

## Football 171

### Chapter 171 Semi Final (6)

'23' After escaping a narrow eagle's counterattack the Bears found themselves passing the ball outside their opponent's box. Their CDM could be seen just past the halfway circle orchestrating his team's passes. He had been looking for a way to break into the Eagles box, but their defence remained guarded despite the mounting pressure.

His opportunity came after deciding to charge forward after failing to see a breakthrough point. Quickly shaking off Ben's guard he dribbled the ball forward heading straight for the box. It didn't take him long to arrive at the edge of the box meeting Ole's charge head-on.

Just before the defender in front of him could tackle him, he faked a pass to his left before deftly nudging the ball to his right. This quick skill move allowed him to gain some space opening up a shooting path to the goal. Without hesitation, he swung his foot sending a powerful shot at the goal.

Ben between the sticks was already on his toes taking off in the direction of the ball. Managing to bring his fist to the ball he punched it out for a corner kick. Loud groans could be heard from the spectators after seeing the midfielder's shot being saved by the keeper.

The corner set piece was quite routine as one of the Bears players sent a curved cross into the box. The players within the box rose into the sky but the ball was too high for anyone sailing past their heads. This anticlimactic set piece disappointed the crowd who had been expecting another shot at goal.

'25' After an aerial duel between Ben and a Bears midfielder Rakim was the first to react to the loose ball deftly bringing it down to with a measured touch. However, before he even had the chance to move forward a boy in a blue jersey came sliding in with a lot of momentum.

Both of the boy's feet hooked the ball at his feet cleanly sending him tumbling to the ground. The player was unbothered by the effect of his tackle directly charging forward to initiate an attack. The Ref didn't see anything wrong with the tackle directly ignoring the complaints of the nearby Eagles players.

They had seemingly expected to receive a free kick after the tackle and didn't pursue the Bears player. This proved to be a mistake as the official ignored them and followed after the Bears player who was getting dangerously close to the Eagles box. The player quickly arrived at the edge of the box on his right flank facing Ryan Garcia the Eagles left back.

A quick body feint and a staggered acceleration were all he needed to break past the left back. He had been distracted by the happenings ahead expecting the game to be paused. So, when the ref let the play continue, he panicked when his opponent suddenly appeared in front of him.

All of that didn't matter to his opponent, who directly entered the box from the side. Like a predator on the prey, he sprung into another gear, charging straight towards the goal, ignoring Henric, who was charging at his side. Ben between the sticks had already stepped up from the near post doing his best to make himself big.

Seeing this the player didn't hesitate any longer firing off a shot at goal just before Henric's slide tackle could interfere with his shot. The ball rocketed towards the goal flying at a sharp angle around waist height. Ben between the sticks could only instinctively react to the shot trying his best to put a body part to the ball.

He succeeded in bringing his elbow to the ball, but the shot carried too much power. By the time he could register the sting of the impact the ball nestled itself into the back of the net. Seeing his shot go in the Bears player exclaimed with excitement as a loud shout of "YASSSSSS," could be heard.

Like a tsunami, both the Bears players and their supporters celebrated their equaliser. 2:2 the score sheet read bringing this match to another level of excitement. On the field, the Bears, rejuvenated by their success, regrouped swiftly, their eyes hungry for the lead. The Eagles, however, felt the sting of the quick concession on a match they had been dominating so far.

Their opponents were like a plague always managing to keep them at bay and capitalise when they least expect it. Seeing the momentum shift in the bear's favour they tightened their formation in hopes of surviving the dying minutes of the first half. Their aged coach Bauer could be seen shouting instructions at his boys urging them to focus.

As the referee blew his whistle to resume play, tension crackled as both teams clashed once again. The Eagles' midfielder, Ben, took possession, calmly taking control of the ball outside the centre circle. He hesitated for a moment before turning around and passing the ball back to his captain behind him.

With all the momentum against them, Ole had no plans of holding onto the ball. Despite feeling the pressure, he still calmly scanned the field ahead of him looking for the best location to send it. It only took him a moment to pick out a teammate as he swung his foot sending a lobbed pass down the left flank.

The ball soared over the field, tracing a sharp arc before landing at the feet of Rakim and his midfield assignment. Both players chased the ball ahead of them speeding down the wing. Using his speed and a bit of nimble footwork the winger was first to get to the ball.

Bringing the ball under his control he tried his best to continue forward but his marker was quick to react. Before he could use his speed to blow past his marker the boy swung his legs tackling both the ball and Rakim. His rough but fair tackle proved fruitful in clearing the ball out of the park and stopping the Eagle's attack.

The match continued in a similar fashion as both teams continued to duke it out on the pitch. With both teams fighting for every inch of the pitch the last 3 minutes of the game became more heated. Surprisingly neither team managed to launch a significant attack towards the goal.

They often ended up being stopped at the last moments as both team's defenders showcased some otherworldly defending. It wasn't until the final minute of added time that The bear's number nine managed to break free from Ole's tight guard and send a sudden long shot towards the goal.

Ben between the sticks remained once again rooted on the spot left to watch the ball sail towards his goal. Luckily for him and the Eagles, the ball impacted the woodwork heading out for a goal kick. Before they could even process the shock of the sudden shot the official blew his whistle signalling the end of the half.