

Football God 311

Chapter 311 A scandal [5]

The narrative changed.

From just prosecute Sam, uncertainty began lingering into the hearts of those who followed the blockbuster news.

What if Amaka was lying?

What if she was after Sam's money all along?

What if she was just ruining the career of the promising young Nigerian footballer who was tipped to lead Nigeria to glory for the first time in the FIFA World Cup?

That uncertainty was what broke the one-sided momentum.

The massive hate that Sam was receiving online reduced as a direct result of the scene that Mrs. Moses caused in Amaka parents' home.

Clever now, those who followed the news decided to stay patient and calm, not jumping to conclusions as they decided to wait for conclusive evidence to be found by the court and investigating authorities first.

There were those who still hated on Sam of course, clamoring for him to be prosecuted and punished but they were now in the minority.

The situation suddenly turned into a deadlock.

While all of that happened around the world where the news of Sam's scandal spread, increasing his popularity even more, the person in question was still in confinement in Spain doing what he did best.

Sam already made his decision.

He would ignore the current storm that was around the life, including the fact that his football career was currently at a standstill due to all that was going on.

Instead of worrying over something that he was not in control of, he would leave it to his loved ones and lawyers while he focused on his own training.

After that speech from his system, Sam set himself a goal.

'I want to be even better than before when I return to the pitch!'

'My comeback will be one for the ages!'

And in confinement, under the watch of the stone-cold guards who kept on being amazed by his work ethic, Sam worked and trained like a mad man.

~----~

[You have completed Daily System Quest: Mentality Monster!]

[You have been rewarded with a low-grade physical conditioning elixir!]

...

[Your stamina attribute has increased by +2]

Player Attributes:

*Pace: 86

*Shot: 87

*Pass: 85

*Dribbling: 84

*Defending: 40

*Physicality: 81

*Stamina: 89

Overall Rating: 87

[Congratulations! You have gained a new football title: Black Mamba!]

>Black Mamba: You have the will of the mamba! You don't get dragged to earth by adversity, rather, you thrive in adversity!<

[Special Effect: In difficult games, i.e big games, you have a higher tendency of showing up for your team to create a moment of magic and help them win!]

~-----~

In solitary confinement, Sam's stamina was now just 1 point away from 90!

He was training hard.

...

2 more days passed, and then FC Barcelona played its next league game, it's first without their new signing, Samuel Moses.

The scandal was truly affecting Sam's career.

In a show of support for their teammate who was in police custody and confinement, for the home game at the Spotify Camp Nou for matchday 5 of the Spanish La Liga season, the FC Barcelona players wore coveralls spotting images of Sam and a support message.

(We stand with Sam!)

This was the message of FC Barcelona.

They believed in their player, and they would support him despite the negative impact that this scandal was having on the club as a brand.

Unlike a certain club like Manchester United who failed to have the back of their player who went through a similar situation in Mason Greenwood, FC Barcelona took a different approach, not shying from supporting him despite the negative consequences that it may bring.

It was not just the players and the club board who supported their player, the fans also showed solidarity towards their young player.

The fans approached this game with massive banners embedded with Sam images and different supportive messages.

Before the start of the game, they paraded these banners in the stadium.

In that game, as if to motivate Sam, the FC Barcelona squad played at an elite and imperious form against their opponents in the Spotify camp nou.

They shipped 7 goals past their opponents, winning 7-2 by fulltime.

Lewandowski got a hatrick, Raphinha got 2 goals and 2 assists, while Lamine Yamal got 2 goals and 3 assists; an electric display from the FC Barcelona front trio.

The midfield was also electric, having an almost perfect game.

Gavi substituted for Sam perfectly at the attacking midfield spot. Behind him, Marc Casado and Pedri equally had solid games as both midfielders got an assist each. It was an all-round impressive display from FC Barcelona.

From this game, it became clear that Lewandowski still had the quality, just the legs were no longer there.

Give him the ball in a dangerous spot and the Polish striker still had the sight for goal, and the lethal instincts to score.

But to do more, he no longer had the legs to do more.

For now, he was still barely a passable option for the Catalan giants but it was clear that they needed a replacement as soon as possible for the Polish striker.

With that display at home, FC Barcelona bounced back to winning ways in a statement victory sent to the rest of the Spanish La Liga.

...

1 day later, the Supreme Court of Spain finally released news.

(BBC News:)

(The Supreme Court of Spain have finally released an official word. The hearing for Samuel Moses' case has been scheduled to take place on 15th of September at the Supreme Court building!)

(Stay tuned for any further news on the case:)

15th of September, that was 15 days after Sam's last game for FC Barcelona on August 31st.

In that time frame, he was guaranteed to miss at least 3 games.

This was how much this whole fiesta affected his career but there was nothing he could do about it, and Sam already embraced his situation.

Emboldened by the solid display of his teammates at home in the Spotify Camp Nou, Sam continued training in his confinement.

At the same time, after settling things in Spain with the lawyers, Kayla and Ian finally took a flight to Nigeria.

Chapter 312 A scandal [6]

Abraka, Nigeria...

In one of the biggest hotels in the city, Kayla was in a room with Ian as they discussed certain sensitive topics.

"The rest of your classmates, are they still around?" She looked at Ian.

"I think some of them should be abroad already, but majority of them are still in Nigeria. I'm sure".

Kayla nodded. "Good, we'll need them".

"For?"

"To act as witnesses".

"Like you, they were there when what happened that night happened. No matter how little they know, they would have an idea about what actually happened".

"Besides, that Bryan too, I want to involve him in this".

Ian hesitated. "But..."

"Don't worry, I'm not just a spoilt English brat," Kayla chuckled as her eyes gleamed calculatedly. "I know how the world works, especially in third world countries like Nigeria. Money answereth a lot of things here".

"Don't worry, every single testifier would have an appropriate compensation for me to say the truth".

"And be rest assured, it would not be traced back to me".

"Besides, that Bryan," Kayla rubbed her chin. "With the right amount of money, I think even he would open his mouth to speak". She smirked.

"..."

Ian stared at Kayla, totally speechless. "Sister-in-law..., I never knew you were this scary".

"I'm gentle when it calls for it, scary when it calls for it too".

...

In Nigeria, Kayla became a Detective Conan, scouring through the streets of Abraka and authorities, investigating and searching for evidence.

At some point, realizing that matters already blew out of proportion, panicking, Amaka began releasing a lot more videos on her IG handle more frequently.

And in recent videos, she attacked Kayla, accusing the English woman of being a vixen, stealing her man and still being shameless enough to slander her for it. She dragged Sam and Kayla on social media, adding more flames to the already burning fire.

At first, a lot of people paid attention to her posts but the more she posted, the more people lost interest.

Afterall, she didn't seem like a pained lover recovering from trauma anymore, rather, she seemed more like a desperate opportunist now.

Having learned their lessons, the fans refused to jump to conclusions, watching the drama unfold from the shadows while they waited for 15th September. On that day, everything would be clarified in the court of law in Spain.

While all these happened, FC Barcelona's season continued.

In Sam's absence, amid 2 more La Liga games, the Catalan club finally kickstarted their champions league campaign for this 2025/2026 season.

Imperiously, FC Barcelona dominated, winning the next 2 La Liga games that they played but in their champions league debut game for this new campaign was where they finally stumbled.

They started against Benfica.

Against the infamous club from Portugal, FC Barcelona faltered, Robert Lewandowski's age once again laid bare against a solid and formidable opponent.

Lamine Yamal dazzled this game, eventually winning the man of the match award after an electric dribbling display but in the end, the game ended in a goalless draw as Lewandowski's struggles in front of goal proved costly to the Catalans.

Raphinha had a good game but he was also shut out by the Portuguese team.

Last season, FC Barcelona started their champions league campaign with a loss. This season again, they stumbled, starting the new campaign with a draw against Benfica; the Catalans seemed to have a thing against winning their first champions league games.

After that game, Sam's hearing at court was to commence in 3 days and a day after the Champions League game, he was visited by his friends.

Led by Lamine Yamal, a group from the FC Barcelona squad comprising Yamal, Pedri, Gavi, and Alejandro Balde visited Sam in his confinement home.

There, they spoke with him, trying to cheer him up even as they also cheered themselves up, quickly forgetting the disappointment of yesterday.

"I can't wait for you to get back to the pitch man," Lamine Yamal said in Spanish, smiling.

"I can't wait too". Sam replied back in Spanish.

One advantage of staying in confinement was that after working out, Sam had all the time in the world to himself and since he had nothing better doing, he devoted his time to learning Spanish through the Duolingo app.

Kayla also helped, hiring a local Spanish tutor to help in his studies. In just a few weeks, Sam's Spanish already improved by a lot.

"I wonder if you'll continue playing as an attacking midfielder or a false 9," Gavi commented, scratching his chin in thought.

Sam looked at him, laughing. "You ask that because you want to be the one playing in that attacking midfield spot, right?"

"Of course!" The young Spaniard said in Spanish, laughing.

"Since you arrived, I don't think the coach has ever played us both at the same time in a game. It's always either you or me, that's because this season the coach prefers playing us in the same position".

"Of course, I don't like that, I want more playing time". He chuckled. "So if you get to play as a false 9, I get to play with you too!"

"Yeah, I understand you," Sam said, smiling. "But I love playing as a midfielder".

"You bastard," Gavi glared at him. "You can play anywhere on the pitch, play as a striker!"

Pedri and Lamine Yamal laughed.

After spending significant time with him, eating and cheering him up, the 3 young FC Barcelona players finally left him in his confinement building.

Sam was all smiles after they left, he was glad that they visited.

The amount of support that FC Barcelona rendered to him during this difficult period convinced Sam of his decision to choose to play for the Catalans.

'I can't afford to get out of shape!'

'I need to keep on working!'

'I need to keep on improving!'

He returned to training.

Like this, time moved fast and in no time, 3 days already passed.

The D-day..., was here.

On 15th September, 2025, Sam was finally carried to the building of the Supreme Court of Spain for his court hearing.

Chapter 313 The hearing [1]

The D-day was here.

15th September, 2025, Sam's hearing took place in the Supreme Court of Spain in the Spanish Capital City, Madrid.

It was a big occasion.

Afterall, it was a damaging scandal involving one of the recent big names of Spanish football, one of FC Barcelona's superstar players.

The media already fanned the flames for weeks, and now it all hit a crescendo, setting the stage for the showdown in the court.

...

Having arrived in Spain already, hours before the court hearing, Amaka Glimz released one final video to her fans.

The young Nigerian lady had a disbelieving look on her face. "I can't believe it got to this level".

"I honestly don't know what Sam is thinking," she sighed, expressing great pain. "To think he would hurt me and not feel remorseful at all, to still push me to this extent, I fear there's nothing more I can do".

"The evidence is solid against him; there's no way around it".

"Alas I gave him a way out of this".

She looked at the camera, a look of determination in her eyes. "Sam, if you're watching this, know that I gave you a chance to resolve this amicably but you refused my goodwill".

"I'm not at fault if this ends up affecting your football career".

"I tried my best".

"Now, let the law take its course".

The video ended there.

This video fanned the flames online that surrounded the hearing in Spain even more, causing a frenzy of discussion by fans online.

Some supported Amaka, a few diehard fans supported Sam, while majority of the viewers stayed neutral, refusing to jump to a conclusion till the court hearing finally came to an end and the judge gave his verdict.

The D-day was here, now came the time.

The hours rolled fast and in no time, it was 10:00am in Madrid.

...

Whoosh!

Luxurious cars rolled to the occasion, stopping at the entrance to the Supreme Court of Spain as numerous esteemed individuals attended to the occasion where Sam's fate was to be decided by the court.

From high-profile lawyers to high-profile celebrities, there was no lack of esteemed faces today as majority of the world's attention turned to this hearing.

Among the high-profile faces were those from FC Barcelona.

Pulling out in their luxurious cars for their teammate, Pedri and Gavi pulled to the occasion dressed in neat black suits.

Lamine Yamal and Alejandro Balde also arrived in another luxurious car. Of all of them though, the most high profile was the arrival of the legendary Polish striker, Robert Lewandowski who graced the occasion.

"I can't believe it!"

"All these people came out for Sam?!" People gossiped in the background.

"Are they just being biased because he's their teammate, or its because they believe that Sam is innocent?"

Amid all the gossip, another luxurious car pulled up to the occasion, a GLE 53 AMG and from inside, one of the main characters of today pulled out.

Almost 1 month without football...

Almost 1 month of a damaging scandal, almost 1 month of being exposed to scary amount of online abuse, almost a month of being held in police custody...

A lot of people expected Sam to be depressed by the whole situation. At the very least, they expected the toil from the abuse to show on his face and body but when Sam stepped out of the car, none of that showed.

He didn't look emaciated and malnourished at all.

Rather, all that showed was undaunted confidence and unmatched charisma.

Thud!

He stepped down from the car.

Sam's black shoes gleamed like the smooth surface of obsidian glass as they touched the pavement, the perfect accentuate for his all-black attire.

His black trunks, his long black cloak, and the dark shades that added an extra layer of seriousness to his demeanor today, all of it made Sam look like a secret CEO of some big ancient family.

Click! Click!

The cameras quickly started flashing, letting out clicking sounds as the alert cameramen took pictures of the famous footballer.

No matter the outcome of the hearing today, these pictures were clearly going to sell for big prices as news company clamor to milk the impact of today.

As soon as Sam came down, he walked, and then they followed.

Following behind him was his personal lawyer, his girlfriend, Kayla, and his best friend, Ian. Together, they walked confidently into the court of law, into the maws of the judiciary.

Mr. Moses pushed to attend this hearing in Spain but Sam was against it. He didn't want his parents to be dragged into the heat of this scandal.

About a minute later, another car pulled up and Amaka walked out. She was dressed in a neat blue gown. She walked in with her lawyer.

Once they entered the court of law, the massive doors were slammed shut even as the hearing was scheduled to start.

Inside the Supreme Court building was filled with lots of high-profile faces.

3 minutes after the door were shut, the judge walked in.

As soon as he sat down, he went through a few of his documents that were on his table before finally starting the hearing.

After saying a few customary words, he commenced the main event.

"Let the plaintiff present his case before the jury".

In a court of law, there is a defendant and a plaintiff. The plaintiff is the party that brings the case against the defendant.

In normal circumstances in a court of law, the plaintiff and their witnesses present evidence first.

The outcome of the case depends on whether there is a jury or not. The judge decides the outcome of the case after listening to evidence from both sides.

As soon as the judge demanded it, Amaka's lawyer stood up, eloquently presenting the case before the judge.

"The accused, Sam assaulted my client physically and sexually".

Starting from that, this lawyer flexed his trained eloquence in front of the judge, presenting the case perfectly and putting Sam out as the villain before eventually supporting his claims with solid evidence, the videos and images.

Silence reigned in this court of law as soon as Amaka's lawyer presented her case. Calmly, the judge acknowledged them before moving on.

"Now, let the defendant defend his case".

In the eyes of dozens of people inside this court room, Kayla Banks stood up.

Chapter 314 The hearing [2]

Kayla stood up.

"..."

The air in the Spanish courtroom was thick with tension.

Mahogany benches lined the room, filled with spectators whispering among themselves. Nobody expected Kayla to stand up instead of Sam's lawyer, they were all surprised and caught off-guard.

The high, arched ceiling of this courtroom echoed every sound, amplifying the weight of the proceedings.

Golden light streamed through the tall windows, illuminating dust motes swirling in the air even as Kayla took a deep breath.

Her hands trembled slightly as she clutched the wooden railing, but her voice, though soft was steady. She wore a modest blue gown, the severity of its cut in stark contrast to the raw emotion flickering in her dark eyes.

"Order!"

The judge bellowed the next moment, bringing order back to the court even as he gestured for the prosecutor to continue.

Before Kayla, the prosecutor, a stern woman in a crisp black robe arched a skeptical brow as she looked at the English woman. "Senorita Kayla," she said, her voice laced with doubt. "Are you telling this court that despite the testimonies, despite the evidence, you still believe in your boyfriend's innocence?"

A murmur rippled through the audience; this court hearing was taking an unexpected turn but Kayla stayed composed.

Lifting her chin, she faced the prosecutor and smiled. "Yes," she said firmly. "I know my boyfriend. He would never and could never do what he is being accused of by the plaintiff".

She slightly inclined her head to look at Amaka; her eyes gleamed with concealed malice. "There are inconsistencies in the accusations".

"...!"

Now, things were getting interesting as everyone perked up.

Kayla faced the judge. "Her evidence; the videos, the images," she took a deep breath. "They were fabricated".

The judge stared at the young Englishwoman. "Are you saying that all of this was fabricated? Our specialists checked and everything correlated. What evidence do you have that supports your claims?"

"This". Kayla brought a USB device from her bag the next moment, showing it to the court.

"Those videos were tampered with".

Her eyes gleamed with determination. "Like your specialists confirmed, the video is not fake. It's real, but their contents were slightly altered".

"That video only shows part of what actually happened on that night".

"This is the real video," she raised the USB device up. "Before I continue my defense, I want this video to be played".

At the other stand in this courtroom, Amaka was fighting hard to keep her composure as she stared at the USB device in Kayla's hand.

No one knew her thoughts, but it was clear that she was no longer as relaxed as when this hearing first started.

'What?!'

'I thought the video editor did a perfect job!'

'And the original video should have been destroyed, so how?!'

No one paid attention to her thoughts though as the real video started being played in a big screen in this courtroom.

The real sequence that happened that night was finally played to the court.

All the deleted parts were recovered and played.

Kayla went to great lengths back in Nigeria to retrieve the original video but in this digital age, with enough money, a lot of things could be accomplished, including retrieving a video that was already deleted.

All the elements that were cut out of the video, including Bryan entering the restroom, Sam waiting outside, then Sam leaving devastated after finding out the truth, to Bryan and Sarah eventually coming out together, everything showed.

By the end of the video, Amaka was as pale as a ghost.

Her lawyer had an ugly expression on her face as she stared at the screen; there was a deafening silence in this courtroom as the attendees stared.

Riding the sudden momentum in her favor, Kayla opened her mouth again. "As you can see, this is the original video showing everything that transpired".

"You can put the USB device through any originality test to confirm that it is not fabricated".

And then, this English woman's sharp eyes turned towards the plaintiff; she glared at Amaka.
"Evidence don't lie; this woman framed my boyfriend!"

"Lies!"

"In that night, Sam was the one who was violated, not her".

"Not only did she reject his love, she used him to lure the boy she wanted, had sex with him like a slut in the restroom, and gave no attention to the grief she put him through as a result".

Kayla's eyes flashed with rage as she glared at her. "To think she would still have the guts to pursue this matter years later without any shame!"

"Amaka, you're the most shameless woman I've ever met in my life!"

"You never remembered being violated when Sam struggled for years in the city of Abraka, Nigeria, not even when he played in Enyimba, not when he played for Fulham. But Sam now plays for Barcelona and bam! You suddenly remember being violated sexually," she smiled coldly.
"Laughable".

Kayla looked at the judge again. "Your honor, I also have another evidence to support my claims, one of the videos that Amaka made recently".

"In that video, she claimed to be magnanimous, urging my boyfriend to compensate her financially so she could drop this case".

"According to her, she said that because she doesn't want to affect his career," she looked at Amaka disdainfully. "I can confidently tell you now that all that was just bullshit from her!"

"With this new evidence, I hope we now know the truth".

"From the beginning, all she wanted was my boyfriend's money".

"L-l-lies...!" Amaka stammered, too stunned to speak coherently.

Kayla smirked. "Your honor, I hope that with this new evidence, you are now able to see this case from a new light".

"Your honor, she's lying!" Amaka burst into tears right there in the court. "They're framing me, they are planning for my downfall!"

"That video is fabricated!"

"Order!" The judge bellowed the next moment, bringing order back to the court even as Amaka was forced to close her mouth. The judge gestured for one of the court officials to take the USB device.

"Perform another fabrication test".

"This hearing will be adjourned for now; we will be back in 15 minutes".

...

From nowhere, a big twist revealed itself in the Sam case.

Kayla's testimony was as shocking as it was impactful. In the blink of an eye, Sam switched from defensive to attack mode, and he attacked through his girlfriend's sharp words, evidence, and intellectual eloquence in front of the judge.

15 minutes later, the court hearing continued.

And finally, the judge gave her verdict.

"The result of our I.T team showed that Kayla's version of the video is the correct and original video".

"..."

Amaka already expected it but when she heard it from the judge directly, this woman's eyes widened, tears welling in them.

The judge's eyes turned sharp.

"I hereby proclaim Ms. Amaka guilty of defamation!"

Bam!

She slammed her gavel to indicate that her decision was final.

She continued. "Defamation, including accusations of sexual or physical abuse falls under calumnia and injuria as defined in the Spanish Penal Code".

"In Article 205-207 of the Penal Code, it states that if a person falsely accuses someone of a crime, knowing it is untrue, it is punishable by the law".

"In Article 208-210 of the Penal Code, it also states that if the accusation damages the victim's reputation, the fine may be increased".

"In accordance with the law, Ms. Amaka, you have been sentenced to 4 years in prison and a fine of 18 months of your daily earnings being sent to Mr. Samuel Moses as compensation for damages".

"The court is adjourned".

Bam!

Just like that, it was over.

Chapter 315 Who is Samuel Moses?

(BBC News:)

(Who is Samuel Moses really?)

(A big twist in the Sam scandal: It turns out that it was the girl who was after his mother in the first place, harassing Sam and defaming him.)

(After a court hearing by the Supreme Court of Spain, Amaka Amagada has been subjected to 4 years in prison and a monetary fine of 18 months of her daily earnings which is to be paid to Sam as compensation for damages.)

(Final verdict: Sam is not guilty!)

...

(ESPN News:)

(FC Barcelona midfielder, Samuel Moses has been proven not guilty!)

(After a court hearing in the Supreme Court of Spain, Samuel Moses has been declared not guilty by the judge, absolving him of all charges. The plaintiff, Amaka is the one accused of defamation and sentenced by the Supreme Court.)

(Videos and images of the event are attached=)

...

(Supersport:)

(Samuel Moses wins; FC Barcelona wins!)

(Having pulled out all stops to mobilize their highly capable team of lawyers to help in the case, FC Barcelona's gamble now pays dividends as Samuel Moses has been declared not guilty by the Supreme Court of Spain.)

{FC Barcelona receives their midfielder back.}

(Videos and images of the event are attached=)

...

(Football Insider:)

(Can Sam's career still kick off in Spain?)

(Due to the scandal, the young Nigerian midfielder's life in Spain have gone through a truly bumpy start. Can the young Nigerian turn his situation around, turning adversity to blessing after being proven not guilty?)

Just like expected, mere minutes after the end of the court hearing in Spain, prominent news platforms, mostly football news platforms became active as they spread the news like wildfire burning in harmattan.

Hours before the hearing even started, they were all already prepared for this moment and none of them lagged behind.

Across the world of football, there was a lot of speculations, what would become of Sam if he was proven guilty?

Guess the football world will never know.

Due to the sheer amount of publicity that surrounded the scandal and the number of esteemed individuals who came for the court hearing, outside the court building was already turned into a press conference hall by popular media organizations.

They were eager to have interviews with the esteemed individuals who were present during the court hearing.

The reporters did not hold back, going on a hunting spree as they trapped big names like Robert Lewandowski and Pedri, making them answer a question or 2 regarding the result of the court hearing and what they thought about it.

Lewandowski's reply was crisp.

"I may not be too close to Sam but I know that he's a good brother, I believed that he didn't harass a girl and why I stood up for him".

"The result of the court hearing just proves that I am right".

"Sam is innocent".

When it came to the trio of Pedri, Gavi, and Lamine Yamal, the 3 Spanish players echoed their sentiments in relation to the situation.

Their answer was even simpler than the Polish striker's.

"Sam is disciplined".

"He wants to become the best player in the world, I don't believe he would sacrifice all of that because of a girl named Amaka".

"This is why we believed in him".

Who is Samuel Moses?

To football fans, for every big player that they love, they could not help but have a similar question about them, who was that player?

They may be fans, but some of them understood that they only knew the peripheral of that player's life, they didn't have access to the inside world of that player's life till it was actively explained to them.

Today, after the end of the court hearing, that question was gradually being answered as the answers of the esteemed guests opened the mystery door into Sam's psyche, making them gradually understand how his brain worked.

Other big names were forced to have an interview and of the big names, one of the reporters recognized one of them to be part of the elite guard force that was contracted to look over Sam during the period of his detainment.

One of the reporters was lucky enough to snap up this insider, interviewing him. "Good sir, we learned that you were part of the elite guard force tasked to watch over Sam, what do you think about the outcome of the court hearing?"

The guard looked at the reporter with a poker look on his face. "Hard evidence supported it so I have no scruples, Sam is not guilty".

"Nothing beats hard evidence".

"If anything, we are the ones in the wrong for detaining him unjustly".

"Since I'm already here, I would just like to use this opportunity to ask for an apology," he looked at the camera. "We sincerely hope Mr. Samuel understands and find a place in his heart to forgive us".

The female reporter smiled. "Mr., please one last question, who is Samuel Moses?"

"Huh?" The guard stared at the reporter, confused.

The reporter explained. "I mean Sam as a person. A lot of his fans are eager to know more about him, and since you stayed with him and guarded him for so long, we thought maybe you knew something about him that we don't".

Hearing that explanation, the guard finally understood as he smiled. "Sam..., let me say he's an eccentric person".

"What do you mean?"

The guard chuckled. "I don't know much about him yet but during the time of his detainment, I noticed something strange and peculiar".

This guard smiled for the first time in this interview as he seemed to recall a specific memory. "Throughout his time in detainment, a day never passed that Mr. Samuel failed to train".

"...!"

The reporter's eyes widened as wide as saucers as she stared at this man. "You mean while he was stuck in detainment, despite everything, the online abuse, that Sam still had the motivation to keep on training?"

"Yeah". The guard chuckled.

"Even in captivity?!"

"Yeah," the guard confirmed again and left.

Those words by the guard..., they stirred up a storm online.

...

(Comments:)

>George-of-the-jungle: Can you believe it? Sam is finally free! OMG, I can't believe it, I'm so happy!<

>A-tooth-for-a-tooth: Damn! That Amaka truly is a b*tch! To think that even when already in that kind of situation, she feigned crying<

>Eh-wooo: Did you guys hear what that guard said? Even in captivity, even while a large portion of his fans turned against him, abusing him online, Sam still trained in confinement! Damn! I'm in love with Sam! Give him the ballon d'or already, the guy is Cristiano Ronaldo regen!<

>Ah-chuuu: That guy above me, shut up, he's Messi regen!<

Social media was set ablaze.

And not just in support for Sam. In the same way that the online abuse came when the scandal first came out, as soon as Amaka was confirmed guilty, the balls switched as with even more momentum, the Nigerian girl was drowned with online abuse from furious fans.

On every social media platform, they abused her, dragging her to the ends of the earth.

One of the scariest things in the world was the fury of football fans.

And on that day, Amaka got to experience it.

...

About 20 minutes after the court hearing, outside the court building, Sam finally had the opportunity for the first time in weeks to face the spotlight.

He had an interview.

Chapter 316 Honest confessions

Standing on the spotlight again, in the front of countless cameras and reporters, Sam felt melancholic, thinking of how fast situations can change.

'These same people were the ones clamoring for my head just a while ago'.

'To think they're all now supporting me again'.

'I guess that's life, you can never predict it'.

Sam took a deep breath before speaking into the microphone.

At first, they organized it like an interview but he took over. To him, this was not an interview at all, rather it was a place for him to have an honest confession after being slandered unjustly for almost a month!

He took a deep breath. "Honestly, I can't explain how I feel". He said in Spanish, flexing his new-found mastery of the language.

"The past few weeks have been difficult for me, definitely the worst period of my football career".

"I never expected an old classmate to slander me in such a manner".

"Besides," he sighed. "I never expected what followed".

He chuckled. "Supporters turning haters, familiars turning into strangers, this is the first time that I experienced something like this and I would be lying if I said it didn't affect me".

"But I guess that's just part of life".

"Yin and yang, light and darkness, ups and downs, it's just the natural circle of life and these past few weeks, I truly understood it".

"My football career has been going so smoothly for years that I became slightly arrogant, thinking that I am the main character of the world, that everything would continue to go the way I wanted until what happened weeks ago".

"What happened..., in a way, it helped me".

"It grounded me in reality".

He chuckled. "I may sound like a masochist but that's how I truly feel".

"Above all, despite the negativity and hate, I learned something important too," he smiled brightly. "That even in the worst storms, there are those that will always stick close to you, supporting you through the worst moments of your life".

"For these people, I want to specially appreciate".

"Mom, dad, Ian, Smith Rowe, the club," he smiled and then he inclined his head to look at Kayla. "The love of my life, Kayla, I'm grateful for everything".

"Without all of your help and mental support, your lawyers, perhaps I wouldn't be here today on this podium talking to the world".

"Perhaps," he sighed again, his eyes becoming unfocused. "Perhaps, I would be rotting in a jail somewhere in Spain already".

"But I'm not bitter, it was a necessary life lesson". He smiled.

"For that, I am grateful".

"I also want to use this avenue to thank those die-hard fans of mine. Even in this storm, I recognize the fact that you guys remained in the thick with me".

With a solemn look on his face, he hit his chest. "I promise you that I will never forget this gesture of goodwill".

"Your faith in me," he grinned. "I will repay it".

"If the pain doesn't kill me, it'll only make me stronger!" His eyes gleamed with a fiery zeal.

"A lot of people thought, what if Sam was found guilty? What will happen to his football career?" He grinned again. "I guess we'd never know".

"I want to put it out to you all now," he smirked. "Sam is here to stay!"

"In FC Barcelona, I shall play and forge a legacy for myself!"

"I shall become the best player in the world in Barcelona!"

With that, Sam finally stepped down from the podium.

Adjusting his dark shades, with his girlfriend, best friend, and lawyer following behind him, they trudged out of the Supreme Court with a confident swagger in their steps.

Trust the cameramen.

Click! Click!

They diligently engraved this iconic moment in the annals of history.

After such an explosive honest confession from Sam, surely, the media would have too many juicy news to write and give to the public.

...

Having sacrificed a lot academically to stay in Spain and support his best friend, that morning after the end of the court hearing, Ian ate at a restaurant with Sam and Kayla before taking the next flight back to England.

As an aspiring Doctor, he could not afford to neglect his learning, he had a lot of things that he needed to catch up on in this small time.

With his best friend gone, including his personal lawyer, Sam had alone time with his girlfriend for the first time in what felt like forever.

Staring at each other at the restaurant, they felt their bodies heating up.

They could not wait to get home; their hormones were getting the better of them after being without each other for so long and going through such adversity together. They say love blossoms in adversity.

In fantasy novels, lovers or friends become even closer after surviving a life and death encounter together.

This may not qualify as a life and death situation, but it was definitely a situation that pushed both of them to the edge emotionally and mentally.

Now, finally getting out of it, their emotions got the better of them.

Too impatient to wait till they got home, as soon as they left the restaurant, climbing into the back seat of Sam's brand-new Mercedes Benz GLE 53 AMG, the 2 lovers let their passion blossom as they went at it at the back seat of the car.

Staring into each other's eyes, all they saw was a gateway to the starry sky, a love encapsulating the essence of their love.

In no time, the sound of clothes hastily being pulled apart reverberated as their lips intertwined in a passionate lovers' kiss.

That afternoon, Sam felt like his girlfriend was even more beautiful than ever before; her body was gentler and more supple than ever before, he could feel his love for her cascading.

The air conditioner of this Mercedes Benz was high but the both of them could not help but feel hot still as they surrendered to their passion.

In no time, bodies intertwined amid gasps and moans of pleasure as they engaged in the primordial ritual of consolidating love right there in the car.

There was no barrier, nothing of the sort was allowed to exist, all that existed at this moment was their mutually shared love and their blossoming passion.

Over a dozen minutes later...

At the end of it all, filled with sweat, Sam leaned over his girlfriend, staring straight into her eyes with love-filled eyes.

"I'll always love you". He muttered with the most sincere smile that he could muster.

"I love you more". Kayla giggled cutely.

Chapter 317 Memory orb

Thud! Thud!

The sound of footsteps reverberated as 4 youths dressed in work-out clothes jogged through the streets of Barcelona.

On the side of the streets, a few people stood, taking pictures and videos even as they ran along the road.

The bystanders took pictures because these 4 youths were famous athletes of the city, professional football players of FC Barcelona.

It was just yesterday that Sam's court hearing was concluded at the Supreme Court of Spain, confirming that he was not guilty as he finally left his confinement but just a day later, today, he was already back in the streets jogging.

Ecstatic FC Barcelona fans were impressed by his mentality.

Sexual scandals, they were a stigma to anybody that was involved in them. They did not just damage the reputation of those that they affected, in some cases, it also affects their psyche.

But despite all the trouble and mental trauma that came with the case, somehow, Sam was still in high spirits, eager to train.

When pictures of him dropped online, once again, it created a storm that was fanned by FC Barcelona fans as they raved about their elite attacking midfielder.

While all of that happened online, jogging towards the Spotify Camp Nou stadium, Sam did not care about the online storm as he engaged in a competition with his 3 partners, Lamine Yamal, Pedri, and Gavi.

Due to the support that these 3 gave to him during the course of this scandal, their friendship grew even more.

And today, they decided that simply jogging was boring.

They decided to turn it into a competition.

During the last 50 meters before arriving at the Spotify Camp Nou, they would engage in a sprint to determine who would arrive first at the stadium.

The winner would receive their respect, while the one who came last in the race would treat all of them to food that morning.

They all agreed to the competition; the contest was on.

'80 meters...'

'70 meters...'

'60 meters...'

'50 meters!'

Bam!

Digging into his reserves despite the sweat that already filled his face and his ragged breathing, Sam erupted in a sprint.

The 4 of them sprinted at the same time!

When the race started, Gavi's initial explosiveness gave him the edge over the others as he overtook the others, giving Pedri and Lamine Yamal an obvious distance immediately but someone stuck with him, Sam.

Thud! Thud!

Digging into his reserves, Sam accelerated!

Like a hurricane, his body moved, seemingly turning into a phantom of light as he quickly closed the distance.

'Damn!' Noticing him side by side him, Gavi cursed, putting even more effort.

And yet, Sam did not give an inch.

During the final few meters, Sam's long legs did it as he threw them like projectiles, eating yards of space like they were not there.

Before arriving at the entrance to the Spotify Camp Nou, he did just enough to overtake Gavi, arriving first.

"Dammit!" Gavi cursed in Spanish.

"Hahahaha!" Sam burst into loud laughter on seeing his reaction even as Lamine Yamal and Pedri finally arrived.

Pedri arrived last.

Sam looked at them, especially at the silky Spanish midfielder. "I guess you're treating us to breakfast today". He muttered in a taunting voice.

Grumbling under his breath, Pedri led the way to the gym.

As soon as they entered the gym, another FC Barcelona player rushed towards them, intercepting them.

"...!"

They were surprised to meet another player that early in the morning.

It was Alejandro Balde. As the Spanish left back arrived, he glared at the 4 of them. "You bastards forgot to invite me again, I told you guys to call me".

"Oh," Sam scratched the back of his head sheepishly. "I forgot".

"Forgot my ass!" Balde fumed. "You better not forget next time!"

With that, the 5 youngsters entered the gym, working out and breaking a good sweat. By the time they were done, they felt energized and refreshed.

At the same time, Sam's system finally lit up with a new notification.

~-----~

[You have completed Daily System Quest: Mentality Monster!]

[You have been rewarded with a low-grade physical conditioning elixir!]

...

[Congratulations! You have completed a hidden system mission: Training Buddies!]

[You managed to convince 4 other professional football players who play for your club to become your training buddies, joining you every morning to complete daily system quests with you!]

[You have received a special reward: Memory Orb!]

[NOTE: A memory orb is a special system reward. It is a memory card that can carry a random memory, mostly a memory of practicing and learning a skill, but it can also be the memory of a legendary footballer.]

[Click to open Memory Orb and know memory type=]

~-----~

Sam did not click to open the memory orb immediately; this was because he was still in the Spotify Camp Nou with his training buddies.

He was curious about the memory orb though. Afterall, this was the first time that he was receiving such a reward but he was patient.

After bidding farewell to his teammates, setting another contest to see who would arrive home, take their bath, and return for the club morning training session at the earliest, Sam drove off on his new GLE 53 AMG.

Kayla was still at his apartment.

Arriving home, he discovered that his girlfriend was still sleeping.

He tried not to disturb her, entering the bathroom to quickly take his bath. It was in the bathroom where he finally accessed the memory orb.

He clicked on it.

~-----~

[You have clicked a memory orb..., please wait...]

...

Kacha!

The sound of something shattering reverberated as the round purple orb shattered into bright colorful lights.

When the lights subsided, Sam saw a memory.

In the memory, he saw a diminutive footballer that was easily recognizable by most footballers in the world.

Sam squinted his eyes. 'Is that...?'

'Messi!' He almost yelled at the top of his lungs as he stared at the image before him excitedly, wondering what he would gain from this sudden fortuitous encounter.

But then, the memory suddenly accelerated towards Sam's head.

'Crap...'

This was the last thought that Sam had before the memory crashed into his head, knocking him out.

Chapter 318 The return of Sam

Sam woke up feeling foggy and light-headed.

Looking around, he quickly determined that he was still in his bathroom.

"Babe!" He heard Kayla call loudly. "What are you doing? You're still in the bathroom? You'll get late for team training".

"Ah, yes, team training". Rubbing his temples, Sam stood up.

He looked around. 'What happened?'

Not remembering much, he quickly took his bath, left the bathroom and kissed his girlfriend goodbye before quickly driving back to the Spotify Camp Nou.

For the first time since signing for the Catalan club, he arrived late for training.

Like promised, Pedri bought their breakfast that morning even as alongside the rest of their teammates, they started training under the tutelage of their coach.

It was while they trained that Sam discovered something.

'This...'

It was like memories were overlapping with his own memories.

At first, he didn't understand what was happening but as more memories overlapped, affecting him, he finally started remembering what happened.

'Right, I got a memory orb'.

His eyes widened. 'And that memory orb had the memory of Lionel Messi!'

His eyes widened even more as he finally remembered everything. 'The memory of Lionel Messi practicing his iconic body feint skill!'

In the memory orb, Sam seemed to go through a time portal, overlapping himself with phantom memories of Lionel Messi, memories of when the legendary Argentine forward practiced his body feint skill and when he used it on the pitch.

In those few minutes that he spent in the bathroom, Sam lived almost 2 decades of Lionel Messi's career!

Every single body feint that Messi did in training, every single body feint that he did in a professional game, he lived through it all.

In that moment, as Sam remembered everything, his eyes widened because chemical processes started taking place inside his head.

In that moment, his fundamental understanding of the body feint skill deepened to a level that he never imagined possible before.

His memories, his instincts, all of them were honed.

And then, his system finally lit up with a new notification.

~-----~

[Congratulations! You have inherited a memory orb of the legendary Argentine winger, Lionel Messi!]

[Your mastery of the Body Feint skill has improved to the Advanced Mastery Level!]

[Your Dribbling attribute has increased by +1]

[Owned Football Skills:]

[Passive skill: Stalwart]

...

[Active skills:]

[Basic mastery level: Step overs; roulette; knuckle shot; overhead kick; rainbow flick; trivela shot, basic penalty technique, scissor kick]

[Intermediate mastery level: Elastico; Cruyff turn; La croqueta; Power header]

[Advanced mastery level: Spatial awareness; Power shot; Body feint]

[Perfect mastery level: Freekick Technique]

...

[Legendary Inheritance: Elastico]

[Legendary Inheritance: Spatial Awareness]

[Legendary Inheritance: Power Shot]

...

Player Attributes:

*Pace: 86

*Shot: 87

*Pass: 85

*Dribbling: 85

*Defending: 40

*Physicality: 81

*Stamina: 89

Overall Rating: 87

~----~

In the blink of an eye, from the intermediate level where it was before, Sam's mastery of the Body
feint skill increased to the advanced level.

"...!"

His eyes widened, not just because of the increase, but because of the potential that experiencing that memory orb gave to him.

'This...!' He was amazed.

Sam was amazed because at this moment, he felt and was convinced that the effects of the memory orb didn't just end at the Advanced mastery level of the body feint skill.

Afterall, experiencing almost 2 decades of Lionel Messi practicing and using the body feint skill was no joke.

Heck, just 1 such experience with the legendary Lionel Messi was no joke.

This was why at this moment; Sam was convinced that he already got a clear path towards taking the body feint skill to the perfection mastery level.

His eyes gleamed with excitement. 'All I need is time and patience, and diligence too'.

'I already saw how the G.O.A.T does it'.

'All I need is to follow his guidelines, doing what he did, repeating his actions and routine till I master it the same way that he did'.

Sam's eyes burned with a fiery zeal.

For the rest of the training session, Sam's teammates noticed something.

'Why is he suddenly so obsessed with using the body feint skill?'

With that, today's training session came to an end.

...

The next day, it was rinse and repeat as Sam repeated the same sequence of events throughout his day.

From completing his daily system quest alongside his training buddies, to training with the team, then going back home to meet his girlfriend, meditating for some time, and then sleeping; he did only that.

Like this, the days moved fast and in no time, it was another matchday of the Spanish La Liga campaign.

Sam did not play FC Barcelona's first game of the campaign since he was still relatively new to the club then, but he played FC Barcelona's next game.

From matchday 2 on, he played for 3 consecutive games for the Catalan club till the scandal brought his career to a sudden halt.

With Sam out as a result of the scandal, FC Barcelona played another league game before finally kickstarting their UEFA champions league campaign in the next game against the Portugal giants, Benfica.

After that, FC Barcelona played 2 more games, both being league games and now, it was matchday 8 of the Spanish La Liga campaign.

FC Barcelona were still very much in the title race alongside Real Madrid at the top, having pulled away from Atletico Madrid already and finally, the Catalans regained the services of their electric midfielder in Sam.

FC Barcelona's next game was an away game against Osasuna.

(La Liga:)

(Osasuna – FC Barcelona)

In the build-up to the game, the question among fans of the Catalan persuasion was would Sam play in the game? And if he would, from what minute of the game would Hansi Flick introduce him after being out of action for a time already?

But when the German coach finally dropped his starting XI for the away game against Osasuna, the FC Barcelona fanbase was stunned.

In confinement, a lot of people expected Sam's skills to become dulled but nothing of the sort happened.

Rather, in confinement, training every day, Sam made sure that he remained sharp and physically fit.

He was preparing for his return to the pitch.

And after just a few days of training since the court hearing, he was able to convince the German coach, Hansi Flick that he was ready to start.

Hansi Flick made the bold decision of starting Sam against Osasuna.

Would this radical decision pay off?

Chapter 319 Osasuna vs FC Barcelona [1]

The atmosphere in the El Sadar Stadium in Pamplona, Navarre, Spain was electric as over 23,000 football fans gathered in this stadium, majority of them being part of the home supporters.

Yes, a big scandal involved FC Barcelona recently, the scandal of Samuel Moses but that was just one tiny event in the Spanish La Liga.

Yes, it was a big deal because the person affected was Samuel Moses, but that did not mean that the world stopped due to him.

The world continued moving, the Spanish La Liga campaign continued.

Among the Osasuna fanbase, there may be some fans who sympathized with Sam due to how much he suffered due to being unjustly defamed but all that sympathy disappeared as soon as the players lined up on the pitch.

On the pitch in the El Sadar Stadium, to the fans, it was all business.

It was either of 2 sides claiming the victory today, Osasuna or FC Barcelona, there was no in between and was why the Osasuna fans didn't give a damn about the fact that Sam was returning to the game after such a damaging scandal.

Heck, they didn't want him to perform in this game at all.

They wanted Sam and his teammates to play awful this game, resulting in their team losing. After that, they could sympathize with him, but before that, all is fair in love and war.

Osasuna started with their strongest lineup.

Starting in a 4-3-3 formation, Herrera stood in between the posts while ahead of him was a sturdy quadruple defense comprising Areso in right back, Boyomo and Catena in center defense, while Cruz started as the left back.

In midfield stood the trio of Moncayola, Lucas Torro, and Oroz while ahead of him stood the offensive trio of Garcia, Barja, and the imposing striker, Budimir.

It was a fairly formidable Osasuna lineup.

As for FC Barcelona, they didn't start with their theoretically strongest lineup as most predictions disagreed with Hansi Flick's decision, staying adamant that Sam was not yet fit to start in a league game.

Hansi Flick didn't care about outside opinion though, he started the young 19-year-old midfielder nonetheless.

FC Barcelona started in a familiar 4-2-3-1 formation. Wojciech Szczesny started in between the posts for the Blaugrana while ahead of him stood a formidable defense of Jules Kounde, Ronaldo Araujo, Pau Cubarsi, and Alejandro Balde.

Ahead of the defense stood the midfield duo of Pedri and Marc Casado, while further ahead of them stood the infamous Barca attack.

Robert Lewandowski led as the tip of the spear, the striker. At either of his flanks lined up Lamine Yamal and Raphinha, while behind the Polish striker returned a familiar face, Samuel Moses.

FWEEEE!

As soon as the referee's whistle sounded, the game started even as the energy of the fans in this stadium rose through the roof.

Like in similar situations in the Spanish La Liga when other top flight clubs take on the big 2 Spanish clubs, Real Madrid or FC Barcelona, despite starting in a 4-3-3 formation, Osasuna employed a defensive strategy against the Blaugrana.

This well-drilled team played in a low block, attempting to weather the onslaught of Barca attacks that would surely come as they hoped to hit the Catalans hard on the counter.

With the strong striker, Budimir upfront, their chances of getting a result from counterattacks was pretty high.

This was the strategy that was employed by the Osasuna head coach.

As for Hansi Flick's strategy for this game, it was the normal one, he gave his team freedom to carve the opponents apart.

And trust Barca, they started.

Bam! Bam!

For the first few minutes of this game, FC Barcelona played fluid attacking football as they dominated possession for large swathes of the first half.

In front of their home supporters, Osasuna was forced to defend desperately and yet despite this display, the Osasuna fans loudly supported their team. This was because of the caliber of opponents they were playing against.

In this game, a few FC Barcelona players dazzled and among them all, Lamine Yamal and a certain Sam was chief.

From the middle of the pitch to the right-hand side, a deadly partnership blossomed in this game, a partnership between Lamine Yamal and Sam.

Back in the English premier league, with Emile Smith Rowe playing in a similar position as the Spaniard, Sam formed a devastating partnership with Smith Rowe and now, due to his growing relationship with Yamal, he finally developed that lethal partnership with the 17-year-old Spaniard.

Tiki! Taka!

Bam! Bam!

Sam and Lamine Yamal ran rings around the Osasuna defense, trying every weapon in their repertoire to pry their tight defense open.

In the 33rd minute of the game, it finally happened.

After receiving a pass from deep from Pedri, Sam executed an immaculate touch to bring it under control and instantly as the nearest Osasuna player pressed for the ball, Sam staggered and then with a clever Cruyff turn, he left the player for dead, re-arranging his position before playing a diagonal pass to the right.

Lamine Yamal took the ball in his strides with his left foot, one touch, and then with his second touch, he unleashed a ridiculous trivela pass that cut through majority of the Osasuna defense like a hot knife through butter.

Having dropped back to support the build-up and switch things up, Robert Lewandowski was not in the box to poach the ball, instead leaving Raphinha there.

Raphinha jumped but the Brazilian could not beat the tall and imposing Osasuna center backs in the air as they beat him in the aerial battle, heading the ball away but it was not a perfect clearance.

Due to Raphinha's pressure, the ball was cleared half-heartedly, falling in the direction of the deadly Polish striker who was making a recovery run.

"...!"

As the ball floated towards him, the Polish striker's eyes widened as his body became adrenaline-infused!

Lewandowski was just outside the Osasuna 18-yard box.

Instinctively, he swung his right foot back, about to unleash an absolutely venomous volleyed shot when one of the Osasuna players jumped in on a dangerous tackle, taking Lewandowski out in mid-air.

It seemed like he actually aimed for the ball but missing it, he caught Lewandowski's knee instead, bringing him down.

"Arghhhh!" The Polish striker screamed out in pain, holding his knee.

"Ref, red card!" Raphinha and a few other FC Barcelona players quickly rounded the referee, clamoring for a red card but the referee with an impassive expression on his face brought out a yellow card, brandishing it at the Osasuna player.

The FC Barcelona players fumed but there was nothing that they could do.

As for Lewandowski, he remained on the ground, grabbing his knee in pain till the FC Barcelona medical team entered the pitch to attend to him.

About a minute later, the Polish striker finally stood up.

He could continue the game.

FWEEEE!

The referee blew for a freekick for FC Barcelona just outside the box.

Raphinha was the one who stood over the ball, about to take the freekick. After a short run, he unleashed a powerful shot that rounded the defensive block, going towards the top left corner only for it to be batted away by the Osasuna goalkeeper's outstretched hand.

"A loose ball!" The commentator screamed, and then...

Thud!

The Osasuna attackers reacted immediately, charging out of their 18-yard box as they smoothly transited from defense to attack.

Bam!

Boyomo, the Osasuna center back who got to the loose ball first played a lovely lobbed pass for Garcia, the right winger, taking out Alejandro Balde who was out of position in the process.

Taking the ball in his strikes, Garcia exploded down the wing with speed.

The counterattack... was on!

FC Barcelona players scrambled to retreat and defend but the Osasuna counterattack was just too fast. Garcia almost ran the full length of the pitch and just as Pau Cubarsi was to intercept him, he played a pass to the middle where a certain Budimir lurked.

The imposing striker's eyes gleamed as soon as the ball was passed.

Slowing down, he used his first touch to bring the ball under control and then...

WHOOOP!

He unleashed an absolutely thunderous shot, sending it into the top right corner and leaving Wojciech Szczesny no chance as the FC Barcelona goalkeeper was left ball-watching in an incredible moment.

There was silence for a brief moment in this stadium, and then...

BOOM!

The home supporters erupted, screaming at the top of their lungs as against the run of play, Osasuna scored to go ahead in this game.

"What a goal!" The commentators raved.

"What a counterattack!"

"Vintage Osasuna! Vintage Budimir!"

Chapter 320 Osasuna vs FC Barcelona [2]

1 chance, 1 shot, 1 goal...

It was literally Osasuna's first chance of the game.

Their first shot of the night and their lethal striker, Budimir did not miss his moment, taking it with aplomb to sink Barcelona and give his team the lead.

Charging towards the corner flag, Budimir slid on his knees in celebration even as the Osasuna fans roared at the top of their lungs, cheering loudly.

That goal changed the nature of this game.

FC Barcelona were stunned by it, after all, it was totally against the run of play but with that goal, the Catalans finally felt some urgency to score a goal.

FWEEEE!

When the referee's whistle sounded to continue the game, FC Barcelona played like men on a mission, pressuring Osasuna even as the home side kept on defending against the Catalan onslaught.

Unlike what most people expected, in this game, Sam seemed even more physically fit than before as he imposed himself on this game from attacking midfield.

He created, won back the ball, and took those occasional shots.

In the 43rd minute of this game, Sam came closest for FC Barcelona, unleashing a thunderous outside the box shot that flew like a missile, homing towards the top left corner of the post.

But once again, Herrera, the Osasuna goalkeeper was on top of his game.

Like a spring, the goalkeeper dived, stretching as incredulously, he seemed to fly through the air, his outstretched arm just barely pushing the ball, tipping it away from the net to hit the post before going out for a corner kick.

"My goodness gracious!" The commentators were amazed.

"Herrera, this guy..., he's having a terrific game!"

"What a save!"

In the corner kick, Ronald Araujo rose highest, planting a firm header towards goal only for Herrera to calmly catch it.

The goalkeeper was laying an audacious claim to the man of the match award for this game with his crazy saves.

His team defended valiantly, but Herrera was the core of the piece that kept a rampant FC Barcelona at bay during the first half.

During half-time, Hansi Flick faced his players.

"What you guys gave out there on the pitch, it's not enough!" He said in Spanish. "I want more from you guys!"

"Come on!" He clapped aggressively.

"If we want to retain our La Liga title, we can't afford to falter now. Let's go out there and let's win this game!"

Minutes later...

FWEEEE!

The players returned to the pitch and with the referee's whistle giving the signal, the second half of this incredible game started.

Hansi Flick made only a single change for the second half, taking off Marc Casado as he introduced Gavi, intending to make his team even more offensive in this 2nd half to break down the Osasuna low block.

Again, just like the first half, FC Barcelona dominated, torturing the Osasuna players but the decisive goal of this game remained elusive.

50 minutes, no goal...

60 minutes, no goal...

70 minutes, no goal..., and to add salt to injury, Osasuna came close to doubling their lead, the crossbar coming to the Polish goalkeeper's rescue.

80 minutes, no goal..., and that was when a certain player's retrospection in this game started.

'I'm playing well, but is this the best that I can give?' Sam's eyes slowly changed as the game reached its dying stages.

'Is this how I want my return to the pitch to end?'

'A defeat?'

His eyes gleamed. 'Unacceptable!'

'I can't let it end like this; it must not end like this!'

'At the very least, it must be a win!'

Sam's eyes slowly changed, from a sentient human's eyes into that of a feral predator whose sole purpose of existence was causing carnage and drinking blood.

Just a few minutes after it started, Sam did it.

Bam! Bam!

Down the right side of the pitch, he played tiki taka passes with Lamine Yamal, another step in their improvisation to pry open the Osasuna defense.

And all of a sudden, Sam erupted in a dash, making a byline back to the middle towards the Osasuna 18-yard box.

Reading his run perfectly, Lamine Yamal played a lobbed pass towards him.

Bam!

Just as an Osasuna player was to steal the ball, Sam controlled it with his lap.

2 Osasuna players followed him in his flanks while another one barred his path. Unfazed, Sam moved forward, calmly jogging the ball with his lap as he moved.

"...!"

The Osasuna players were confounded, caught in between 2 minds.

How would they steal the ball without risking a foul?

That moment of hesitation to think was the window of opportunity that Sam needed. Before they could react, after lobbing the pass to Sam and as all of the attention was on him, wary of his threat, no one noticed Lamine Yamal's shadow run from the right in behind the Osasuna defense.

After one last juggle of the ball with his lap, Sam hit it with his head, in-between the Osasuna players and towards Lamine Yamal's path.

The teenager Spaniard just about beat the offside line.

Lamine Yamal took the ball in his stride, charged towards goal and as Herrera charged out again, keeping his composure, he played a perfect ground shot towards the near corner of the post that finally beat the Osasuna goalkeeper.

"GOALLLLLLL...!" The away stands erupted immediately.

"YES!!!" Pumping his fists, Lamine Yamal celebrated excitedly in front of the goal but Sam already rushed into the net, picking the ball and charging out even as he gestured for Yamal to follow him.

Yes, they just scored but they still needed another goal to win.

In the 83rd minute of the game, FC Barcelona finally equalized.

2 minutes later, they got the winner and again, it was Sam orchestrated.

This time, receiving a diagonal pass from Gavi, with an immaculate body feint, Sam left his marker for dead, penetrating into the Osasuna 18-yard box.

With his physicality and his close ball control, he evaded challenges, skipping through players with tight cuts, shifts of the ball, and lightning fast la croquetas.

"Oh my God! Sam is unleashed!"

"He goes through 1, 2, 3, 4, 5..., and he passes!"

Sam dribbled through 5 players at a go!

His dribble caused chaos in the Osasuna defense, once again the commotion leading to one of the Barcelona attackers being forgotten.

Due to having scored a goal already, they paid more attention to Lamine Yamal, wary of their connection. They were also wary of Lewandowski's goal threat as one of the center backs diligently kept him in check.

But due to having a relatively average game today, the Osasuna defense forgot about the threat of a certain Brazilian who carried Barca through the majority of last season, Raphinha.

This was what gave him the chance to ghost in behind the defense like Lamine Yamal did earlier, catalyzed by Sam causing such a commotion with his dribbling.

Despite the commotion, Sam's incredible spatial awareness enabled him to spot the Brazilian's run.

Bam!

He threaded a needle pass behind the Osasuna defense, cutting Osasuna apart like they were not there.

At this moment, Sam felt like a Grandmaster martial artist in an eastern fantasy universe who cut the heavens asunder with a mighty sword slash.

That sword slash brought Osasuna to submission.

Raphinha didn't hesitate, the pass was just too juicy and perfectly weighted and so he hit it once on his first touch.

Bam!

Herrera reacted, flailing his arms but it was not enough as the ball squirmed past his grasp and into the net.

"..."

El Sadar Stadium was silenced.

Only the roar of the FC Barcelona fans reverberated as Raphinha charged towards the corner flag to celebrate even as Sam charged after him, eventually jumping on his back in celebration.

"Oh my goodness gracious!"

"OH MY GOD!"

"Zinedine Sam they called him, like Zidane he played!"

"2 immaculate passes are all he needed to turn this game around!"

"1 to even the odds, and the other to send a dagger through the hearts of Osasuna fans around the world!"

"What a perfect playmaking performance!"

"Samuel Moses..., is back!"

FWEEE!

The referee's whistle soon sounded to continue the game but all the venom was already expended in this game, neither Barcelona nor Osasuna had more juice to create moments of magic and so, the game eventually came to an end.

And just like that, FC Barcelona won.

Sam won the man of the match award due to his 2-assists display in his first game since being confined in police custody.

It was a statement performance.