

Football 163

Chapter 163 First Christmas

It was indeed a bad time to bring up the Brazil trip, but Mum didn't shut down the idea stating she would think about it. That was better than anything I thought she would say but I took it as a win. Winter break wasn't fun though as we were confined to the house.

The only time we were allowed out was for family dinner or when we had training. Florida weather in the winter remained warm which looked like fun if not for the fact Both Emma and I couldn't go out. Mum wasn't cruel though not confining us to our rooms resulting in us spending time in the gym.

Although we never lifted weights that didn't stop us from doing different challenges. All our electronics were taken so we were desperate for entertainment. For some reason, Emma got really competitive which didn't end well for both of us. Oftentimes by the end of the day, we would be exhausted and shivering after an ice tub session.

It wasn't all fun though as Mum and Dad used our punishment as an opportunity to make us study. Emma studied next semester's math and Italian courses which weren't her strong points. Whereas I got stuck studying English and Spanish which was practically torture.

With our school being a private school the education we receive is quite comprehensive. For example, although Spanish is supposed to be a language class we learn it like it's a regular English class. It's not that I struggle with it either I just don't have the concentration for it. Spending time writing essays and stories when answering questions is just so boring.

Neither my parents nor teachers thought that was a good enough excuse for getting poor grades. So, I got stuck learning the basics of the Spanish language and answering different essay questions. Safe to say I was beyond happy when Christmas Eve arrived. Not because of all the tasty food Mum cooked for us but for the simple fact we were free.

No longer grounded the first thing I did was take Zeus out on a run which I haven't done in a while. He seemed particularly happy about this since I haven't been able to take him out in a while. He loves me more than Dad since I'm less strict with I'm this is partially due to the fact Dad trained him.

[FOOTBALL SINGULARITY SYSTEM]

USER: Rakim Rex

AGE: 6yrs

TALENT ASSESSMENT: Grade- B

Singularity Points: 880

Position: Winger

(Evaluation: A boy with a wealth of untapped talent and enormous potential for becoming a professional soccer player,)

[USER STATS]

>Physical Fitness: B

Balance and Coordination: B

Speed: -B (70) -> B- (72)

Agility: C+ (67) -> C+ (69)

Strength: D+ (57) -> C- (64)

Stamina: C+ (68) -> B- (70)

>Football Technique: B- -> B+

>Game Intelligence: D+ -> C+

>Mental Ability: S

>Singularity Skills:

*Bronze Level Goal Sense (Passive)

*Bird's eye view (Passive)

*Bronze Level Comeback Kid (Active)

'Looks like I've made steady progress,' I thought to myself after taking a look at the status screen. Frankly, I don't feel like my speed and agility are being adequately represented. Then again, the stats are for the under-16 level which explains why the kids I play against are much slower.

[Don't stop, you've still got a long way to go,] Eva commented as she started telling me ways I could improve. We decided to mainly focus on my balance, agility, and speed since that's what I use most. I've also started incorporating more skill moves in my arsenal.

The Ronaldo chop is for sure my favourite skill move as it allows me to utilise my speed. Marseille turn football is also fun whenever I have to go through traffic, but I've been trying to master the elastico. The last one is a bit harder since I tend to move fast when travelling down the wing.

~~~

The evening held a special event that added to the holiday cheer as the neighbourhood organised a Christmas Eve show. It was an annual tradition, but this year, the anticipation was higher, given the constraints we had faced during the break. The entire neighbourhood gathered at a wide plaza within the community, where a stage was set for a magical night.

Looking around the park we spotted a few of our friends whom we hadn't seen in a while. May was also grounded like us for obvious reasons but everyone else got to enjoy their winter break. Quickly saying hello to them we all found our seats ready for the show to begin.

The show began with children from the church choir singing classic carols, their voices harmonizing with the twinkling lights that adorned the stage. The atmosphere was filled with joy, and families gathered, bundled up in cosy winter attire, sipping on hot cocoa and sharing laughter. This is despite the lack of talent for singing of some of the kids in the choir group.

Some voices breaking as they tried to hit the high note was a common occurrence and I tried my best not to burst out laughing. The Parents who watched the kids remained mature managing to keep their composure. Some masochists even praised them out loud saying things like 'Aww how cute,' as they pointed at their kids.

Luckily for me, the festive snacks from the stalls were tasty which preoccupied my attention. Plus catching up with the guys was fun as they filled us in on what they have been up to. Liam's been training for another meet which has kept him busy. The only weird thing was how silent May was throughout the night.

As the night unfolded, various acts took the stage, displaying talents ranging from dance performances to dramatic skits. The highlight of the evening was a surprise appearance by a local band, belting out festive tunes that had everyone tapping their feet. The infectious energy of the music swept through the crowd, creating an atmosphere of sheer jubilation.

Everyone sang along to the songs that they knew with some even taking the opportunity to dance with their partners. Drinking warm punch is something I can get addicted to, especially with the tasty Christmas cookies. Too bad I hardly eat any sweets or junk food on a regular as mum makes sure we eat healthy.

The next morning the sun rose lazily on Christmas morning, its soft rays filtering through the curtains to gently awaken the sleepy household. "WAKE UP! IT'S CHRISTMAS!!!," Emma's cheerful voice resounded within my room waking me from my half-dazed state.

Zeus followed suit barking with excitement as they jumped on my bed forcing me to get up. Before I knew it, I tumbled out of my bed knocking away any hopes of staying in my comfortable bed. Accepting reality, I decided to get up and wake someone else from their sleep to share the frustration.