

## Football 44

### Chapter 44 Grind Don't Stop

[Mc Pov]

"Now that we have completed that little warm up let's get into the actual training" coach James spoke up to us as we gathered around him. Some of the boys groaned lightly when they heard that all the suicide runs we had done were only considered a warm-up.

"You all came here to become better players what did you expect to be doing?" coach James sarcastically reprimanded. Not wanting to continue with the conversation he began explaining our next drill.

"Your going to be playing a game so you should be happy but you only get three touches this time" He casually said as he pointed to the sevens-side pitches that were set up for us. The drill was pretty much a seven-on-seven game with each team having three substitutes from the two losing teams from the last drill.

The two teams that would be playing each other are my yellow team and the red team that had beaten their opponents. Yunus was part of the red team with Pulisic and Mckennie so they ended up easily bullying their opponent.

"Yunus my friend let's have some fun," I told the boy with a smile as I went to my right-wing position.

Looking at the boy standing next to me on the other side of the halfway line I felt excited. The boy has a light complexion most common for American kids with dirty blond hair, and he is around 5'3 in height.

He is actually someone I recognise from my past life, he was hailed as the most talented player to ever come out of the states.

The boy is the one and only Pulisc arguably one of the ideal modern wingers of the future. He managed to carve out a path for himself in arguably the most competitive league in the world the Premier league. His playstyle is akin to the modern speedy winger template that became popular in the twentieth century.

"Yo my name is Rakim the future Hokage of the right wing, believe it," I said to the boy holding out my fist for a fist bump. He seemed confused by my words, guess he is not a man of the culture. He must be bored all day long not being able to join the search for the one piece or watch Ichigo slay hollows.

"Hi I'm Christian, I don't know what a Hokage is but I will defiantly be the best winger to come out of the states," He confidently stated as he bumped my fist flashing me a bright smile.

"(huh) You don't know what a Hokage is? let me show you my will of fire with my skill because that is my ninja way" I confidently told him with my own version of the iconic naruto lines. This seemed to confuse him further as he took a step back probably thinking I'm crazy or something else. This is starting to become a problem all these players that lack culture can't understand my catchphrases.

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[Yellow Team]

(GK)

(CB) Toby, (CB) Ted

(LM) Giovanni, (CDM) Ben, (RM) Rakim

(ST) Ron

[Red Team]

(GK)

(CB) Adams, (CB) John

(LM) Pulisic, (CM)Yunus, (RM) Mckinnie

(ST) Jake

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[General Pov]

[Sweet]

With the whistle of coach James the game began. Jake from the red team wasted no time passing the ball back to Yunus in the midfield. The latter deftly controls the ball and using his second touch he evaded the charging Ron.

Seeing the opponent's wingers getting closer he immediately passed the ball back to Tyler Adams. The boy had just taken control of the ball when he saw the charging figure of Rakim in a red jersey.

Managing to keep his composure he controlled the ball with his right foot moving it towards the middle of the park forcing the winger to suddenly turn to adjust to his movements. Just as the winger dawned in red was able to close him down he fired a sharp pass forward sharply slicing the field.

The ball seemed to have a will of its own as it accurately bypassed various outstretched legs as if they were an obstacle course. On the receiving end of the ball was McKennie who had received the ball in his stride not losing any momentum.

The light-skinned winger didn't hold onto the ball long as he sent a weighted pass to Jake at the edge of the penalty box. He continued his run into the box overlapping Ted who was indecisive about whether to close down Jake or continue marking him.

The defender's indecisiveness served to bite him in the back when McKennie was left completely open inside the box. The young winger took a step to adjust the ball for his right foot before he let loose a powerful shot at the keeper who was still standing on his line.

Before the keeper could even react the ball had pierced into the net. Seeing his shot go in the winger ran back to his half celebrating widely. The red team players quickly swarmed him embracing him into a group hug celebrating his goal.

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The game resumed with the Yellow team finally gaining possession. However, with the constant pressure from the red team, they were unable to mount an attack. A couple of times they had to quickly shift the ball to their nearest teammate in order not to lose possession.

With the intensity of the pressure from the red team, Ben was forced to pass the ball back all the way back to his goalkeeper. This allowed the yellow team to gain a second to breathe and stabilise their rhythm so they could mount an attack.

The yellow team's goalkeeper had the ball at his feet as he calmly scanned the field. Seeing the approaching Jake charging at him he quickly passed the ball to his right where Ted was standing unmarked.

The defender had a bit of trouble controlling the hard pass having to use two touches to gain control of it. Not wanting to hold onto the hot potato he passed it up the right wing to the approaching Rakim who was asking for the ball.

The young winger let the ball pass through his legs as he quickly circumvented Pulisic who had been marking him. Maximising his agility and speed he instantly caught up with the ball just before Tyler Adams could snatch it.

Before he even touched the ball he quickly scanned his surroundings and realised that Pulisc was hot on his trail. With Tyler at his front and Pulisic on his back, Rakim dipped his shoulder towards the right sidelines.

Once he saw Tyler shift his body to follow his movements he suddenly chopped the ball with his right foot. With the quick change of direction, he managed to bypass the defender easily as he pushed the ball towards the box with his second touch of the ball.

Not wanting to lose the ball Rakim sent a pass the ball to ben who had moved up the field and was lurking at the edge of the sixteen-yard box. The tall boy calmly controlled the ball before he sent a chipped-through ball into the box.

John who had stepped forward to close him down was left stranded unable to jump high enough to interfere with the pass as it soared above his head. The ball landed next to Ron who didn't bother taking a touch as he directly swung his leg sending it towards the goal.

The keeper managed to react fast enough to deflect the ball making it hit the bar flying out for a corner kick. Throwing up his hands in frustration Ron turned around to apologise to his team for missing the opportunity to level the game.

Giovanni didn't mind his apologetic teammate as he went to the left corner flag getting ready to take it. Quickly setting the ball down he took a couple of steps back to scan the box for the best crossing option.