

## Reincarnated Avatar; I got 2 SSS-Rank Unique Skills

### #Chapter 221: Rivalry [13] - Read Reincarnated Avatar; I got 2 SSS-Rank Unique Skills Chapter 221: Rivalry [13]

*Chapter 221: Rivalry [13]*

---<VICTORY>---

[Cyber Squad: 5 points]

[Scarlet Rose: 5 points]

For the second time this season, after playing a 5-5 draw at the Crimson Arena earlier in the season, Cyber Squad and Scarlet Rose did it again.

Both clubs shared a point each.

And of course, it was an epic. It did not hit the English Pro Alliance as much as Echelon's 10-0 against Phoenix Rising did, but pundits doubted if anything like that could happen again this season.

That 10-0 thrashing at the Stanford Bridge was peak Warstar. It could not be eclipsed.

Before the final epic clash of matchday 26 though, fans of the English Pro Alliance finally paid attention to the league table again.

This was because all 4 of the top 4 clubs already played their games.

[English Pro Alliance League Table – Matchday 25]

- 1) Echelon – MP: 26; Points: 74
- 2) Scarlet Rose – MP: 26; Points: 71
- 3) Cyber Squad – MP: 26; Points: 71
- 4) Phoenix Rising – MP: 26; Points: 67
- 5) Juggernaut – MP: 25; Points: 58

Once again, Echelon drew ahead of the others by 3 whooping points.

And this was after 26 matchdays of the season were played.

There were 12 games remaining for the season to be concluded. Of course, a lot could happen in 12 matchdays, but with the way Echelon was playing, nobody saw them falling anytime soon.

The third and final blockbuster encounter of matchday 26 was between Juggernaut and Steel Dominion, fierce candidates for the top 6 playoffs qualification battle.

Like expected, both teams didn't hold anything back, going into the game with their all as Steel Dominion visited Juggernaut's home stadium.

Earlier in the season, the 7th-ranked club in the league table, Steel Dominion already lost to Juggernaut in their home stadium.

Now, they visited their opponent's home stadium with an ambitious goal of getting revenge.

No neutral fan saw them getting their revenge. If they could not do it in their home stadium, they can't do it in away ground.

That's what the average Warstar fan thought, but Steel Dominion thought different. They went to Juggernaut's home to get only one result... a victory.

After an epic battle that left Warstar fans stunned, the result came.

---<VICTORY>---

[Juggernaut: 4 points]

[Steel Dominion: 6 points]

It was another shocker in the English Pro Alliance.

With the kind of imperious form that Juggernaut was on, nobody expected them to lose against Steel Dominion at home.

And yet, this was reality.

Steel Dominion won.

As expected, Juggernaut dominated the individual battle round and the 3 vs 3 battle rush, but Steel Dominion managed to steal a point in the individual battle round. That became the catalyst for the turn-around.

When the team battle started, it was all Juggernaut. Nobody expected Steel Dominion to stand a chance, the prediction was for them to be blown away by Juggernaut's aggression but the visitors shocked the Warstar community.

The visitors came with a plan, and they executed it successfully.

Steel Dominion targeted Juggernaut's captain, executing a devious plan to assassinate the strongest Juggernaut player. As soon as the captain died within mere 30 seconds after the team battle started, the tides turned.

Steel Dominion rode that sudden momentum to the end, shocking their opponents and shocking the Warstar community.

With that, matchday 26 of the English Pro Alliance came to an end.

What a matchday it was.

The English Pro Alliance table updated one last time.

[English Pro Alliance League Table – Matchday 25]

- 1) Echelon – MP: 26; Points: 74
- 2) Scarlet Rose – MP: 26; Points: 71
- 3) Cyber Squad – MP: 26; Points: 71
- 4) Phoenix Rising – MP: 26; Points: 67
- 5) Juggernaut – MP: 26; Points: 58

Juggernaut and Phoenix Rising were the big losers of matchday 26.

But that did not mean the top 4 rivalry stopped, rather, the results of matchday 26 only intensified the rivalry.

Now, the top clubs had no margin for error.

If they wanted to achieve their goals for the season, they had to have a perfect run from matchday 27 till the end of the season.

It was a crazy goal, but it became the main objective of the top 5 clubs.

...

Time flowed, the English Pro Alliance continued.

Matchday 27 came, and passed.

After stumbling to their rivals in matchday 26, Phoenix Rising picked up the slack on matchday 27, both charging to statement 9-1 victories against their opponents as their opponents became the foil to wipe off their humiliation.

The other top clubs didn't falter either as they all won their games, adding more 3 points to their tally for the season.

After matchday 27, Echelon rose all the way to 77 points, Scarlet Rose and Cyber Squad to 74 points, Phoenix Rising to 70 points, while Juggernaut jumped to 61 points. Steel Dominion kept the chase as they secured all 3 points.

...

Matchday 28.

On matchday 28, there was a blockbuster encounter as Echelon faced their second big challenge of the second half of the season.

Having won against Cyber Squad in their first encounter of the season, in a game where Noah and his friends received the proper farewell that they deserved from Cyber Squad fans, now, they had to take on their old club again.

This time, Cyber Squad was the one who traveled to Stanford Bridge.

After what happened to Phoenix Rising just 2 matchdays ago, Echelon developed an imperious reputation in the league. They were viewed as the villains now, the one club that every fan of the game paid attention to.

They wanted to see them create more history, but at the same time they were excited to see the club that would finally break Echelon's unbeaten run.

Could Cyber Squad do it?

Well, after analyzing all week, Caster decided not to take the same risk that Jonathan took against them, betting it all in the team battle.

After what Echelon did to Phoenix Rising who employed a similar strategy, Caster was not confident in his team overwhelming Echelon in the team battle.

And so, to prevent an embarrassing situation like the one Phoenix Rising found themselves in, Caster went all in during the individual battle round, pushing his team to 2 wins in the individual battle.

At the end of the 3 vs 3 battle rush, Echelon had 3 points while they had 2 points.

And then, they fought an epic team battle.

Caster and team Cyber Squad pushed their opponents all the way, and yet, they could not do it.

Lord Doom was the last man standing in the arena.

"LORD DOOM!" "LORD DOOM!" "LORD DOOM!"

Chants exploded around Stanford Bridge.

---<VICTORY>---

[Echelon: 8 points]

[Cyber Squad: 2 points]

It was not a flawless victory, but Echelon got 3 more points.

They were unstoppable.

The other top clubs played their games, all winning in matchday 28 and at the end of it all, the league table was updated again.

[English Pro Alliance League Table – Matchday 28]

- 1) Echelon – MP: 28; Points: 80
- 2) Scarlet Rose – MP: 28; Points: 77
- 3) Cyber Squad – MP: 28; Points: 74
- 4) Phoenix Rising – MP: 28; Points: 73
- 5) Juggernaut – MP: 28; Points: 64

Cyber Squad lost 3 points on the matchday, but they were still 3rd placed in the title race.

This season was building the founding blocks for the most exciting title race ever in the history of the English Pro Alliance.

Echelon could not rest after defeating Cyber Squad though.

They were in their period of fixture of death. A week after taking on Cyber Squad, on matchday 29, Echelon took on Scarlet Rose, traveling to the dreaded Crimson Arena where Scarlet Rose fans gave the table toppers a hostile welcome.

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Matchday 29.

Scarlet Rose vs Echelon.

Like most clubs this season, having lost against Echelon in their first leg encounter already, now the pressure was on Scarlet Rose to get their revenge.

No other club have managed it this season, could Jonathan and his Scarlet Rose do it? The odds were not in their favor, but Jonathan did it.

Well, he didn't exactly win, but he drew the game.

[Scarlet Rose: 5 points]

[Echelon: 5 points]

What an epic.

It was another English Pro Alliance classic.

From the onset, Scarlet Rose fans turned the Crimson Arena into a cage of hate and noise with which they aimed to suffocate the Echelon players.

The stadium was as loud as a chicken pen.

Despite that though, when the epic individual battle between God Noah and Jonathan started, like expected, God Noah won.

And with it, Scarlet Rose switched to plan B.

Echelon claimed a clean sweep of the individual battle and the 3 vs 3 battle rush, but in the team battle was where crazy things happened.

The team battle was vintage Jonathan, the saga of the shameless Paladin.

Jonathan used a crazy and extremely toxic strategy for the team battle, abusing the advantage of the terrain to rapidly bombard Echelon's Avatars, dealing damage before hiding and scurrying away for the rest of the game.

For 30 minutes, this was all Scarlet Rose did.

It was embarrassing, it was boring, it was not sportsmanlike, but who cared? All that mattered was that they didn't lose, and the Scarlet Rose fans applauded it.

This was their captain, and they loved him like that.

At the end of the game, Jonathan chants filled the Crimson Arena.

"Jonathan!" "Jonathan!" "Jonathan!"

The other top clubs won their matchday 29 games, and once again, the English Pro Alliance table updated.

[English Pro Alliance League Table – Matchday 28]

- 1) Echelon – MP: 29; Points: 81
- 2) Scarlet Rose – MP: 29; Points: 78
- 3) Cyber Squad – MP: 29; Points: 77
- 4) Phoenix Rising – MP: 29; Points: 76
- 5) Juggernaut – MP: 29; Points: 65

Juggernaut drew their matchday 29 game.

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[English Pro Alliance League Table – Matchday 29]

- 1) Echelon – MP: 29; Points: 81
- 2) Scarlet Rose – MP: 29; Points: 78
- 3) Cyber Squad – MP: 29; Points: 77
- 4) Phoenix Rising – MP: 29; Points: 76
- 5) Juggernaut – MP: 29; Points: 65

This was how the English Pro Alliance table looked like after matchday 29.

In the second half of the season, Scarlet Rose showed exactly what they were made of in their matchday 29 encounter. They showed just how shameless they were, and to what lengths they could go just to win.

Where Cyber Squad failed in the 2nd half of the season, even Phoenix Rising, all losing to a rampant Club Echelon, Scarlet Rose managed to do it.

It was Echelon's first draw in the 2nd half of the season.

The repercussions of that draw?

It ignited the title race in the English Pro Alliance, making the title race even more steep as the top 5 clubs dug deep for the final 9 matchdays of the season.

The situation especially in Phoenix Rising's stadium in London changed a lot.

It was no news that Gabriel was one of the most carefree and easygoing captains in the league, leading his team with a more laidback attitude, but after the 10-0 loss against Echelon, Gabriel switched it up.

For the first time since he started his career as a professional player, and for the first time since he became Phoenix Rising's captain, Gabriel exerted his authority in the team.

For the first time, he set rules for his team.

"No late night sleeping!"

"No all-night gaming sessions!"

"No missing of training sessions!"

"No missing of game analysis sessions!"

"A mandatory meditation session an hour before each game!"

These were just some of the many rules that Gabriel introduced to his teammates on the wake of the 10-0 flawless defeat against Echelon.

Having played against God Noah long ago when he just entered the English Pro Alliance as a newbie, then, Gabriel admitted defeat, acknowledging God Noah as a better and more skilled Warstar player than he was.

But 2 seasons ago, after that event-filled Warstar RPG Champions League final where his team faced the G.O.A.T and won against his team in the final, officially dethroning God Noah, Gabriel thought he finally did it.

He thought he was now better than God Noah.

He didn't thought, he believed.



Gabriel embraced this belief after that night. He never expected God Noah and his teammates to suddenly retire in the wake of the game, but he thought he made them retire, solidifying his belief that he was now the best player in the league.

So in the next season, when the English Pro Alliance publicity team started the propaganda, branding him as the best Warstar player in England, he no longer avoided it.

Rather, he accepted it, knowing fully well that he was the best.

He'd kept that belief since, till that fateful game in London. Till that fateful game in Stanford Bridge.

Losing for the 2nd consecutive time in the individual battle round against Lord Doom shattered his confidence, but what truly shattered him was losing the team battle again in a game that he pushed beyond 100% of his effort to win.

Gabriel could not believe it.

For days after the game, that loss affected him and that was when he realized.

'I've grown arrogant'.

'Without knowing it, I've subconsciously started subscribing to their best player in the league publicity that I've lowered my standards'.

'I've also lowered my standards in the team'.

'Not exactly lower, but we've stagnated. We've stopped striving to become even better players, to become an even better team'.

After that night, Gabriel switched it up.

His team's training schedule, his approach to games, his approach to training, the way he interacted with his teammates during game preparation, he switched it all up in a final charge for the title race.

'It's not over yet'.

'If we maintain a flawless winning streak, we may still have a chance'.

'I believe'.

Gabriel believed, and he worked towards it.

...

Matchday 30.

Matchday 30 embodied the current competitive fire of the English Pro Alliance, the blazing flame that pushed all top 4 clubs to perform beyond their limits, totally destroying their opponents.

On matchday 30 of the English Pro Alliance, another new record was broken.

It was the first matchday in the history of the English Pro Alliance when 4 different teams got flawless victories in the same matchday.

Echelon, Scarlet Rose, Phoenix Rising, and Cyber Squad all demolished their opponents with crazy 10-0 score lines, while Juggernaut also won 8-2 convincingly.

The English Pro Alliance was set ablaze by the score lines at the end of the matchday.

The fans could tell.

The title race just rose up a notch, it just charged up a level.

The English Pro Alliance table updated after matchday 30.

[English Pro Alliance League Table – Matchday 30]

- 1) Echelon – MP: 30; Points: 84
- 2) Scarlet Rose – MP: 30; Points: 81
- 3) Cyber Squad – MP: 30; Points: 80
- 4) Phoenix Rising – MP: 30; Points: 79
- 5) Juggernaut – MP: 30; Points: 68

...

Matchday 31 rolled into town.

It was another workover for the top 5 clubs, each of them dissecting their opponents apart one step at a time.

Though none of them managed a flawless victory this time, they still won convincingly, raising their point tallies to 87 for Echelon, 84 for Scarlet Rose, 83 for Cyber Squad, 82 for Phoenix Rising, and then 71 for Juggernaut.

There was a blockbuster scheduled for matchday 32, it was an epic top of the table clash between Phoenix Rising and Cyber Squad.

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Earlier in the season, in Phoenix Rising's home stadium in London, Cyber Squad already proved their credentials already once as they went there only to secure an impressive point home.

In the first leg of this fixture, Phoenix Rising and Cyber Squad played a 5-5 draw in Phoenix Rising's home.

And now, the return leg was to take place in Cyber Squad's home stadium.

Matchday 32.

Cyber Squad vs Phoenix Rising.

Trust the home fans; when the Phoenix Rising team bus arrived in their part of the city, they gave them a sufficiently hostile welcome, drowning them in boos, hate chants, and literal war songs.

The rivalry between Phoenix Rising and Cyber Squad started long ago, but it truly escalated, becoming a full-blown war 2 seasons ago when Phoenix Rising won their 3rd consecutive Warstar RPG Champions League trophy, winning it at Cyber Squad's expense on the final.

On that night, the celebrations in Phoenix Rising's part of the city was explosive, pushing Cyber Squad fans to near-depression.

Phoenix Rising fans celebrated their victory exuberantly, claiming that there was a new King in England and that it was Phoenix Rising.

The most painful fact about it was the media who fanned the flames. And so, earlier in the season, Cyber Squad and their fans sought their revenge in enemy ground. They couldn't get it, but they had a 2nd chance at revenge now.

They fortified their home stadium, turning it into a war fortress.

Gabriel and his team entered the fortified stadium, but Gabriel didn't seem rattled despite the ocean of noise and boos drowning them.

Rather, Gabriel's eyes were cold and focused, deep with meaning.

The fans mocked his overly serious demeanor but when the game started, the fans were silenced by a shocking display in their stadium.

Phoenix Rising shocked Cyber Squad.

[LOADING...]

[FIRST ROUND: INDIVIDUAL BATTLE]

In the first individual battle, Caster didn't shirk the responsibility nor did he try any hidden tactic, directly clashing with Dain Ironvalor with his Stinger of War.

Perhaps, it was a wrong decision but Caster never knew. And maybe he didn't care.

After all, the result was never set in stone. He simply made a decision following his gut instinct in the moment, and he followed through with it.

Caster played a great game, showcasing the power of the Battle God Avatar, Stinger of War fighting like an unstoppable magic warrior and yet it was not enough to stop the Paladin, Stinger of War.

Fighting Gabriel in this game felt like... fighting a river.

That was the only way Caster could describe it.

Gabriel had no weaknesses, he was flawless, indomitable, and never-ending like a river, or an ocean. He came from all sides, overwhelming him even as he had a great game, suffocating him till his Avatar died.

That loss didn't affect Cyber Squad's momentum much as they went on to claim an eventual 4-1 win by the end of the 3 vs 3 battle rush.

After claiming a victory in the individual battle round, Gabriel pulled back, relying on cold logic to preserve his team's power for the final team battle.

After all, statistically, they didn't need all the extra points. All they needed was the 5 points from the team battle to add to their current point to win.

Of course, fans didn't like it. Phoenix Rising fans booed, but Gabriel ignored them all, deciding to be pragmatic and to follow cold logic.

The team battle came.

Phoenix Rising killed it.

---<VICTORY>---

[Cyber Squad: 4 points]

[Phoenix Rising: 6 points]

Cyber Squad lost... at home.

*Chapter 223: Rivalry [15]*

---<VICTORY>---

[Cyber Squad: 4 points]

[Phoenix Rising: 6 points]

Gabriel said they would do it, and they did.

In the buildup to the game, for the first time all season, Phoenix Rising were voted as the underdogs in an English Pro Alliance game between 1 of the top 4 clubs.

It was no secret that among the top 4 clubs, Phoenix Rising was the club with the worst form. This was why in the buildup to the epic clash in Cyber Squad's home, Phoenix Rising were scored as the underdogs.

Cyber Squad cooked a hostile atmosphere to welcome their bitter rivals; boos, banners, chants, they served it all to them cold.

Despite it all, Gabriel was forced to engage in a brief pre-match interview.

When the reporter asked him what he thought about his team's chances of winning though, Gabriel simply looked at the reporter and said.

"100%".

"You mean your team have a 100% chance of winning?"

"Yes".

"What makes you think so? Statistically..."

Gabriel cut her off. "It doesn't matter. It's our will to win, so we will".

Well, fast forward to now, and Phoenix Rising actually did it, traveling to the home of their rivals for a derby game and winning it was just next level stuff.

It was a statement performance from the reigning champions.

Despite the incredible win though, journalists did their jobs, finding one or two things about the Phoenix Rising performance to question.

"Gabriel, congratulations on your victory. Your team's performance truly left the English Pro Alliance stunned. Thinking of it, I could not help but remember your pre-match talk, did you know you would win?"

Gabriel looked at the reporter, the usual lighthearted humor that he was known for nowhere to be seen.

His reply?

"Do I look like a seer?"

The reporter blinked.

Gabriel continued. "Of course, I could not see the future. I simply envisioned a future, and I and my team worked towards it. As you can see, it worked out".

"Ok...", the reporter trailed with his words as he took a quick peek at his paper. "Before you leave, I have one more question". He smiled. "I could not help but notice that you made a few changes in today's game".

"The Phoenix Rising that we know, the Phoenix Rising that we're used to will never throw the towel, forfeiting points just to prepare for the team battle".

"After your win against Stinger of War in the individual battle round, fans noticed that your team visibly lowered the tempo. You didn't even play in the 3 vs 3 battle rush. The fans made their displeasure clear at your decision, so we want to know, why did you lower the tempo?"

Gabriel looked at the reporter as if he was wondering if she had a screw wrong in her head.

In the end, he responded. "Every decision that I took, I took to win".

"We won, right?"

"..." The reporter was speechless.

"Well, if that's all, I'll be taking my leave".

With that, an exciting derby game in London came to an end.

Phoenix Rising managed to do the incredible in enemy ground, stealing all 3 points but at the end of the game, the media didn't focus on Phoenix Rising's victory, rather, they focused on Gabriel's tactics and his changed mannerisms in front of the media, scrutinizing it with great detail.

The media focused on Gabriel's personality change, and they managed to trace it back to Phoenix Rising's humiliating 10-0 loss to Echelon.

While fans and the media kept on dissecting the catalyst for Gabriel's change and his tactics in the derby game, matchday 32 of the English Pro Alliance continued.

The other powerhouses of the English Pro Alliance this season took on their opponents; Echelon, Scarlet Rose, even Juggernaut, and every single one of them totally demolished their opponents.

With that, another exciting matchday of the English Pro Alliance came to an end.

The English Pro Alliance table updated.

[English Pro Alliance League Table – Matchday 32]

- 1) Echelon – MP: 32; Points: 90
- 2) Scarlet Rose – MP: 32; Points: 87
- 3) Phoenix Rising – MP: 32; Points: 85
- 4) Cyber Squad – MP: 32; Points: 83
- 5) Juggernaut – MP: 32; Points: 74

Matchday 32 was a significant matchday in a crazy season, it was the matchday when Phoenix Rising regained their momentum, surging ahead of Cyber Squad in the English Pro Alliance league table.

That was a significant event, but it was not the only thing that made matchday 32 of this crazy season of the English Pro Alliance unique.

For the umpteenth time this season, a new record was broken.

It was the first season in the history of the English Pro Alliance when a club got to 90 points at matchday 32 with 6 matchdays remaining till the end of the season.

Echelon were on course to a 100-point season and beyond.

This was a truly record-breaking season.

And the crazy thing was the fact that it was not just Echelon. The title race this season was so steep that it triggered the true potential of the top clubs competing in the title race this season.

The rivalry this season was so fierce that all top 4 clubs went beyond plus ultra, going beyond their limits to play the best seasons of their respective club histories statistically.

Echelon was at 90 points, Scarlet Rose was at 87 points, Phoenix Rising was at 85 points, while Cyber Squad was at 83 points.

Since there were 6 matchdays of the 12th season of the English Pro Alliance remaining to be played, theoretically, all 4 clubs could still get 18 points each.

In an ideal world, that would translate to a total of 108 points for Echelon, 105 points for Phoenix Rising, 103 points for Phoenix Rising, and 101 points for Cyber Squad.

That would mean all 4 clubs would break the current existing record for the most points gotten in a single season of the English Pro Alliance.

They won't just be breaking records, they would be obliterating records.

And of course, that was just an imaginative points chart, reality may not follow the same script, even more so when there was still two more final top of the table clash in the English Pro Alliance.

The first was between Scarlet Rose and Phoenix Rising, while the final one was between Echelon and Juggernaut.

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The next week, matchday 33 rolled into town.

There was no top of the table clash, giving the top 5 clubs the leverage they needed to go on a rout across the English Pro Alliance.

Across 3 days, the top 5 clubs shined with varying levels of success.

After straining their team across so many matchdays without rest, overstressing their fingers, Noah decided to rest for the first time in 33 games, leaving himself out of the team and leaving the task of winning to Aria.

Without their talismanic captain leading them, Echelon showed cracks for the first time in 33 matchdays, and for a time, their opponents took advantage.

Their opponents managed to snatch a point in the individual battle round, while fighting to a shock win in the 3 vs 3 battle rush to secure a total of 3 points to Echelon's 2 points by the end of the 2nd round of the game.



Their opponents were leading, but that was where their purple reign stopped as Aria took charge in the team battle, giving a dominant performance to doom their opponents to defeat in the team battle.

Echelon secured a hard-fought 3-7 victory.

On the other side of town, Phoenix Rising did the same thing, Gabriel taking the uncharacteristic decision of rotating his team heavily, excluding himself from the individual battle round as he gave his teammates opportunities to shine.

"We practiced in training, don't disappoint me".

Well, you could say they didn't disappoint him because Phoenix Rising lost only 1 individual battle, before going on a clean sweep across the other rounds of the epic battle in London.

Phoenix Rising won with another statement 9-1 victory.

The next day, Cyber Squad also proved their credentials, completing an 8-2 score line victory against their opponents in a game where Stinger of War went loose, rolling back the years again for OG Warstar fans, fighting like the Battle God.

The next day, in another part of England, in Leeds, Scarlet Rose took on their opponents and demolished them completely.

Having held back for so long all season, playing a peripheral role, Jonathan finally felt the need to stretch his finger joints.

He played in all 3 rounds of a game for the first time this season, dominating in all 3 and leading Scarlet Rose to a dominant 8-2 score line victory.

Juggernaut also won against their opponents with a 7-3 score line.

And then came matchday 34.

Matchday 34 followed the same script as matchday 33, all top 5 clubs winning their games with relative ease but then, England buzzed again as matchday 35 of the English Pro Alliance arrived.

England buzzed because on matchday 35, another top of the table clash was to take place.

And this time, it was between Scarlet Rose and Phoenix Rising.

*Chapter 224: Rivalry [16]*

[English Pro Alliance League Table – Matchday 34]

- 1) Echelon – MP: 34; Points: 96
- 2) Scarlet Rose – MP: 34; Points: 93
- 3) Phoenix Rising – MP: 34; Points: 91
- 4) Cyber Squad – MP: 34; Points: 89
- 5) Juggernaut – MP: 34; Points: 80

By the end of matchday 34, the top 3 clubs in the English Pro Alliance table already crossed the 90-point tally, and the top 5 clubs already crossed the 80-point tally.

It was another new record in the English Pro Alliance.

It showed exactly what level the rivalry between the top clubs was able to ignite this season, showcasing peak Warstar to fans week in week out.

And now, it was Matchday 35.

The main event of matchday 35 was the blockbuster encounter between Scarlet Rose and Phoenix Rising.

After losing 10-0 against Echelon at the Stanford Bridge, Phoenix Rising became a changed club. Everything about them, their preparations towards games, their media approach, Gabriel changed everything.

And since then, Phoenix Rising returned to default settings.

They returned to being a force to be reckoned with.

Since that 10-0 loss, Phoenix Rising have not come close to losing a game, not even the game against Cyber Squad.

Though that game ended in a close 4-6 score line, there was never any point in the game when it felt like Phoenix Rising was at risk of losing control of the game. From beginning to the end, it was all in Gabriel's control; the game followed the perfect script that he wrote.

Gabriel's creed at this stage of the season was simple; zero risks.

He was pragmatic to the core, moving with ruthless decision making that made every game seem like a game of chess, rather than an RPG video game.

And he was the Chess Grandmaster pulling the strings.

And now, after tearing through Cyber Squad a few weeks ago, they faced a new challenge in Scarlet Rose at home.

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England, Leeds, Crimson Arena.

[English Pro Alliance:]

[Matchday 35:]

[Scarlet Rose – Phoenix Rising]

[Venue: Crimson Arena]

Phoenix Rising's team bus arrived in Leeds to much fanfare from fans of the Scarlet. Fans draped in scarlet robes and jerseys flooded the streets, booing, waving banners, and singing war chants as they escorted the opposition team bus into their city, leading them to the stadium.

The start of the game ended up being delayed a bit simply because so many Scarlet Rose fans flooded the streets, eager to escort the enemy team bus to their stadium while drowning them with hate chants that the bus took too much time on the road.

The traffic wardens overdid themselves this time or there would have been a stampede on the road due to the sheer population of fans flooding the streets.

And when the players entered the stadium, they sealed it, and then...

BOOM!

The chants, roars, and songs hit a crescendo.

"WE ARE... SCARLET ROSE...!"

"MATCHING TO... DOMINION...!"

When the Scarlet Rose anthem was played, the fans sang at the top of their lungs, literally bringing the roof of the stadium down with noise.

Being a Phoenix Rising player in this atmosphere was not an envious position at all. The Scarlet Rose fans held nothing back just to rattle their nerves.

Amid the noise though, stood Gabriel, a stoic expression planted on his face.

After that 10-0 loss, he was rarely expressive these days.

That trauma seemed to have ignited a part of this player that fans have never seen before, the serious, brutally determined Gabriel.

And in extension, it translated to the unstoppable Dain Ironvalor.

The players approached their respective player booths, and then, it started.

[LOADING...]

[FIRST ROUND: INDIVIDUAL BATTLE]

The first 2 players of the individual battle loaded into the stage.

For the visitors, Phoenix Rising, Dain Ironvalor entered the arena, left hand firmly holding his shield as his right hand wielded his lethal longsword.

As for who came out to face Dain Ironvalor?

Unlike what most Scarlet Rose fans expected and hoped for, Crimson Saint didn't come out first, neither did Chris. Rather, it was the other, unassuming Paladin of the team that came out.

Jonathan decided to take the responsibility as captain and face Gabriel in battle. It was a rematch that fans have seen multiple times in the past few seasons of the English Pro Alliance, and yet, here it was again.

3..., 2..., 1!

FIGHT!

Both Paladins immediately exploded into action.

But Jonathan's charge was just a feint. He pretended to rush forward before quickly turning around and tracking back, keeping his distance from Gabriel.

For a few seconds, the fans around the stadium were surprised and confused. But it took Gabriel only a second to understand what was happening.

The shameless streak in the old man struck again.

Jonathan literally did not care that he was in his home ground at this moment, in front of tens of thousands of his club's supporters. He stuck to his shameless ways nonetheless, avoiding a frontal confrontation against Gabriel.

Instead, he decided to run, shamelessly.

He decided to run, bide his time, defend, and drag the battle out as long as possible in hopes of maybe stealing a decision win.

And if not, he would still be able to wear Gabriel's patience thin.

The psychological warfare already started.

Gabriel groaned silently. He knew exactly what his opponent planned to do, but he could not avoid it. After all, Jonathan was just too good at what he did.

He may not be as good as trash talking as God Noah when Noah wanted, but in terms of shameless play, Jonathan took the trophy by a mile.

His Grind playstyle had been rated as the worst playstyle in the league for 10 straight seasons at this point, but it didn't diminish Crimson Saint's popularity in the slightest while he still controlled the God level Paladin Avatar.

Now, with a new Paladin Avatar, Jonathan stuck to his old ways.

In the end, the first individual battle lasted the full allocated 10 minutes.

Jonathan kited Gabriel till the last minute of the game, annoying the hell out of him. Somehow, Gabriel managed to remain calm at the end, not typing a single message in chat despite Jonathan's constant provocation.

Behind his monitor though, his chest heaved up and down.

As soon as the battle ended, he briefly closed his eyes, calming his nerves at all the provocation since as the victory screen flashed.

---<VICTORY>---

[Scarlet Rose: 0 point]

[Phoenix Rising: 1 point]

Gabriel won, but at the expense of his mental sanity due to Jonathan's shameless playstyle and provocation.

The second individual battle started, but Gabriel already gave up on it.

All he needed was that 1 point from the first individual battle.

The Scarlet Rose players kept on taunting him, asking for their best players, but Gabriel kept his teammates in check. He only sent reserve players to the 2nd and 3rd individual battle, explicitly directing them to avoid direct confrontation and drag the battle out as long as possible.

Gabriel wanted to give Jonathan a taste of his own medicine.

Fans were surprised, even the traveling away Phoenix Rising supporters. Their captain was not like this before, he had changed a lot.

Well, Gabriel's plan worked. At the end of the individual battle, Jonathan's face was left twitching behind his monitor as he stared at the screen.

"This bastard! You've got no respect for your seniors, huh?"

"The nerve to steal a strategy from my playbook!"

Well, Gabriel could not even hear him all the way from his player booth.

[Scarlet Rose: 2 points]

[Phoenix Rising: 1 point]

Scarlet Rose was leading now, but Jonathan didn't feel like his team had the advantage at all. He could tell that he already fell into Gabriel's tempo.

And so, to switch it up, Jonathan also gave up on the 3 vs 3 battle rush.

He could already tell that Gabriel intended to do to them what he did to Cyber Squad, saving their energy to push all in for the team battle.

And so, Jonathan also gave up on the 3 vs 3 battle rush, saving time to push all in for the team battle.

Jonathan was the one who first started the psychological ploy, intending to enter his opponent's head, but unknown to him, Gabriel already entered his head. Gabriel predicted such a tactical reaction from Jonathan, which was the reason why he put his vice-captain in the 3 vs 3 battle rush, surprising Jonathan.

With their vice-captain leading the charge, Phoenix Rising got the momentum that they needed. They won the 3 vs 3 battle rush.

Jonathan snarled. "This bastard!"

[Scarlet Rose: 2 points]

[Phoenix Rising: 3 points]

And then, the epic team battle.

Both teams entered the arena with their best lineup.

No insidious strategies this time, the arena was too simple for big strategies.

No cunning, just pure, unadulterated Warstar battle.

BOOM!

It erupted.

The combo of Chris and Jonathan showed exactly what they were capable of, but Phoenix Rising's all-out offensive team was literally indomitable.

With a stoic expression on his face throughout, Dain Ironvalor showed exactly what he was capable of when serious and in a high-stakes competition.

Gabriel completed a 3v1!

Such an iconic performance in the team battle shattered Scarlet Rose's momentum, including their confidence.

Gabriel was already winning the psychological battle from the 3 vs 3 battle round, and with this epic performance, Scarlet Rose's resistance crumbled completely.

Phoenix Rising won the battle at the Crimson Arena.

---<VICTORY>---

[Scarlet Rose: 2 points]

[Phoenix Rising: 8 points]

The score line told the truth of what happened on the pitch. Gabriel outthought Jonathan, outfought him.

He destroyed Scarlet Rose.

*Chapter 225: Rivalry [17]*

---<VICTORY>---

[Scarlet Rose: 2 points]

[Phoenix Rising: 8 points]

Scarlet Rose played in their iconic home stadium, and yet, they still lost.

They didn't just lose, Phoenix Rising destroyed them.

Gabriel destroyed Scarlet Rose, that became the watchword of matchday 35 at the end of the epic top of the table encounter.

Phoenix Rising's victory at the Crimson Arena shut the internet down.

English Warstar fans could not get to the end of it, fanning the flames of the incredible defeat at home for Scarlet Rose, trolling the iconic Crimson Arena stadium as banter became the staple.

Scarlet Rose was dragged by ruthless fans.

After all, among the top 4 rivalry, they were supposed to be the 2nd strongest team after Echelon while Phoenix Rising was supposed to be the weakest this season. After garnering that much hype, to still lose was just humiliating.

And to lose with such a margin, at home, it was beyond humiliating.

While neutral and rival fans trolled Scarlet Rose, Phoenix Rising returning home triumphantly from their victory to the other part of London for the derby game, matchday 35 of the English Pro Alliance continued.

The epic clash between Scarlet Rose and Phoenix Rising was the main event of Matchday 35, and it was also the only blockbuster game of the matchday.

The other games mostly followed a similar script.

There was no big upset, the clubs that were expected to win won.

None of the remaining top 4 clubs managed to get a flawless victory either. Echelon and Cyber Squad both got 7-3 wins over their opponents, while Juggernaut got a similar 8-2 margin victory that Phoenix Rising got.

The other truly exciting game of matchday 35 was the clash between the top 6 and top 7 clubs in the English Pro Alliance.

As of Matchday 34, Steel Dominion was the 6th ranked club in the English Pro Alliance league table below Juggernaut, while Nightfall was ranked 7th.



And on Matchday 35, these 2 clubs clashed.

Considering that Steel Dominion were ahead of their opponents by 4 points, most predicted that the top 6 battle was already over for Nightfall till they caused the 2nd major upset of Matchday 35 in away ground.

In Steel Dominion's home stadium, in a game where they were initially losing 4-1, Nightfall managed to perform a miracle in the team battle, fighting tooth and nail and securing the win for their efforts.

With that score line, the game ended in their favor.

---<VICTORY>---

[Steel Dominion: 4 points]

[Nightfall: 6 points]

The English Pro Alliance was left stunned.

At the end of Matchday 35, the English Pro Alliance table updated again, and Nightfall now had just a point separating them from the top 6 playoffs spot.

[English Pro Alliance League Table – Matchday 35]

- 1) Echelon – MP: 35; Points: 99
- 2) Phoenix Rising – MP: 35; Points: 94
- 3) Scarlet Rose – MP: 35; Points: 93
- 4) Cyber Squad – MP: 35; Points: 92
- 5) Juggernaut – MP: 35; Points: 83
- 6) Steel Dominion – MP: 35; Points: 77
- 7) Nightfall – MP: 35; Points: 76

This was how the top 7 of the English Pro Alliance looked like after matchday 35.

For the second time in just a few weeks, the top spots of the English Pro Alliance league table changed significantly, the top 2 club being dethroned this time as Phoenix Rising climbed all the way from 4th position that they were a few weeks ago to 2nd position in the league table.

Nobody saw that comeback coming by Matchday 30 of the English Pro Alliance, but here they were, reality showing that it was possible.

This unpredictability, and the thrill that comes with it, it was one reason why Warstar fans were in love with the English Pro Alliance.

And now, only 2 points separated the top 2 to top 4 clubs in the league table.

Echelon was now keeping a bit of social distance from the top 2 to top 4 clubs as he gave the 2nd ranked club a gap of 5 seemingly insurmountable points.

Phoenix Rising would not give up though.

They would continue fighting. Led by Gabriel, they would keep on pushing the title race till the final matchday of the English Pro Alliance this season.

The changes among the clubs at the top ranks of the English Pro Alliance table was not the only thing that attracted attention though, a lot of other things attracted the attention of fans after Matchday 35.

After all, just like the title race was heating up at the top, the relegation battle was also heating up at the bottom of the English Pro Alliance league table.

While Echelon, Phoenix Rising, Scarlet Rose, and Cyber Squad competed at the top in an exciting title race, Cross Guild, Helix Nova, and Crimson Crow competed at the bottom, fighting against relegation.

The 17th ranked team in the English Pro Alliance had 5 more points than the nearest ranked team in 18th position, Helix Nova.

If the 3 clubs were to survive, they had a steep battle ahead of them in the final 3 matchdays of the English Pro Alliance.

Apart from the relegation battle, fans also paid attention to the thrilling top 6 playoff spot battle between Juggernaut, Steel Dominion, and Nightfall.

Juggernaut's position looked a bit safe, but Steel Dominion was in danger of being overthrown after the loss against Nightfall at home.

This season, Nightfall's story was one of the big underdog stories of the English Pro Alliance, right after Echelon's iconic story this season.

Like Echelon, Nightfall was one of the 3 clubs that were promoted to the English Pro Alliance this season. Every fan, pundit, and Warstar analyst expected them to struggle to adapt to the intensity and level of the English Pro Alliance after returning for the first time in many years.

And yet, in their return this season, Nightfall blew all expectations that were laced on them away like they were never real.

Nightfall was fighting the top 6 battle!

On Matchday 1, nobody expected to see them in such a position. Rather, they expected them to be one of the clubs fighting against relegation.

This was truly a season where set rules of the English Pro Alliance were broken and rewritten by sheer brilliance and determination.

With Matchday 35 of the English Pro Alliance over, and with the league table updated, the season continued. Time moved fast.

...

Matchday 36.

There were no more blockbuster encounters between the top clubs at this period of the season, but every game felt like a final now.

After all, a single loss could mean the difference between achieving your goal for the season and failing to achieve it.

A single loss could be the difference between failure and success for the competing clubs at this period of the season.

In the title race, Echelon was leading the line by 5 points but a blunder of 2 games was all it would take for them to lose it all.

The relegation battle was the same, 2 losses was all it took to change everything. So, the clubs were extra sensitive now, extra vigilant.

The top clubs were careful.

The matchday came and left. None of the top 5 clubs faltered, destroying their opponents with the same score line for the first time this season.

All of Echelon, Phoenix Rising, Scarlet Rose, and Cyber Squad won their games with the same 8-2 scoreline. It was almost like they planned it.

Juggernaut also won their game with a statement 9-1 victory at home. Nightfall also won their game, but Steel Dominion made a costly mistake.

Steel Dominion played against Cross Guild, a game that was classified as an easy win for them and yet, they lost.

Steel Dominion lost against Cross Guild!

In that game, a lot of things happened. It was the game that finally broke the clean record of this season, forcing the moderators to hand out the first red card of the season to a player.

It happened during the team battle when Steel Dominion was already leading 4-1 after a dominant individual battle and 3 vs 3 battle rush.

Desperate, instead of focusing on the battle, Cross Guild's captain leaned towards aggressive trashtalking as his strategy for the team battle.

He managed to wind up Steel Dominion's healer with a unique set of vocabulary, making the guy lose his head and issue a death threat mid-game.

That earned him an instant red card from the regulators.

Just like that, Steel Dominion were reduced to 4 men in the team battle as their Cleric was directly booted out of the arena lobby.

Cross Guild overwhelmed Steel Dominion as soon as they lost their Cleric.

The game was later dubbed the upset of the season.

Cross Guild were given as much as 23 odds of victory on betting sites. Nobody expected them to win.

Such one-sided victory odds resulted in a teenage Warstar fan making it big from the game, having bet \$2,500 only to cash out \$30,000 at the end of the game.

It was another unforgettable matchday of the 12th season of the English Pro Alliance.

*Chapter 226: Rivalry [18]*

---<VICTORY>---

[Steel Dominion: 4 points]

[Cross Guild: 6 points]

And just like that, a big upheaval took place at the tight end of the season, the period of the season where big clubs could not tolerate mistakes. They could not afford it, it was a luxury for the invincible.

But this season, apart from the unbeaten Echelon, no club could claim the authority of invincibles, and so Steel Dominion was screwed.

It was by far the biggest upset of matchday 36.

In a period of the season where all clubs of the English Pro Alliance were desperate to win games and amass points to end the season on a high, Steel Dominion faltered first.

And with it, the English Pro Alliance changed again, this time carrying an even bigger change compared to the changes of Matchday 35.

After all, unlike Steel Dominion, Nightfall won their game.

[English Pro Alliance League Table – Matchday 35]

1) Echelon – MP: 36; Points: 102

2) Phoenix Rising – MP: 36; Points: 97

3) Scarlet Rose – MP: 36; Points: 96

4) Cyber Squad – MP: 36; Points: 95

5) Juggernaut – MP: 36; Points: 86

6) Nightfall – MP: 36; Points: 79

7) Steel Dominion – MP: 36; Points: 77

Just like that, Steel Dominion were pushed down from the spot that they hustled for across 35 matchdays of the English Pro Alliance.

They fell below the top 6, stopping at 7th position.

And there were just 2 matchdays of the season left to play!

All of a sudden, Steel Dominion faced a crisis. The crisis of potentially not making it to the playoffs.

And in contrast, Cross Guild's hopeless situation finally showed a glimpse of hope. Hope of good things to come.

Cross Guild were ranked 19th position in the league, and the top clubs in 18th and 17th position were 2 points and 7 points ahead of them respectively.

But that was in Matchday 35.

After Matchday 36, Cross Guild was no longer ranked 19th position in the league. They overtook Helix Nova, taking their 18th position as the Birmingham City club failed to win or draw their home game.

And it was not just Helix Nova, the 17th ranked team in the league also lost their game, making the goal of escaping relegation no longer seem as impossible.

All Cross Guild needed to avoid relegation was to take just 1 more spot forward to 17th position in the English Pro Alliance table.

It was hard, but they were determined to do it.

The only thing separating them from their price was the 4 points with which their opponents gave them a sizeable gap still in the league table.

If Cross Guild was to jump to 17th position in the league and avoid relegation, the 17th ranked team would have to lose their 2 final games of the season, while Cross Guild had to also do their part and win their 2 final games of the season.

The 17th placed team may actually lose those 2 games, but even in such a scenario, Cross Guild still had a mountain to climb to qualify.

This was because among their final 2 opponents of the season stood the towering silhouette of Echelon, the only unbeaten club in the English Pro Alliance this season.

Against the likes of Phoenix Rising, Scarlet Rose, Juggernaut, and Cyber Squad, Echelon survived, winning most and drawing some games.

Against such a behemoth, could Cross Guild actually win?

Could they do the impossible?

No one knew for sure, and to Warstar fans, that was the thrill of following the English Pro Alliance.

...

Matchday 37 came like a thief in the night; unseen, sudden.

Echelon started the rout, not just winning, but ruthlessly extinguishing their opponents with a brutal flawless 10-0 victory at the Stanford Bridge.

Blazing Gryphons stood no chance against the unstoppable force called Echelon. With Lord Doom at the helm, Echelon could not be stopped.

These days, for every new matchday that Echelon managed to get a flawless 10-0 victory, they were breaking their own record for the most flawless victories gotten by a single club in a season, extending the record.

Tonight, they extended the record again.

And not just that. During the previous week, with the conclusion of matchday 36 of the English Pro Alliance, with those 3 points, taking their points tally for the season to 102 points, Echelon broke another record of the English Pro Alliance.

They broke the record for the most points recorded by a club in a single English Pro Alliance season.

The previous record was 100 points in a season, and the record was held by Noah's Cyber Squad team. Now, he broke his own record.

Just like Echelon tore their opponents apart, their rivals were also ruthless, Phoenix Rising leading the line with a brutal 9-1 win against their opponents, while Scarlet Rose and Cyber Squad both won 7-3 and 8-2 respectively.

After Matchday 37, Gabriel and his Dain Ironvalor broke a personal record.

With the win on Matchday 37, Gabriel broke his personal record for the most wins in a single English Pro Alliance Warstar seasonal campaign.

Phoenix Rising was a team in imperious form, shattering records, but even with all that, they were still second spot behind an even more imperious and unstoppable team... Club Echelon.

Juggernaut also won their game convincingly.

As for Steel Dominion? They redeemed their matchday 36 blunder, ripping their opponents apart with a convincing 8-2 victory.

They were back on track, but the only blemish on their win was the fact that it didn't take them back to 6th position in the league.

After all, Nightfall also won their game.

From the beginning of the season, Nightfall approached the season with modest expectations as expected of a team making their return to the English Pro Alliance for the first time in years, but the more they played, the more they updated their ambition and aspirations, till they now aimed for the final playoff spot.

The moment that Nightfall hunted Steel Dominion down, taking the 6th position in the league table, their demeanor and approach to games changed completely.

All they wanted and focused on now was winning.

Winning, winning, and winning again.

After Matchday 37, there was just 1 final game remaining in the regular season. That game was what separated them from glory.

Nightfall was ready to die to achieve their goal.

Steel Dominion could only gnash their teeth in regret. If only they had the opportunity to play Nightfall in their final game of the season, then their fate would be in their own hands.

But since both clubs played against different opponents, Steel Dominion's fate was left to the gods, while Nightfall had their fate firmly in their hands.

They won't miss it. They won't lose!

They were determined. They would make sure of it.

...

Time was a mirage.

It moved and changed faster than you could think.

One moment, it was Matchday 37, the 20 clubs of the English Pro Alliance going at each other with no strings attached and the next, it was Matchday 38.

D-Day was here.

The final matchday of the 12th season of the English Pro Alliance was here.

[Matchday 38:]

[Day 1:]

[Main Event: Cross Guild vs Echelon]

The main event of matchday 38 was Cross Guild vs Echelon.

Matchday 38 of the English Pro Alliance followed a different format from regular matchdays.

On Matchday 38, all 10 games of the matchday would be played on the same day, at the same time.



The league winner, the top 6 clubs that would be qualifying to the playoffs, and the 3 clubs that would be relegated, all of it would be decided today.

Fans of the English Pro Alliance were doused in excitement and anticipation.

Cross Guild vs Echelon was the main event of the matchday, since it covered Echelon's final step to solidifying their title as undisputed champions this season, as they never lost a game this season.

This was also a new record if they could pull it off.

Echelon would become the first club in the history of the English Pro Alliance to go a full season undefeated without losing a single game.

Another reason why it was the main event was because it also encompassed Cross Guild's defiant push and fight against relegation.

If Cross Guild managed to do the impossible, breaking Echelon's unbeaten run, and their direct rivals lost their game, they would avoid relegation.

It would become the greatest underdog defying fate story of the season.

All of these reasons and more made Matchday 38 of the English Pro Alliance the most highly anticipated matchday of the 12th season of the English Pro Alliance.

10 games, 10 different stadiums.

When time came, all 10 stadiums were filled to the brim with enthusiastic fans who came to watch the proceedings live.

The true population was not the fans that came to watch live though.

This season broke another record of the English Pro Alliance already, and this time it was an online popularity record, Matchday 38 recording 250 million fans who logged in online to watch the game live.

Matchday 38 was history being rewritten.

*Chapter 227: Matchday 38 [1]*

[English Pro Alliance:]

[Matchday 38:]

[Cross Guild vs Echelon]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Avalon Sovereign vs Cerberus Core]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Cyber Squad vs Pendragon Esports]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Phoenix Rising vs Shadow Dominion]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Stormborn Esports vs Steel Dominion]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Helix Nova vs Nightfall]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Crimson Crow vs Oblivion Knights]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Juggernaut vs Blazing Gryphons]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Imperium Tyrannus vs Scarlet Rose]

[Time: 6:00pm]

This was how the fixture list for the final matchday of the 12th season of the English Pro Alliance looked like.

...

Matchday 38 Eve, inside Club Echelon's World...

The air at Club Echelon's headquarters in London was thick with a strange cocktail of calm and tension, the kind of eerie quiet that only comes before a storm.

The once-lively, glass-paneled club building had dialed itself down into a sanctuary if focus,

Inside the training hall, the monitors were now off.

The last match replay had been reviewed, annotated, debated, and then closed. No more theories. No more tweaks.

What's left was instinct, reflex, and rhythm.

As for the players?

They did their thing, trying to relax, while failing spectacularly with style.

Noah, as always, was the eye of the storm.

He sat alone in the strategy room, headphones on, a steaming cup of tea in hand. The lights were low, just the holographic map of the game world hovering in front of him.

He wasn't reviewing tactics; he was mentally walking through the battlefield.

Each lane. Each terrain shift. Each potential trap. Each arena that was likely to be used for their final game of the season.

Looking through it all, his expression didn't shift. Only his eyes moved.

In the lounge, Aria and Benjamin were doing their best to not think about the match. Aria was flipping a dagger between her fingers, barely listening to Benjamin who was mid-way through a monologue on which fruit best represents each rival team.

"No, listen, Cyber Squad is clearly a lemon. Looks cool, but bite it and your face twists".

"Juggernaut? Mango. Hard to cut through but worth it. Phoenix Rising... damn, durian".

Aria chipped in without looking up. "If you compare us to a fruit, I will end you".

On the opposite couch, Caleb had his laptop open, casually simulating match scenarios. Not because he needed to, but because math helped him relax.

He muttered probabilities under his breath like bedtime poetry.

Despite the fact that they were long used to him and his shenanigans already, it was still creepy to know that such a big guy was so obsessed with math.

Meanwhile, the two substitute players, Jeff and Rosalind, hovered somewhere between awe and anxiety.

When both of them joined Echelon, they joined it mostly for passion, then money. But most importantly, they joined it for God Noah.

They wanted to play alongside the player widely recognized as the G.O.A.T in the English Pro Warstar scene. They wanted the opportunity to observe him, and learn from him.

They didn't fully buy into the narrative that God Noah and his friends were old from the very beginning.

Despite all their excitement and expectations though, none of them expected to be where they currently were in the English Pro Alliance.

Technically, they already won the league title since they loomed ahead of Phoenix Rising, the 2nd-placed team by more than 3 points.

Not just that. This season, Echelon was unbeaten.

This season, they deserved whatever trophy that they managed to lay their hands on. They were undisputed winners.

During the beginning of the season, Jeff and Rosalind never expected this. And now, at this stage with all the attention of the league on them, the pressure was finally getting to them.

They weren't starters, but like usual, they were traveling with the team.

They knew they might be called in during the course of the game, and the weight of that possibility had both of them clicking through their builds for the hundredth time.

The anticipation in the air was charged.

There was no pep talks, no battle cries, just quiet momentum. Everyone knew what tomorrow was.

Tomorrow was the D-day, Matchday 36.

The final match of the season. Everything on the line.

The culmination of a year of sacrifices, late night training, heartbreaking draws, triumphant moments, and gut-wrenching near losses.

The possibility of winning the English Pro Alliance title hovered like a golden thread just out of reach.

Everyone had a different way of coping. But deep down, they all felt the same thing:

This was it.

By late evening, the club's armored black bus rolled out of the underground garage. The players boarded in silence, bags slung over shoulders, gear secured.

Outside, a small group of fans stood in the twilight, waving glow sticks and holding banners.

One read:

["BRING IT HOME, ECHELON."]

Another read:

["ONE MORE GAME. ONE MORE WIN."]

The team gave quiet nods and tired smiles. No autographs, no photos; not tonight.

The flight to Bristol City was smooth. Charter jet, minimal crew. No noise except the hum of the engines and the occasional rustle of gear bags.

Halfway through the air, Aria broke the silence.

"You guys realize... if we win tomorrow, we're legends".

Benjamin grinned. "We already are. We just need to remind the world that we never stopped being legends. They just need to catch up".

Noah didn't say a word.

He just looked out the window, eyes locked on the glowing horizon where the night would meet the dawn of Matchday 38.

Tomorrow, everything would be decided.

An hour later...

The plane touched down just past midnight at Bristol City International Airport, a smooth descent into what felt like enemy territory.

But Echelon knew this wasn't just a city; they were stepping into the warzone of Cross Guild's home ground.

As the team descended the steps of their private jet, they were greeted by blinding flashes; not from paparazzi, but from a mob of Cross Guild fans.

Dressed in obsidian and crimson, they stood behind airport barriers with chants like war drums.

"DEATH TO ECHELON!"

"LONDON DOGS GO HOME!"

"CROSS TO CONQUER! ECHELON TO FALL!"

The energy of the fans was borderline crazy.

A massive banner unfurled from the upper mezzanine of the airport.

["WELCOME TO BRISTOL, WHERE LEGENDS COME TO DIE."]

Security had already formed a tight human wall around the Echelon players, but it did nothing to mute the venomous chants and mockery flung from all sides.

Plastic bones were tossed toward their path; a jab at Noah's infamous 'Godfather of Warstar' nickname.

Benjamin laughed it off.

"Wow. They rolled out the red carpet for us; red with their own tears, I hope".

Even Genevieve, ever composed, muttered under her breath. "They're really scared of us to go this far".

"You can't blame them," Noah said calmly. "After all, they're battling against relegation".

The night passed fast. In a jiffy, the next morning arrived.

The team bus rolled through Bristol City like an armored convoy. Streets lined with Cross Guild supporters, eyes blazing, middle fingers raised.

Riot police stood at every intersection; not to protect the crowd, but to protect Echelon from it.

The stadium loomed into view, a beast of concrete and noise.

The Crucible – Cross Guild's legendary fortress.

As the bus turned into the final tunnel toward the stadium gates, things shifted from loud to violent.

Fans banged on the windows, showering the bus with black feathers, symbolic of Echelon's supposed fall from grace.

One idiot went as far as trying to climb onto the roof, only to be pulled off by security. The entire tunnel was painted in Cross Guild's blood-red colors, with "NO WAY OUT" sprayed across the walls.

Inside the bus, no one flinched.

By now, after going through 37 matchdays of an unbeaten streak, every Echelon player was more or less used to treatment like this sometimes in enemy stadium after they admitted their inferiority.

It didn't matter though.

Noah stood up. He didn't raise his voice, neither did he look back at the others.

"We knew it'd come to this," he said. "Good thing we didn't come to play". He grinned subtly. "We came to bury them".

Silence. Then Caleb spoke, voice low, confident.

"Time to turn the Crucible into a coffin".

...

[English Pro Alliance:]

[Matchday 38:]

[Cross Guild vs Echelon]

[Time: 6:00pm]

The moment of truth.

The locker room was dim, only the pale stadium lights flickering above.

Each player suited up, not in armor, but in their Echelon black and electric blue jerseys, the uniform of ice-cold executioners.

Commentators outside were already hyping the match to the heavens.

"This is it, folks!"

"Matchday 38. 1st vs 18th. One game with potential finishers for two races, the title race, and Cross Guild's relegation battle".

"You can cut the tension with a plasma blade. Noah vs Kazimir, London vs Bristol. Winner takes the crown".

From the tunnel, you could see the flash of cameras, the roar of the crowd; 60,000 rabid fans in the Crucible, bloodthirsty and ready.

And yet, when Team Echelon stepped into the tunnel, they didn't look like men and women walking into hell.

They looked like executioners walking onto the scaffold.

Benjamin tossed a grin over his shoulder.

"Let's go ruin their season".

The light at the end of the tunnel exploded into brightness.

The crowd erupted.

And the final battle of the 12th English Pro Alliance Season was about to begin.

[LOADING...]

[FIRST ROUND: INDIVIDUAL BATTLE]

*Chapter 228: Matchday 38 [2]*

Matchday 38 of the 12th season of the English Pro Alliance.



Just like it already started in Bristol City, in other parts of England, the 9 other stadiums hosting the final games of the season, their respective games also already started as the clubs dug in for one final show of the season.

And this time, the focus was in London... The Grid, Cyber Squad's home stadium.

[English Pro Alliance:]

[Matchday 38:]

[Cyber Squad vs Pendragon Esports]

[Time: 6:00pm]

A day before D-day...

At Cyber Squad's headquarters in East London, the atmosphere was eerily serene.

The halls glowed faintly with ambient blue light, curved screens playing muted matchday previews, and floor tiles lit up as players passed by, like walking through a motherboard.

Inside the team room, the air was crisp with artificial chill, the players bathed in a quiet hum of focus.

Caster, the team's icy captain and Stinger of War's controller stood at the window of the highest floor, staring out at the skyline. He didn't speak much. This season, he rarely needed to.

On the couch, Mina, their lightning-fast Blademaster controller munched calmly on jelly beans, watching a stream of Pendragon's previous matches in quadruple speed.

"Pendragon's going for flash and flair again. Knight-themed drama queens, honestly," she muttered, grinning.

The assistant captain, Isabella, floated between screens and players like a ghost in the machine, repeating their motto softly.

"No tilt. No rush. Cold logic wins".

Cyber Squad weren't title contenders this year, they had no hope of making it to 1st position to clinch the league title, and they already secured playoff qualification, which made this game more of a formality for them.

They shouldn't take it serious, but still, they took it serious.

They did it for their fans.

They did it for glory.

A win today would cement how legendary of a season they had despite the fact that they won't be winning the league title alongside it.

The objective was simple: Go out there, play, and win.

That evening, Pendragon's team bus cruised into East London amid grey skies and colder stares. The vibe inside the vehicle was anything but relaxed.

The players were in full ceremonial attire; black and gold tracksuits embossed with the dragon insignia. Sir Percival, their outspoken captain muttered under his breath while clenching and unclenching his fists.

"They're all tech and ice. No heart in that team, not since God Noah left. Caster may be good, but not as good as God Noah".

"We'll show them real fire".

Their Paladin Controller, the iconic Saint Lance, let out a shaky breath, clearly tense.

Pendragon Esport was not really in the race for playoff qualification, but if they won today, they would stay ahead of their archrivals in mid table.

And to their fans, staying ahead of their rivals in the table at the end of the season meant the whole world.

As fans supporting a mid-table club, that was their aspiration.

And the outcome of Matchday 38 would determine if they were successful or not.

It was desperation. And they knew it.

...

The next day...

The Grid was unlike any other stadium in the league.

An architectural masterpiece, it looked less like a sports venue and more like a digital fortress.

The outer walls flickered with code, displaying real-time data: stats, the English Pro Alliance league table, heatmaps from previous matches.

When the players entered the tunnel, their bios and win rates scrolled across the LEDs like system diagnostics.

The stadium lights dimmed.

The announcer's voice rang out like a sleek AI.

"It's Matchday 38 of the English Pro Alliance, and here at the Grid, Cyber Squad will be taking on Pendragon Esports".

"As reported by our man behind the tech, all systems nominal".

As the Cyber Squad players emerged out of the tunnel, a chorus of fans in glowing visors and pulsing LED shirts began chanting in rhythm.

"ONE CODE! ONE SQUAD!"

"ONE CODE! ONE SQUAD!"

Their fans were the loudest, but that was not the most terrifying aspect by which they dwarfed all the efforts of the traveling away Pendragon supporters.

Rather, it was their synchronized, terrifyingly precise chants, creating a wave of light and sound that rippled across the stands like data being transmitted.

Then came Pendragon.

As the away team walked out, they were greeted with an ocean of icy silence. No booing. No jeering. Just... digital indifference.

It was as if the crowd had already processed them; analyzed, indexed, and deemed them not a threat.

It almost felt insulting.

Sir Percival looked up at the silent, blinking stadium banners.

"This place gives me the creeps," he muttered, unable to hold himself.

Cyber Squad's players were already in position, standing like statues, unreadable, but full of unshakable resolve.

The match hadn't started, but you could already feel it.

Pendragon was burning up, trying to believe.

Cyber Squad? They were frozen steel, shaken by nothing, instead already calculating their victory.

This wasn't just a match.

It was logic versus legend, precision versus passion.

And the final system check was complete.

Let the game begin.

[LOADING...]

[FIRST ROUND: INDIVIDUAL BATTLE]

Just like expected, Caster took the stage with Stinger of War, representing Cyber Squad for the first individual battle.

As soon as the familiar and iconic Avatar appeared on the arena, The Grid exploded with noise.

BOOM!

"Stinger... of War!"

"Stinger... of War!" They sang.

They waited for Pendragon Esports to bring out their representative.

At first, Pendragon Esports' captain wanted to play a pragmatic and exceedingly calculative game, trying his best to get a point in the individual battle round before exceeding their limits to claim the victory in the team battle.

But as soon as this guy arrived at The Grid, all his confidence and ambition evaporated like they were never there to begin with.

It didn't take him too long.

He realized. 'We can't win'.

This was why this captain scrapped his highly pragmatic strategy, deciding to enjoy himself instead as he came out with his Avatar to clash against the legendary Avatar, Stinger of War.

FIGHT!

The battle started.

It was a classic; Battle Mage vs Paladin.

As soon as Sir Percival decided to let go of all his ambitions and goals to simply enjoy himself, the shackles holding him back shattered, and this captain played his best game against Caster.

Due to the intensity of the duel between the two captain Avatars, for a moment, Cyber Squad fans felt like it was Dain Ironvalor on the arena and not Sir Percival.

Comparing any Paladin in the league to Dain Ironvalor, that was the biggest complement that a Paladin Avatar and its controller could get.

Sir Percival exceeded his limits, pushing Caster to the deep end, but in the end, sheer quality and skill prevailed.

Caster won, by a tinier margin than he imagined.

Sir Percival fell with Stinger of War at 21% HP.

No one saw this coming at the beginning of this duel.

And that, ladies, and gentlemen, set the stage for a Cyber Squad rout through the individual battles and 3 vs 3 battle rush.

For the 2nd individual battle, Isabella took the stage with her Paladin Avatar and she showed no mercy, ripping her opponent apart ruthlessly.

Hers was an even more thorough victory than what Caster did.

With the momentum already on Cyber Squad's side, Pendragon Esports had no hope of entering the game anymore. And it happened just like that, the final Cyber Squad Avatar also going on to rip his opponent apart.

And with that, they progressed to the 3 vs 3 battle rush.

In the 3 vs 3 battle rush, Caster crushed Pendragon Esports' heart further as he went on to almost complete a ruthless 3v1 against his opponents.

Stinger of War eventually died with the last Pendragon Esports Avatar hovering at just 34% HP.

Isabella entered the stage next to represent Cyber Squad, and trust her, she ripped her opponent apart in less than a minute.

And just like that, Cyber Squad claimed a clean sweep of the individual battle round and the 3 vs 3 battle rush.

The scoreline on the 3-way holographic screen updated itself.

---<VICTORY>---

[Cyber Squad: 5 points]

[Pendragon Esports: 0 point]

Pendragon Esports was not just losing, they were already well on their way towards a humiliating flawless 10-0 loss in the final matchday of the season.

It would require a miracle in the team battle to salvage this situation.

The commentators took over during the little break.

"Emily Baek, can you tell us more about the main event in Bristol City? I hear that Echelon is now leading with a 5-0 scoreline".

"Yes, Derek, just like Cyber Squad, Echelon have unstoppable momentum and are well on their way to ripping their opponents apart".

"They now also have a commanding 5-0 lead in Bristol City".

"God Noah represented Club Echelon for the first individual battle round like usual, a duel that's already making rounds on social media".

"In that epic duel, God Noah broke another record of the English Pro Alliance, setting the record for the fastest ever professional win".

"Lord Doom blitzed his opponent to death in the first individual battle within just 20 seconds!"

*Chapter 229: Matchday 38 [3]*

Bristol City, The Crucible...

Matchday 38.

Cross Guild vs Echelon.

The 35,000 capacity stadium was filled to the brim with tens of thousands of fans. Not just the home seats, the away seats were also fully occupied by thousands of traveling Echelon fans who came to watch their club's last game of the season live.

The atmosphere in the stadium was electric.

And it was in this atmosphere that Echelon slowly dismantled their opponents in their own stadium, dissecting Cross Guild limb by limb, section by section in one of the most dominant performances of the English Pro Alliance.

[LOADING...]

[FIRST ROUND: INDIVIDUAL BATTLE]

Lord Doom represented Echelon, coming out first to play.

This was Cross Guild's home stadium. Cross Guild had a plan; a plan to topple the unbeaten champions of the English Pro Alliance this season in their stadium.

This was why Cross Guild's captain didn't come out to confront Lord Doom in the first individual battle, rather sending one of his substitutes in a tactical decision to take on God Noah. The guy was cannon fodder, but to Noah, he didn't see it that way at all.

Noah could not see from the lens of Cross Guild, its players, and their fans. Rather, he saw from his own lens, and the lens of Echelon as a club.

Echelon... as a club, this was their final matchday 38 game of a legendary debut season in the English Pro Alliance that was accompanied by a league title.

It was unprecedented in the history of the English Pro Alliance.

And yet, as if that was not enough, Echelon didn't just win the league title, they went on to win it with an unbeaten run.

If Echelon won now, it would cement their unbeaten league title.

And rumors were circulating online in recent weeks that the English Pro Alliance wanted to follow the format of football's English premier league, handing out a golden league title if Echelon managed to make it an unbeaten title win.

This and more were the reasons why today was such a special day for Club Echelon and its fans. It was the reason why they took this game so personal.

Personally, for Noah, and his friends, today meant even more.

To them, today was a special day, since it would mean that they already fulfilled one of the goals that brought them out of retirement... the league title.

Noah wanted the high of competing at the top of the English Pro Alliance for one more season, he wanted to play, to be at the top, to compete, and to win.

And with today's game, they would win their first of 3 major goals this season.

This was why for the first time in 38 matchdays of the English Pro Alliance this season, seated behind his monitor, Noah felt bubbly excitement coursing through his veins, filling his brain with dopamine.

He could not wait to do it, he could not wait to get it over and done it.

He could not wait for Echelon to be crowned league champions of England!

And this was why as soon as Cross Guild's Avatar entered the arena, and the countdown to fight hit zero, fueled by his excitement and the dopamine surging in his brain, Noah played one of the best burst performances of his career.

Tap! Tap! Tap!

As soon as the battle started, the sound of rapid, rhythmic sounds of the keyboard reverberated like a battle cry, filling the player booth.

And on-screen, Lord Doom erupted.

He showed no mercy, pouncing on the Blademaster and literally ripping him apart with brutal skill, peak efficiency, and ruthless dominance.

20 seconds... that was all it took for Lord Doom to destroy his opponent.

The Crucible Stadium in Bristol City became as silent as a church during after service hours, shock rippling through them like a plague.

The commentators could not stay silent for long.

"20 SECONDS!" They roared.

"20 FREAKING SECONDS!"

"Lord Doom tore his opponent apart in 20 SECONDS!"

"My God... what a monster!"

"The best player in the English Pro Alliance, bar none!"

"This season, no one is on his level, he's God Noah for a reason. Not Gabriel and his Dain Ironvalor, not Chris and his Crimson Saint".

"This season, Lord Doom and God Noah are in a different league of their own!"



"And that makes it 38 consecutive individual battles without a loss this season!"

"BONKERS!"

"ABSOLUTE BONKERS!"

"What a season he's had!"

The commentator was right. With that blitz victory, it made it the 38 individual battle round where Noah came out to represent his team as the anchor, tearing his opponent apart at the end.

This season, in the individual battler round, Lord Doom never fell.

He was the one always felling others.

----<VICTORY>---

[Cross Guild: 0 points]

[Echelon: 1 point]

The 2nd individual battle followed after the first, and Aria took the stage.

Cross Guild as a whole, including their captain were shaken by God Noah's dominant 20-second win in the first individual battle, but the captain managed to regain control of his nerves, sticking to the plan.

He sent his 2nd substitute player to represent the club in the 2nd individual battle against Aria, ignoring the boos of disapproval from the home fans.

After God Noah's win, the home fans were full of anxiety now.

They didn't want to become a part of the club stadiums that Echelon came to this season only to rip their opponents apart with a flawless 10-0 scoreline.

From the reaction of the fans, it was clear that their priorities already changed the moment that Noah gave that crazy performance.

From the 'We Must Win' mentality that they first came with to boost their hopes of escaping relegation, they forgot about the relegation battle that they were involved in, changing their priority to a 'Don't Let the Loss Margin Get Too Big' campaign in the stadium.

This was why they let their disapproval to their captain's tactics known through their booing.

They had a point though since just like Noah, Aria tore her opponent apart.

Of course, it was nowhere as fast as Noah's own battle but also excited by the hype of the game and the final matchday of the 12th season of the regular English Pro Alliance, Aria went well beyond her limits.

She destroyed the poor young man that played against her in 1 minute, 39 seconds. It was another dominant and one-sided destruction.

With it, the score line changed again.

[Cross Guild: 0 point]

[Echelon: 2 points]

And now, the moment of truth.

The final individual battle of the individual battle round, perhaps Cross Guild's last chance to fight tooth and nail for a point in this game.

By now, any Cross Guild would be a fool if they were yet to realize their captain's plan. They just wondered if it would work against a team like Echelon.

By saving himself for last, Cross Guild's captain avoided the 2 most troublesome players in Echelon, leaving himself for the final individual round battle.

No one in Club Echelon was really weak, not God Noah, not his friends, not even Jeff the newcomer, or Rosalind.

They were all skillful and had a standout trait that made them unique, but still, compared to players like God Noah and Sword Saint Aria, Cross Guild's captain felt like he stood a better chance of victory against the third opponent.

The third opponent that faced him was Caleb.

Only now did the first thriller in the individual battle round play out, a highly intense game as Caleb pulled the strings while the opposition captain fought tooth and nail to tip the scales of the battle.

Somehow, he managed to succeed.

He tipped the scales of the battle with sheer willpower and determination. As soon as Caleb's HP fell below his at the 4th minute of the game, the captain decided to be pragmatic, shameless turning and running through the large terrain.

He ran without shame, avoiding direct confrontation with the Summoner.

His strategy was clear; he hoped to avoid damage for as long as possible, long enough for the final bell for the third individual battle to ring.

If the final bell rang with their HPs like this, automatically, he would win since he had more HP than Caleb's Enlightened Flame.

Caleb quickly adapted, sending his summons to attack but Cross Guild's captain was too slippery, evading direct attack with his Mechanic Class Avatar.

With his traps, sensory devices, and other means to detect his surroundings, the captain managed to outlast Caleb for almost 6 more minutes.

He avoided Caleb successfully, not taking any further significant damage.

Caleb was not surprised though. His calculations already arrived at the conclusion long ago, so he simply waited for the outcome now.

DING!

The final individual battle came to an end.

---<VICTORY>---

[Cross Guild: 1 point]

[Echelon: 2 points]

That point should give them momentum, right?

Against any other team, maybe yes, but not against Club Echelon.

Even after that point, Echelon went on to blitz their opponents in the 3 vs 3 battle rush, tearing them apart with a dominant performance.

[Cross Guild: 1 point]

[Echelon: 4 points]

Now, on to the team battle.

*Chapter 230: Matchday 38 [4]*

[English Pro Alliance:]

[Matchday 38:]

[Cross Guild vs Echelon]

[Cross Guild: 1 point]

[Echelon: 4 points]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Avalon Sovereign vs Cerberus Core]

[Avalon Sovereign: 2 points]

[Cerberus Core: 3 points]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Cyber Squad vs Pendragon Esports]

[Cyber Squad: 5 points]

[Pendragon Esports: 0 point]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Phoenix Rising vs Shadow Dominion]

[Phoenix Rising: 4 points]

[Shadow Dominion: 1 point]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Stormborn Esports vs Steel Dominion]

[Stormborn Esports: 2 points]

[Steel Dominion: 3 points]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Helix Nova vs Nightfall]

[Helix Nova: 1 point]

[Nightfall: 4 points]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Crimson Crow vs Oblivion Knights]

[Crimson Crow: 0 point]

[Oblivion Knights: 5 points]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Juggernaut vs Blazing Gryphons]

[Juggernaut: 3 points]

[Blazing Gryphons: 2 points]

[Time: 6:00pm]

...

[Imperium Tyrannus vs Scarlet Rose]

[Imperium Tyrannus: 2 points]

[Scarlet Rose: 3 points]

[Time: 6:00pm]

10 games, 10 different stadiums.

The main event of Matchday 38 of the English Pro Alliance was not the only thriller of the final matchday of the season.

Just as Echelon tore Cross Guild apart in away ground at The Crucible in Bristol City, and as Cyber Squad tore Pendragon Esports apart at home at the Grid with a flawless 5-0 score line so far, the other 16 clubs also went all in for their final league game of the season.

In Manchester, Avalon Sovereign took on Cerberus Core in their home stadium, a game that they were losing at the break after the 3 vs 3 battle rush.

The score line was 2-3 in Cerberus Core's favor, but to Avalon Sovereign fans, it was not over yet. Far from it.

If their team could win the team battle, they would win.

That was all they wanted. That was all they clamored for.

The second half of the clash would be an epic, a team battle for the ages.

Both clubs didn't really have a particular goal they were fighting for at this stage of the season since they were both mid-table clubs, but simply for the bragging rights, they were determined to win.

On another side in London, at the Phoenix Arena, Phoenix Rising were tearing their opponents, Shadow Dominion apart with a dominant 4-1 score line.

Gabriel actually aimed for a flawless victory on their final matchday of the season. If not any other thing, but as a statement display to the top clubs this season that they were ready to compete at the playoffs.

Things don't always go the way you want though.

Phoenix Rising and Gabriel planned, but Shadow Dominion said no, scattering their plans as they fought desperately to claim a point in the individual battle round, the final battle of the round just like Cross Guild did with Echelon.

The Phoenix Arena was filled to the brim with tens of thousands of fans.

In another part of England in Leicester, Stormborn Esports took on Steel Dominion and this time, the home side was losing.

Having trained and prepared for it for a whole week, Stormborn Esports took Steel Dominion by surprise, winning the first 2 bouts in the individual battle round, but by the 3rd individual battle, Steel Dominion regained their edge.

They won the third individual battle and also blitzed their opponents in the 3 vs 3 battle rush, giving them a 2-3 lead going to the halftime break.

The odds favored them to go on and win the team battle.

In Nottingham, Helix Nova took on Nightfall, another epic English Pro Alliance clash.

And once again, Nightfall could not be stopped.

After putting together one of the best comeback seasons in the history of the English Pro Alliance this season, Nightfall took it one step closer this evening, leading Helix Nova 1-4 in away ground.

They wanted to end their season on a high.

Besides, they were engaged in an exciting playoff spot race against Steel Dominion. Matchday 38 would decide the club that would claim the 6th spot in the league table by the end of the season which was tonight.

If Nightfall won the team battle against Helix Nova, they would secure automatic playoff qualification, and that would be a new record of the English Pro Alliance in its own right.

For Steel Dominion, it was trickier.

They didn't just have to win their game, they had to pray to lady luck to favor them and have Nightfall lose for them to have a chance of qualifying to the playoffs.

This was why Steel Dominion fans didn't just pay attention to their game, they also paid keen attention to the proceedings in Nottingham.

Tonight, Steel Dominion became dual fans, staunchly supporting Helix Nova as they roared the Leicester-based club to win the game.

"C'mon Helix Nova, you guys can do it!"

And then there was the engaging encounter in Sheffield, Crimson Crow vs Oblivion Knights.

Despite the fact that they played in their home ground, the newly promoted home side, Crimson Crow could not do much against the veterans of the English Pro Alliance, Oblivion Knights.

They were losing 0-5 currently, and they would need a miracle to turn the game around, win the team battle and end the game in a draw.

Drawing the game didn't mean much to them though.

Either ways, they would be relegated from the English Pro Alliance tonight.

And then the engaging battle in Liverpool between Juggernaut and Blazing Gryphons. Having played one of the best campaigns of their club history this season, securing playoff qualification as a result, Juggernaut were keen to end the season on a high at their home stadium.

Blazing Gryphons was making the task harder than usual though as they pressured the home side.

The odds were still on Juggernaut winning the team battle to seal their victory though.

And then Imperium Tyrannus vs Scarlet Rose in Coventry City.

Everybody expected Scarlet Rose to blow their opponents out of the way despite the fact that it was an away game for them. But at home, in their stadium, Imperium Tyrannus shocked England, showing exactly what they were capable of.

Scarlet Rose was still leading with a 2-3 score line, but Imperium Tyrannus already did enough to impress anyone who watched their game.

They pushed last year's Champions League finalists to the deep end, forcing them to give a little beyond their 100% just to stay ahead.

And now, the team battles finally started.

It was a clash for the ages.

....

After what felt like a lifetime ago since it started, the first Matchday 38 battle came to an end.

---<VICTORY>---

[Cyber Squad: 10 points]

[Pendragon Esports: 0 point]

In front of their home fans, Caster and his team rode the relentless energy of the fans, blitzing their opponents in the team battle.

Cyber Squad became the first club to complete their final game of the season, and they did it in dominant fashion... a flawless 10-0 victory.

And with that, Cyber Squad's league run this season came to an end.



After Cyber Squad's win, it took a few more minutes before the 2nd Matchday 38 battle came to an end. It was quickly followed by the third and then the fourth.

---<VICTORY>---

[Cross Guild: 1 point]

[Echelon: 9 points]

Against the only unbeaten club this season, Cross Guild never really stood a chance. All they could do was dream.

Echelon tore their opponents apart in the team battle.

And with it, they made history, becoming the first club in the history of the English Pro Alliance to complete a successful unbeaten season.

And yes, they would lift the golden league trophy tonight!

Echelon's win did not mean Matchday 38 was over though, not yet.

---<VICTORY>---

[Phoenix Rising: 9 points]

[Shadow Dominion: 1 point]

Having managed to steal a point in the individual battle round, ruining Gabriel's plan, Phoenix Rising's captain did not allow their opponents to do more, leading his team to tear them apart limb after limb in the team battle.

Phoenix Rising won convincingly in front of their home fans.

It was not exactly a celebratory event though as for the first time in 5 years, right on the back of a 4-season straight league title victories, Phoenix Rising failed to win the league title for the first time.

The fans didn't focus on that though as soon as the game came to an end. Rather, they erupted in applause, cheering on their players for another great season in the league.

"Dain Ironvalor!" "Dain Ironvalor!" "Dain Ironvalor!"

"Ga... briel!" "Ga... briel!"

They chanted exuberantly, making an emotional Gabriel to lead his teammates as they acknowledged their fans, waving at them with bright smiles on their faces.

It felt nice to be acknowledged even as they were not lifting a trophy this time. It meant that the fans' loyalty and love transcended trophies.

One by one, the other games came to an end.

Avalon Sovereign pulled off one of the best comebacks of the season in front of their home fans, winning a tense and tightly contested team battle to make it 7-3 against Cerberus Core.

Stormborn Esports vs Steel Dominion didn't deviate from expectations, Steel Dominion won the game 2-8.

Their game ended before Nightfall's, and so, all of them, both the players and the fans anxiously waited for the end of Nightfall's game.

Nightfall's game took longer than expected. This was because after blitzing their opponents in the individual battle round and 3 vs 3 battle rush, the team battle didn't go as Nightfall expected.

Helix Nova had a plan, and they executed it with determination and unbreakable resolve.

They succeeded, stunning Nightfall and winning their final game of the season in their home stadium!

Nightfall lost! And with that, they lost their playoff spot.

Steel Dominion secured playoff qualification!

What a story!

And Steel Dominion fans would tango all night long in celebration.

Crimson Crow vs Oblivion Knights ended in a draw, Crimson Crow completing a stunning comeback in the team battle to make it 5-5.

Juggernaut won against Blazing Gryphons with an 8-2 score line.

And finally, despite Imperium Tyrannus' performance in the initial rounds, they could not stop their opponents as Scarlet Rose tore them apart in the team battle to end the game with a 2-8 score line.

And with that, the 12th season of the English Pro Alliance came to an end.

The English Pro Alliance table updated.

