

Reincarnated Avatar; I got 2 SSS-Rank Unique Skills

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---<VICTORY>---

[Phoenix Rising: 7 points]

[Scarlet Rose: 4 points]

Scarlet Rose lost, knocked out of the playoff round in the semifinal.

It was one of the tightest and most exciting playoff semifinal in recent years. A game fielding some of the best players and Avatars in the league, and 2 distinct but well-refined strategies.

By resting for the 3 vs 3 battle rush, Gabriel got 20 or 25 minutes to rest his fingers, and prepare himself mentally for the team battle.

When it started, Dain Ironvalor exploded.

Last season, Phoenix Rising played a very tight Warstar RPG Champions League final against the same Scarlet Rose, the toughest final that they played in their dominant 4-season run, even tighter than when they played God Noah's Cyber Squad.

It was not Dain Ironvalor who pushed his team to victory. He was stifled in that game. Rather, a substitute pushed Phoenix Rising to victory.

It was a pyric victory.

That game lingered in Gabriel's mind for a long time, and tonight, he received the opportunity to avenge himself finally.

He did just that.

Jonathan led his team, playing a flexible 2-Paladin lineup where he and Chris aimed to frustrate their opponents by playing a defensive and drawn-out game. It had a name... the Grind style.

For a time, it worked, till it no longer worked.

The reason?

Dain Ironvalor.

Gabriel went gaga on the night, his APM rising to levels that had never been seen in the English Pro Alliance prior to the night.

Gabriel's effective APM rose to over 350 in the game!

Scarlet Rose played their best game, dragging the game for over 20 minutes with the help of their Cleric, but with Gabriel like that, and the even more crazy fact that he managed to sustain it through the course of the game, they stood no chance.

Chris's Crimson Saint fell to Dain Ironvalor first, and then Jonathan's Paladin too. Gabriel completed a 2v1 in the team battle against Scarlet Rose's 2 best players.

And with that, the outcome of the game was set in stone.

Jonathan and Chris's efforts were not in vain though. By keeping Dain Ironvalor occupied, their teammates managed to kill both of their Elementalists, but in exchange for their 2 best players, it was not worth the exchange.

With Jonathan and Chris out of the game, Gabriel was burned out, but it was worth it as he took a step back, allowing his teammates to steal the show.

For the final 10 minutes of the team battle, Phoenix Rising obliterated Scarlet Rose in a suddenly dominant match.

As every subsequent Scarlet Rose Avatar died, one after the other, some Scarlet Rose fans could not take it, breaking down in tears in the stadium.

Gabriel claimed the MOTM award for the semifinal.

And then, all attention went to the other semifinal clash the next day between Echelon and Cyber Squad.

...

[Semifinal Two: Echelon vs Cyber Squad]

While the first semifinal clash took place in Manchester United's stadium, Old Trafford in Manchester, the second semifinal clash took place in Tottenham's Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

For the opening ceremony of this important game in London, the guest performers invited for it were Nigerian superstars, the duo of Rema and Burna Boy.

Both ignited the stadium in preparation for the epic clash, performing a few of their hit songs and leaving the fans excited.

And then, the moment came. The moment of truth.

Unlike the extremely boisterous atmosphere in Old Trafford yesterday as both club players entered the stadium, entering their respective player booths, when the players came out this time, there was a somber atmosphere in the stadium.

The stadium was noisy, but still filled with somber energy.

"Leading the line for Echelon players in black is God Noah, the player with the most MVP awards in a season with 6, his 6th MVP award coming from this season".

"He's a legend of the English Pro Alliance, can he add another legend to his storied collection this night?"

"This time, he's facing his old club in the same stage that he won so much with them, the same stage that he forged his legend as a god of the game".

"He's won 5 Warstar RPG Champions League trophies, can he claim his 6th champions trophy this season?"

"Well, if he wants to achieve his ambitious goal, he has to do it by plowing through his old club first, can he do it?"

The players entered their respective playing booths, and then it started.

[LOADING...]

[FIRST ROUND: INDIVIDUAL BATTLE]

A familiar Avatar entered the stage, representing Echelon.

Like expected, it was Lord Doom going first. He'd gone first all season, winning all 38 individual battles that he'd played in the regular season.

Lord Doom was yet to meet an Avatar and opponent that could topple his imperious run in the individual battles.

Could tonight be the end of his run?

Well, on paper, his opponent stood a chance since after avoiding Noah in their 2nd leg clash in the league in the individual battle, Caster finally grew balls big enough to face his mentor on the big stage.

Caster and Stinger of War came out to face Lord Doom.

FIGHT!

The battle started, and a clear favorite set a marker early on.

Compared to last season, Caster was better now, his skills more refined and with more game experience at the big stage of the English Pro Alliance, having taken on more responsibility as Cyber Squad's captain.

But no matter how much he grew, he didn't grow enough to eclipse Noah yet. Lord Doom dominated the fight against Stinger of War.

Fighting against his old Avatar was weird. After all, this was a companion that he had so many memories with, having shared the stage for over 10 years.

Noah didn't let sentiment hold him back though.

He played his best game when it mattered, dominating Stinger of War from beginning till end.

And then...

---<VICTORY>---

[Echelon: 1 point]

[Cyber Squad: 0 point]

Lord Doom won with 39% of his HP still remaining.

It was a testament to Caster's skill that he managed to take more than 60% of Lord Doom's HP.

The second individual battle started.

Like predicted, Aria came out to represent Echelon, and Isabella came out to represent Cyber Squad. The 2 old teammates clashed in one of the biggest stages ever in English Pro Warstar.

Well, the outcome was even more convincing than Stinger of War vs Lord Doom. Like Noah, Aria dominated her opponent from beginning to end.

In the big stage, the Sword Saint blossomed a final time.

She won with more than 40% of her HP still remaining.

With 2 of their best players having played in the first 2 individual battles already and lost, Cyber Squad suddenly found themselves in a precarious position.

There was nothing they could do to salvage the situation though. They could only trust their next representative to go and get the job done, but he failed.

After a whole year of being away from the English Pro Alliance for so long, Noah and his teammates were hyped for their return. The grueling 38-matchday season was long and draining, not giving them many chances of exploding in a single game, and giving their all without worrying about burnout for future games.

Tonight though, in the semifinals, they exploded.

Caleb went next for Echelon, and he dominated his opponent even more than Noah and Aria did.

With an ingenious strategy, taking advantage of the environment and terrain, he collapsed a section of the arena, burying his opponent in rubble just 2 minutes into the game, draining his remaining HP in one go!

And that was over 50% HP.

If it didn't take him that long, it would have been another one hit, one kill in his collection.

Caleb and his Enlightened Flame won with 65% HP remaining.

Echelon claimed a clean sweep in the individual battle round.

[Echelon: 3 points]

[Cyber Squad: 0 point]

Cyber Squad rallied for the 3 vs 3 battle rush, desperate to win and tie the game. But against a spirited Echelon, they had a steep obstacle to climb and win.

Aria anchored the 3 vs 3 battle rush. And this time, Caster decided to be strategic, not going in first.

But it didn't mean much in the grand scheme of things.

Aria started and defeated the first 2 Cyber Squad opponents, completing a 2v1 before dying to Caster's second attack.

Lord Doom entered the game next. And once again, Stinger of War had a rematch against the 11th server Avatar.

Caster played well beyond his limits, but it was not enough.

Noah won.

---<VICTORY>---

[Echelon: 6 points]

[Cyber Squad: 0 point]

The game came to an end early.

It was over.

With 6 points already, it didn't matter what Cyber Squad did. Even if they won the team battle, Echelon already won and so, the game came to an end early.

It was a flawless victory for Echelon.

Chapter 238: Warstar RPG Champions League Final; Echelon vs Phoenix Rising [1]

The semifinal of the English playoffs was over.

And the 2 finalists were concluded.

[Warstar RPG Champions League Final: Echelon vs Phoenix Rising]

After a grueling 38-matchday season, and a short but engaging quarterfinal and semifinal clash in the playoffs, the most anticipated game in every season of the English Pro Alliance was finally here.

The Warstar RPG Champions League Final was here.

Multiple news channels in England covered the exciting events of the semifinal on their front cover page.

[English Warstar TV:]

["Echelon tears Cyber Squad apart with a flawless 6-0 victory in the Warstar RPG Champions League semifinal to secure a spot in the final. It's another new record by Echelon; they're the first English club to make it all the way to the Warstar RPG Champions League final in their debut season."]

...

[Warstar Sports Channel:]

["It's Echelon vs Phoenix Rising in the final. It's a record-breaking final matchup. With God Noah and Gabriel in the lineup of both sides, both with Lord Doom and Dain Ironvalor, predictions say it's going to be the best final in the history of the Warstar RPG Champions League."]

Not just these 2 news channels, multiple Warstar-related news channels in England, even non-Warstar related channels broadcasted the hype of the playoffs that was sweeping through England like a plague.

Every year, the highlight of the season was the playoffs. Though it was short, it was a tournament filled with thrilling and exciting moments.

This season's playoffs were no different.

With Cyber Squad being eliminated in such fashion, news channels had more than enough juicy news to post in their channels for the next 3 days till the final on Sunday at Wembley Stadium.

Besides, the pro players added even more flame to the already blazing fire of the Warstar RPG Champions League final.

After losing to Phoenix Rising in the semifinal, Jonathan shameless faced the media and called Noah out. He didn't call Noah out to troll him though, rather...

"Bastard, well, it's clear now that I can't defeat Gabriel".

"Make sure you don't lose to him too you smug blindweed, or what'll they say about the old generation like us? They'd say we're washed and useless, so you better win against Gabriel and his team".

At first, the reporters were confused, then one of them asked. "Jonathan, are you addressing Noah directly from the media?"

"What else did you think? I want them to win".

"Do you think they stand a chance?"

Hearing that question, Jonathan smirked. "In all my years of knowing Noah, I've always known him for not losing. And when he loses, he never loses twice".

"That bastard is not like me," he said with a pitiful look on his face, but then he brightened up. "Noah already lost to Gabriel once. Trust me, he won't lose a second time".

"Heck, I still think it's a miracle that Gabriel and his team managed to win against Noah 2 years ago".

"I'm excited too, I can't wait to see how it goes, but since Scarlet Rose is out of the competition, I'm team Echelon".

Not just Jonathan, Caster also faced the media in the aftermath of Cyber Squad's humiliating loss against Echelon.

When questioned by the reporters, Caster simply stared at them and replied. "I believe Noah is the best player in the league this season, and Echelon is the best team, so I see them winning".

And just like that, it seemed like the whole world supported Echelon, expecting them to win, automatically branding Phoenix Rising as the underdogs.

In his past 5 years in the English Pro Alliance since his club won their first league title and Warstar RPG Champions League, it's been so long that Gabriel already forgot how it felt to be the underdog.

And yet, here he was again, a complete cycle.

In Phoenix Rising's home building, rounding up their final training sessions for the final, Gabriel faced his teammates.

"It's us versus the world".

"They think we're the underdogs. They expect us to lose, let's shock them".

"Let's prove them wrong".

Time moved fast.

Day 1 of the wait to the final was completed uneventfully. Day 2 followed roughly the same script, and then Day 3 also passed.

Finally, it was D-day.

Just like last 2 seasons when Phoenix Rising clashed with Cyber Squad in the Warstar RPG Champions League, it was an all-London final.

Both clubs arrived at Wembley Stadium on time to witness a packed stadium.

For the final of the Warstar RPG Champions League final this time, the energy tipped even more in Echelon's favor as their club owner, Nightingale was the music superstar who anchored the pre-game show.

After the performance, the players entered their player booths to loud cheers from the fans, and then it started.

[LOADING...]

[FIRST ROUND: INDIVIDUAL BATTLE]

[Lord Doom vs Stinger of War]

The first individual battle was the rematch that millions of fans of the English Pro Alliance wanted.

Gabriel didn't shirk the responsibility.

Since losing to God Noah in the humiliating 10-0 game, Gabriel had gone back to the basics, shored up on everything, making his skillset grounded and unshakably solid. He entered the arena eager for revenge.

[Arena: Throne of Dawnfire]

The arena is a radiant battlefield formed from living gold and smoldering obsidian. Two majestic statues overlooked the battleground; one of a mage cloaked in flame, the other of a knight wielding a radiant sword.

The entire stage pulsed with light and heat, a fitting ground for titans.

The commentator booth was energetic, literally bubbling with energy and excitement that mirrored that of the fans.

Eli Castor, the main commentator of the final started in his attention-grapping voice.

"And here it is!" The first battle of the final! It's Lord Doom versus the indomitable wall of Phoenix Rising, Stinger of War!"

"The Combat Mage versus the Paladin," Vera Nacht, his assistant added. "Magic against steel. Aggression against resilience. Buckle in, this is going to be seismic".

"We've seen this before," Eli chipped in. "In the league, we saw this exact fixture twice, and both times, God Noah and his Lord Doom won".

"Can he do it again?"

"Will Gabriel and Dain Ironvalor allow it?"

It was while the commentators talked that it started.

The moment the signal echoed through the golden chamber, Stinger of War charged like a meteor, his tower shield glowing with divine resonance.

His Celestial Armor set glowed with embedded sigils that also engulfed his shield as he activated Holy Ground, creating an aura dome that repelled all magic within a ten meter radius.

Lord Doom didn't flinch.

Wreathed in his radiant white and gold armor, his red cloak fluttering behind him, the Avatar tilted its head, and calmly raised Aetherforge, the crystalline staff forged from starfire itself.

Lord Doom murmured a phrase, almost inaudible to the crowd.

Then the runes on his battle lance flared, and the air shimmered as a singularity orb formed behind him.

BOOM!

With a blink step, he vanished and reappeared just outside the dome.

{Aether Whiplash=}

A whip of pure arcane force crashed against Dain Ironvalor's shield with concussive power.

Stinger of War parried, responding with Sanctified Slam, sending shockwaves through the arena. The ground cracked. Spectral wings flared behind him as he taunted Noah, planting his shield and calling down Heaven's Verdict, a high level Paladin skill that summoned a storm of radiant spears falling from above.

But... behind his monitor, Noah's expression was calm.

Tap! Tap! Tap!

His left hand tapped his keyboard, the right calmly controlling his mouse. It was a fast-paced and lethal opening between both Avatars.

Lord Doom raised Aetherforge while chanting.

"Reality is the canvas... I am the brush".

Suddenly...

{Aether Distortion=}

An Awakened level skill!

Space bent around Lord Doom, the spears curving mid-flight and crashing around Stinger of War instead, forcing him to retreat.

Halfway through, Stinger of War went on a rampage; buffs surging, popping his Divine Reckoning stance. The Paladin Avatar glowed, suddenly immune to knockback, immune to slows, striking like a blessed juggernaut.

And then, he crashed into Lord Doom, knocking him back with a combo of Shield Bash plus Lightburst and Divine Chain.

[CRITICAL HIT!]

Lord Doom's HP plummeted like a freely running tap, leaving at 28%.

And from there, it went south.

Dain Ironvalor fought and advanced like a Berserker, unstoppable.

With that crazy combo, he took initiative over the battle finally. As soon as he did, Gabriel entered the zone state and there was no going back.

Tap! Tap! Tap!

His fingers flew through his keyboard in a mirage.

On the big screen in the arena, Dain Ironvalor advanced, forcing Lord Doom on the defensive, reacting instead of attacking as the Paladin struck with his longsword, cleverly using his shield to keep him under pressure.

The crowd rose to their feet. Even Phoenix Rising fans believed their captain got Lord Doom and God Noah finally.

"STINGER HAS HIM!" Eli Caster screamed. "LORD DOOM IS IN THE RED!"

But Noah exhaled...

His eyes sharpened. The battlefield warped.

Time seemed to stop, and then...

BZZZ!

Lord Doom erupted.

Chapter 239: Warstar RPG Champions League Final; Echelon vs Phoenix Rising [2]

BZZZ!

Aetherforge transformed, fractals splitting from it as the Final Ascension mode activated, the final mode of the SSS-Rank weapon that was awakened after Noah upgraded it to level 100.

In the Final Ascension Mode, all the abilities, stats, and stat effects of Aetherforge become amplified by 80%.

In a battle of high stakes, in a battle this close, that could mean the difference between defeat and victory.

Noah used Astral Combustion, one of the strongest and most insidious Awakened level Paladin skills in the game, burning a third of Lord Doom's remaining mana pool to freeze time for half a second.

Dain Ironvalor stopped.

'F*cking SSS-Rank unique skill...', those were Gabriel's thoughts as soon as his Avatar froze in one place.

And that was when Noah unleashed everything. His final gambit. He called it... Starbreaker Drive.

It was a combo move that only Lord Doom could perform in the world of global Warstar, and that was due to his 2 complementary SSS-Rank unique skills, 10x Skill Points, and Versatile Avatar.

Time was still frozen, and then...

BZZZ!

All hell broke loose.

Lightning lanced from the heavens.

Gravity flipped.

A constellation-shaped magic array appeared beneath Dain Ironvalor as Noah teleported around him six times in under two seconds, forcing Gabriel to continuously move his mouse to adapt, just in time for Lord Doom to unleash hell.

{Aether Slam=}

{Starbrand Sigil=}

{Spectral Echo Detonation=}

{Time-Lock Pulse=}

{Ignition Nova=}

{Astral Thrust – Point Blank=}

All Awakened level skills!

KABOOOM!

That was the end.

Dain Ironvalor's shield shattered. His armor peeled off with sparks and holy light, his HP melting like wax in a fire.

But even as he fell, the no. 1 Paladin in the English Pro Alliance, no, the no. 1 Paladin in the world roared defiantly, swinging once more...

Lord Doom reacted and caught the blade with his bare hand, using a high-level Brawler skill to negate the force of the blade in a moment of cold dominance, cloak flaring behind him, and he typed in chat.

["Not today, old friend."]

---<VICTORY>---

The victory screen lit up across the stadium, pulling fans out of their reverie as they finally realized that Dain Ironvalor's HP hit 0%.

The great Paladin fell to one knee... and then powerlessly bowed its head.

Dain Ironvalor died.

BOOM!

Wembley Stadium exploded!

Vera Nacht was going crazy. "What a crazy individual battle!"

"He played the best game of the season. That was Dain Ironvalor at his absolute peak... and Noah still beat him".

"Ballistic, that's the word!" Eli Castor chipped in. "Lord Doom wasn't just playing. He was painting a masterpiece in front of ninety thousand souls. Good heavens!"

The scoreboard in the 3-way holographic screen updated itself.

[Echelon: 1 point]

[Phoenix Rising: 0 point]

For the 3rd consecutive time this season, God Noah beat Gabriel in the most exciting individual game fixture all season.

The sensitive fans could only wonder how Gabriel felt after this time's loss.

But the final was not attentive enough to wait for Gabriel to get his thoughts in order, the final continued.

[INDIVIDUAL BATTLE 2, LOADING...]

And this time, 2 of the best duelists of both teams took the stage again... Aria vs Velura.

After just watching their captain lose the 3rd time this season against God Noah, Velura took to the stage for the 2nd individual battle with his Elementalist Avatar in a bid to get revenge.

The stakes were higher than ever.

The atmosphere in Wembley was rising to a fever pitch.

[Arena: Twilight Ravine]

And then, it started.

The Twilight Ravine is a battlefield split between molten lava and frozen spires, jagged cliffs on both sides.

Storm clouds rumbled above, and a violent updraft screamed between the chasm's mouth, perfectly suited to an Elementalist's chaotic magic and a Blademaster's deadly footwork.

The commentator booth was very active this final as Eli Castor started.

"Velura the Tempest, Phoenix Rising's uncontested queen of the elements, versus Aria, the Sword Saint, the Blade Witch of Coventry, the woman whose name sends chills into any backliner!"

Vera Nacht added. "One plays with storms. The other dances with swords. Both have fire in their eyes. This won't be a duel... this will be a collision".

The round began.

Velura's staff twirled in her hands, a cascade of elemental rings swirling above her head; fire, water, wind, and earth shifting in rhythm like planetary bodies.

Aria, by contrast, was silent. Like a ghost.

Her S-Ranked dual swords gleamed under the flickering lights of the arena. She took a low stance. No buffs. No flair.

Just steel.

And then, all hell broke loose.

KABOOM!

Velura opened with a volcanic spike, erupting the ground in front of Aria.

But the Blademaster was already gone, one step ahead as she used a flash step, and then another.

She darted sideways, narrowly avoiding Chain Lightning and Glacial Shackles.

And then, activating a low level skill to buy acceleration, Aria slashed her way forward with blinding speed, aiming to reach melee.

Velura answered with a combo.

{Cyclone Pulse=}

{Firestorm Veil=}

{Arcane Shatter=}

A wall of wind pushed Aria back, fire lashing out around her, and then the ground beneath her detonated in violent force.

Aria's HP dropped to 84%, while Velura remained untouched.

"She's on the ropes early!" Eli Castor covered the clash as it happened. "That's the strength of Velura, she keeps her distance and controls tempo like a composer".

But Aria grinned behind her monitor.

And then, Reckless Storm vanished again.

BZZZ!

Before Velura could pinpoint her position, Aria activated her signature skill, an Awakened level skill.

{Phantom Crescendo=}

Phantom Crescendo enables Blademasters to create afterimages of themselves, the number of afterimages created depending on your skill. Normal players create between 2 to 3, pro players mostly 4, while very few Blademasters in the world could create 5.

Aria? Five afterimages of her split from her form and converged at once, weaving through Velura's storm field in an unpredictable pattern.

Velura tried to track her with Frost Orb Rain, but it was too late.

CLANG!

A blade scrapped her barrier.

SLASH!

Her robe was torn.

BOOM!

Aria crashed down with a Meteor Slash, slamming the Elementalist into the rocks like a f*cking rag doll.

Velura countered immediately, activating Tempest Wrath, unleashing a hurricane surge of fire and ice. Aria's afterimages were torn apart. But the Blademaster leapt out of trouble, coughing blood.

Aria focused back on her enemy.

Velura was floating, surrounded by an elemental halo, channeling her Ultimate Skill, an Awakened level Elementalist skill, Heaven's Judgement.

A world-ending spell that draws all four elements into one explosive sphere above her, and detonates it where she wants on her command.

The only way to avoid it was to run.

Aria didn't run.

Instead, she slammed both swords into the ground and muttered.

"Let's dance, storm queen".

Activating another Awakened level Blademaster Skill, Eclipse Waltz, time briefly slowed in her perception.

And then...

WHOOSH!

Her blades blurred into a flurry of phantom arcs at the same time that Velura released Heaven's Judgement.

KABOOM!

The sky exploded.

The spell crashed down, but Aria was already inside the blast radius, weaving between flame and ice, blades trailing wind and stardust.

In this moment, Aria left millions of Warstar fans around the world rising to their feet in shock and awe as they watched her display unmatched Blademaster skill, weaving through the middle of a f*cking Awakened level Elementalist skill!

And then, she pierced the heart of the storm.

A cross-slash right through Velura's core!

Velura's HP hit 0%.

The Elementalist fell, gasping, but laughing, staring up at the crumbling sky illusion. It was one of the death sequences that Velura chose for his Avatar.

Reckless Storm? Panting, she sheathed her blades with a single elegant twist and walked away without a word.

Aria? She had a triumphant smile on her face.

"Revenge motherf*cker!" She muttered under her breath, and then the victory screen lit up.

---<VICTORY>---

[Echelon: 2 points]

[Phoenix Rising: 0 point]

The almighty Phoenix Rising was losing 2-0 again, and it was not looking good for Phoenix Rising so far.

The commentators? They were going crazy.

"She walked right through Heaven's Judgement like it was a summer breeze! That's not a woman, that's an executioner in silk and steel!" Vera raved.

Eli Caster chipped in, his voice dripping with hype and excitement. "Velura played perfectly. But Aria made that final dance hers, what a game we've had!"

"Two individual wins for Echelon. Clearly, they are sending a message".

By now, the atmosphere in Wembley Stadium felt more like that of World War III than the final of the Warstar RPG Champions League.

Phoenix Rising, the club executives, the players, and the fans, they all came to Wembley tonight to get their revenge.

To win against Echelon finally.

And yet, things were not going as they expected.

Their tension levels were rising, drawing increasingly closer to a crescendo.

The battle continued nonetheless.

[INDIVIDUAL BATTLE 3, LOADING...]

[Arena: The Gilded Crucible]