

Football 261

Chapter 261 Vs Aberdeen

Lisa continued flipping through the binder, her fingers tracing the key details. "Next, we have the exclusive product collaborations," she said, tapping a page that outlined various design ideas and collaborative projects. "You'll be involved in designing a limited edition line of athletic wear, that you will wear to workout and post on your socials. This means your input will directly influence the final product."

"They have prepared two offers for you," She told him with a smile, "The first one is a payment of 5 million dollars split into 4 years, and the second offer consists of a 5 year \$200,000 signing fee added with a 3% share on sales of the TitanFit line. If you rise in fame and influence they are willing to renegotiate that share percentage followed by more media campaigns."

Rakim's eyes widened as he absorbed the details of the Rex Fashion & Sport offer. He leaned forward, his fingers drumming thoughtfully on the armrest of the sofa.

"Wow, this is a big deal," he said, his voice tinged with a mix of excitement and contemplation. "I never expected to have such an offer on the table." Despite sounding astonished by the offer he had already made up his mind to accept the deal. It had no downside as he could easily find content to promote the gym line.

"I, have to let you know at that they are considering other influencers but you would be the first footballer since they want to target a younger audience." Lisa explained clearing up the last bit of information that she thought her son should consider. Even though it was her husband's company they had decided to let their son make his own decision on the matter and for that he needed all the information.

"I like the TitanFit deal and would probably want to go for it after some more details are hammered out. As for the Sainclair Mens, deal I like the idea but the duration is too long. I'd even take a reduced pay to shorten it as I believe my value will sky rocket in the near future." Rakim responded with a thoughtful expression after considering the deal carefully. As for the Muscles Moose offer he didn't even bother considering it as it just doesn't fit his style and he didn't want to advertise something that he didn't believe in.

"I understand I'll hammer out the details and get back to you, as for shoe deals I think its best to hold off for a while until the end of the season." She told him with a thoughtful look directly pocketing the shoe deals that she ha compiled. She believed it was best for her sons next team to be secured before trying to negotiate a deal as it would give her more leverage.

"I agree," He responded as his smile once again returned to the relaxed state it had been earlier. With business out of the way their conversation returned to that of a mother and son.

Lisa spent the next few minutes fussing over him asking him questions about his life here that she already knew. However now that she was here in person she wanted to reassure herself. They spent the next 20minutes Like that not realising when the clock struck 02:00 PM and one of the Celtic staff came up to call Rakim down to continue his pre-match preparations.

"See you in a bit son, have fun out there," Lisa told him with a warm smile pulling him into her embrace one more time before shooin him off.

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[Glasgow Scotland: Celtic Park, Friday, 09/03/2019, 3:00 PM]

The atmosphere inside Celtic Park had transformed from the quiet calm of the early afternoon into a cauldron of noise and anticipation. The majority of stands were packed with a sea of green and white, and the rhythmic chanting of the fans reverberated through the stadium, creating a pulsating energy that seemed to shake the very foundations of the arena.

Lisa was back in the private lounge, her eyes fixed on the pitch below. The two teams were lined up in the tunnel, preparing to make their grand entrance. Despite the thick glass separating her from the roaring crowd, she could feel the vibrations of their excitement. Taking off her coat she revealed her sons jersey

Her heart pounded in sync with the rhythmic stomping of the fans, and a flutter of nerves danced in her stomach. She decided to head to the balcony where there were reserved seats so she could experience the atmosphere first-hand. The moment she reached her seat she was assaulted with a fervent atmosphere that seemed to be ready to boil over at any minute. And before she even knew it she was clapping along to one of the home teams songs.

The teams marched out onto the field to a deafening roar. The Celtic fans erupted into a chorus of "You'll Never Walk Alone," their voices merging into one powerful wave of sound. Lisa could see Rakim walking with the team, his face taking on a focused expression. Smiling at this she took off her coat revealing her sons jersey hiding her beautiful figure as she cheer in excitement.

They quickly went through the pre match formalities consisting of handshakes and coin toss. Before the players took their positions, Lisa found herself holding her breath. Whilst this was going on the stadium announcer did his job to introduce the teams line up.

The Aberdeen line up was met with lukewarm receptions from the home fans. However the moment he began listing the Celtic players the crowd would scream their last name. "Today's Captain in the midfield Scott," He stated with a more enthusiastic tone only to be met with the scream of almost the entire stadium.

"BROWN!!!" It followed a similar format for every player with the likes of Sinclair, Rakim, and Burke receiving a more enthusiastic cheer. Lisa in the midst of all this felt her heart pumping with enthusiasm already hyped up for the game.

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Celtic XI:

GK: Bain (29)

RB: J. Toljan (2), CB: D. Boyata (20), K. Ajer (35), LB: K. Tierney (63),

CDM: N. Bitton (6), S. Brown (8)

RM: R. Rex (45), CAM: E. Henderson (52), S. Sinclair (11),

ST: O Burke (25)

VS

Aberdeen XI:

GK: J.Lewis (1)

LB: M. Lowe (29), CB: S. McKenna (5), A. Considine (4), RB: D. Ball (21)

LM: C. McLennan (27), CM: G. Shinnie (3), L. Ferguson (19), RM: G. Stewart (7),

ST: J. Wilson (9), S. Cosgrove (16)

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Once everything was in order the referee didn't waste time blowing his whistle, and the game began. The atmosphere in the stadium became calm as the first few moments played out. Everyone seemed to be evaluating what kind of performance they would be receiving from their players today.

The opening minutes reflected this tension as both teams began feeling each other out. Celtic midfielders immediately took possession of the ball and started passing the ball around with confidence. Their passes were crisp and deliberate aimed at dictating the opening pace of the game.

Aberdeen's response to this was to sit back and wait for an opportunity to break on the counter. Rakim on the right flank quickly found himself in the thick of the action. Making runs and using his dribbling skills to escape the occasional encirclement to help his team retain possession of the ball.

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From her seat in the private seating area Lisa watched intently as Rakim darted down the wing, quickly putting on the after burners. Despite not looking back he managed to anticipate Scott Brown's pass and effortlessly skip past Aberdeen's left-back, Max Lowe, driving towards the by-line.

The crowd responded with a murmur of anticipation as Rakim's cross flew into the box connecting with the head of Burke. Luck wasn't on their side as Scott McKenna reacted with lightning fast reflexes clearing the ball away. Despite the team not converting the chance Lisa's heart swelled with pride, seeing her son in full flow.

Aberdeen, however, weren't here to roll over and thus decided to be more active after coming so close to conceding. They pressed hard, closing down spaces quickly, making it difficult for Celtic to breakthrough in the next few minutes. To neutral observers they were delighted at finally having a worthy ball game to watch. The battle in the middle of the park was fierce, with Scott Brown and Nir Bitton exchanging heavy challenges with Aberdeen's midfield duo of Shinnie and Ferguson.

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Celtic suddenly flipped gear pushing forward with more momentum catching the Aberdeen players off-guard. A clever one-two between Burke and Henderson saw Burke sprinting towards the box. He cut inside, looking to shoot, but Aberdeen's McKenna blocked his attempt, sending the ball out for a corner. The fans roared in approval, as this was the first sign of promise from their team since the failed cross.

Lisa, watching from her seat, clenched her hands together, her eyes locked on Rakim. The corner was whipped in by Sinclair, a perfect curl aimed at the far post. Boyata leaped high, towering over his marker, and got a firm header on the ball. The shot seemed destined for the net, but Aberdeen's goalkeeper, reacted swiftly yet again punching the ball out of his box.

The crowd was disappointed yet again but didn't voice it as they saw the ball dropping near the edge of the box where a lone figure stood.