Football God 61

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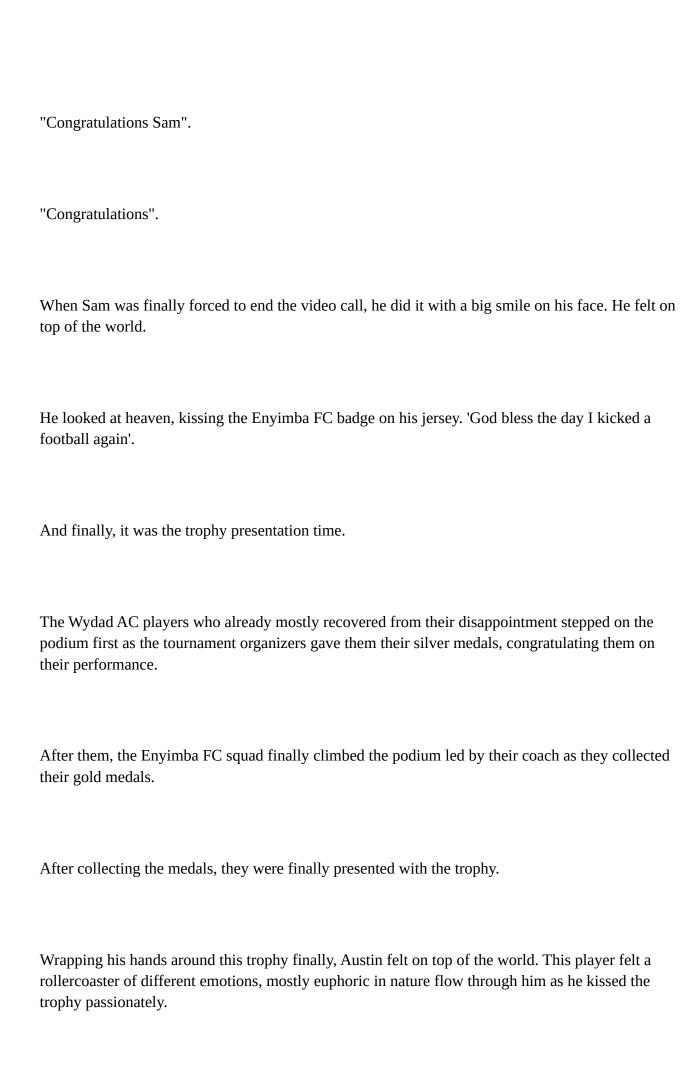
Chapter 61: Enyimba FC- Winners of the 2022/2023 CAF Champions League Trophy
(CAF Champions League!)
(Final fixtures: First leg game)
>Enyimba FC 4-1 Wydad AC<
>Date: 4th June, 2023<
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(Final fixtures: Second leg game)
>Wydad AC 2-1 Enyimba FC<
>Aggregate: 3-5<
>Date: 11th June, 2023<

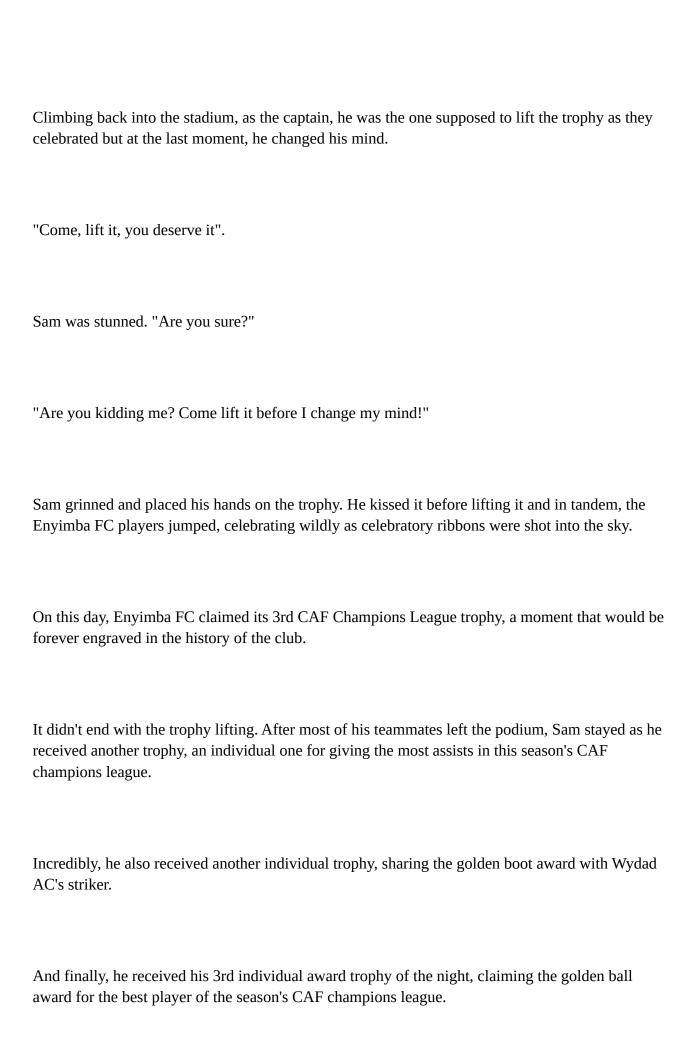
(Winners of the 2022/2023 CAF Champions League Trophy: Enyimba FC!)
Immediately after the final whistle was blown, the sculpters went to work, engraving the name of Enyimba FC on the prestigious trophy.
While this happened backstage, on the pitch, emotion flowed.
Most of the Wydad AC players collapsed on the pitch, exhausted and tired even as others directly burst into tears. Making it to the final of the CAF champions league was an incredible achievement, but they all wanted to win.
After overcoming so many challenges, including Mamelodi Sundowns just to get here and lose to Enyimba FC, it was heartbreaking.
While most of the players broke down in tears, others lying on the pitch, the captain of the Wydad AC team walked towards his teammates, consoling them while telling them that they needed to acknowledge their supporters.
In the end, they listened, standing up and following their captain as they walked up towards the tens of thousands of supporters that came out for them today. They may have lost, but they still needed to appreciate the fans.
Unlike what they expected though, the fans didn't show any negative reaction, rather loud applause and cheers soon filled this stadium.

The fans were proud of their team's performance today.
Enyimba FC may have won in the end but they didn't make it easy for them. Heck, today, they were the winners since they won 2-1 in their home, that was enough consolation for them to briefly forget the pain that they were going through.
While sorrow and consolation were the emotion prevalent among the Wydad AC side, the Enyimba FC side experienced a whole other emotion, euphoria.
Immediately after the final whistle blew, confirming that his team just won the CAF Champions League, an emotional Coach Yemi Daniel removed his face cap before waving it wildly as he ran into the pitch to celebrate with his players.
Seeing their coach run towards them, the Enyimba FC players in blue rushed towards him before carrying him up as they celebrated him, juggling him in the air.
The emotion among them was full of euphoria and joy.
Their champions league campaign this season just felt unreal. First, they didn't even qualify for the trophy, needing the national association to step in just before they had the rights to play in the tournament.
Despite all the controversy surrounding their qualification, and despite all what the pundits and critics said, somehow, against all odds, they did it, going all the way to win the CAF champions league trophy.

It didn't feel like reality at all, rather, it felt like a perfectly written script filled with ups and downs but with the perfect ending.
All the players and their coach felt on top of the world, including the bench players. Afterall, the trophy win would also be recorded in their CV.
After celebrating with their coach, the players also celebrated their victory in their own unique ways. As for Sam, he made a video call right there in the stadium.
(Outgoing video call to Best Mom)
As soon as she picked the call, before he could speak, he was drowned in a cacophony of noise.
"SAM!!!" He heard his name being screamed.
"My son! I can't believe it, you did it!" His mom was actually in tears!
"I'm so proud of you!"
'Damn mom, when did you become this emotional?' Sam was flabbergasted.
His dad hugged his wife in the background, kissing her on the forehead. "I told you, right? I told you, our son is made for the top!"

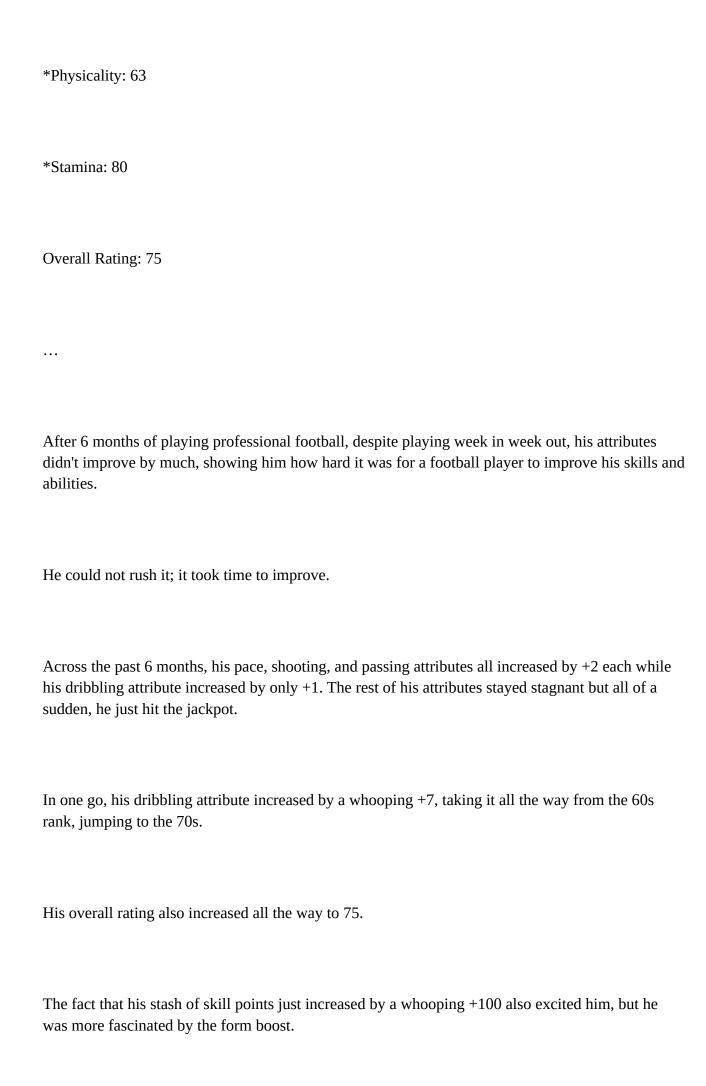






Sam truly felt on top of the world.
After all the celebrations, as the squad went to the airport, intent on returning to Nigeria that night to celebrate with their excited fans, Sam received a flurry of notifications from his system.
He grinned. 'Finally!'
Chapter 62: System notifications
~~
[You have completed a Season System Quest!]
[Congratulations! You have completed Season Quest 3!]
[You have completed mission 1: Win the CAF Champions League Trophy!]
[You have been rewarded with +100 Skill Points!]
[You have been rewarded with a random bonus reward: Form Boost ×2]
>Form Boost: This is a system boost that randomly boosts 3 of your main attributes by +3 stat points for one game<

[You have been rewarded with a +7 increase to your dribbling attribute!]
[Congratulations! You have met the requirements to level up!]
[Your overall player rating has increased to 75!]
···
Player Attributes:
*Pace: 73
*Shot: 72
*Pass: 76
*Dribbling: 74
*Defending: 35



Reading it's description by the system, he already had an idea of what this boost could do to him on a football pitch and he could not help but grin.
Getting the system really was the turning point of his life.
Staring at the notifications in his system screen, Sam felt his chest swell up in joy but that was not all, there were other notifications.
[Congratulations! You have completed mission 2: Win the best player award in the CAF Champions League!]
[You have been rewarded with a random reward!]
[Reward randomizing, please wait]
[Randomization complete!]
[Click to open reward card:]

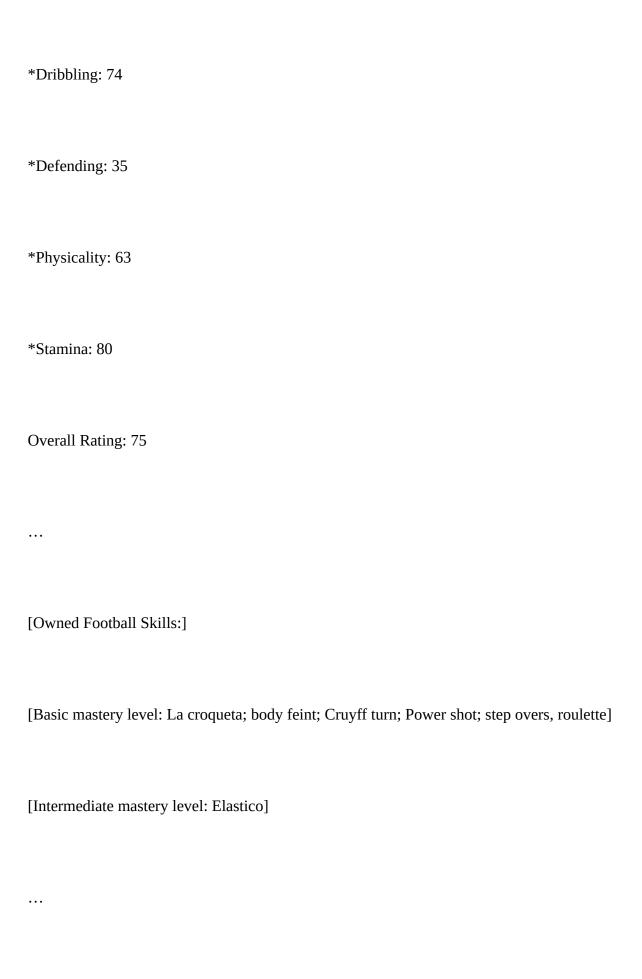
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Sam was surprised as the notifications disappeared, replaced by a golden card hovering in the middle of his system.
On the surface of the card, there was an image of a familiar footballer playing with a football. It was Ronaldinho Gaucho, the Brazilian winger and legend who also played for FC Barcelona during his prime.
Ronaldinho donned his Barcelona jersey in the picture on the golden card.
Sam was stunned. 'A golden card is my reward? What is it about?'
He could feel his heart beating fast already. He didn't know what the reward was yet, but anything relating to Ronaldinho as a reward was definitely going to be exciting. 'Ah! Yes, it said I should click to open the reward'.
Looking round to confirm that no one was looking at him inside the plane, and since Austin was already asleep, he clicked on the golden card.
Immediately after he clicked on it, the bright light surrounding the golden card became even brighter before it burst into countless golden specks and from the specks came out his reward.
[You have been rewarded with a legendary inheritance!]

[You have been rewarded with the intermediate mastery of the Legendary Football Skill: Elastico!]
[NOTE:]
>There are 4 major mastery levels of skills in football, basic, intermediate, advanced, and perfection, but there is a 5th and lesser known mastery level that has only ever been attained by certain legendary footballers, the legendary mastery<
>There are steep requirements to taking a football skill to the legendary mastery level, the requirements being consistency, outstanding excellence, and gaining the status of a football legend<
>Ronaldinho Gaucho is a legend of football and he personalized the football skill, elastico, taking it all the way to the next mastery level after perfection, the legendary mastery level<
>It is virtually impossible to take a football skill to the legendary level, except in special circumstances. But by getting the inheritance of the legendary Brazilian, you just got a clear shot at getting a legendary mastery skill level<
>All you have to do to get there is train and get better, the other requirements have already been fulfilled since it is an inheritance<
~~



And now, he was ready to look at his system status again.
~~
[Player status!]
Host: Samuel Moses
Current Career Status: NPFL player, CAF champions league reigning champion
Talent Rating: B
Player Position: Attacking Midfield
Player Attributes:
*Pace: 73
*Shot: 72
*Pass: 76





*Enyimba FC is currently the best club in Africa and Samuel Moses is its best player! All the haters, you can say all you want but honestly, I think Sam is already at the level of those African stars playing in Europe, I dare say even better than some.	In social media, a storm already started as the excited fans flooded all social media pages, promoting Enyimba FC and most especially, their player who won the golden ball award for the season's CAF champions league.
*1 goal and 3 assists, 4 consecutive man of the match awards all the way from the first leg of the semifinals, damn, this mother*cker never miss! Sam is too good, Jesus, give him the balon do'r! The scariest part is he's still only 17, the Super Eagles is about to welcome a monster real soon. *Destroyed JS Kabylie in the quarter finals, violated the almighty Al Ahly in the semifinals, and totally obliterated Wydad AC in the final, ladies and gentlemen, I present to you, Enyimba FC, the best football club in all of Africa! *Enyimba FC is currently the best club in Africa and Samuel Moses is its best player! All the haters, you can say all you want but honestly, I think Sam is already at the level of those African stars playing in Europe, I dare say even better than some. *Which European club is coming for him first? In case you see this, Sam, I asked first! Please join	(Trending Posts in Twitter:)
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Manchester United, be wise Sam, don't let them deceive you!	my club, please join Chelsea Football Club, we need you, you're too good to join a wack team like









The 2022/2023 season for the Nigerian Professional Football League was already drawing to an end after just 6 months of football.

Originally, this was not supposed to be the case but due to the unique circumstances surrounding this season, a few changes were made.

Due to the delayed start to the season, instead of following the normal format of a regular 38-matchday structure like in previous seasons, the 2022/2023 NPFL season followed an abridged format.

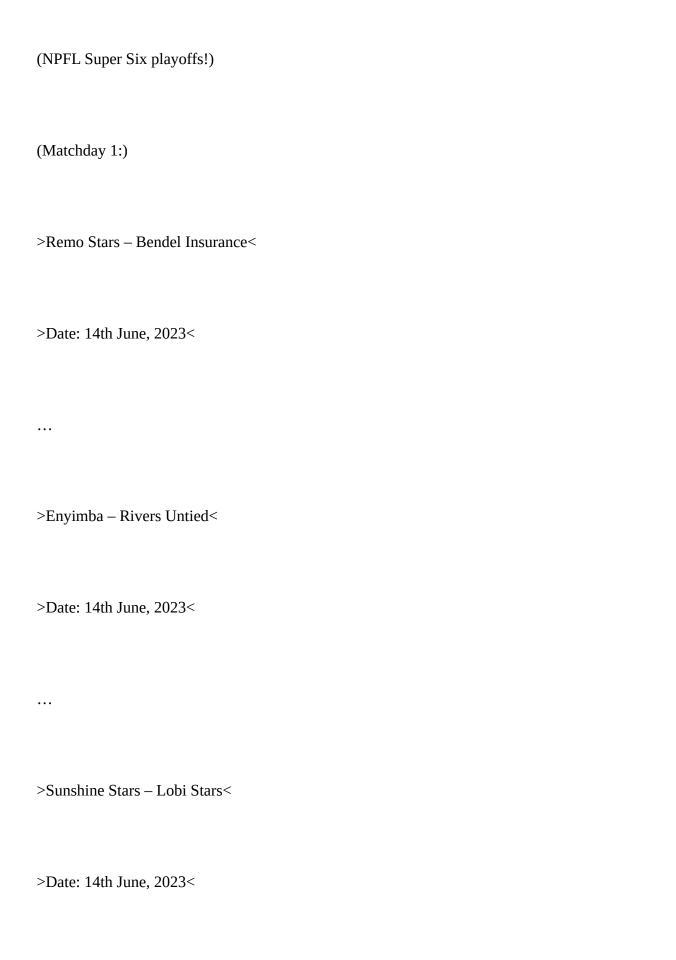
Instead of the regular 38-matchday structure, the league was divided into two groups, Group A and Group B, and each group had 10 teams.

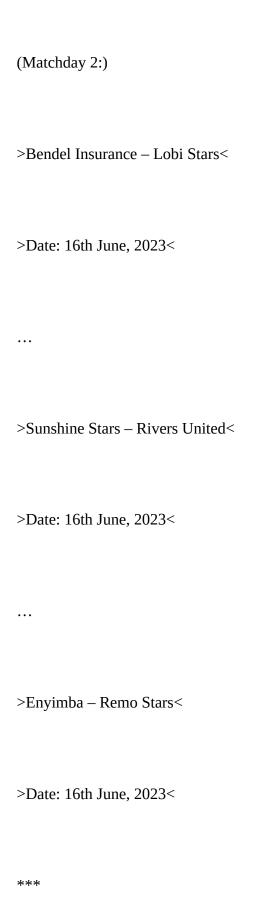
This abridged format contributed to the reason why Enyimba FC dominated the top of the league table, this was because there were only 10 teams in their group and their strongest rivals were in the other group.

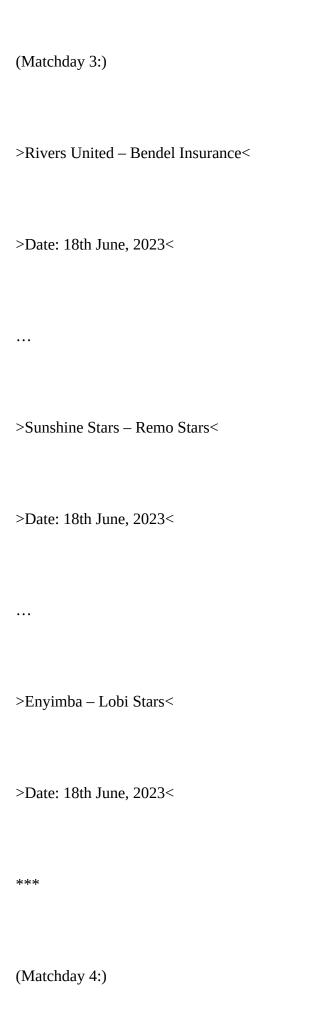
The season was already drawing to an end though, which also meant an end to the group stage football as the top 3 teams of both groups advanced to the NPFL Super 6 playoffs.

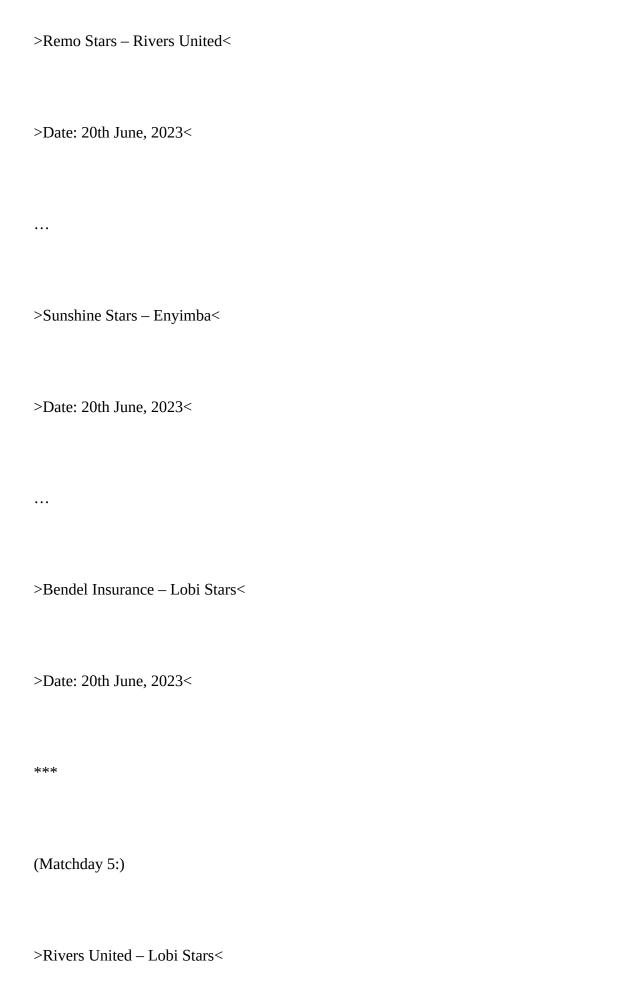
The Super 6 playoffs which determined the overall champion of the 2022/2023 season was supposed to take place from June 3rd to June 11th but due to Enyimba FC's deep run in the CAF champions league, it was postponed.

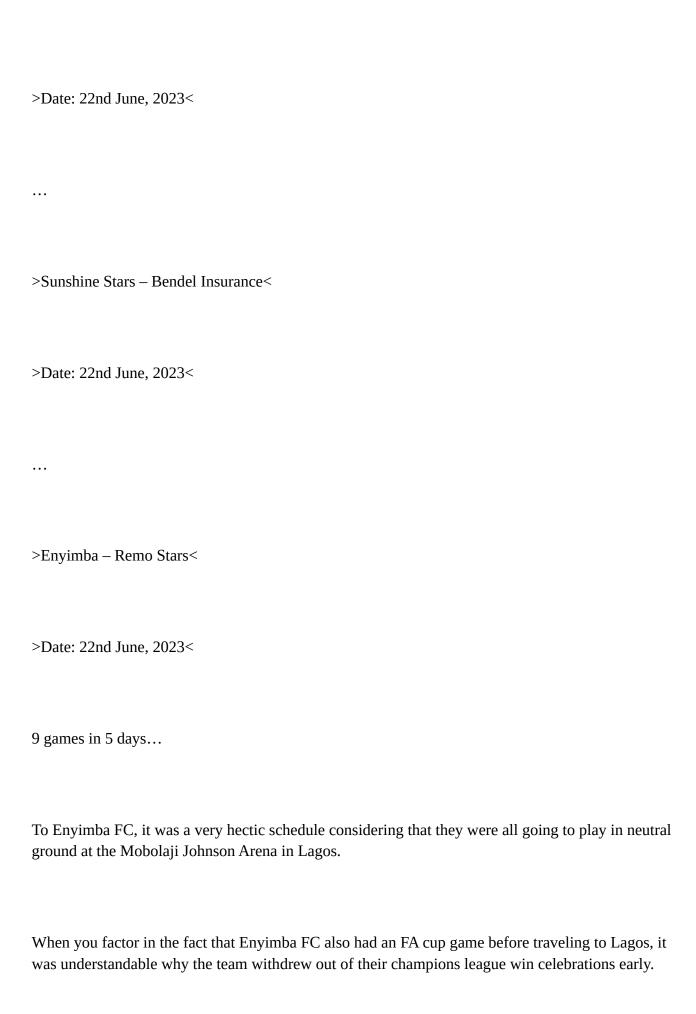
After their champions league win though, the national association rescheduled and finally, the schedule was set.





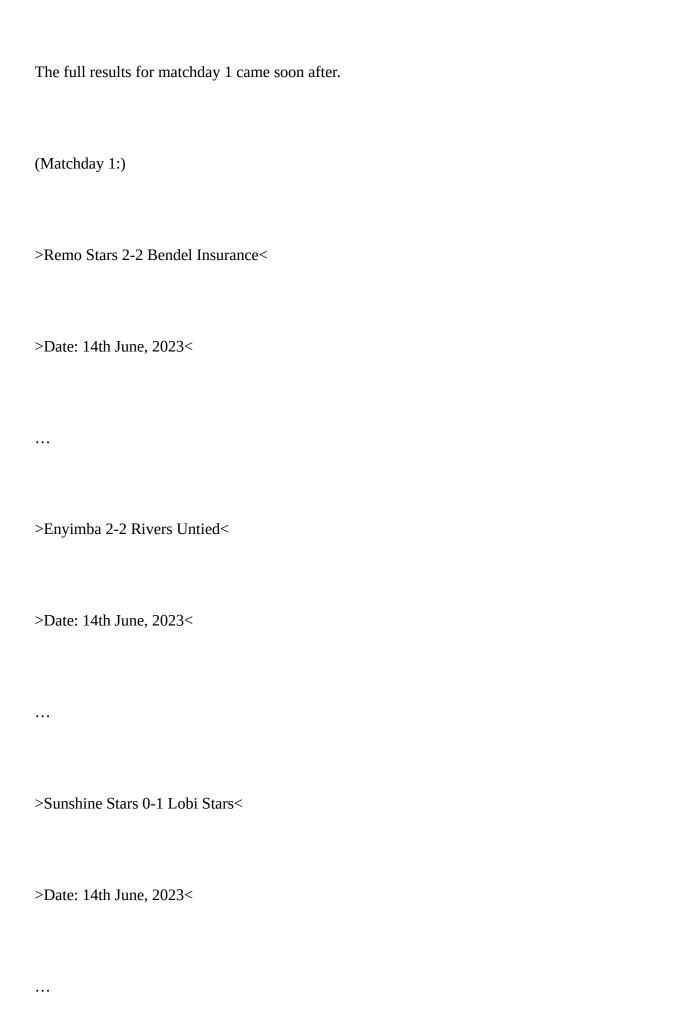






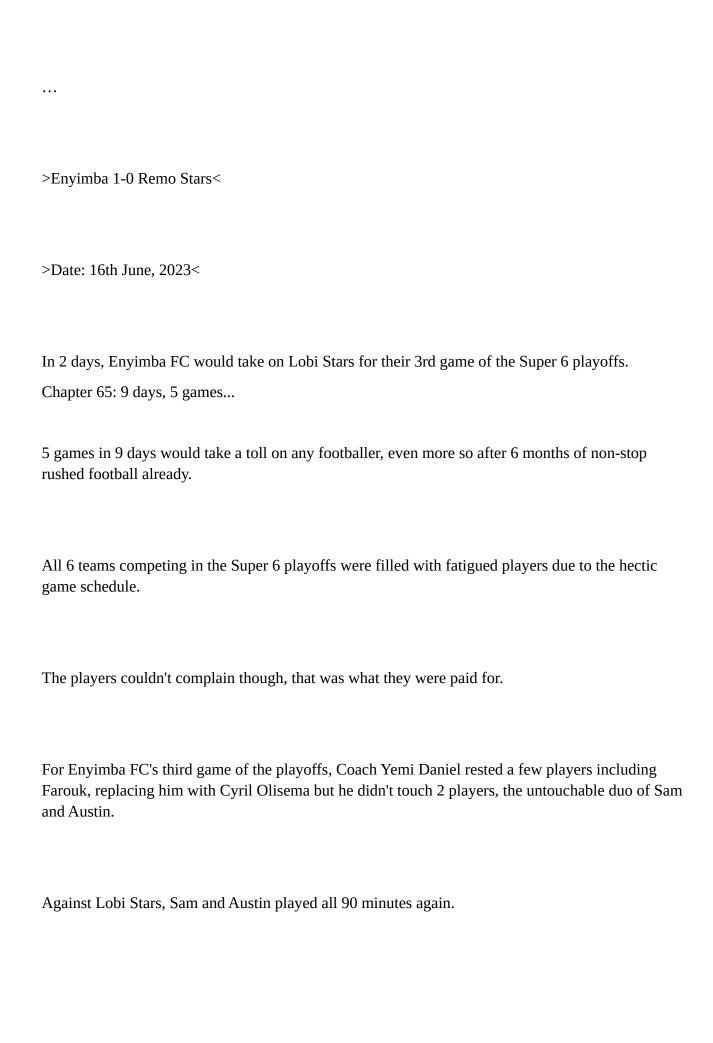
After winning the CAF champions league trophy, Sam really wanted to take some time off to stay with his family and his best friend to thoroughly enjoy it but unfortunately, he had professional obligations to play for his club.
And as the current best player of the club, Coach Yemi Daniel already put a lot of expectations on his shoulders. Sam could not afford to be out of form.
So, he trained.
For the next few days before 14th when the playoffs finally started, Sam stayed diligent with the help of his system as he trained alongside his teammates at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena in Lagos.
The Enyimba FC squad went to Lagos ahead of time. As for the FA cup game, Coach Yemi Daniel delegated it to his assistant, leaving a team of substitutes for his assistant to approach the game with.
In their first game of the FA cup, Enyimba FC was understandably underwhelming as despite playing at home, the B team were almost knocked out of the competition by their opposition.
A last-minute headed goal managed to keep them in the competition.
And with that hurdle off, they focused on the Super 6 playoffs where Enyimba FC would take on Rivers United in a blockbuster encounter on matchday 1.

Like Sam was already used to, the days moved fast and in no time, it was already the D-day as he lined up alongside his teammates against Rivers United.
After the referee's whistle went off, just like everyone expected, Enyimba FC set the tempo of the game as their midfield dominated, making sure that they hoarded most of the possession.
Rivers United struggled to get into the game and after 30 minutes, the floodgates opened as Chijioke, the Enyimba left winger scored the first goal of the game, making it 1-0 in Enyimba FC's favor.
Just 3 minutes later, Farouk made it 2-0, scoring from a corner after outjumping every other player.
By half-time, Enyimba FC was in cruise control of the game. Even after second half started, they were in cruise control, leading 2-0 comfortably till just 5 minutes away from time, a defensive collapse cost them.
The first one was an unfortunate own goal as Ojo, the Enyimba FC goalkeeper deflected an easy shot into his own net, making the score line 2-1 in the 86th minute of the game.
Just 4 minutes later, a defensive mix-up allowed the Rivers United striker to sneak in a shot past Ojo, making it 2-2 at the death.
The Rivers United fans were loud, roaring at the top of their voices.
In the end, the double defensive collapse cost Enyimba FC as they ended their first game of the playoffs with a draw.



Due to the high standards that they already set with recent performances, a draw in their first game of the playoffs was a slow start but Enyimba FC kept believing, training diligently till 2 days later when they played their second game.
This time, they went up against Remo Stars.
When the game started, from the first minute, something became clear, this game was going to be very different from Enyimba FC's first game.
Wary of their opponent's scary form and run in the CAF champions league, unlike Rivers United, Remo Stars didn't approach this game to win at all as they camped in their box, playing ultradefensive football.
For 80 minutes, the Enyimba FC attack was frustrated time and time again despite Austin and Sam being on top of their game.
Together, the midfield duo created numerous clear-cut chances but their forwards were profligate, failing to convert any one of the chances.
In the end, despite missing 4 chances in this game already, Emeka, the Enyimba FC center forward was the one who won the game for his team after another defense-splitting pass from his captain.
After a frustrating night, Emeka finally came out on top in his duel against the Remo Stars goalkeeper, beating this goalkeeper finally in the 82nd minute to give his team the lead.

"GOALLL...!" Emeka roared in the Remo Stars goalkeeper's face, celebrating his goal exuberantly. He felt relieved after such a frustrating night of football. The Remo Stars' players were devastated after such a solid defensive performance ended up with them conceding. For the remaining minutes, Enyimba FC kept on probing but the score line remained the same till the final whistle. Enyimba FC won their second game of the playoffs 1-0. The results of the other games were concluded sometime later and the results of matchday 2 was out. (Matchday 2:) >Bendel Insurance 1-1 Lobi Stars< >Date: 16th June, 2023< >Sunshine Stars 1-1 Rivers United< >Date: 16th June, 2023<

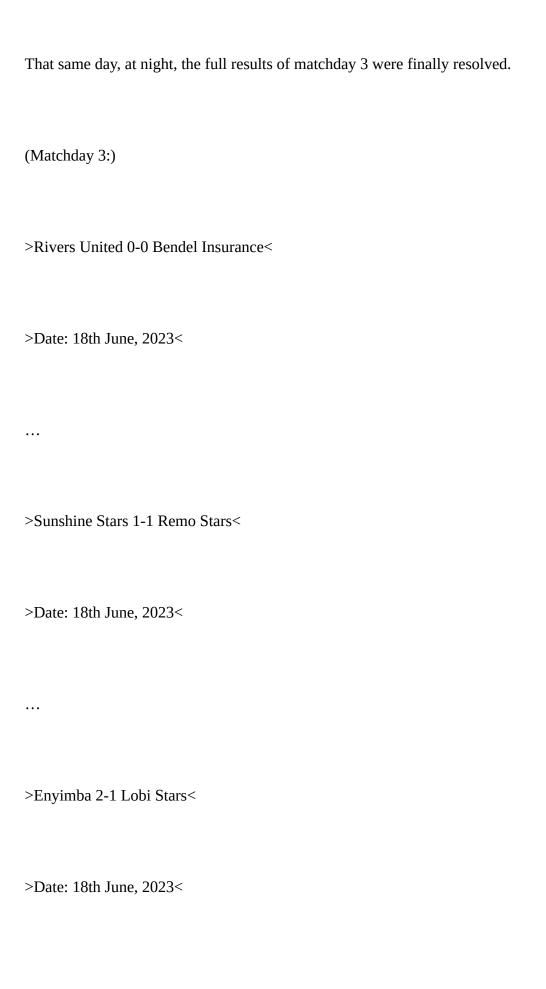


Just like the game against Remo Stars, they were forced to lay siege to the incredible defensive block set up by their opponents who were unwilling to take the risk of taking the battle to them.
In the end, just like the Remo Stars game, for majority of the game, Enyimba FC dominated possession without breaking through their opponent's block.
The first half ended 0-0.
In the second half though, something unexpected happened.
In the 68th minute of the game, after another prolonged attacking raid by Enyimba FC, Austin lost the ball, an unusual mistake from the Enyimba FC captain.
As soon as the Lobi Star center midfielder stole the ball, without hesitation, he kicked the ball to the left where his speedy left winger lurked.
And immediately, a foot race started!
Kicking the ball long, the swift left winger erupted, eating yards of space rapidly like they were not there as he effortlessly outran the 3 Enyimba FC players that were originally ahead of him.
Ojo charged out of his post to meet the speedy left winger but without panicking, this winger poked the ball high, lobbing the Enyimba FC goalkeeper.



FWEEE!
After the referee's whistle sounded, Emeka took a perfect penalty kick, sending the Lobi Stars goalkeeper the other way to score and level the game.
Emeka didn't celebrate, dedicating the goal to his injured captain instead.
With one man down already, for the remaining minutes of the game, Lobi Stars completely forfeited attack as they fully focused on defending.
Without their captain, it was harder for Enyimba FC to fully dominate possession but with Olisema on the pitch with Sam, playing with 2 attack-minded midfielders, Enyimba FC posed more of a threat.
For 20 minutes, Lobi Stars stayed defiant, defending valiantly but in the end, the game was not destined to end in a draw.
Again, it was another moment of individual brilliance from a familiar name.
Dribbling across the middle of the pitch with the ball, Sam skipped past a few challenges before passing the ball to the left where Chijioke ran.
Receiving the ball, the Enyimba left winger easily beat his marker, ran deeper into the Lobi Stars' half before playing a cut back pass to Sam.

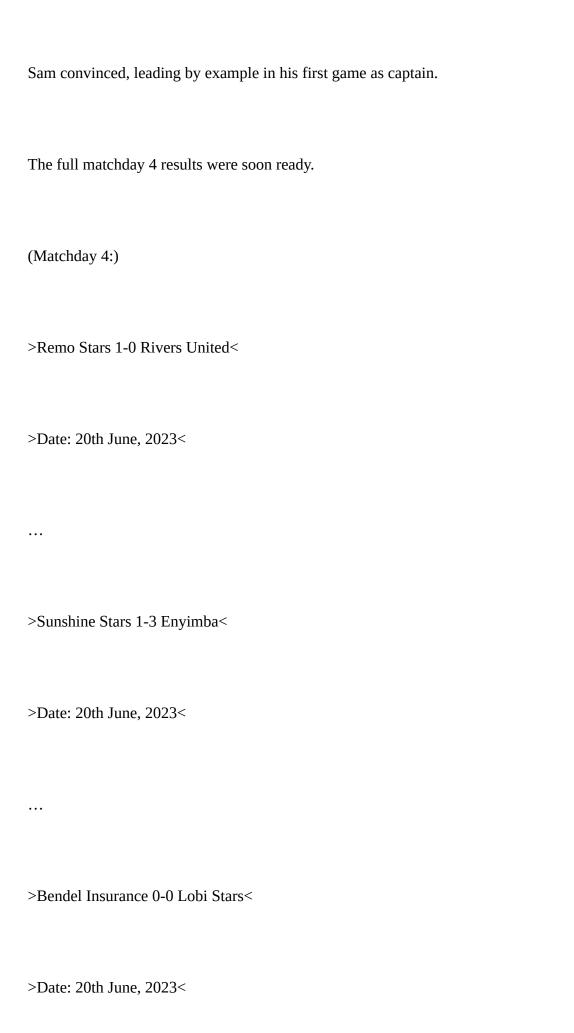
Sam didn't think, hitting the ball first time with the inside of his weaker left foot as the ball rose and curved past the outstretched arms of the Lobi Stars' goalkeeper into the embrace of the net.
In the 85th minute, Enyimba FC finally took the lead.
"GOALLLL!" Roaring loudly, Sam charged towards the corner flag before sliding on his knees as he pointed in the direction of the Enyimba FC bench.
He also dedicated his goal to his captain.
For the final minutes of the game, Lobi Stars finally abandoned defending as they came out, trying to create a miracle and equalize in the dying minutes of the game but Enyimba FC remained defensively disciplined, not giving them an inch.
After 90 plus 7 minutes, the game finally came to an end.
Enyimba FC won 2-1.
The headline today was not about the victory though, rather, it was about the injury that Austin Oladapo, Enyimba FC's captain suffered that would keep him out for 2 months.
The whole squad was affected by the news.





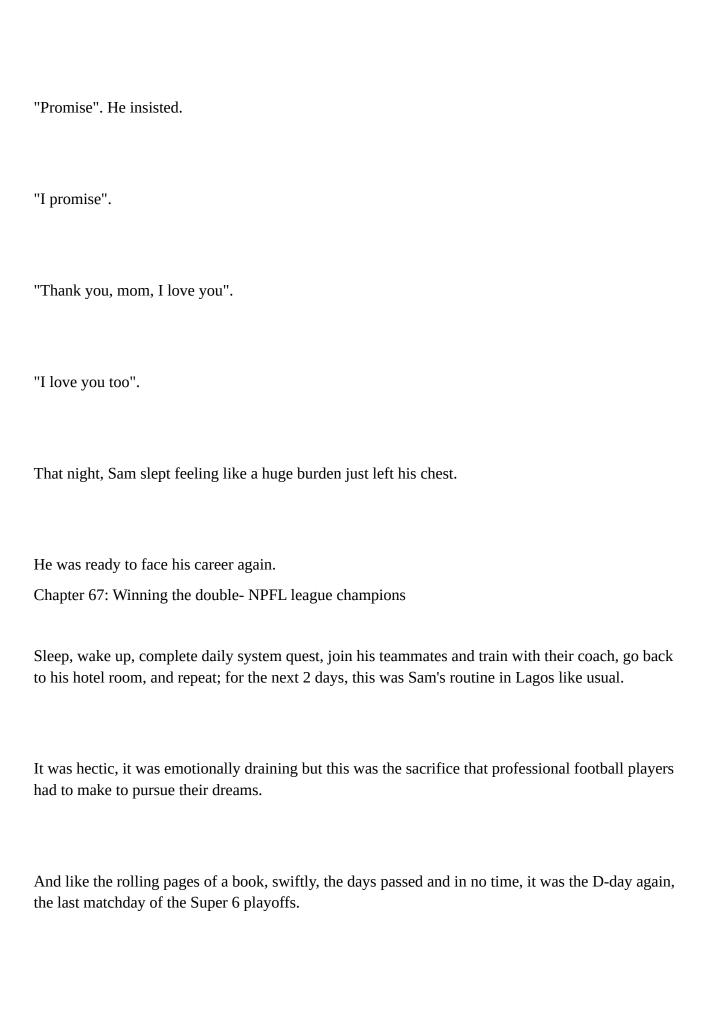


"But this is just his first season!" Olisema complained immediately. "It's not fair to the other players who've stayed in the team longer".
Coach Yemi Daniel was not having it though. "My decision is final".
In actuality, Olisema was the only player who was truly against it, the other players either didn't care or were in full support of it.
When the news was confirmed to the media, it created a storm, putting the spotlight on Enyimba FC as for some time, they forgot about Austin's injury, focusing on Sam's captainship instead.
Captaining a club as storied as Enyimba FC at just 17 was immense. Sam felt the pressure weighing down on him, but he didn't buckle due to it.
Most importantly, Austin encouraged him from the hospital.
In 2 days' time, Sam already accepted his leadership role fully and when he stepped foot on the pitch again against Sunshine Stars, he took charge.
With Austin injured, it was clear that Sunshine Stars came with ideas, playing bold and attacking football against Enyimba FC and for the first half, they succeeded as they mostly dominated possession.



Considering that the nearest club to them in the rankings were Lobi Stars and Remo Stars with 5 points each, with 9 points, Enyimba FC already won the league title but the 5th game of the playoffs still had to be played.
In their hotel, the players already celebrated their league victory as they made a video call, making sure that their captain, Austin joined in from the hospital.
After that, they resumed preparations for their last game of the Super 6 playoffs that would take place in 2 days against Remo Stars.
That night, very late before sleeping, Sam called his mom.
Having watched the game today alongside the rest of her family, Mrs. Moses was concerned to see her son's call that late when usually, he was supposed to be long asleep already to wake up fresh for the new day.
"Hey Sam, are you ok?"
His mom was fiery but there were times when she was sensitive too, and this night was one of those times. Hearing her calm voice, Sam took a deep breath.
"I'm good, I just feel very exhausted". He sighed.





Rivers United went up against Lobi Stars, Sunshine Stars went up against Bendel Insurance, while Enyimba went up against Remo Stars again in the deciding game of the Super 6 playoffs.
Since losing Austin to injury, Coach Yemi Daniel already tweaked the formation of his team a bit from the normal balanced 4-3-3 formation and for this game against Remo Stars, he tweaked it again.
Incredibly, Olisema was not in the starting line-up, starting in the bench.
From the balanced 4-3-3 formation, for this game, Coach Yemi Daniel switched to a 4-2-3-1 formation where Farouk started alongside the back-up defensive midfielder of Enyimba FC in the defensive midfield positions.
Emeka was the sole striker at the front of the formation, while behind him were Chijioke, Sam, and Victor.
It was another balanced formation but one that enabled Coach Yemi to bring out the best in his available players since he no longer had an elite center midfielder like Austin to control and rotate possession in the middle of the park.
FWEEEE!
When the game started, Enyimba FC played their normal football but Remo Stars was extra aggressive today. Enyimba FC may not need the points today anymore, but they needed it.
The playoffs game was not just about the team that would lift the trophy, it was also about the top 3 teams that would compete in next season's continental competition, the CAF champions league.

With this motivation, Remo Stars played with great intensity.
For most of the first half, they ran after the ball as Enyimba FC controlled possession but they wore the Enyimba players out, mostly exhausting them physically with their high press till one of them misplaced a pass.
Pouncing on it in the 43rd minute of the game, the Remo Stars attacking striker unleashed a rocket shot from just outside the box.
Ojo dived but he could not do much as the ball snuck past him into the net.
Against the run of play, Remo Stars led in the last playoff game. The game went to half-time with Enyimba FC losing, but this champion team was not ready to give up so easily despite the fact that they already won the trophy.
In the second half, Coach Yemi made a change, taking out the backup defensive midfielder for Olisema, playing with a 2-man attacking midfield formation. It was radical but it bore fruit.
Just 5 minutes into the second half, Enyimba FC scored.
Who else but the African Zidane?

Receiving a pass from Olisema just outside the box, Sam wriggled past a few challenges. Though he already noticed it since, he could not help but appreciate how easier it was for him to dribble through players now.
The only thing affecting him was fatigue, but he dug through it.
Nutmegging a player and using a la croqueta to skip past the next, he took a glance at goal, raised his leg before hitting the ball with venom.
BAM!
The ball rushed through the green grass, tearing a few apart and into the air as it nestled into the bottom left corner of the post.
The Remo Stars goalkeeper dived but he didn't stand a chance.
For the remaining parts of the second half, Enyimba FC tried yet they could not breakthrough the Remo Stars defense a second time. In the 80th minute of the game, Coach Yemi subbed Sam out as he felt some discomfort.
And with that, Enyimba FC simply watched the game out, maintaining the 1-1 score line to make it 10 points from 5 games.
FWEEEE!

Immediately after the final whistle blew, Sam ran back into the pitch alongside his coach as he hugged his teammates, celebrating wildly.
The 2022/2023 NPFL season finally came to an end and with it, Enyimba FC were crowned champions.
They already won the double, lifting the league title and the CAF champions league trophy. And with the Nigerian FA cup still on the line, they still had the chance to make it a treble, truly capping off a historic season.
Immediately after the game, the players hit the road again as they returned to Abia State where the celebrations truly kicked off.
Due to the hype and circumstances surrounding their CAF champions league victory, a lot of publicity was already around Enyimba FC and their players and after returning to Abia State, they did an open-bus celebration through the city of Aba.
Of course, before then, Sam already communicated with his family through a video call as they celebrated his achievement with him.
Mr. Moses was extremely emotional, the man felt like a warrior who finally achieved his life's mission. "Now, I can finally die in peace". He said.
"Die and leave me a widow?!" His wife snapped. "You must be joking! Come here!"
"Come on, I didn't mean it".

Well, he had a lot of explanation to do.
Sam and his sister laughed at the bickering couple. In the end, after arriving at Abia State, he couldn't keep up the video call as he joined his teammates and their fans in celebrating their incredible victory.
Unfortunately, Austin couldn't join them yet as the hospital was yet to release him. He could only follow the proceedings through a video call.
Leading the fans on this time as they celebrated, Sam told them to chant their captain's name and they obeyed.
"Austin!"
"Austin!"
"Austin!"
The atmosphere was crazy throughout the city of Aba as tens of thousands of fans celebrated their team's victory excitedly.
It was almost as if they didn't even care about the FA cup anymore.

Well, they did had to care though as after hours of celebrating, Coach Yemi Daniel, the ever ready disciplinarian dragged his players off to rest.
"We still have a little football to play".
"After, you can celebrate all you want".
The players groaned but they respected their coach's wishes.
And coincidentally, their next matchup of the Nigerian FA cup was a blockbuster knock-out encounter against their bitter rivals, Plateau United.
Chapter 68: A minor setback after a major victory
Since the Nigerian FA cup was a straight knock-out tournament, Coach Yemi Daniel fielded his strongest available starting line-up for the next game.
And since they played their opponents at home, they had an advantage.
FWEEEE!
From the first whistle, it became clear that one of the Enyimba FC players didn't let up yet and was still in the form of his life, the player in question being Samuel Moses as he dominated the first half.
In this game, Sam played at his best again, terrorizing the Plateau United backline as the fans kept on chanting his name.









(Incoming call from Best Mom)
Seeing the name on the screen, this middle-aged coach gulped, but then he picked the call only to be exposed to a barrage.
"Sam! Sam, is that you?"
"Where are you?"
"How are you doing?"
"Ma, it's me, your son's coach".
"You evil man!" Mrs. Moses screeched. "What did you do to my son? I said it, you never had good intentions for him from the beginning!"
"What did you do to my son?"
"Ma'am, please calm down"
"Don't tell me to calm down, where is my son? Where is he?!"



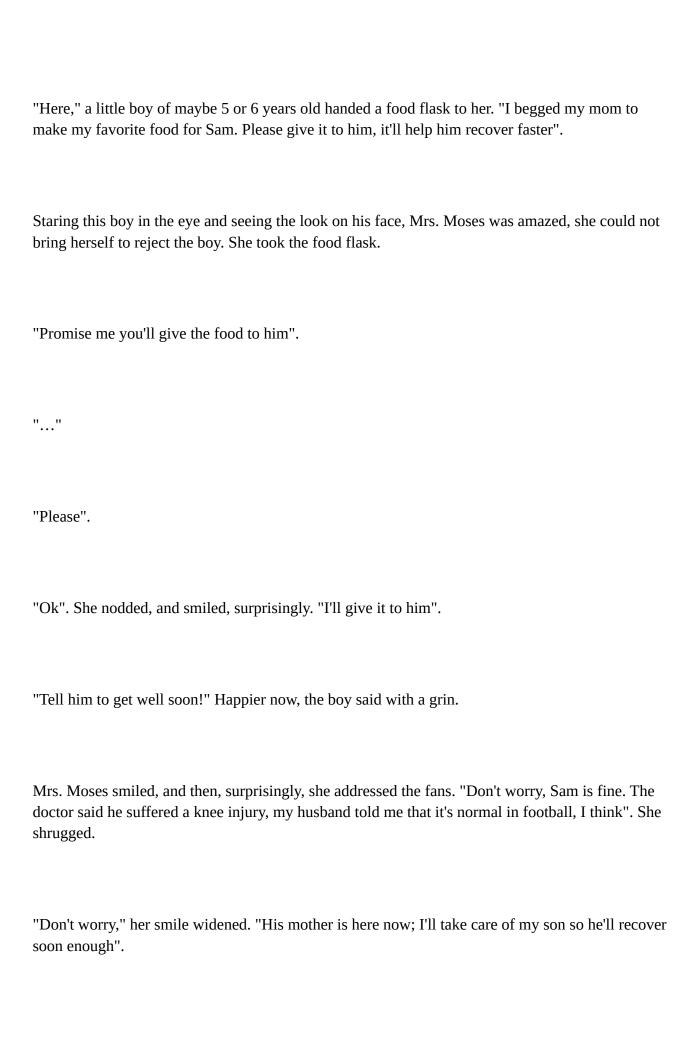


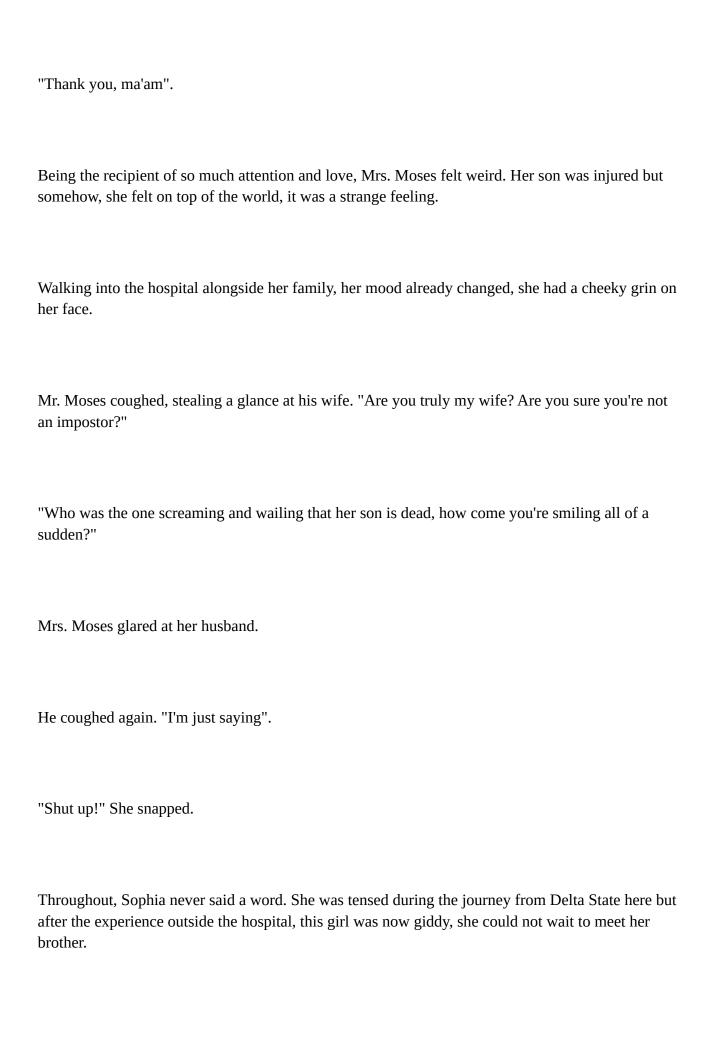
He watched all extra-time on his phone. Despite having the numbers advantage on the pitch, Enyimba FC failed to capitulate on their chances as the game went to penalties.
Coach Yemi Daniel watched agonizingly as his team lost on penalties to Plateau United. It was a valiant Plateau United performance in Enyimba's home.
This coach sighed. "It was not meant to be".
Just after winning the double of the CAF champions league and the NPFL title, Enyimba FC suffered a minor setback right after as they were knocked out of the 2022/2023 season iteration of the Nigerian FA cup.
Chapter 69: Incredible support
In just one evening, Enyimba FC's hopes of a historic treble were dashed in the most agonizing fashion.
Despite losing to their bitter rivals in the FA cup at home, the Enyimba FC fans were not concerned with that though, nor were they concerned about losing the treble, rather, they were more concerned about their star attacking midfielder.
The moment that Sam collapsed on the pitch, the Enyimba International Stadium as a whole seemed to come to a standstill.
The fans were petrified, horrified by thoughts of the worst-case scenario.

Fortunately, and unfortunately for them, Sam did suffer an injury but it was not as serious as they feared. It was a regular knee injury and after a month or 2 of rehabilitation, Sam would be fit again to kick a football, barring complications.

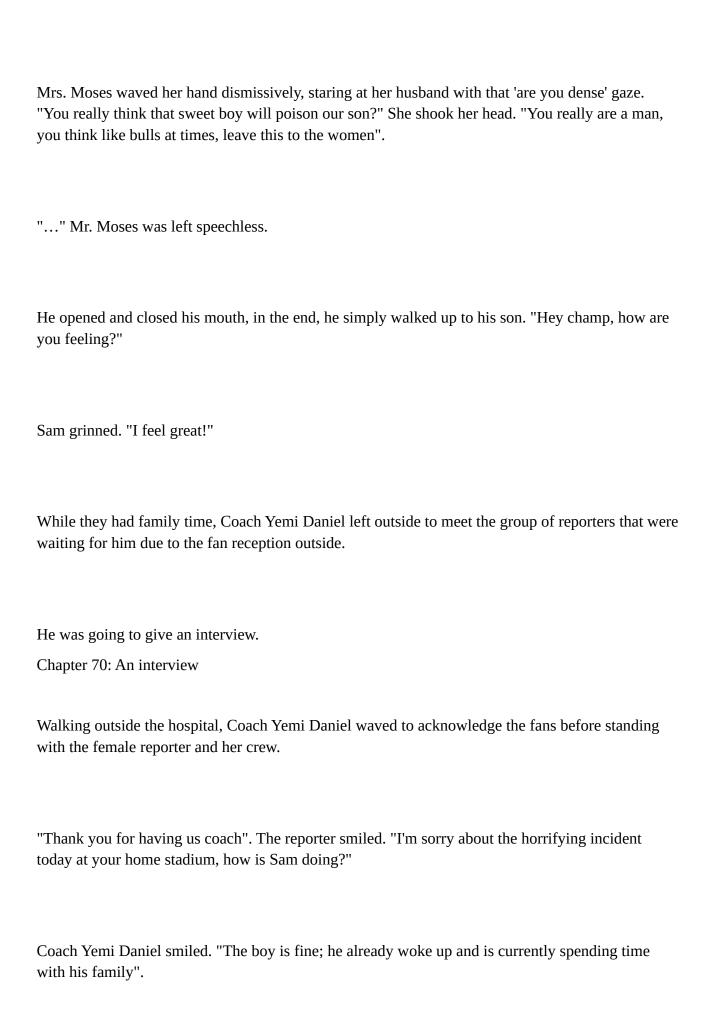
Immediately after the game, while Plateau United celebrated an historic victory in their bitter rival's home stadium, the Enyimba FC fans instead flooded social media with support for their star attacking midfielder.
Not just on social media, a troop of fans also marched to the general hospital where Sam was admitted, showing their support in their own unique ways.
They carried different banners with them.
(Sam, we love you!)
(You'll always be Zinedine Sam to us! Remember that no matter what happens, we the fans are here for you, we love you!)
(Get well soon champ! You're stronger than this!)
(Can't wait to see you on the pitch again, much love man!)
Among the group of supporters was a small girl who carried a banner that was bigger than her. Sitting on her dad's shoulders, she held the banner.
(Sam, thank you for playing for my daddy's club, you made my dad happy and I'm happy too. Please recover fast, I want my dad to be happy!)

When the Moses family finally arrived in Abia State, arriving at the Aba General Hospital, they quickly discovered that they were not the first to come.
Seeing dozens of fans gathered outside the hospital premises with support banners for her son, Mrs. Moses was flabbergasted.
Watching her son collapse on the pitch, this woman almost had a heart attack and immediately, she started blaming her village people and haters. She even broke down in tears, blaming herself for letting him play football.
She agitated for the whole family to go meet her son in the hospital. Mr. Moses had to take permission from his work place before taking his family on his car. On arriving now though, she was left speechless.
She looked at her husband. "Is this normal?"
Mr. Moses shrugged. "It's not normal here in Nigeria but in Europe and European clubs, fans show their support to their star players when they're injured".
"Wow!" She was amazed.
In the end, they didn't know who recognized them but among the fans, but one of them recognized them. "It's Sam's family, that's her mom!"
Some of the fans approached them, spooking the middle-aged woman.











"What of today's game? People are not paying attention to it but we can't help but highlight your reaction to Sam's injury".
"With all due respect sir, you literally abandoned the game, your squad, and the fans, deciding to follow your player to the hospital instead".
"A certain section of people believe this is why Enyimba FC lost the game today. They believe that if you stayed in the stadium, supporting your team through the difficult period, Enyimba FC would have won".
Coach Yemi Daniel stared at the female reporter, then he replied. "If Austin was not injured, we would not have won the league title".
"Pardon?"
"Just stop with this your little games, it irks me".
"Enyimba FC already had a legendary season that is forever etched in our history. Last season, we went trophy less, then I didn't see you asking so many questions. But this season, we managed to win the double, winning the 2 biggest trophies that we're competing for".
"All this was because of Sam's contributions on the pitch".
"Like you said, the fans didn't complain about the loss today because unlike you, they acknowledge his help throughout the season and the role he played in Enyimba FC winning the double".

"Sam didn't suffer a normal injury, my player literally passed out on the pitch and you expect me to stay focused on the game?"
"I know I'm obligated by a contract to prioritize the club first, but I'm also human, my humanity urged me to prioritize my injured player in that moment".
"You may not know but I scouted Sam myself. I met him playing in the suburbs of Abraka, I brought him here to Enyimba FC myself!"
"I promised his father that I would take care of him".
"So yes, I owe him that much".
"If anybody is dissatisfied with my decision, they can take it up with me".
"My team losing today in his absence is another indication of the incredible role that he played throughout the season. I don't care if you see it, I see it".
"Sam had a legendary debut professional season, so yes, he deserves everything, including the fan support that's he's currently receiving. I think the fans would agree with us".
"YES!" The fans outside chorused loudly.





Coach Yemi chuckled. "And at least, we're not Arsenal who bottled the league after such a huge lead on Manchester City at some point in the season".
Sam chuckled, feeling better. "You're right".
Coach Yemi looked at his wristwatch. "It's already late, I think I'll take my leave now. I still have a squad of players waiting for me in the stadium, I also need to give them first-hand information on your condition".
"Ok," Sam nodded. "Please help me thank the fans for their support as you leave, tell them that I'm fine".
"I would have gone myself but the doctor forbade me from leaving the bed".
"I understand". Coach Yemi nodded.
Just as the coach was about to leave, there was a beeping sound.
Beep!
(NEW! 1 Unread Message!)

Immediately after taking a look at his phone, without reading the full contents of the message yet, Mr. Moses raised his head and looked straight at Coach Yemi Daniel.
The coach shifted. "What?"
"It's a delegation from Lille".
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