

Football 175

Chapter 175 Semi Final (End)

As the Bears closed the gap to just one goal, the intensity of the match made itself known to the Eagles. They started wasting time in hopes of running down the clock further much to the displeasure of the Bears team who were full of fighting spirit. The referee was having none of it as he urged the players to hurry up or they would be penalised.

So the match resumed in the 57th minute with the Eagles kicking off. Tom calmly passed the ball back to his midfielders who started passing it along their back line. With the score now at 4-3 in favour of the Eagles and time ticking down, every moment became crucial. Thus they decided to try and keep the ball for as long as possible.

The Bears, energized by their recent goal, intensified their attacks chasing after every pass line-hungry hyenas. Their aggressive strategy caused some nervous shifts in the Eagles players who received the ball. It wasn't until the 59th minute that the Bears finally managed to regain poseses after a panicky pass and miscommunication between Max and Lucas.

The player who won the ball didn't get far though as he was brought down a few yards away from the penalty box. Finn was the one to perform the tactical foul tugging on the boy's shoulder after being beaten by quick feint. The bears didn't bother complaining instead choosing to set up for the freekick.

In response, the Eagles formed 3-man a wall right in front of the ball forcing the ref to push them back. Ben between the sticks quickly adjusted the positioning of the wall and started eying the midfielder who stood poised to take the kick. The air was thick with tension as the Bears' player ran up and curled the shot over the wall. However, the ball never came back down as it continued to sail higher completely missing the target.

As the ball soared harmlessly over the crossbar, a collective sigh of relief swept through the Eagles' side while groans of disappointment emanated from the Bears' supporters. With only a minute left in official play, the Eagles knew that they were on the brink of sealing their victory and advancing to the finals. The urgency was palpable, and every second counted.

The Bears, desperate to salvage the game, quickly retrieved the ball for a goal kick. Ben, seeing no time to waste, launched a long ball towards the Eagles' half, aiming to bypass the midfield and create a direct opportunity for their forwards. Feeling the danger of letting the bears easily keep possession the eagles started to actively fight for the ball.

In the dwindling moments of the match, Coach Bauer shouted from the sidelines, "Stay organized, hold the line!" His voice, was full of intensity as he urged them to stay focused. He knew full well that the added time would be substantial, especially after Ben's injury. He was proven right as the official indicated for another 8 minutes of added time.

With the referee's signal of eight additional minutes, the atmosphere on the field became electric. The Eagles, holding onto a slender one-goal lead, braced themselves for a final onslaught from the Bears, who were desperate to equalize and extend their season.

A mele of boots and body ensued just past the halfway point leading into the Eagle's half. For 4 minutes straight the ball continued to change possession either through a clean tackle or a nifty steal. However, more often than not it was a mistimed tackle that led to either team losing the ball and giving away a free kick.

As the melee unfolded just past midfield, the intensity of the game reached a fever pitch. Every player on the field seemed driven by a mixture of desperation and determination. Scrapes and bruises became battle scars for them as they fought for a chance to dominate the field.

In the dying moments of the match when the referee already had his whistle in his mouth the Bears managed to cling to a final corner. Tension mounted as the Bears prepared for the crucial corner kick. the spectators at the side of the field craned their necks not wanting to miss a single moment.

The Bears' winger nervously lined up the corner, ignoring the players jostling for position in the box. The atmosphere was charged, every heartbeat amplified by the stakes of the moment. Even the Bears goalie chooses to run forward in hopes of helping his team score the equalizer they need.

With a deep breath, the winger swung in a curling ball, targeting the cluster of bodies crowding the goalkeeper. In the penalty area, bodies clashed in a chaotic dance. Jake was the first to bring his head to the ball as he leaped high above the mele. His head connected solidly with the ball, directing it out towards the edge of the box. However, the clearance was not perfect, the ball dropping straight to the feet of a Bears' midfielder just outside the penalty area.

With no time to think, the midfielder took a touch to settle the ball and then fired a desperate shot through the crowd. The ball zigzagged through legs and bodies, a blur of white against the green pitch. Ben, the Eagles' goalkeeper, shifted his weight, ready to dive. His eyes darted from left to right following after the white blur.

Just as he decided to jump to the left someone's foot collided with the ball completely changing the trajectory of the ball. If it continued it was sure to land in the back of the net but fate seemed to want to intervene in the form of Finn. Reacting with instinctive quickness, he threw himself towards the path of the shot. The ball struck him squarely in the chest, the impact knocking the wind out of him, but crucially diverting the ball away from the goal.

The redirected ball spun awkwardly to the side where Henric stood his towering figure holding back to opposing players. Not willing to take the risk of dribbling the ball he directly swung his foot sending the ball towards the right and out of the danger zone. Seeing the ball fly away the referee instantly blew his whistle shattering the Bear's dream of the finals.

The Eagles on the other hand jumped up in jubilation as they celebrated their hard-fought victory. They hadn't expected such a hard Game but it made the victory much sweeter. Their defeated opponents on the other hand were left defeated on the ground trying their best to hold in their tears.

All the comfort in the world from their coach and the supporters couldn't make up for the loss of this match. Thus they quickly went through the procedure of shaking hands and congratulating their opponents before heading off the field. The egals on the other hand continued to celebrate their victory for another 10 minutes before being ushered into the changing rooms.