

Reincarnated Avatar; I got 2 SSS-Rank Unique Skills

#Chapter 21: Reunion - Read Reincarnated Avatar; I got 2 SSS-Rank Unique Skills Chapter 21:

Chapter 21: Reunion

[Welcome to the new server, adventurer!]

[Your default spawn point has been set for the Beginner Village!]

[Character Name has been registered: Enlightened Flame]

...

[Welcome to the new server, adventurer!]

[Your default spawn point has been set for the Beginner Village!]

[Character Name has been registered: Captain Batman]

The 3 new players logged into the game.

Genevieve had an opinion about Benjamin's choice of name for his new avatar but since the name could not be edited once it was entered into the game system, she had no choice but to give up her rant.

Benjamin seemed more excited than usual to enter the game with a new account.

Having played for so long as a professional player with a 1st server account card, getting to enter the game again with a new account in a new server was a breath of fresh air for him.

"Ah!" He sighed exaggeratedly. "Coming back to this world, I feel like a long-lost hero that has finally returned to save the day".

"What should be the right caption for it? Return of the Prodigal son? Or...," he grinned. "Return of the ancient Demon King?"

Genevieve rolled her eyes. "You guys should get on with completing the beginner quests quickly, I'll help you guys so we'll be faster".

"We can't discuss Noah's circumstances in the beginner village here, it'll be too easy for others to eavesdrop on our conversations".

"He's waiting for us outside the beginner village".

"That makes it easy then," Benjamin cracked his knuckles, feeling hyped. "Let's quickly go and save that mother*cker!"

Yes, it was a new server with improved settings but the game was still Warstar. Veterans like Caleb and Benjamin in a new server was like a cheat code.

They were no Noah but individually, they were still masters of the game.

Besides, the game population was not as congested as before as lots of the players who started playing the new server early were already at relatively high levels, taking them away from the beginner village.

This made it even easier for Caleb and Benjamin.

With Genevieve's help, Caleb and Benjamin were able to complete beginner quests, leveling up rapidly and in just an hour, their in-game avatars leveled up to level 5, making them capable of raiding dungeons.

Only at this point did they leave the beginner village.

After getting to level 5, leveling up becomes exponentially harder and the difficulty increases exponentially again after every 5 levels.

Genevieve led the way outside the beginner village.

Walking through the lonely road surrounded by a shallow bush, Caleb and Benjamin had different reactions to the prospect of meeting their captain again.

Benjamin's reaction was more on the goofy side as he could not wait to mock his captain and make a pun joke out of it, while Caleb was just laid back.

Coming back from retirement, building a new Warstar avatar to take to the Pro Alliance, helping Noah conquer the game and rescuing him from being trapped in the game, and potentially winning the Warstar RPG champions league again, these were all things that interested him and was why he did them.

That was just Caleb in a nutshell. He does things only if they interest him, like reading novels, but his enthusiasm for the specific activity never shows on his face.

It was almost like he was just going through the motions.

Only his friends truly understood him.

And finally, they met him.

"Hey". Noah waved in their direction.

Immediately, Benjamin grinned behind his computer screen, speaking into the speakers. "Hey there Captain," he chuckled mischievously, observing his in-game avatar. "Looks like you really leveled up your commitment to gaming!"

"Hehe, guess you're now pixel-perfectly stuck in this new reality".

Noah chuckled, not responding to the joke.

"So boring!" Benjamin mocked, eliciting more laughter from Noah.

"Hey". He waved at Marcus again who waved back at him.

Marcus' avatar hesitated. At this point of the game, the class of their in-game avatars was yet to be defined, making them plain and neutral.

Marcus' avatar curiously focused on Noah's Lord Doom. "Is it really true that you got an SSS-Rank unique skill in the game?"

"Yeah, see".

Noah projected his avatar information the next moment, showing his SSS-Rank unique skill to his friends.

"Wow!" Benjamin exclaimed. "That's, that's just..."

"Crazy, I know". Noah stopped him before he could make another pun joke.

In that moment, Noah finally looked around. "Where are the others?"

Genevieve coughed at that moment, finally speaking through her avatar. "Marcus is not in the country. As for Aria," she cleared her throat. "Umm, she now has a boyfriend".

"...!"

Noah froze.

"Yeah, it's crazy, I know". Genevieve chuckled. "But it's the truth. She's committed to her relationship, so she can't devote her time to games again".

"..."

Noting that Noah was still frozen, Genevieve's in-game avatar waved at him. "Hey, snap out of it".

Noah finally recovered.

"What...?!" He asked, still stunned.

It took some time before Noah was able to accept the truth and finally calm down, but still, the idea of Aria dating someone was still mind-boggling to him.

"What...?!" Noah suddenly asked again, making the others look at him weirdly like he was losing his mind.

"Don't tell me getting stuck in the game turned your brain to Chinese Swiss". Benjamin stared at him suspiciously, he was clearly enjoying the reaction of his captain to the shocking news.

"Forgive me for reacting like that," Noah rubbed the back of his head. "But that guy..., dating Aria? He must be a true masochist".

"What do you mean you fool?" A third-party voice suddenly interjected.

"..." They froze.

"What do you know about love you single miserable peeps?"

Noah froze again, and then he turned around to look, shocked. "Aria?!"

...

"Why?" Genevieve asked, surprised.

"You really think I'd really leave Warstar behind like it didn't play such a big part in the last decade of my life?" Aria snorted. "Dream on".

"I spoke with my boyfriend about it. I couldn't afford to leave Warstar behind, and I really want to win the championship again".

"I want to feel the high of being at the top one last time".

"My only requirement is that I can't join you guys wherever you are, I'd be playing the game from my house with my boyfriend. He agreed to get me a gaming set-up and console. Those are my reasons for coming back".

"Besides," she inclined her in-game avatar's head to focus on Noah again. "The thought of getting to save his sorry ass ignited my competitive spirit again".

Aria looked at Noah's avatar, a familiar fire burning in her eyes.

Noah recognized that look, he sighed. 'Not again'.

"Let's PK!"

Chapter 22: Leveling up [1]

"Let's PK!"

"..."

"Let's PK!" "Let's PK!" "Let's PK!"

"..."

In the end, it took a lot of convincing for Noah to finally stop Aria's energetic requests. He didn't exactly stop it though; he only postponed it till they were level 20 and they had access to more skills in the game.

That moment of the 5 of them coming together again, to Noah, it was special.

Despite the fact that it was just a few days in the outside world since he became stuck inside the game, he could not help but feel like it was so long already.

But when his friends finally entered the game to meet him, he no longer felt like he was in an alien land, rather, he felt at home again.

Warstar was his home after all for the past decade.

Being in the presence of Genevieve's motherly energy and care, Benjamin's goofy energy, Aria's robust energy, and Caleb's taciturn feel, Noah felt at home again. He didn't know how much he missed their energy till he was away from it.

They took very little time to get up to date with each other, and then they presented the ultimate question, what was the next step forward?

Having taken his time to think extensively over it already, Noah answered them. "The next step forward is we level up".

He looked at his friends. "I trust that Genevieve already told all of you my intentions and my situation".

"I don't really care as much about escaping from the game, what I truly care about is the feeling of being at the top again".

"I want to win again!" His eyes burned with a fiery zeal.

"I want to make it to the World championship and represent England, I want that recognition!" He grinned.

"That's what is more enticing to me".

"And you feel we can do it this time? Why?" Caleb looked at Noah. "The reality remains the same, we're ageing veterans of the game".

Benjamin glared at Caleb for not reading the moment and disrupting Noah's energy and momentum but Caleb did not pay attention to it, he continued. "Hot-bloodedness alone and wishful thinking is not enough to win the Warstar RPG Champions league, you of all people should know that". He looked at Noah.

"What do you think are our chances of achieving your ambitious goal?"

Noah hesitated for a big but then he answered. "Pretty high". He looked back at him, smiling.

"How so?" Caleb asked.

"First, I no longer suffer the same restriction as you guys. Inside here in the game, playing Warstar have never been easier".

"You'll understand after you see me play".

He explained to his friends how his avatar now worked. Instead of typing a keyboard and controlling a mouse to activate skills and control his in-game avatar, all he needed now was to think.

It was so much more convenient.

Caleb looked at him. "Convenient, but mathematically, I don't think such an improvement is enough to breach the gap between our team and Phoenix Rising's team".

"Besides, Marcus is not here".

"I know," Noah sighed, rubbing his temples. "Having a mathematician as a friend can be a hassle at times," he chuckled. "But there's another thing". He raised a finger for emphasis.

"I think..., I discovered a way to get another SSS-Rank unique skill".

Caleb's avatar adjusted his glasses, an in-game accessory that he got as a reward from one of the beginner quests. "Is your method tested and proven?"

Noah shook his head. "I can't tell but it's related to the powers that are behind my transmigration into the game, so I can say it's reliable".

"Half-reliable," Caleb corrected seriously. "Explain".

Noah took a deep breath. "When I got my first SSS-Rank unique skill, the unique skill challenge for it was triggered in my very first dungeon run after my avatar entered level 5".

"I was not the only one to get a unique skill, the party members who raided the dungeon with me also got unique skills, just lower-ranked ones due to their meagre contribution in completing the unique challenge".

"But if it was you guys, perhaps, it would have been different".

"Maybe you would have gotten SSS-Rank unique skills just like I did," Noah looked at Caleb.

The fact that the intimidating mathematician didn't interrupt him yet meant that he was not saying rubbish, and that he was driving at something.

He continued. "Due to other evidence provided after I was transmigrated, I believe that I will encounter another unique skill challenge at level 20".

"If I perform well, I will most likely get another SSS-Rank unique skill".

"If you guys participate, and you perform well too," Noah spread his arms. "Our whole squad may just become equipped with at least 1 SSS-Rank unique skill".

"Mathematician, think about it, is that enough to make us win the RPG Champions league again?"

"Theoretically, it increases our chances to 74%, but it's all still a probability".

In that moment, Noah smirked. "When did winning the RPG champions league final ever become a certainty?"

He grinned. "The uncertainty, the stakes, the competition, those are what makes it exciting, all of it contributes to the allure of fighting for the trophy".

He looked at his friends. "So, are you guys in?"

There was silence for a few seconds.

Aria grinned. "Bring it on!"

Genevieve simply nodded.

Caleb nodded. "Yeah".

They all turned to look at Benjamin.

As if waiting for that moment, the oldest among the group of friends grinned, adjusting and basking in the moment.

If he had unlimited control like Noah's reincarnated avatar, perhaps, he would have patted and adjusted his sleeves at this moment.

He chuckled. "I told them I'd compete, but now I'm game for anything; they better be ready to console themselves when I win!"

"..."

"Lame". Aria trolled.

...

Genevieve's Misty Rose, Caleb's Enlightened Flame, and Benjamin's Captain Batman entered the Pork Labyrinth dungeon with a random party of 2 other players to complete their raid party.

As for Noah, his Lord Doom entered Monkey Rainforest dungeon for the first time with a random party of players too.

Due to his reputation in the new server, it didn't take him long to find a raid party.

They all went leveling.

...

While all that happened inside the game, somewhere in London...

Nightingale met up with his friends.

Chapter 23: Leveling up [2]

England, London...

At the top floor of a 50-story skyscraper, a luxurious room stood boasting a grand piano gleaming under a crystal chandelier, its golden light reflecting off polished mahogany floors against the backdrop of the rising sun.

Velvet drapes frame tall windows overlooking the city, while walnut shelves brimmed with leather-bound scores, exuding luxury.

Plush Victorian armchairs and a faint scent of fresh flowers enhanced the space, where artistry meets opulence.

In this room though, there was a common theme, it being the fact that most of the properties in the room had the picture of a certain beautiful man attached to it, and in some, his stage name was written on it.

>[Nightingale]<

At this moment, there were 4 people in this room, a beautiful man with bright golden hair and mesmerizing rose-colored eyes, a petite lady with long purple hair and deep black eyes, a laid-back man with bald hair, and the last of them was a young man with onyx black hair and brown eyes.

This group of 4 people were the legendary Nightingale crew, and they were the same group of people who played in the Pork Labyrinth dungeon with Noah.

The beautiful gold-haired man was Nightingale himself, the petite lady was Deadly Musician, the laid-back man with bald hair was Death Note- the Elementalist, while the young man with black hair and brown eyes was the Blademaster, Silky Strings.

In their musical group, Nightingale was the lead singer while the girl, Thalia was the backup. She was also good with the piano. The bald-haired man was Freeman, a master drummer.

As for Walter, the black-haired young man, he was the master guitarist of the legendary Nightingale crew.

If anybody in this city saw them together like this, it would definitely cause a frenzy, that was how popular they were.

At this moment though, there was a deafening silence as the 3 others paid attention to Nightingale, the beautiful man with golden hair.

"..." They looked at him.

They were all speechless.

"Did you just say her name was Genevieve?" Thalia finally asked.

Nightingale shifted awkwardly. "Yes? Umm..., why are you guys reacting so weirdly? Do you know her?"

"What a bum!" Thalia trolled ruthlessly. "Genevieve, really? And you still didn't tell what their identity is?"

Now, Nightingale felt a little nervous as he looked at Thalia, still wondering why what he said elicited such an extreme reaction from them.

'What's going on?' He was nervous.

After speaking with Genevieve and passing Noah's message along, Nightingale returned to his room where his crew members gathered to practice with him. That was where he narrated everything that happened to them.

He didn't expect such a strong reaction though.

"What did I say wrong?" He asked again, this time looking hopefully at Freeman for an answer but the bald-haired man only palmed his face.

His deep voice reverberated the next moment. "Now that I think about it again, I finally understand why he seemed so good".

"In hindsight he didn't seem good," his vermillion eyes gleamed. "He's just that good!"

"Afterall, it's Noah we're talking about!"

Walter nodded. "If it's him, getting an A-ranked unique skill so early in the new server no longer feels weird. Afterall, his old avatar has an S-ranked unique skill".

"But to think we'll meet an expert of that caliber in just our first day in the game," Thalia sighed. "Our luck... is just too good!"

Nightingale looked at his teammates, his eyes alternating from one to another and the more he looked and heard, the more his confusion grew.

'What are they talking of?'

'S-ranked skill being normal? What the heck!'

In the end, he could not hold it in anymore. "Can someone tell me what the heck is going on?!"

Thalia looked at him with pity. "Boss, I sometimes pity your fans, if only they know how clueless you can be at anything not music".

Nightingale felt like crying. "Thalia, please..., can you stop now?" He pleaded.

"He's Noah, the Godfather of Warstar". Thalia answered.

"Huh?"

She shook her head exasperatedly. "It's a wonder how you never made the connection till now".

"That Noah, when we played with him, we'd have definitely died in that dungeon if not for him. Carrying players of our level to face circumstances of such difficulty, against not just a hidden boss but a final boss too...", she sighed. "Such level of skill is already at the professional level".

"I had my suspicions before but I couldn't confirm until you told me that the person he sent you to meet is called Genevieve".

"Genevieve and Noah...", she looked at him. "Can't you even think?"

"...!"

Now, Nightingale felt bad, he felt like a fool because in that moment, the lightbulb of realization finally lit up in this musician's head as his eyes widened. "Genevieve and Noah..., Noah and Genevieve..., you don't mean...?"

"Yes, that's exactly what we mean". Thalia sighed exasperatedly.

Nightingales' eyes widened as wide as saucers.

"No wonder..."

"That bastard, no wonder he said he doesn't know me!"

"They always said all he cares about is Warstar and he's a sociopath when it comes to any other thing, to think all of it is true..."

Once they deduced the truth, this crew of singers quickly unleashed their fanboy side, raving about the fact that they've played alongside the Godfather of Warstar. It was something worth bragging about.

But then came the questions.

What is Noah doing inside the game?

Is he not supposed to be retired?

And why is he looking to meet Genevieve?

Nightingale may be dense when it came to understanding certain things not related to music but in the end, in his own field, he was still an intelligent genius.

He only needed a few minutes of brainstorming with his crew to arrive at his answer. "The Godfather of Noah is back in the game..., and he's meeting his old teammates..., there can only be one reason for this!"

His eyes widened. "He wants to come back to the pro scene!"

"Does that mean..., he and his friends retiring, was the decision not theirs?"

His eyes widened even further as he came to a realization. "Was the decision forced upon them by Cyber Squad?"

Nightingale suddenly felt angry. "Those bastards! And that bastard manager even cried on Live TV; to think he made me cry over that!"

"Ahem..., " he cleared his throat, trying to hide his embarrassment. "Let's forget about that".

Noticing how giddy he was all of a sudden, Thalia looked at him suspiciously. "Boss, what do you want to do?"

"Enter the game of course!"

"I want to meet the Godfather of Warstar again!"

...

While Nightingale and his crew finally made the realization, inside the game...

{Arcane Strike=}

{Spellblade Flurry=}

{Arcane Riposte=}

{Empowered Slash=}

Bam! Bam! Bam!

A flurry of blade flashes erupted as a single in-game avatar circled the boss, constantly moving and staying at the hidden boss' blind spot while spamming attacks on it, juggling it in the air like a football!

"Damn! This Lord Doom is really good!"

"Such fast APM!"

"He's already at the professional level!"

Even as they admired the expert's skill, they remembered the instructions that the expert gave to them as they kept on supporting with their various skills.

With an arcane strike, Noah's spear struck the boss amid an explosion of arcane energy, briefly knocking the hidden boss back.

The hidden boss of the Monkey Rainforest is the Red King Kong, a powerful monster with a lot of HP and MP of the Berserker class.

After a few runs of the Monkey Rainforest dungeon, Noah finally met the hidden boss for the first time today.

The boss was extremely powerful but with Lord Doom's leadership, this random group of misfits was soloing the hidden boss!

A flurry of attacks later and a red blood state rampage that Noah cleverly suppressed, the hidden boss finally burst into motes of light.

[Congratulations! Your raid party has killed the hidden boss of the Monkey Rainforest, Red King Kong!]

[Congratulations! You have set a 25 consecutive hit combo-record with the Red King Kong!]

[Your raid party rewards shall be doubled!]

[You have been rewarded with XP each!]

[You have been rewarded with Skill Points each!]

[You have received drop rewards!]

...

[You have leveled up to level 11!]

[+1 Strength]

[+1 Intelligence]

[+1 Vitality]

[+1 Spirit]

'Finally, level 11'.

Noah thought casually as his message board dinged with a new message the next moment. Looking at it, he saw that it was a message from Deadly Musician.

Chapter 24: Leveling up [3]

Ding!

[NEW! Unread message!]

[Deadly Musician: Boss, are you in a raid dungeon?]

Deadly Musician barely sent the message the first time when the public announcement board announced a new public record.

'F*ck! A 25-hit combo record?'

'He truly is God Noah!' Nightingale felt like crying on thinking back to how shamelessly he bragged of his skill before this player.

'He truly must have seen me like an incompetent fool shamelessly blowing my horn back then, sigh'.

Noah's leveling speed was at the very forefront of the 11th server players but due to his deliberate leveling speed delay to relay his message to his friends first, other players of big guilds in the server got the first kill of the Red King Kong.

This was why he and his raid party did not get an announcement for it.

But still, his incredible combo move to take out the Red King Kong at the end was recognized by the game system as an incredible show of skill, making them to double their rewards at the end and for it to be announced.

This was how Nightingale knew.

Despite how ashamed he felt at his previous ignorance; Nightingale had a thick skin though; this did not prevent him from messaging Noah.

[Deadly Musician: Boss, to think you'd go ahead and create a new record in the game, you truly are an unmatched expert blessed by the heavens!]

[Deadly Musician: Are you free? We want to dungeon.]

"Brother expert, you want to dungeon again?"

"Please please, let's go again!"

One of the random gamers in the raid party that he joined requested exuberantly, he was clearly a teenager.

Noah didn't mind who he raided dungeons with but since Nightingale and the others already requested, he relented.

He chuckled. "Not now, I already booked a session with someone else. Maybe some other time".

The teenage player who controlled seemed disappointed; his in-game avatar was an Elementalist. "What a pity," he sighed. "Ok then, I can't wait to learn more from expert next time!"

"Ok". With that, Noah left to join Deadly Musician and the others.

Nightingale and his friends were not the only ones in charge of their accounts. After seeing how much they lagged behind compared to Noah's leveling up speed, pressured, they hired a group of gamers to level up their accounts for them.

This was why their in-game avatars were already at level 10.

Once they arrived at the rainforest outside the beginner village, they met up with Noah before entering the Monkey Rainforest dungeon.

As soon as they entered the dungeon and as Noah led the way again, killing monsters, Deadly Musician started talking.

"Boss, to think you were such a big shot in the game".

"Haha, I'm just so-so".

"If you're so-so then I'm just a grain of sand in a desert!"

Noah chuckled. "Your skills are good too".

Nightingale felt like crying. "You're mocking us?"

"Of course not," Noah said even as his Lord Doom used the shockwave from Mana Brust to damage and make the monkeys surrounding them stagger, setting them up for a focused attack.

{Flame Spiral=}

Flame Spiral is a Battle Mage skill that summons spinning fire around the mage's weapon, dealing AOE burn damage with each melee strike.

With that combo, Noah killed 4 Monkeys at the same time even as he continued speaking like he didn't even exert any effort to do it.

"You guys have good hand speed. All you need is to shore up on your understanding of different class skills and the effects of different skill combinations".

"Once you do, you'll become much better in the game".

"But this is not something that you can rush, you take time to master it. You'll only get better through experience".

"Ok boss, I'm willing to learn!"

Nightingale said all of this to bait Noah to say more about himself but he never did, most of his focus was always on the game.

And if he asked a question, Noah answered, he almost never adds to the basic answers, content with giving simple answers only.

'This guy..., maybe this is how all experts are'.

'Yes! Experts usually don't talk much, right?'

In the end, he was forced to say it. "You're God Noah, right?"

"Haha," Noah chuckled. "A lot of people do call me that".

He was not surprised to learn that this raid party already knew his identity, he never intended to hide it in the first place.

First, he already told them his real name and besides, once they learned Genevieve's name, it would take only a fool not to make the connection.

Nightingale looked at Lord Doom seriously. "Boss, I want to confirm, you really don't know Nightingale?"

"Nah".

'So casually!' This musician felt like crying but he laughed. "You really are different from everyone else!" He gushed.

"So, you're retired?"

"Yup".

"What are you doing in the game then?"

"Playing".

"Playing to do what?"

"To play".

"..."

Nightingale chuckled awkwardly. "You don't perhaps have intentions of coming back to the pro scene, right?"

"That is what I intend to do".

"How?"

"I'm not sure yet".

"You'll create a new team?"

"Maybe".

"Wow! Do you have the funding to create a new team?"

"No".

'Such basic answers!' Nightingale felt like crying.

In the end, he got something, answers. Genevieve was right, Noah saw no reason in lying. Instead of lying, he would rather not talk.

Nightingale was able to learn a lot about his plans through the many raids that they went on together.

And from that day on, their relationship deepened.

Every day, Nightingale and his crew entered the game to play and level up with Noah even as they kept on causing a frenzy in the 11th server.

The big guilds of the new server struggled to keep him on a leash.

At first, they thought it was only him but their misery mounted when new experts were discovered in the new server.

"Captain Batman?"

"Enlightened Flame?!"

"Reckless Storm...? Who are these guys?!"

...

1 week later...

The Warstar community boiled with activity, this was because the first round of the 1st edition of the Warstar World Championship finally started.

Chapter 25: Warstar world championship [1]

(Warstar World Championship:)

(Venue: Michigan Stadium)

(1st Round:)

(Team England vs Team Portugal)

(Individual Battle: nil)

(3 vs 3 Battle Rush: nil)

(5 vs 5 Team Battle: nil)

(Location: Random]

...

(Team England Current Points: 0)

(Team Portugal Current Points: 0)

After a meeting by the Warstar committee before the inception of the World Championship, it was decided that Warstar-playing countries would have equal opportunities to bid for the right of hosting the World Championship every year.

For the first edition of the Warstar World Championship, having met all the requirements, U.S.A were the hosts.

The competition format was scheduled to last across a period of 4 days.

The first round of the competition, also the quarterfinals had 4 games in total to be played between the 8 competing countries. Of the 4 games, 2 were scheduled to be played on the first day in Michigan Stadium.

As for the last 2 games of the first round, they were scheduled to be played the next day in a different stadium in the U.S.A, Ohio Stadium.

After the first round, 4 countries would be eliminated, leaving 4 countries to compete in the second round, also the semifinals.

The 2 second round games would be played on the third day were 2 more countries would be eliminated, leaving the 2 most powerful countries in the epic final that would be played on the last day in Metlife Stadium.

Metlife Stadium..., that was where the first champion of the Warstar World Championship would be decided in 3 days.

All 8 competing countries for the first edition of the Warstar World Championship already arrived 2 days earlier in the U.S.

And today, it was finally starting.

The popular stadium in the U.S.A was filled to the brim with passionate eSports fans supporting either of both countries. The fans in white supported England, while those in red supported Portugal.

The atmosphere in this stadium was already electric.

The roar of the crowd was deafening as the professional eSports teams finally stepped into Michigan Stadium, a venue more famous for football than gaming.

The sheer scale of the arena, seating over 100,000 people created a mix of awe and adrenaline.

Neon lights and massive LED screens replaced the usual gridiron layout, casting a futuristic glow over the turf-turned-stage.

For the players, it was a surreal moment.

It was not just a championship where they represented their local city anymore, now, the stakes were higher..., they were representing their country.

They've battled through online qualifiers across a full season of the Warstar Pro Alliance in their various countries. They've gone through grueling training sessions, and sleepless nights perfecting strategies.

Now, the stakes are higher than ever.

Team Phoenix Rising now Team England...

As they walked down the tunnel, the bass from the pre-game hype video vibrated through their chests, filling them with adrenaline.

They exchanged glances, some filled with confidence, others masking nerves.

Gabriel chuckled on seeing the look on his teammates' faces.

The captain of team Phoenix Rising was as stalwart as ever even in the world stage. "Calm down," he said, jokingly gesturing at his chest. "It's just Portugal".

'Just Portugal...,' his teammates thought, feeling incredulous.

And before they knew it, they entered the stage.

Stepping onto the stage, they felt the heat of the spotlights and the gaze of thousands of fans, both in the stadium and those watching from around the world.

The energy was electrifying...

...hands trembled slightly, not from fear but from the raw excitement of competition.

This was more than just a game; it's a proving ground, a spectacle, a dream turned reality.

Inside the gaming booth, with headsets on and fingers poised over keyboards and controllers, the outside noise faded into a dull hum.

It was time..., the only thing that mattered now was the game!

Among those watching was a certain group of esteemed gamers.

In Benjamin's apartment in Birmingham, England, part of the group of friends who once formed the legendary Cyber Squad team huddled together, watching the World Championship first round under dim lighting.

At first, Noah thought he won't have the opportunity to watch the final but bothered by it, somehow, Genevieve was able to find a solution for him.

He could not see, but he could listen.

By logging into her Warstar console and leaving her in-game avatar close to Noah's Lord Doom and keeping the console close to where they watched the final live, Noah was able to participate by listening to the audio, the commentator's voice.

He followed everything as it happened.

As soon as all 10 players competing in the first round logged into their provided Warstar consoles, the game started loading on the big screen.

(Loading...)

(Randomizing Game Location...)

(Randomization complete!)

(Location: Ancient Frost Realm!)

Bzzz!

The 10 players finally appeared inside the game in the big 3-way holographic screen in this program, broadcasting the world inside the game.

It was a mountain range filled with frost.

Both teams appeared at extreme ends of this game location, in a valley at both sides of the frost-filled mountain range.

Immediately after they appeared, the timer started counting down.

(9:59)

Of course, just like in the local Pro Alliance matches, there was a 30-minute timeline for the team battle and a 20-minute timeline for the 3 vs 3 battle rush.

But since the tournament started with the individual battle, this was why a 10-minute timeline was given instead.

The same location would be used for all 3 contest categories of this game.

After knowing the location would each team decide on who to send forward for their individual battle.

{I'll go first.}

Gabriel typed out to his teammates in their group chat.

None of them objected, and so, team England's Paladin entered the individual battle arena of the Ancient Frost Realm.

On team Portugal's side, they also made their choice.

When team England made their choice, sending their captain out first, they saw it. Guess what the reaction of the Portuguese was?

They also sent out their captain, the controller of the strongest avatar in the team Portugal squad, an Elementalist that was extremely popular in the Pro scene in Portugal.

(First Individual Battle locked!)

(Dain Ironvalor vs Flames of Oblivion!)

(Fight=)

Chapter 26: Warstar world championship [2]

(Elementalist Character Flames of Oblivion has been killed!)

(First individual battle: Winner- Dain Ironvalor!)

(+1 point to Team England)

" ... "

There was a deafening silence in the Michigan Stadium.

On the 3-way holographic screen, the virtual battlefield flickered with dying embers of elemental magic, the air still crackling with the lingering aftershocks of the Elementalist's final desperate spell.

The Paladin, battered and barely standing, exhaled sharply even as the victory screen flashed across the colossal holographic screen.

Above the Paladin's head hovered his remaining HP.

{HP: 8/100%}

A sliver of health remained in his bar, that was how close Gabriel came to losing this legendary duel in the biggest eSports stage of all.

A single misstep, a fraction of a second slower on the last parry and the match would have ended differently.

And considering that the Paladin class was more suited to individual battles than an Elementalist was, Gabriel frowned behind his computer screen. 'Difficult,' he thought.

His thoughts didn't get to the spectators though.

BOOM!

The crowd erupted in a mixture of cheers and gasps as soon as the victory screen overlapped on the holographic screen, the tension finally breaking.

Hearing the loud cheers around the stadium, Gabriel, gripping his mouse with white-knuckled intensity slumped back in his chair, releasing a breath he hadn't realized he was holding.

His heart pounded in his ears, his fingers still tingling from the sheer precision required in those last moments.

In the end, he smiled. 'What a battle!'

...

On the other side of the stage, on the other gaming booth, Team Portugal's captain leaned back on his gaming chair, shaking his head with a wry smile, a mix of frustration and admiration swirling in his eyes.

He felt like smashing his keyboard in anger but in the end, he sighed. "What a pity".

He looked towards one of his teammates. "I'm sorry, I couldn't win, it's up to you now".

"Don't worry captain," his teammate smiled. "I'll definitely win!"

Team Portugal's captain looked at his screen again, recalling the last moments of that extremely intense battle.

He had unleashed a relentless storm of fire, ice, and lightning, perfectly utilizing his catalogue of Elementalist skills and pushing the Paladin to the brink.

The final clash had been a blur of steel and raw arcane fury but in the end, the Paladin's resilience had barely outlasted his avatar's overwhelming power.

In his regret, the commentators, barely able to contain their excitement unleashed their commentary skills even as the editors replayed the final moments in slow motion, highlighting Gabriel's heroic finishing attack.

Dain Ironvalor's last-ditch counterattack, Flames of Oblivion's near-successful evasion, every frame was analyzed in agonizing detail.

"What a battle it was!" The commentator raved.

"What a way to kick-start the tournament!"

"Paladin vs Elementalist, England's Paladin comes out on top!"

"Now, Team England are leading by 1 point, can they mount on their advantage?"

...

The second individual battle started soon enough and, in that battle, Portugal's Vice Captain finally showed his prowess, controlling his Berserker in-game avatar to dominate and win against Team England's Battle Mage.

Both teams were tied at a point each after that battle.

For the third individual battle, Team England sent out their Vice Captain who controlled an Elementalist avatar, facing off against Team Portugal's Spellblade.

Team England won the 3rd individual battle, taking 2 points.

After trying each other's hand out in the individual battles, both teams had 5 minutes to rest and strategize in preparation for the 3 vs 3 Battle Rush.

And that was where Gabriel shocked the whole world by pulling off a crazy move, he didn't participate in the 3 vs 3 battle rush!

Led by Team England's Vice Captain, the 3 English players who represented controlled an Elementalist, a Cleric, and a Combat Mage.

Team Portugal saw their chance and they took it without hesitation.

Led by their Captain, the Portugal team went haywire, steamrolling through their opponents as they overwhelmed them.

From beginning to end, Team England was just hanging on.

The game was pushed to last for 18 minutes of the 20 minutes though as with their Cleric's help, Team England was able to survive all the way.

In attack, they tried their best, dealing significant damage to their rivals but after a grueling battle, Team Portugal won the 3 vs 3 battle rush with 2 survivors and 1 of the 2 survivors having more than half of his HP remaining.

"A weird decision by the Team England Captain". The commentator finally voiced out his thoughts.

"Now, his team are trailing 2 to Team Portugal's 4 points, can they do a comeback in the team battle?"

"But after winning the 3 vs 3 Battle Rush in such tyrannical fashion, clearly, the momentum is on Team Portugal's side".

"My money is on Team Portugal progressing to the next round of the World Championship!"

The commentator didn't have to wait long to put his money to the test.

Both teams had a rest of 5 minutes and then they entered the arena again, this time settling back in the location where they first appeared in the Ancient Frost Realm, separated by a steep mountain range.

The team battle was always the decider in any playoff Warstar game.

With 5 points to be awarded, it held the key to the life and death of any team competing in a professional Warstar championship.

For this team battle, both teams started with their strongest lineups.

On Team England's side, they started with their infamous all-offensive lineup of 2 Elementalists, 1 Warlock, 1 Combat Mage, and of course led by Gabriel's Paladin, Dain Ironvalor.

As for Team Portugal, they started with a balanced but formidable lineup that was led by their Captain's Elementalist, Flames of Oblivion.

Apart from the Elementalist, their team comprised of a Spellblade, a Berserker, an Elementalist, a Gunner, and a Cleric.

It was the deciding battle of this World Championship first round battle.

The stakes were high...

As for the situation, it looked like this.

(Warstar World Championship:)

(Venue: Michigan Stadium)

(1st Round:)

(Team England vs Team Portugal)

(Individual Battle: 2 points – 1 point)

(3 vs 3 Battle Rush: Winner- Team Portugal; 2 points)

(5 vs 5 Team Battle: Ongoing)

(Location: Ancient Frost Realm]

...

(Team England Current Points: 2)

(Team Portugal Current Points: 3)

Under the bright spotlights of the eSports world in Michigan Stadium in the U.S.A, 2 legendary teams clashed in a battle for supremacy.

Which would reign supreme?

Chapter 27: Warstar world championship [3]

(Team Battle locked!)

(Team England vs Team Portugal!)

(Fight=)

It was the moment of truth.

Both squads were champions having won the Warstar RPG Champions League in their various Pro leagues. They were both winners, they've tasted the joy of success, now they brought this insatiable hunger to a bigger stage.

The Ancient Frost Realm stretched before them, a vast, snow-laden mountain range where icy winds howl through jagged cliffs.

At both ends of the battlefield where deep valleys serve as the teams' starting points, their cold depths were obscured by a rolling frost mist.

Towering ice spires provide vantage points, while frozen rivers crisscross the terrain, some sturdy, others threatening to crack beneath heavy footsteps.

Snowflakes swirl lazily in the air, masking movement but also making visibility a challenge. The low visibility added an extra layer of mystery and tension to this final clash, especially to the tens of thousands of watching spectators.

The tension was palpable as both teams load into the match.

The energy in the arena was electric; fans in the massive Michigan Stadium watched, breaths held as the final battle of this first round battle began.

Both teams didn't employ any fancy strategies in approaching each other. There are only so many locations available in the pro scene in Warstar, as elite professional Warstar players, they were used to almost all of the locations if not all.

They knew that a location like the Ancient Frost Realm did not allow any complicated maneuvers or insidious strategies, this was why they approached each other in a straightforward manner.

After just 2 minutes, they met at the top of the frosty mountain range.

And then... it started.

From the onset, team Portugal started aggressively.

{Frenzied Strikes=}

Frenzied Strikes is a low-level Berserker skill that unleashes a series of rapid melee attacks, increasing attack speed with each hit.

At the highest competitive stage, elite Berserkers use it not for the meagre damage it dealt but for the increase in attack speed.

Team Portugal's Berserker, a hulking force of nature started with this skill, roaring and charging forward, his massive axe splitting through the frost-covered ground in a raw display of might.

Behind him, the Spellblade dashed in quick, controlled bursts, his enchanted blade flashing with cold fire.

The core of this team, Flames of Oblivion, the Elementalist hovered just above a frozen ridge, summoning shards of ice that soon rained down like a hailstorm, forcing Team England to scatter.

But Team England was prepared.

They didn't scatter in panic, it was all predicted and premeditated by Gabriel, Team England's master strategist.

Activating a skill, Team England's Warlock, cloaked in a swirling vortex of dark energy raised a hand and suddenly, the battlefield changed.

Bzzz!

Shadows stretched unnaturally over the ice, tendrils of darkness slowing down the Berserker's advance.

Taking advantage of that window of opportunity, one of England's Elementalists countered with a fire wave skill, melting the ice beneath the Berserker's feet, forcing him to retreat before he plunged into the frigid depths below.

Falling in there was akin to suicide since it would render him defenseless against the definite retaliation of the English pro players.

While all this happened, meanwhile, Portugal's Gunner already positioned himself atop an icy outcrop, locking onto targets.

{Deadeye=}

{Piercing Shot=}

The Gunner activated 2 skills.

Deadeye increased critical hit chance for a short time and slows time when aiming, while Piercing Shot fires a high-velocity round that is capable of piercing through multiple enemies.

BAM!

A thunderous sniper shot echoed through the icy mountains and England's Combat Mage reacted, barely dodging in time, his fluttering cloak singed by the bullet's heat.

The battle was aggressive and intense but soon, the situation changed.

The weather itself turned against them.

In Warstar, in most location arenas, it was not just enemy players that you worry about, you also take the location itself and its likely hazards into the equation.

BZZZ!

A map-wide blizzard event suddenly activated, limiting visibility as sheets of snow descended, forcing both teams to fight in near white-out conditions.

While others cowered in the sudden uncertainty, a certain opportunist pounced.

Dain Ironvalor pounced!

Gabriel's Paladin took advantage of the sudden chaos, activating his radiant shield with a skill as he transformed into a beacon in the storm.

He charged forward, breaking through the fog and colliding with the Spellblade, their weapons clashing in an explosion of sparks and ice.

Portugal's Cleric reacted immediately, supporting the Spellblade as she fought desperately to keep her teammates alive.

Standing firm in the heart of the storm, she cast wave after wave of divine healing, keeping Team Portugal's players in the fight.

But in a chaotic battle of this level, things happen extremely fast.

Having been waiting in the shadows, England's Warlock took advantage of the temporary moment when the enemy Cleric was isolated, channeling a shadow curse and corrupting the snow beneath the Cleric's feet.

Tendrils of void magic quickly snaked upward, draining the Cleric's strength.

Sensing an opening, England's dual Elementalist coordinated their attacks, one summoning a volcanic fissure while the other called down a lightning storm, striking the frozen terrain and sending shockwaves through the battlefield.

BOOM!

The shockwave echoed with power.

The explosion disoriented Team Portugal, and that was the opening that Team England sought to make their decisive move.

At this point of the epic clash, HP were already low and dwindling.

With Team Portugal reeling, their talisman, Flames of Oblivion reacted, desperately launching one final attack, a colossal ice spear aimed directly at Team England's core formation.

Whoosh!

It hurtled through the air, deadly and precise.

In all the chaos, to maintain such precise aim showed this player's skill.

But at the last moment, England's Combat Mage blinked into the path having used his class's teleportation skill, Blink Step, absorbing the attack with a mana barrier that he hastily cast.

It was not any mana barrier though.

It didn't just absorb the attack, it also channeled the raw energy and redirected it, straight into the enemy Gunner's perch.

BAM!

The ice-covered cliff shattered beneath the Gunner's feet, sending him plummeting into the abyss below.

Team Portugal, now outnumbered and exposed tried to regroup but Captain Gabriel's Dain Ironvalor and his team's Warlock had other ideas as they pressed forward aggressively.

Portugal's Berserker, fueled by desperation used a High-Level skill.

{Blood Sacrifice=}

Blood Sacrifice is a high-level Berserker skill that spends a portion of health to greatly enhance damage for a short time. It's upgraded form also increased critical hit chance during the effect.

This Berserker's Blood Sacrifice was upgraded.

"...!"

In that moment, the spectators in Michigan Stadium held their breaths, watching with unblinking eyes.

Entering the Berserk state after Blood Sacrifice, the Berserker lunged at Gabriel's Paladin for one final, reckless attack.

KABOOM...!!!

The impact shook the battlefield, creating a storm of steel and powerful explosions but as the dust settled, it was Dain Ironvalor who remained standing.

{Hehe, this Lord is not dying yet!}

Gabriel still found the time to taunt in the public chat.

With their last hope defeated, Team Portugal finally faltered.

Portugal's Flames of Oblivion tried to turn the situation around next but he was the 3rd Portugal player to fall. The final blow came from the Warlock who called down a meteor of dark energy, engulfing the battlefield in darkness and dealing massive area damage.

It was a Warlock skill above high level, an Awakened level Warlock skill.

{Doomsday=}

The rampaging dark energy left a lingering area of shadow behind after it's rampage that continued damaging enemies over time.

When the magic finally dissipated, only 3 of Team England's players remained on the frost-covered arena.

The word victory flashed across the stadium screens.

Chapter 28: Warstar world championship [4]

The word victory flashed across the stadium screens.

"...!"

In Michigan Stadium in the U.S.A, there was deafening silence in this stadium as the crowd took a few seconds to react.

And when they did, they erupted into cheers, fists pumping in the air.

"Team England!" "Team England!" "Team England!"

They cheered at the top of their lungs.

At this moment, this stadium seemed to transform into a weird representation of the legendary yin and yang. All England supporters represented the yang, feeling on top of the world as they celebrated their country's victory.

As for the Portugal supporters, they were very much subdued, quiet and somber, silently observing the joy of the England supporters and wondering about what could have been.

Amid the fan excitement, the commentators also screamed in excitement, breaking down the key moments of this epic team battle; the precise counterplays, the environmental tactics, the sheer brilliance of the final gambit.

All of it was unforgettable to those who watched it live.

On stage, Team England's players finally reacted in their gaming booths as they removed their headsets, their faces a mix of exhaustion and exhilaration.

That game was extremely exhausting, but boy was it worth it!

"Come on," Gabriel grinned. "Don't hold back, let's celebrate!"

They exchanged handshakes, backslaps, and even a few triumphant grins as they celebrated their iconic victory while the camera focused on them, matching their energy with that of their excited fans.

Across from them in the other gaming booth, coming out, Team Portugal players maintained their sportsmanship as they nodded in respect.

Of course, they were dejected but they did give their all out there on the arena so they had no regrets.

It was the first game of the inaugural Warstar RPG World Championship but it had been a battle for the ages, one that would be studied, debated, and remembered in eSports history.

The Ancient Frost Realm, once an icy wasteland, now holds the echoes of an unforgettable war.

(Warstar World Championship:)

(Venue: Michigan Stadium)

(1st Round:)

(Team England vs Team Portugal)

(Individual Battle: 2 points – 1 point)

(3 vs 3 Battle Rush: Winner- Team Portugal; 2 points)

(5 vs 5 Team Battle: Winner- Team England; 5 points)

(Location: Ancient Frost Realm]

...

(Team England Total Points: 7)

(Team Portugal Current Points: 3)

...

(Winner: Team England!)

The first game of the World Championship was over and while Team Portugal was sent packing out of the tournament, Team England progressed to the next stage of the tournament, the 2nd round.

After the first exciting 1st round game between Team England and Team Portugal, there was a time gap of an hour before the next game of the day.

During that hour, the fans were given the opportunity to relax and let the unforgettable game that they just bore witness in to sink in their heads.

An hour later, the second game of the first day started.

The competing countries were Team Germany and Team China.

...

(Warstar World Championship:)

(Venue: Michigan Stadium)

(1st Round:)

(Team Germany vs Team China)

(Individual Battle: 1 point – 2 points)

(3 vs 3 Battle Rush: Winner- Team China; 2 points)

(5 vs 5 Team Battle: Winner- Team China; 5 points)

(Location: Enormous Floating Citadel]

...

(Team Germany Total Points: 1)

(Team China Current Points: 9)

Who said the game between England and Portugal was the best spectacle that Pro Warstar had ever produced?

The second game of the first day beat the record of Gabriel's England's historic win over Team Portugal.

Team China... was scary.

Led by their infamous captain, Meng Yu Wa, Team China literally steamrolled their way through Germany's team with imperious power and skill.

In the individual battle, Captain Meng Yu Wa started first for the Chinese team with his infamous Blademaster avatar, Autumn Rain.

There are rumors that in real life, Meng Yu Wa was a martial artist. No one knew for sure, but his skill with his Blademaster avatar were unparalleled in the Warstar eSports scene.

In the individual battle, he didn't just beat his opponent, beating was an understatement. Rather, he mutilated him, dissected him apart, rendered him helpless in the face of Mount Tai.

It was a humiliation and that set the tone for the rest of the contest.

In the 2nd individual battle, Team Germany's captain took the stage to help his country win back some prestige and morale. He did win against Team China's representative, and that ended up being the only point that they got in the contest.

In the 3rd individual battle, Team China's representative won and then in the 3 vs 3 battle rush, it was a blood bath.

Meng Yu Wa led his team to a completely one-sided victory to the joy of the spectating Chinese fans as they kept on roaring at the top of their lungs.

"It's coming home!" They sang in Chinese.

The Chinese fans were absolutely confident that their national team was bringing the first edition of the Warstar RPG World Championship home.

In the team battle against Team Germany, their national team indeed proved their credentials, once again orchestrated and led by Meng Yu Wa.

The team battle was one for the ages.

The location for their battle was the Enormous Floating Citadel. The Enormous Floating Citadel is another famous location in the game, an enormous floating citadel suspended above a storm-ridden abyss.

Both national teams let it all out in this final showdown for supremacy.

Arcane storms raged, bullets ricocheted and steel clashed against magic in a dazzling display of skill, precision, and raw power.

In the end, the Chinese Captain dominated again as in this team battle, his talents truly shown, completing an incredible 1 vs 3 win in the biggest stage of Warstar RPG, the World Championship stage.

His battle was one for the ages.

Team China won the battle with only 1 of their players dead, it was an overwhelming victory.

And with that, day 1 of the Warstar RPG World Championship was concluded.

Team Portugal and Team Germany dropped out of the tournament, while Team China and Team England progressed into the 2nd round.

Chapter 29: Rule change

Birmingham City, England...

"Damn! This Meng Yu Wa...," Benjamin muttered as he watched the end of the team battle between Team Germany and Team China.

Caleb furrowed his brows as he stared at the smart TV. "I've heard of him before. I always knew he was gone, but I never knew he was this good".

Genevieve nodded, echoing their thoughts.

As they spoke, the gaming console and computer screen behind them was silent as Noah listened through everything that happened in the game between Team Germany and Team China.

Suddenly feeling mischievous, Benjamin inclined his head to look back at the computer screen. "Hehe, you're not quaking in your boots now, are you?"

Noah chuckled from inside the game. "Why should I?"

"Say the truth," Benjamin said with a mischievous grin on his face. "You and this Meng Yu Wa, in a 1 vs 1, he would win, right?"

Noah answered immediately.

"Nah, I'd win".

"Shameless!" Benjamin trolled but Noah ignored him.

Caleb looked at the computer screen. "So, what will you be doing now?"

"You phrased that wrongly," Noah chuckled. "It's not what I should be doing now, but rather what we should be doing now".

"If watching that did not motivate you, I don't know what else can".

At this moment, stuck inside the game in his Lord Doom avatar, Sam could feel his body trembling with excitement.

His eyes burned with competitive fire. "You ask what we should be doing now? Of course, leveling up!"

"You guys are the ones holding me back".

"Go and level up fast!"

"I want all of us to get to level 20 as soon as possible so we can take on the other unique skill challenge and determine our fate from there".

"I don't know about you guys, but I'm more motivated than ever to play in the Warstar RPG World Championship".

"I thought the Warstar RPG Champions League was the pinnacle," he smiled. "But I was wrong".

"Watching them, I realized that there's something even higher to aim for".

"I'm determined to aim for it!"

"Meet you guys in the game!"

With that, Noah trudged off, already thinking of the next hidden boss that he would kill to get the most XP and level up.

With him gone, the 3 other friends in this room looked at each other.

Genevieve shrugged. "He's right, we have to level up our new avatars".

"..."

Noticing the unusual silence, Genevieve and Caleb looked at Benjamin. He grinned, that was exactly what he wanted.

He sighed. "I have gazed into the abyss, tamed the storms of destiny, and shattered the chains of fate itself; all in pursuit of ultimate power!"

Genevieve rolled her eyes.

He chuckled. "...Okay, fine, I just grinded side quests in Warstar until I hit level 50 but still, FEAR ME!"

Genevieve glared at him. "Get your lazy fat ass inside the game!"

A few minutes later, they all logged inside the game.

The grind for levels started.

...

An hour after Genevieve and her friends logged into the game to grind for levels, the official Warstar RPG World Championship committee released a public statement in their official X social media handle.

(SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!)

(Special Rule Change Notice!)

(Good day fans, the first edition of battles in the 1st round of the World Championship are officially over. We hope you enjoyed the spectacle.)

(Before the 1st round started, our board of directors have been speculating over a rule change in the tournament but we decided to wait till we watch the first edition of contest battles to decide.)

(After the battles today, our board of directions finally made their decision.)

(A rule change has been implemented regarding the point reward system used in the World Championship tournament.)

(From today, effective immediately, the 10-point system that was utilized on the first day has been changed to an 11-point system.)

(The points for the individual battles and team battle shall remain unchanged at 3 and 5 assigned points respectively, but for the 3 vs 3 battle rush, the rewarded points will be upgraded to 3 points.)

(We understand that this defers from what you're used to but we have our reasons for this change.)

(What if a national team wins all 3 individual battles and the 3 vs 3 battle rush, amassing 5 points in total only to lose all their advantage due to their opponents winning the team battle?)

(Since this is not the league, this will force us to implement a subsidiary tournament to decide the outcome of the games.)

(To avoid this, we decided to implement the 11-point system.)

(Also, with this, national teams can win games early if they manage to win all 3 individual battles and the 3 vs 3 battle rush, amassing 6 points in total.)

(We believe that this rule change will add another layer of competitive energy to this tournament, making it even more exciting to our fans.)

...

(Signed: Board of Directors)

The sudden rule change took the Warstar community by surprise but due to the lengthy explanation, the fans were able to understand the reasoning of the board of directors and it made sense.

This sudden rule change built even more anticipation for the day 2 games, the fans could not wait to see how the rule change would affect the games.

...

1 day later...

Time moved fast and in no time, it was already 24 hours since Meng Yu Wa put out that unforgettable display at the highest stage of Warstar with his Autumn Rain avatar; it was time for the 2nd round games.

For the second day games of the 1st round, Japan took on Argentina first while Canada later took on U.S.A, the hosts.

The fans bore witness to more exciting spectacles but, in the end, it could not compare to the action that they witnessed in the first day.

After 2 more exciting battles, this time in Ohio Stadium in the U.S.A, the final slots for the 2nd round were confirmed.

Japan and U.S.A progressed to the 2nd round after grueling battles where they eventually prevailed against their opponents.

The 2nd round draw was finally revealed to the fans.

(Warstar World Championship:)

(Venue: Beaver Stadium)

(2nd Round:)

(Team U.S.A vs Team Japan)

...

(Team England vs Team China)

Chapter 30: 2nd round

(Warstar World Championship:)

(Venue: Beaver Stadium)

(2nd Round:)

(Team U.S.A vs Team Japan)

(Individual Battle: nil)

(3 vs 3 Battle Rush: Winner- Team U.S.A; 0 points)

(5 vs 5 Team Battle: Winner- Team Japan; 0 points)

(Location: Ancient Geyser Coliseum]

The location for the first battle of the 2nd round was another popular location in the game, the Ancient Geyser Coliseum.

Like its name implied, the location was a giant coliseum that was isolated from the rest of the world. The coliseum was erected on top a lake that throws forth intermittent jets of heated water and steam that can damage in-game avatars.

All 4 national teams that made it to the 2nd round were powerful, their games were posed to be extremely competitive.

When it finally started, the expectations of the fans were met.

In the individual battles, Team Japan's more powerful avatars dominated as they won 2 of the 3 individual battles, ending it as the advantaged side.

When the 3 vs 3 battle rush started, Japan once again dominated, showing their superior eSports development compared to the U.S.A.

The host nation was not ready to bow out of the tournament without putting up a fight though. Buoyed by the loud noise that was being made by their fans, and led by their captain, the U.S.A team played like their life was on the line.

Individually, they may be disadvantaged but one advantage of Team U.S.A was their good teamwork.

In the coliseum, they pushed the Japanese team all the way, leaving only one of their avatars alive when Japan eventually won.

By the end of the 3 vs 3 Battle Rush, Japan had a big advantage.

(Team U.S.A Total Points: 1)

(Team Japan Total Points: 5)

Due to the rule change, instead of just 2 points, Team Japan got 3 points from the 3 vs 3 battle rush.

"Wow! Japan is imperious!" The commentators raved.

"U.S.A need a miracle to turn this around!"

"I don't see a way out for them, but who knows? Miracles do happen sometimes, maybe we get to witness one today".

Japan were seemingly on their way to steamrolling through the hosts, repeating Team China's yesterday thrashing of their opponents and booking a place for themselves in the final of the World Championship when a crazy plot twist resulted at the end of the team battle.

For the team battle, both national teams pulled out all stops.

Team Japan's lineup took a basic raiding pattern, comprising of a Blademaster and a Combat Mage, the main DPS members, a Paladin, the tank, a Cleric, the healer, and an Elementalist. A Mechanic was their reserve avatar.

Their lineup comprised of a basic raiding class combination, but it was what made them formidable. All of them were good at what they do.

Japan's captain, the controller of the Combat Mage was especially fearsome.

As for Team U.S.A, they were relatively new to pro Warstar compared to early adopter countries like China, England, and Japan who started all the way from the 1st Warstar server.

Team U.S.A comprised of a radical line-up and combination of classes.

The U.S.A team comprised of 2 Psychics, a Blademaster, a Mechanic, and a Cleric, a class combination that is not very popular in the pro scene.

But with this line up, the Americans caused an upset.

They created a miracle under the brightest lights of the Warstar pro community, in front of tens of thousands of their home fans.

Team U.S.A won after a grueling battle, theirs was a clever victory.

Team Japan was the superior side but the Americans approached the team battle with a very concrete combat strategy in mind.

Led by their captain, the Mechanic controller, they employed a strategy that was centered around their 2 Psychics, a class that was renowned as disrupters on the battlefield.

With the Psychics, they were able to maximize their use of the terrain.

The Ancient Geyser Coliseum throws forth intermittent jets of heated water and steam that are lethal to players.

Team U.S.A's strategy was forcing Team Japan into places that they wanted where the environmental hazard of the Ancient Geyser Coliseum was higher, and there, they disrupted the enemy avatars with the 2 Psychics' insidious skills.

With skills like Telekinetic Pull, a skill that pulls an enemy or object towards the psychic, interrupting actions or repositioning them, they always had the Japan players at exactly where they wanted for the environment to deal massive damage to them on their behalf.

Others like Levitate, a psychic skill that lifts an enemy or object into the air, immobilizing them for a short time also played big roles in the massive upset victory.

Psychics had an abundance of skills like this. Others like Psychic Scream, a skill that releases a mental shockwave that disorients enemies.

Others like Suggestion, a skill that influences an enemy's mind, causing them to hesitate or stand idle briefly depending on the difference in the spirit attributes of the target and the psychic.

Others like Mind Spike, a psychic skill that sends a sharp psychic jolt into an enemy's mind, dealing damage and interrupting their actions.

Japan was caught off-guard by their opponents' unconventional strategy, but in the end, the most credit went to Team U.S.A's flawless execution of their plan.

The 2 Psychics were the MVP of this epic team battle, singlehandedly propelling Team U.S.A to victory over a superior Japan team.

They created a big upset in the biggest stage.

(Team U.S.A Total Points: 6)

(Team Japan Total Points: 5)

...

(Winner: Team U.S.A!)

"..."

"..."

".....!"

Beaver Stadium was silenced, except the ecstatic roars and screams of the excited American home fans.

It was so close.

And just like that, Team Japan was eliminated from the tournament.

Team U.S.A progressed to the first iteration of the final of the Warstar RPG World Championship.

...

After an hour of rest to take it all in, a new set of fans gathered at Beaver Stadium, a set of fans of either the English persuasion or the Chinese persuasion.

It was time for a clash of titans.

(Warstar World Championship:)

(Venue: Beaver Stadium)

(2nd Round:)

(Team England vs Team China)

(Individual Battle: nil)

(3 vs 3 Battle Rush: Winner- Team England; 0 points)

(5 vs 5 Team Battle: Winner- Team China; 0 points)

(Location: NetherRealm]

Beaver Stadium was filled to the brim as after their exciting 1st round games, record-breaking attendance numbers were recorded today as eSports fans came in droves to watch the 2 proclaimed 2 best teams in the tournament clash.

Team England started with their regular all-offensive lineup of Gabriel's Paladin, 2 Elementalists, 1 Warlock, and 1 Combat Mage.

As for Team China, they also started with their regular lineup of Meng Yu Wa's Blademaster, 1 Summoner, 1 Elementalist, 1 Launcher, and 1 Cleric.

It was dubbed the battle of Gabriel and Meng Yu Wa!