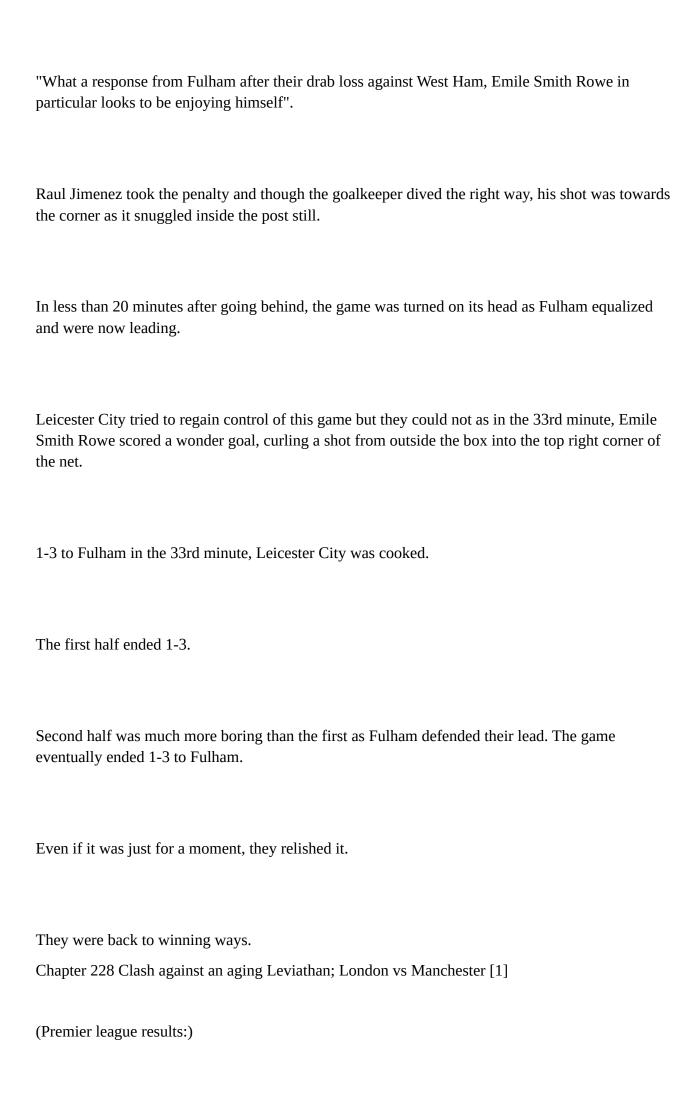
"Forget about the other areas of the pitch, if that Sam area was locked today, the others would have raised their game from his performance alone".
"Sam's ability is more than just personal ability; he has this charisma on the pitch to effortlessly raise the overall level of his teammates".
"To me, the guy is captain-material already despite his young age".
"It's just unfortunate that he's injured".
"Next season, I can't wait to see the big club that he'll play for. I'm telling you; the footballing world is not ready for the heights that Sam will hit when playing for a big European club".
Just like expected, most of the talk after matchday 21 of the English premier league revolved around Fulham and Samuel Moses as after 21 matchdays, they finally let up and fell to second place, allowing Liverpool to top the league.
To a lot of people who watched, this was the normal status quo, Fulham were back to default settings.
Their prediction was that in no time, Fulham would be out of the top 4 of the English premier league table entirely.
The Fulham players were under a lot of pressure to perform, most especially after how they were totally outplayed by West Ham.

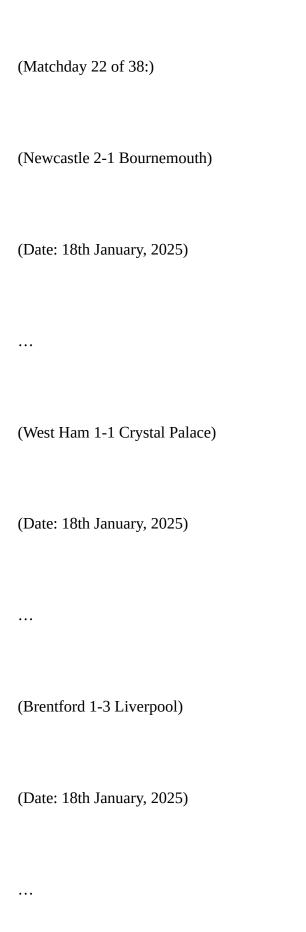




That goal definitely dampened Fulham hearts, but they were not done yet.
"Come on guys!" Emile Smith Rowe clapped his hands.
In recent weeks, the Englishman discovered that he developed a bad habit due to being around Sam and playing with him week in week out.
He discovered that he now developed a deep hatred for losing and not giving his all till the last moment.
The loss against West Ham heavily impacted him mentally and after going home and reflecting about it, only one question lingered in his mind.
What would Sam had done?
That was why this game as soon as his team went behind again, Smith Rowe decided against staying idle as he played captain today.
And sometimes, that extra nudge was just what his teammates needed.
After that goal, Leicester City thought they would be cruising towards a memorable victory to turn their season around but they could not have been more wrong as Fulham turned the game on its head.

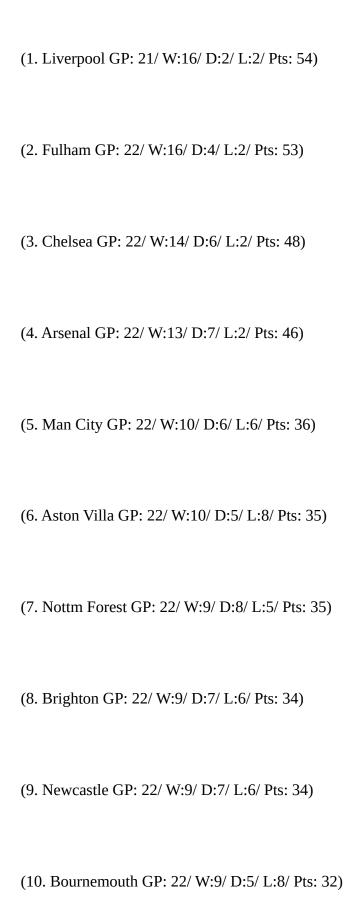








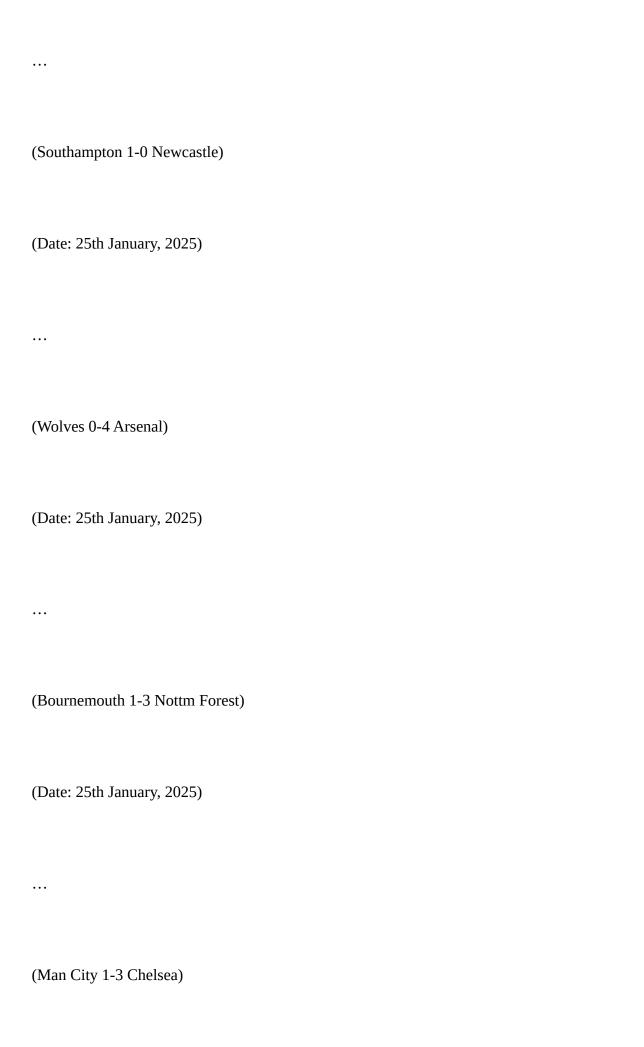




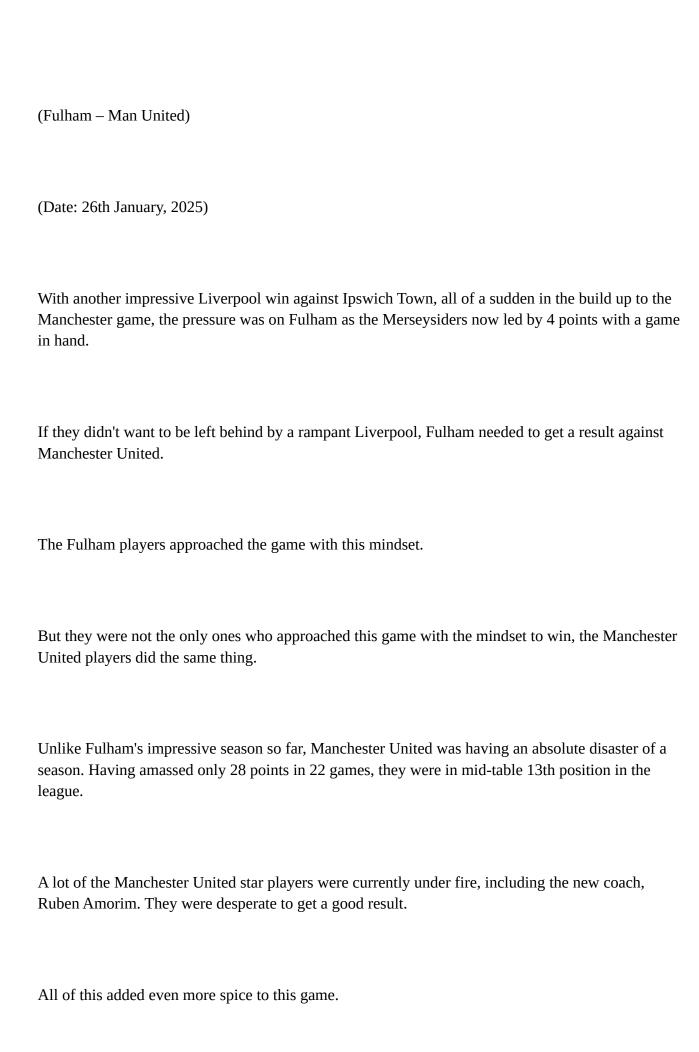


Despite the predictions all around, it was not a full-blown crisis yet in Fulham.
Yes, they lost their game against West Ham. Yes, it was 3 important points lost. Yes, Liverpool was now top of the table with a game in hand but at the same time, Fulham was still 2nd in the premier league table.
They were still within touching distance of the summit of the premier league table and to the Fulham fans, this meant everything.
After the game against Leicester City away from home, the Fulham players got a triumphant welcome back to Fulham as their fans celebrated their victory exuberantly like they already won a trophy.
Despite the celebrations though, the Fulham players did not let it get to their head, this was because they knew that there was a bigger challenge ahead.
Yes, it was a home game.
Yes, last time out they were able to beat the Red Devils in their home turf in Old Trafford but in that game, a certain Samuel Moses was on the pitch.
The Fulham players did not relish the knowledge that they would be clashing against the Kings of Manchester without their talismanic attacking midfielder, but they were not delusional.

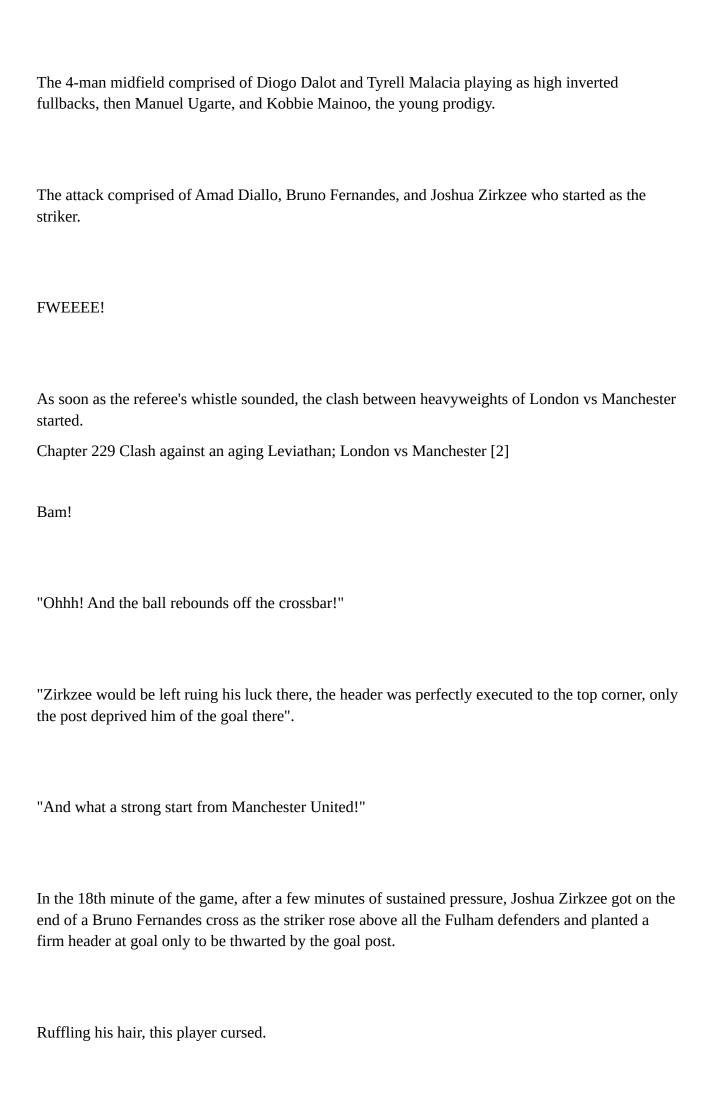
They were elite professional football players; they knew not to complain in adversity but to work with what they had. With this mentality, they trained hard, approaching the game with optimism. Like that, the days moved like the rolling pages of a book and in no time, it was already time for matchday 23 of the English premier league. The first games of the matchday were played on 25th but Fulham's clash against Manchester United was left for last on 26th January. (Premier league:) (Matchday 23 of 38:) (Brighton 2-0 Everton) (Date: 25th January, 2025) (Liverpool 2-0 Ipswich Town) (Date: 25th January, 2025)





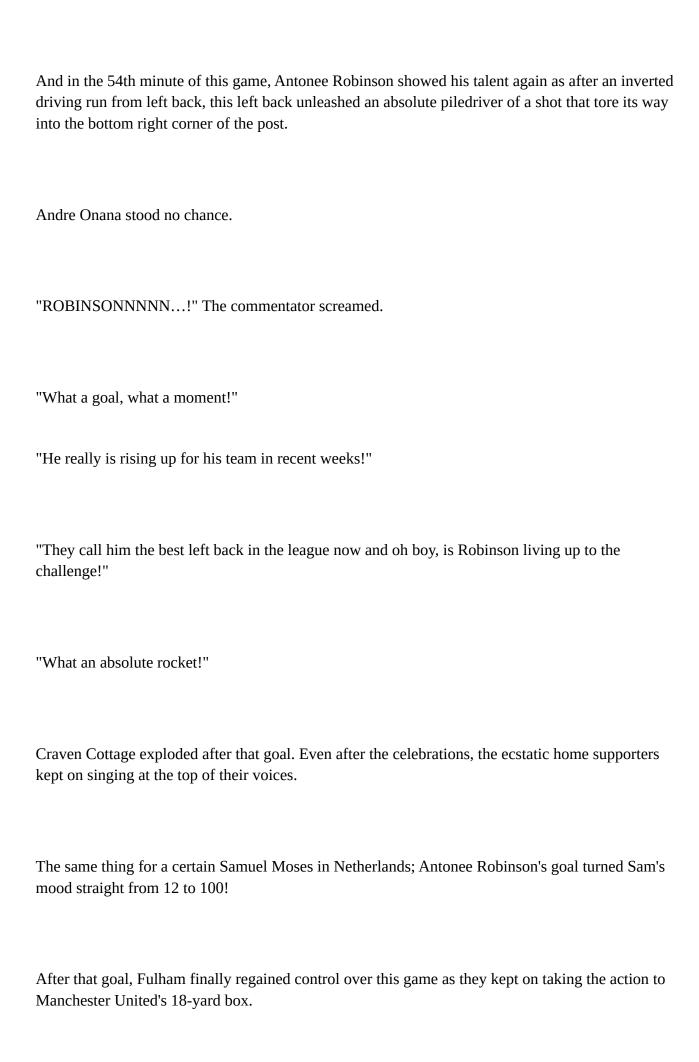


In the build-up to the game, the media dubbed it the clash of the new Dogs vs the aging Leviathan, a battle of London vs Manchester.
When the Man United players entered Craven Cottage, they were welcomed by the hostile atmosphere that was created by the home supporters.
It was incredibly toxic but that was football.
The Fulham fans were ready to do anything to help their team win.
And like expected, both teams started with their strongest lineups.
Fulham started with a similar lineup that they used to demolish Leicester City, the only difference being that Castagne finally returned to the starting XI as the right back of the team after minor injury issues.
As for Manchester United, it was still a much more fearsome and star-studded lineup of players on paper.
Starting in a 3-4-2-1 formation, Andre Onana, the Cameroonian started in between the posts while the 3-man defense in front of him comprised the trio of Mazraoui, Harry Maguire, and Lisandro Martinez.



But the game was already continuing without him as Calvin Bassey pounced, clearing the game up field.
As soon as the referee's whistle sounded from the first minute, buoyed by the loud noise that was being made by the home supporters, Fulham played with venom and purpose as they aimed to get the early lead.
But for some reason, they could not sustain this pressure as it lasted for only 5 minutes before Manchester United took the game by the scruff of the neck.
For the next 15 minutes or so, Manchester United dominated as they tried their best to score, their closest being Joshua Zirkzee's header.
In the end, despite their efforts, the game was still level 0-0.
After the 20th minute though, Fulham settled down again as riding the energy from the loud noise around Craven Cottage, they slowly settled down into this game until it was no longer one-sided.
This game became even and once it did, it became pound for pound.
Bruno Fernandes vs Lukic, Emile Smith Rowe vs Manuel Ugarte; all across the pitch, exciting matchups dominated the game as the players of both teams gave their all to give their team the edge in this game.

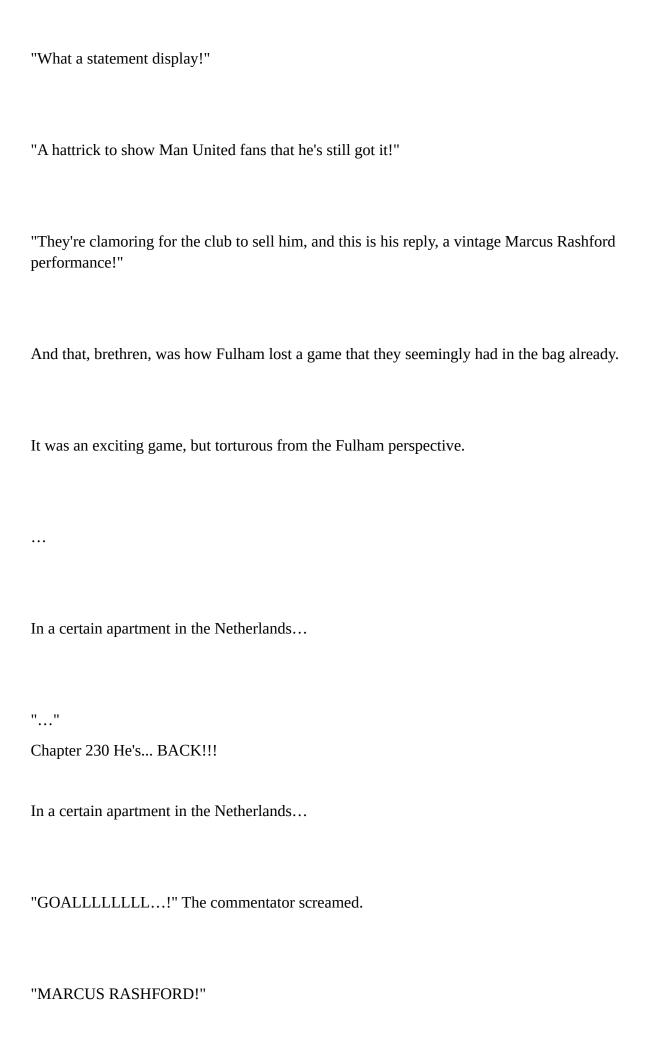
In the 33rd minute of this game, Amad Diallo came closest to opening the deadlock as after a long pass from Kobbie Mainoo, the young forward bravely drove forward with the ball before unleashing a venomous shot at goal that stung Bernd Leno's gloves.
The Fulham goalkeeper saved a sure goal only due to his quick reflexes even as Craven Cottage exploded with cheers for their goalkeeper.
Immediately after making the save, Bernd Leno took the ball and quickly launched it forward for a quick counterattack.
Alex Iwobi took it in his strides, sprayed it to the other side of the pitch to Emile Smith Rowe who set Raul Jimenez up one-on-one with Andre Onana.
Somewhere in Netherlands, at that moment, Sam jumped up to his feet, about to scream in celebration but he only ended up cursing. "F*ck!"
"What a save from Andre Onana!" The commentator raved.
"What a game this is turning out to be! Both goalkeepers are in elite form!"
Despite the many chances that dominated this first half, the game ended 0-0 but it was during 2nd half that the level of play in this game truly shot up to a stratospheric level, showcasing the determination of both teams to win.
It was pound for pound football, extremely physical and rough, mixed with a few glimpses of individual brilliance.

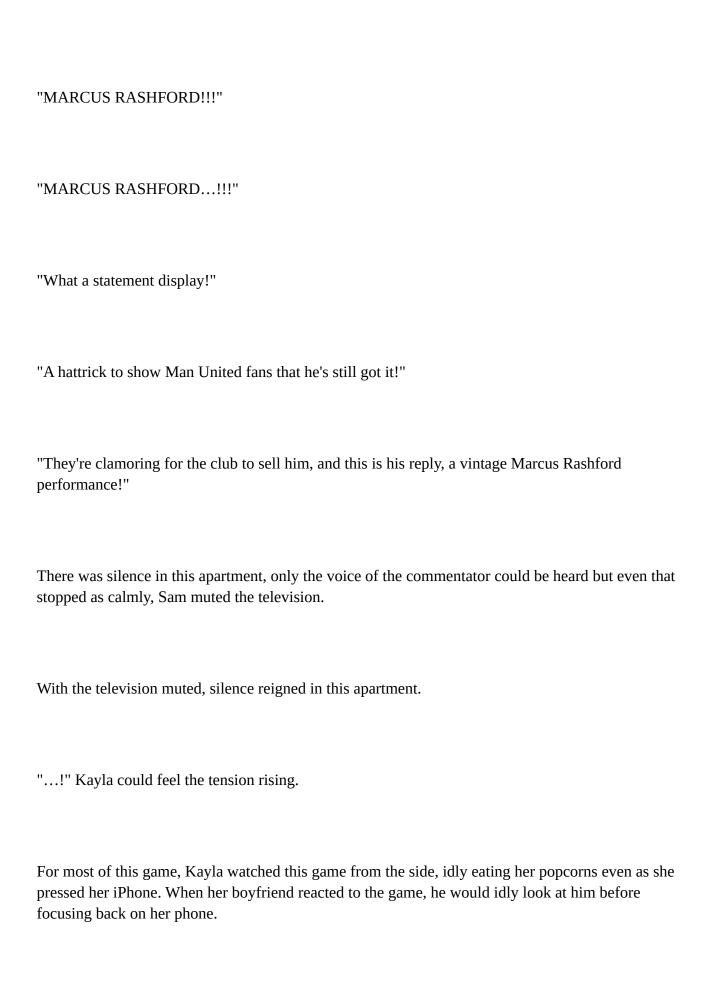


Man United kept on trying to turn the tides to no avail.
In the 70th minute, Ruben Amorim finally said f*ck it and pulled the plug, making a couple changes to his team as Marcus Rashford was introduced into the game and his substitutions paid dividends almost immediately.
2 minutes after coming on, consequence of a failed Fulham corner kick routine, the rapid English forward got on the end of the cleared ball.
Taking the ball in his strides, Rashford kicked it long before absolutely obliterating Castagne in a race battle.
Bernd Leno charged out to clear the ball but Rashford was faster still, arriving earlier as the Englishman chipped the ball above the goalkeeper.
Due to the fact that he didn't add too much power to it, the ball rolled slowly towards goal even as Diop charged back to clear it.
In that moment, time seemed to freeze in Craven Cottage
"!"
Will it or will it not?

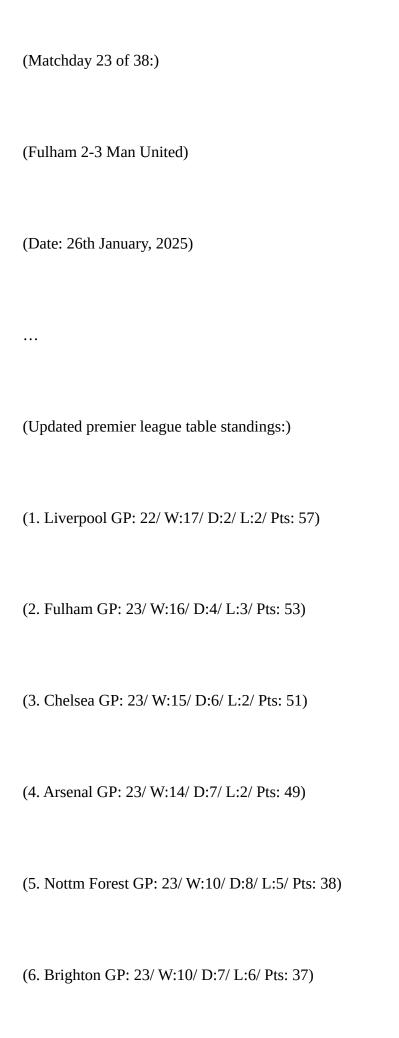


But they forgot something, there was no Zinedine Sam on the pitch.
In the 2nd minute of additional time, it was the rapid Englishman again, Marcus Rashford as after receiving a pass from Bruno Fernandes, in a show of how synced and lost he was in the zone state, this forward set himself up before unleashing an absolute rocket of a shot from 30 yards out!
Whoosh!
The ball flew like a rocket, drilling through the air with venomous momentum
Time seemed to freeze
Craven Cottage watched in silence, and then
"GOALLLLLLL!" The commentator screamed.
"MARCUS RASHFORD!"
"MARCUS RASHFORD!!!"
"MARCUS RASHFORD!!!"





She could tell that the game was a rollercoaster though she didn't watch it, this was because of the highs and lows of Sam's emotions as he watched the game.
At some point, she thought. 'Don't go and get a BP from watching football!'
But now, even she was tongue-tied as soon as the game came to an end as she could tell that the atmosphere in this living room already changed.
She fidgeted with her box of popcorns, looking at the floor, then at the ceiling before finally gathering the courage to peek at her boyfriend.
The TV was muted but at this moment, Sam still had his eyes fixated on the screen, watching as emotions cascaded on the pitch.
He watched as Marcus Rashford received his match ball and the man of the match award, and he also watched his devastated teammates.
When the camera switched to show Alex Iwobi and Emile Smith Rowe's dejected faces, Sam's face twitched a bit but overall, he was still very calm.
And then, with the last result of matchday 23 of the English premier league ready, the premier league table was updated again.
(Premier league:)

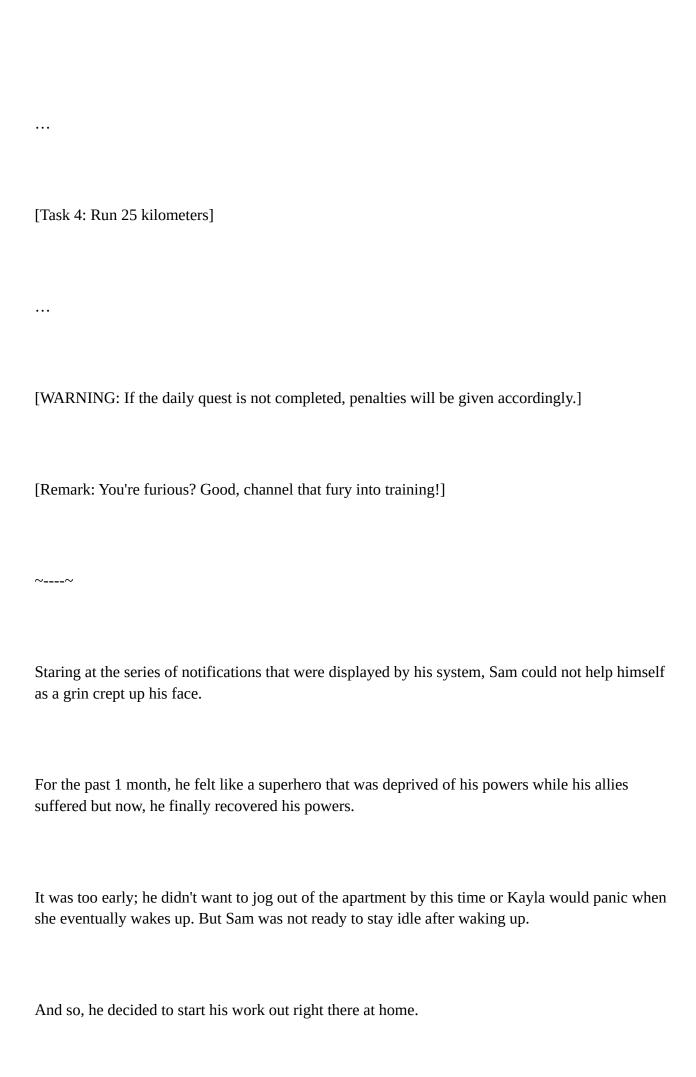


- (7. Man City GP: 23/ W:10/ D:6/ L:7/ Pts: 36)
- (8. Aston Villa GP: 23/W:10/D:6/L:8/Pts: 36)
- (9. Tottenham GP: 23/W:11/D:2/L:10/Pts: 35)
- (10. Newcastle GP: 23/W:9/D:7/L:7/Pts: 34)
- (11. Bournemouth GP: 23/W:9/D:5/L:9/Pts: 32)
- (12. Brentford GP: 23/W:9/D:4/L:10/Pts: 31)
- (13. Man United GP: 23/W:9/D:4/L:10/Pts: 31)
- (14. West Ham GP: 23/W:7/D:6/L:10/Pts: 26)
- (15. Crystal Palace GP: 23/W:4/D:9/L:10/Pts: 21)
- (16. Leicester GP: 23/W:3/D:8/L:12/Pts: 17)
- (17. Everton GP: 22/W:3/D:5/L:14/Pts: 14)



"No need, I'm full".
As soon as Sam was out of his girlfriend's sight, his hands clenched into fists even as veins popped all over his body.
A fire lit up in his eyes and then, a familiar chant started in his mind.
'Win!'
Before Sam got to the bedroom, he already managed to kill all the adrenaline and fury currently flowing through him as he forced himself to sleep.
Tomorrow was going to be a big day for him.
The next day, Sam woke up very early, around after 5 in the morning.
~~
[Congratulations! The effects of ingesting the high-grade physical conditioning elixir have been completed!]

[You have completed your injury recovery time!]
[You have successfully recovered from an ankle injury!]
[Sam, welcome to a new day!]
[You have unlocked a new Daily System Quest- Get back in shape!]
[You have unlocked today's daily quest goals!]
[Task 1: 250 push-ups]
[Task 2: 250 squats]
[Task 3: 250 sit-ups]



'Even if I can't jog effectively here, I can still engage the push-ups, squats, and sit-ups'. His eyes gleamed. 'There's no time to waste'.
Right there in the bedroom, while his girlfriend still slept, Sam started working out.
Hours later, when Kayla woke up, seeing him all drenched in sweat, she was shocked and alarmed. "Sam! Are you ok?"
Hearing her voice, he grinned. "Oh yeah I'm ok, far ok than I've been since the past 1 month".
Hearing that, she heaved a sigh of relief but once the panic left her mind was when her logical brain came to fore. "Wait, you're working out? Are you out of your mind?!"
"What of your injury?
Sam kept on grinning. "My injury?" He shrugged. "That's a thing of the past, I'm healed now".
"See ya later, I'm going out to jog".
In his gym clothes, Sam jogged out of this apartment in Netherlands. Of course, he did well to wear a hoodie to cover his face and try to hide his identity.

It didn't mean much though.
As soon as he came out, unknown to Sam, a paparazzi brought out his camera as he took pictures of him including a video.
A few minutes later, while Sam jogged in Netherlands, unknown to him, a storm already started on social media due to a post from an anonymous source.
It was a post on Twitter.
{Twitter:}
{Username: @Stalker007}
(Surprise surprise mother*ckers!)
(Image=)
(Video=)
(He's BACK!!!)