

## Football 82

### Chapter 82 Eagle's V Beavers (2)

The game soon resumed with the Beaver's kick-off as they madly charged forward in an attempt to level the game. The look of determination on their faces spoke volumes as they quickly brought the ball into the opponent's half. using a quick one-two Lea managed to bypass Ben Miller quite easily.

The midfielder continued to accelerate his pace forward not minding the fact that Damian was coming to close him down. Just as the defensive midfielder had arrived in front of him Leo set a sharp pass to his right into the run of Ryan. The midfield didn't bother holding on to it for long as he chipped it into the box.

The ball soared high into the air sailing above the head of Jake only to drop around the penalty spot. Floyd the Beavers striker and Ole Wagner were the first to react their bodies clashed with each other as they tried to control the dropping ball. Floyd managed to emerge victorious in the confrontation getting his foot to the ball first. Left hobbling the striker didn't bother to find his footing as he let loose a shot towards the goal.

The ball left Floyd's foot with incredible power, swerving towards the top right corner of the goal. Ben Walker, the Red Oak Eagles' goalkeeper, sprang into action, his reflexes kicking in as he leapt towards the incoming shot. There was a moment of pin-drop silence as the crowd held their breath. Everyone's eyes fixated on the intense battle between the striker and the goalkeeper waiting to see who would emerge victorious.

With a desperate dive, Ben extended his right hand, fully stretching his body to its limits. Time seemed to slow down as the ball travelled through the air, drawing a sharp arc towards the goal. The spectators watched in awe as Ben's fingertips made contact with the speeding ball, redirecting its trajectory.

As if nothing had happened time resumed as an avalanche of reactions rained down from the bleachers. Gasps of amazement and groans of disappointment echoed from the stands as the ball ricocheted off Ben's fingertips, narrowly missing the top corner of the net. The home crowd erupted in applause, cheering loudly in acknowledgement of the goalkeeper's Incredible save. Ben quickly regained his composure and scrambled to his feet; his eyes still fixed on the ball ready to meet the next challenger.

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Meanwhile, as the rebounded ball descended, Rakim was the first to react and anticipated its trajectory. With lightning-fast reflexes, he sprinted towards the loose ball, determined to seize the opportunity for a counterattack. His agile movements allowed him to get ahead of Leo Stephens, who was left flat-footed waiting for the ball. Quickly bringing the ball under control the winger spun around and started charging forward.

It only took him a few yards before he was closed down from both sides but his ability to change what foot the ball was on helped him keep possession. Performing an emergency stop he created a bit of space to assess his options. Spotting Tom, make a clever run into space, Rakim swiftly played a precise through ball into the space he was running into. Tom, who had been waiting for the chance to break away from the opposing defenders, used a quick body feint before dashing into the space. Two steps into the box and the ball arrived at his feet with pinpoint precision allowing him to comfortably control it.

Realizing the danger, Ron Carter, the Beavers' centre-back, rushed to close down Tom, attempting to dispossess the ball of the striker. Seeing that the striker was about to shoot he chose to risk a slide tackle from his side. However, Tom's determination was unwavering, and he cleverly sidestepped Ron's tackle, maintaining possession of the ball. His movements had a certain grace to them as he seemingly danced past the tackle whilst remaining composed.

With a burst of speed, he created a bit of separation from the downed defender getting a better angle at the goal. The crowd held their breath once again as the tension mounted. Tom took a split-second to

compose himself and then unleashed a powerful strike towards the bottom left corner of the goal. The ball's angle was quite tricky as it sliced along the ground.

John Carter, the Beavers' goalkeeper, reacted instinctively, diving to his left in a desperate attempt to make the save. The ball rocketed towards the goal, whistling as it pierced the air around it. It seemed destined for the back of the net, especially with the tricky angle. However, John had other ideas as he fully stretched his arms in a moment of desperation, managing to make a fingertip save, pushing the ball away.

The stadium erupted into a mixture of gasps, groans, and cheers. Both teams' fans were on their feet, applauding the extraordinary display of skill from both the goalkeeper and the striker. Whilst John dusted himself off the ground, he had a victorious grin on his face knowing he had managed to save his team. On the other hand Tom could be seen kicking the ground in frustration at missing such a good opportunity.

The match had become a thrilling contest between the attackers and the goalkeepers, with each side pushing the boundaries of their abilities. As the ball rolled out of play, the referee blew his whistle, signalling a corner kick for the Red Oak Eagles. The momentum had shifted once again, and with the home crowd energized by the incredible saves, the Eagles sensed an opportunity to extend their lead.

The Eagle's players swiftly made their way towards the box, their hearts pounding with excitement. Ben Miller, known for his pinpoint accuracy with set pieces, stepped up to take the corner kick. The stadium buzzed with anticipation as fans leaned forward in their seats, eager to see what would unfold. Shouts of encouragement could be heard from the home fans near the corner flag as they were seemingly giving advice to the midfielder.

"Kid you got it in you just believe it," an old man holding a brown paper bag could be heard telling the midfielder as he picked up the ball. However, judging by his confused reaction one could easily tell that he had no idea who the guy was. Ben proceeded to just give the guy a thumbs up before returning his focus back to the game. Unbeknownst to him that short interaction helped him calm down his nerves that have been in overdrive due to the game.

Ben carefully placed the ball on the spot, meticulously adjusting his steps for the perfect delivery. He glanced up, scanning the box for his teammates' positioning as he took his time to pick out who had the highest chance to convert the goal. Henric Eriksson, Ole Wagner, and Jake Smith, the towering defenders, made their way into the penalty area, ready to attack the incoming ball.

Ben frowned slightly after seeing that the only person at the back was Damian but the ongoings of the box captured his attention. Both teams' players could be seen fighting for an advantageous position in the box. The referee's presence was the only reason that the players remained somewhat calm. Having seen the situation of the box he quickly raised his arm signalling the oncoming kick.

With a sudden burst of energy, Ben whipped in a wickedly curling cross towards the near post. The ball travelled with pace and precision, expertly avoiding the defenders' reach. Simultaneously, the Eagles' players made their well-rehearsed runs, looking to outmanoeuvre their opponents. This caused quite a bit of chaos in the box as the ball rapidly approached.

Henric, Ole, and Jake launched themselves into the air, their eyes focused on the incoming cross. They leapt above the Beavers' defenders, their determination evident in every muscle of their bodies. It was a contest of strength, timing, and will. Their markers were left to just watch them soar in the air having missed the chance to challenge them for the aerial duel.

Just as the ball reached its apex, Henric managed to get his head to it, redirecting it towards the far post. The crowd erupted in cheers as they witnessed the ball sailing towards the goal, seemingly unstoppable. But fate had a different plan in mind as a figure blitzed across the goal line.

John Carter, the Beavers' goalkeeper, sprang into action, his reflexes sharp and his agility unmatched. He catapulted himself across the goal, stretching his body to its absolute limits. Time slowed down as everyone's eyes fixated on the dramatic scene unfolding in front of them. Eagerly awaiting the outcome of the confrontation.

With a breathtaking display of athleticism, John managed to extend his arm, his gloved fingertips making contact with the ball. In an instant, the trajectory of the ball altered, changing its course again denying the Eagles the satisfaction of a goal. The keeper visibly erupted with excitement screaming loudly to let out his frustration as he asserted his dominance over his goal.

The stadium erupted once again, but this time with a mix of admiration for John's incredible save and frustration from the Eagles' fans who were desperately seeking a second goal. Most shocked by the keeper's display of skills were the Eagles players in the box. A sense of gloom washed over them as the keeper seemed to resemble an unmovable giant guarding his goal at all costs. The Beavers' defenders didn't bother with them as they scrambled to clear the loose ball, and the match resumed with a quick counterattack.

Leo Stephens, the Beavers' midfielder, swiftly took control of the ball near the touchline and initiated a rapid counterattack. He skilfully manoeuvred past Max Taylor and Ben Miller, displaying his agility and evasive ability. Quickly bringing the ball forward he officially signalled the attack to his teammates.

He spotted his teammate, Floyd Douglas, making a well-timed run down the left flank. With a weighted pass, he sent the ball into Floyd's path allowing him to continue his run at full speed. The crowd held their breath once again as the speedy striker charged towards the Eagles' goal

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Meanwhile, the Eagles' defenders snapped out of their daze and scrambled to track back, desperately attempting to close down the dangerous attack. Damian Green, the defensive midfielder, quickly recognized the threat and sprinted towards Floyd, aiming to halt his progress.

As the distance between Damian and Floyd closed rapidly, Floyd made a split-second decision. Instead of going for an individual run, he skilfully played a pass back to Leo, who had continued his run towards the edge of the penalty area.

The midfielder who had raced up the field with all his strength received the pass with finesse, showing remarkable control under pressure. With a sudden burst of acceleration, he drove towards the goal, leaving the Eagles' defenders trailing in his wake to desperately chase after him. The crowd erupted in anticipation as Leo prepared to unleash a powerful shot.

Ben took a couple of steps forward to put pressure on the midfielder, but Leo had no intentions of letting him come close. Having learned from His striker's earlier missed opportunity he had no intention of letting the keeper get any closer. Quickly launching a shot just as the keeper took a step forward the ball soared to the far-right corner.

Ben who saw the incoming shot was left with only the option to react to the shot to the best of his abilities. Although he reacted as fast as he could that wasn't enough as the ball by passed his outstretched hands by inches. A second later even before he could land, he heard the net of his goal rattled.

The away crowd seeing the ball go in erupted in euphoria cheering loudly as their team finally score a goal. Sounds of drums could be heard as their fans sang the school's cheer to further encourage their team. The Beavers players celebrated widely relishing in the fact they were back on level terms.