

Football God 121

Chapter 121 2024 EFL Cup champions- Fulham FC

"And Fulham FC are the 2023/2024 EFL Cup Champions!"

"What a moment for the fans!"

"What a moment for the club!"

"They've had an amazing run. They've gone through Norwich City, Ipswich Town in the round of 16, Everton in the quarterfinals, the almighty Liverpool in the semifinal, and now Chelsea".

"What an amazing run!"

"They deserve this trophy after such an impressive run and performance tonight, they deserve the moment".

After Jimenez's goal in the 88th minute, sending Fulham ahead of Chelsea in the final, the agitated Chelsea players responded immediately as they tried to score the equalizing goal but it didn't come.

Led by their determined 4-man defense, Fulham defended like a team for the final minutes of the game, even using the dark arts of time-wasting to kill the game.

In the end, it was all worth it.

Fulham FC won the EFL Cup final.

As soon as the referee's whistle blasted after additional time, bringing the game to an end, multiple Fulham players immediately broke down in tears on the pitch as the emotion of the moment overwhelmed them.

They could not believe what they just achieved, it felt like a dream.

Emotional and filled with ecstasy, they acknowledged their fans, gathering towards them as they waved to the loud roars generated by them.

On the other side, the Chelsea players were mostly downcast but none of them collapsed on the pitch as some even took the initiative to leave the pitch immediately, walking down the tunnel.

One of them stayed behind though, Cole Palmer, and Sam took his chance as he jogged towards the young Chelsea midfielder, requesting for a jersey swap.

Cole Palmer may still be a young player but it was clear that he was destined for the top. Besides, in Nigeria, Chelsea fans literally worshipped him so Sam was determined not to miss this chance to swap jerseys with a true star of the game.

Cole Palmer obliged, swapping jerseys with him.

Like expected, after the end of the game, Sam was awarded with the man of the match award after his game-winning 2 assists.

After the excitement died down a bit, Fulham FC's name was finally engraved on the EFL Cup as the trophy presentation time came.

The distraught Chelsea players went up first, taking their silver medals as their fans stayed and applauded them. When it came to Cole Palmer's turn to take his medal, the applause around the stadium rose up a notch.

After the Chelsea players, the Fulham players finally climbed the podium to take their gold medals alongside their coach.

Walking through the podium, Sam had a big grin on his face.

When he took his gold medal, the applause rose up to a crescendo as he smiled, waving at the fans.

And then came the trophy-lifting time.

Tom Cairney was Fulham FC's captain for the 2023/2024 season. Despite the fact that he didn't start the game, he was subbed into the game sometime in the second half and he played till the end.

At this moment, this player grinning from ear to ear lifted the trophy before walking towards his teammates and together, they jumped, celebrating even as celebratory ribbons were shot into the air to commemorate the moment.

Just like Sam wanted, he added another unforgettable moment to his still very short football career.

And this time, he did it in England.

After the trophy lifting, the players finally started taking turns, taking pictures with the trophy and when it came to Sam's turn, he took it to his family.

When she found out that they were allowed to enter the pitch, Mrs. Moses felt drugged in excitement as she ran into the pitch, hugging her son excitedly.

"My boy!" She said proudly. "I'm so proud of you Sam!"

His dad said the same thing, hugging his son with a proud smile on his face even as Sophia was busy taking selfies on the Wembley pitch.

Afterall, it was not every day that a non-professional footballer could boast of entering the Wembley pitch. Heck, even most professional footballers never got the chance to step inside this iconic stadium.

Sophia was determined to take as many pictures as possible to mark the memory.

After she was done, the family of 4 finally crowded together around the trophy as they took a family picture.

Sam felt on top of the world as he celebrated his victory with his family.

After taking pictures of the trophy with his family, he also took pictures of the trophy with Alex Iwobi who hugged him soon after.

"You're a monster man, now I see why you felt you were good enough to force yourself into the starting XI".

"Heck, Sam, you're a freak!"

Sam laughed, unsure of how to respond to not make it sound cringy.

After all the celebrations, Sam was not yet free as after winning the man of the match award due to his performance that night, he was forced again to have a post-match interview with the reporters.

They asked him the regular questions, how he felt about his team winning their first trophy in so many years, how he was able to play without pressure in the game, and what he thought about the rest of Fulham's season.

They also asked him who his inspiration to play football was this time.

Sam answered all the questions the best way he could, mostly giving positive answers but when it came to his inspiration to play football, he became more animated and passionate. "I'm a die-hard Lionel Messi fan". He grinned.

"To me, he is the G.O.A.T".

"And considering his role in the greatest game I've ever watched live, the 2022 FIFA World Cup final that changed my life, I would say he is my inspiration".

"Being a professional football player is hard but sometimes, when I think of Messi's humble beginnings and how much he sacrificed to become the player he is, I become motivated to sacrifice even more".

"That's a nice sentiment Sam, I wish you success for the rest of the season".

"Thank you".

With that, Sam was finally extradited from the reporters.

Tonight finally came to an end for him, it was an unforgettable night.

Chapter 122 A new household name in Fulham

After the EFL Cup final game between Chelsea and Fulham, immediately after the game ended, just like expected, England was taken by storm.

Not just England, social media was taken by storm.

Among the 3 domestic trophies in England, the EFL Cup may be the least valued of the 3 but it was still a major club trophy in England.

No one saw Fulham winning the EFL Cup trophy at the beginning of the season. Not even after they knocked out Everton in such a fashion. Heck, not even after they knocked out Liverpool.

They were the big underdogs of the tournament and yet somehow, they were able to defy all odds, going all the way to win the big trophy.

And the crux of it all was one name, Samuel Moses.

All the accolades could not be pushed to only Sam, it would be unfair to the other Fulham players. Afterall, just like the young Nigerian attacking midfielder, all of them gave their all for the game.

The difference between Sam and the others though could be summed up in 2 words, X Factor.

Fulham FC was never seen as one of the top clubs in England, but nor were they seen as one of the bottom feeders in the league fighting against relegation.

Fulham was a proper mid-table team.

They were not too ambitious, they just did the bare minimum to stay afloat in the league every season, just enough to not call it a failure.

This was the lifestyle of the club, this was their sustenance, but all of it changed when they bought the young attacking midfielder from Nigeria and added him to their ranks.

Sam was not content with the bare minimum.

After Sam's performance in the FIFA World Cup final against the almighty Manchester City, Sam truly entered the radar of top clubs all over the world.

Not all of them went for him immediately but of those that went for his signature, Fulham hit the jackpot, getting his signing.

They didn't go for Sam because he was some proven veteran who could dominate games across 90 minutes, not because he was an established world-class star, rather, they went for him because of his mentality above anything else.

Sam definitely had the talent; he had the skill.

Afterall, if he didn't have the skill, no amount of determination would have let him show up against Man City's defense but his skill alone was not supposed to be enough to let him do the things he did on the pitch.

Since coming to Fulham FC, Sam brought his mentality with him.

Of course, for the first few games, he stayed at the periphery of the starting XI for Fulham but after his clutch performance against Liverpool in the EFL Cup semifinal, even the blind could see the need to start him the next game.

And in the next game against Newcastle United, despite the fact that his team lost again with a much weaker team, Sam managed to show what he could bring to the Fulham team every game if he became part of the starting XI.

The next game, his manager, Marco Silva started him again and he came up clutch again, helping his team snatch the victory from Everton.

And since then, Sam never looked back.

Fulham FC had always been a good team but with Sam, he brought the winning factor to this mid-table team.

He brought that sense of inevitability that no matter how Fulham FC played in any game, with Sam on the pitch, they would always come out with a result.

Considering that he was just 18, this was ridiculous and considering that he was just coming to England after playing all his career in Nigeria in the Nigerian league made it even more unbelievable.

After the EFL Cup final, as the rave for Sam exploded even as the National England TV also broadcasted it, the local Fulham TV focused on their player more.

"Hey Derek, thank you for making it to the show today".

"It's a pleasure Sasha". The middle-aged retired ex-Fulham player smiled at the camera as it focused on him.

"So Derek, today's show will be focused on the name currently flying all over the internet and over all of England," she smiled beautifully. "Sam, or should I say Samuel Moses?"

"Sam, Samuel Moses, our no. 11, Zinedine Sam, the Nigerian Zidane, whichever one you call him is correct because that boy is a monster".

She chuckled. "That's rich coming from you Smith, considering you played the bulk of your career in the premier league with Fulham FC".

The middle-aged man smiled. "I'm not even joking. I'm telling you Sasha, mark my words, Samuel Moses is the next big thing in English football".

"That is high compliment".

"He deserves all the compliment in the world. Come on Sasha, what else do you want me to say after such a performance against Chelsea? Almighty Chelsea!"

She smiled. "Well, I can't argue with you Smith, Sam really took all of us by surprise with that swashbuckling performance".

"So Smith, what do you think is his greatest strength?"

"His mentality". The middle-aged man answered immediately, smiling. "Sam is good, he has good technique, but to me, his scariest quality is his mentality".

"I don't know if it's true but I heard he approached his coach, demanding to play him in the game against Liverpool if the coach wanted to win the game".

"I mean, come on, do you know the balls it requires to do such a thing? After just coming to England? As a Nigerian?"

"I mean, give the boy his accolades, he's got balls of steel".

"It shows his mentality".

"And look at both games. Against Liverpool FC, the coach literally introduced him 2 minutes away from time yet in that short time, Sam managed to create a miracle and like they say, the rest is history".

"This means he's not just the talk type, he's the talk and do type".

"Against Chelsea, he did the same thing after everyone thought Cole Palmer would steal all the headlines".

"No, Sam was not content with that. He was defiant, singlehandedly winning Fulham the game again and it's first trophy in years".

"Sasha, as a Fulham supporter, there's no better time in the world than now".

"Mark my words, all Sam need is time to shore up on some certain aspects of his game. With that mentality of his, he'll win the Balon d'or someday!"

"Woah, that's rich!"

"Yes, very rich but I mean it". Smith laughed. "I mean, he's the man now, he's the new household name in Fulham".

"To me, he already attained that streets will never forget status for Fulham fans, that's how high I rate him".

Chapter 123 The mom syndrome

While the whole of England was still held in a fever pitch state due to the conclusion of the EFL Cup, focusing on his incredible performance, Sam enjoyed quality family time after returning to the hotel.

That night, Mrs. Moses was very active, leading the celebrations as the whole family celebrated Sam's first trophy in England.

And of course, trust his mom, she prayed over his head, making sure that no evil power could stop his trend of success.

"My son, you shall win many more trophies".

Silence.

"My son, you shall win many more trophies".

Silence.

Bonk!

She hit Sam on the forehead and when he stared at her in grievance, she glared at her son. "What are you doing? You say Amen when I pray over you".

Sam sighed. "Ok mom".

"My son, you shall win many more trophies".

"Amen".

"No weapon fashioned against you shall prosper".

"..."

"Say amen!"

"Amen".

"Good," she nodded, satisfied. "Where your enemies say you will fall, that is where you shall rise and get to your peak".

"Amen".

"No witches and wizards can get to you. My son, you are protected".

"Amen".

"You are loved".

"Amen".

"You shall become the best player in your team".

"Amen".

"You shall win the...", she paused, throwing a quick glance at her husband who quickly understood, whispering a few words to her.

She smiled, focusing back on her prayer. "Sam, you shall win the balloon don".

"Mom, it's not balloon!"

"Shut up and say amen".

Sam sighed; he could only put up with it. "Amen". He said.

"Tomorrow, when we leave, we shall experience journey mercies back to Nigeria".

"Amen".

"There shall be no accident".

"Amen".

Thinking of something, she added with even more energy. "And none of these evil girls in England will ever catch your eye, God forbid!"

Sam sighed. "Amen".

"You shall marry a good wife in due time and have a good family".

"Amen".

Satisfied now, Mrs. Moses finally ended her prayer, dragging her son up as she hugged him with joy written all over her face.

She was not yet done though.

When Sam thought he was finally free, his mom dragged him out of the hotel room to the corridor where she engaged him in a conversation.

"Son, tell me the truth, do you have a girlfriend?"

That came out of nowhere.

"..." Sam was speechless.

She smiled at him. "Come on, we know these things, I was a young girl too. Don't tell me none of the girls here in England are throwing themselves at you yet, and you know, it's normal, you're a fine boy".

"Just tell me the truth, I won't be mad".

Sam stared at his mom, thoroughly speechless. "Mom, I don't have a girlfriend".

She smiled knowingly. "Is she not here in England?"

"Mom!"

"Oh! Did you leave her back in Nigeria?"

"..."

"Is it Amaka?"

"Oh wait, is it Sarah, that girl from your secondary school?"

"Mom!"

"Or is it Amanda, the landlord's daughter?"

"Ah!" She gasped, pointing a finger at her son like she finally figured it out. "It's Blessing! It's her. That girl from your pharmacy shop then, the one with the very big ass, it's her right?"

Now, Sam was just frustrated and embarrassed. "Mom...!"

She chuckled on seeing his reaction, patting him on the back to appease him but then she stared at him suspiciously again. "You really don't have a girlfriend?"

"No mom, I don't, I don't have any girl in my life apart from you and Sophia".

She stared at her son, then she smirked. "Oh, is her name Sophia?"

Sam sighed in frustration. "No! Mom...!"

"Ok, ok, don't raise your voice, this is England you know," she peeked around. "But you really don't have a girlfriend?"

"I don't mom".

"That's good," she patted his back in approval. "You don't need a girlfriend now, now's the time to focus on your football and your career".

"My son, women are dangerous".

"I'm a woman so take it from me. If you let the wrong woman into your life, she can easily scatter everything you've built and ruin your life".

"Normally, I would say I want to look for a girlfriend for you but no," she shook her head. "Even I don't trust the girls I know; this is something and a journey you'll have to embark on by yourself".

"When you find the right woman, you will know".

"Don't rush it, trust me, it's best for you and your career".

Sam stared at his mom, then he nodded. "Yes mom, I understand".

"Good," she nodded, satisfied. She peeked around again before speaking. "I'm telling you all this because Mrs. David, our neighbor told me of what her husband told her about footballers playing in Europe".

She stared at her son with intensity. "She said when players start getting fame in Europe, all the whores in the world will start coming after you".

"They don't love you son; they just want your money and your fame".

Her eyes widened as if she remembered something. "She even said they go as far as sending their naked pictures and videos". Her eyes widened in horror. "God forbid, not my son!"

Sam chuckled on seeing his mom's reaction. "I know all these things mom, it's actually normal here in Europe".

"Let it not be normal for you oh!" She said loudly.

"I know," he chuckled again. "Don't worry mom, I promise you, when I finally meet a girl that I love, you'll be the first person to know".

"Promise?"

"Promise". Sam nodded resolutely.

And with that, Mrs. Moses was finally fully satisfied. They went back into the hotel room as they ate to their fill, continuing the celebration of Sam's first trophy in England.

Sam already paid for 2 more rooms for his sister and mom in the hotel. After the celebrations in his room, his dad and mom finally retreated to their room, while his still very much excited sister retreated to her room too.

That night, lying down alone on his bed, Sam sighed contentedly.

His life and career were going just the way he wanted it to go.

'I hope it doesn't change'. He thought as he started feeling sleepy.

He didn't sleep yet though. With everybody gone and with him alone in his room, he finally paid attention to his system again, specifically notifications that he had ignored since.

His rewards for completing his season system quest ahead of time.

Chapter 124 New system card

~-----~

[You have completed Special EFL Cup game system mission: Win the EFL Cup final against Chelsea FC!]

[You played over 90 minutes of this game and won the man of the match award!]

[You managed to contribute to your team's victory with 2 assists!]

[Calculating reward..., please wait...]

[Calculation complete!]

[You have been rewarded with 150 Skill Points!]

...

[You have completed a Season System Quest!]

[Season Quest: Trophy Quest- Break the mold!]

>Fulham FC has gone trophy less through multiple seasons for a long time. In your debut season in the premier league, break this mold and help Fulham FC win its first trophy in years<

[You have completed Mission: Win a trophy!]

[You have been rewarded with +100 Skill Points!]

[You have been rewarded with a random reward!]

[Randomizing reward..., please wait...]

[Randomization complete!]

[You have received a golden card!]

[Click to open reward card:]

...

Seeing the golden card that hovered in the interface of his system, Sam's eyes lit up in excitement. He was familiar with this sequence.

He had experienced this same reward format of his system 3 times before.

The first time, he clicked to open the card only to get an image of Ronaldinho that gave him his only legendary inheritance of the elastico dribble skill.

Till date, the elastico dribble was still the most dangerous weapon in his arsenal despite being a midfielder and not a winger. It added an unpredictable element to his game that confounded opponents 99% of the time.

The second time he got a golden card and he clicked it, he ended up with his first ability card, the Shoot it like Lewy card.

This was the ability card that boosted his performance beyond normal, enabling him to put out his unforgettable hatrick display against Manchester City in the FIFA Club World Cup final.

As for the third time that he got a golden card and he clicked it, he ended up with something he valued only below his legendary inheritance, he got his second ability card and this time, it didn't come from a legendary striker or winger but it came from a legendary attacking midfielder.

To Sam, the Thread it like KDB ability card was the most prized possession in his system inventory.

With it, he could channel KDB's otherworldly playmaking ability for a whole 30 minutes in any game he wanted.

This same card was the reason behind how he was able to turn Fulham FC's fortune in the EFL Cup final against Chelsea FC, outperforming Cole Palmer with 2 incredible assists and stealing the man of the match award.

Thinking of the match that was still very fresh and vivid in his head, Sam grinned. 'I wonder what I will get this time'. He thought.

'Another ability card?'

'Or maybe another legendary inheritance?'

'What if it's a legendary inheritance from Messi? Or even an ability card from Messi?' He felt his excitement levels rising.

'Damn! I'll take anything from Messi!'

No longer able to hold his excitement, Sam finally clicked on the golden card. Immediately, it shattered into countless golden specks and from the specks came out his reward, a card.

Seeing it, Sam's eyes lit up. 'An ability card!'

Even before the card could fully materialize, he stared at it keenly, eager to know the famous football player's face that would be on it.

'Messi!' 'Messi!' 'Messi!'

He chanted in his mind but the first thing that he noticed shattered his expectations, it was the jersey that this player wore.

It was a familiar white jersey with black stripes at the side.

And then, he noticed the brown hair, the incredibly handsome face like that of a model, and then he noticed that this player was captured on the card mid-motion, about to hit the ball from a set-piece position just outside the 18-yard box.

Immediately, Sam knew who this player was.

And finally, the card revealed itself in its full glory.

It was a picture of David Beckham, the retired English football player in his English jersey about to take a free-kick for England.

Sam finally paid attention to his system interface again.

...

[You have been rewarded with an ability card: Bend it like Beckham!]

[Available card uses: 3]

[Card Effects:]

>This card can only be used during a set-piece. Once used, for 10 minutes, for every freekick that your team gets, you gain the ability and technique of a prime David Beckham, giving you a +80% scoring buff when taking a free-kick<

~----~

Sam stared at this new reward with eyes so wide that they almost popped out of their sockets. "Damn!" He muttered.

"It's not an 80% scoring chance like the Shoot it like Lewy card, rather it's a +80% scoring buff and that's entirely different".

Sam's eyes gleamed with excitement. "This means that even in the worst-case scenario, if my natural free-kick ability is only about 20% or so, with this buff, it makes it 100%".

Sam's eyes widened even further. "That's a guaranteed chance of scoring from a freekick!"

In that moment, Sam felt like a supernova explosion just took place in his head as the realization of his new card settled in his brain.

The fact that he could use this card 3 times was the cherry on top.

From his younger days when he was an avid football enthusiast, Sam was never the best freekick-taking expert in his team so he rarely took freekicks.

Since his professional career started, he never took one set piece for Enyimba FC either but now this could change.

His eyes gleamed calculatively. 'I know it's just an ability card but if somehow, I can use it to practice instead of just in a game as a scoring trump card, can't I improve my freekick technique with it?'

At this moment, the possibility of what he just thought of left Sam extremely excited. And thinking of improvement, he thought of his general football ability.

'I've been accumulating skill points for a long time without spending them, I think it's time I look beyond the attributes and improve my technique and skills'.

'Besides, recently, with the game analysis A.I, I know my ability far better than before, including my strengths and weaknesses'.

And so, for the first time in a long time, Sam focused on his skills market.

He rubbed his palms together excitedly. 'Let's spend!'

Chapter 125 Spending spree

Sam was exhausted but exhaustion got nothing on him, he was excited to work on his technique and skill through his unique cheat that no other professional football player had in the world, his system.

He accessed the skills market.

~----~

[Skills Market]

[Current available football skills: 5]

[Available football skills will be updated every 24 hours]

...

Sam unlocked the skills market when his system was just level 2, and now, his system was level 4. Just as his other perks leveled up as the system leveled up, the skills market also leveled up with them.

When he first got the skills market, the current available football skills tab only had 3 football skills at a time but now it already improved twice to 5.

And when he first got the system perk, available football skills were scheduled to be updated every 48 hours which was 2 days, but now, having reduced to 36 hours before, after the system's recent awakening, it reduced to 24 hours.

This meant that Sam could access new system skills every 24 hours.

Excited, Sam paid attention to the system perk on his interface.

...

[Current available football skills: 5]

>Cruyff Turn<

(Host status: Already owned!)

(Host mastery of this skill is at the intermediate level)

(Spend skill points to improve this skill to the advanced mastery level)

...

>Spatial Awareness<

(Host status: Already owned!)

(Host mastery of this skill is at the intermediate level)

(Spend skill points to improve this skill to the advanced mastery level)

...

>Sliding Tackle<

(Host status: Not owned!)

(Host does not yet have mastery of this skill)

(Spend skill points to purchase the basic mastery level of this skill)

...

>Power Header<

(Host status: Not owned!)

(Host does not yet have mastery of this skill)

(Spend skill points to purchase the basic mastery level of this skill)

...

>Freekick<

(Host status: Not owned!)

(Host does not yet have mastery of this skill)

(Spend skill points to purchase the basic mastery level of this skill)

...

[NOTE: Already owned skills are outside the skills market already, you can still spend skill points to increase your mastery over them any time you want and have enough skill points to do so!]

~-----~

Sam stared at the information on his system interface with wide eyes.

He was not stunned because of the new skills at all, rather it was because of the note at the end of the skills market tab.

Sam never knew he could just spend skill points to simply learn higher masteries of his current football skills, this was why he just toiled and worked the normal way to improve his skills.

'Damn! I didn't know this before'.

'Why did I never check the skills market after the first time?'

He felt a bit frustrated with himself. Who knew if games that he had lost with higher mastery over his skills, he may have helped his team win?

He didn't dwell on it too much though. 'Better now than never'.

He was satisfied with the fact that he discovered it in the first place. And this discovery opened up a whole new door for him to spend all the skill points that he had been accumulating since he started his professional football career.

Before spending though, Sam focused on the 5 current available missions in the skill tab again. Of the 5 skills, he already owned 2 of them, leaving 3.

As an attacking midfielder, Sam had no use for sliding tackles. Instead of focusing on a skill for defenders, he would rather focus on attacking skills to take his strengths to the next level.

That was the way to become a better player.

The only problem was the expense. Despite accumulating skill points for so long, it was just enough to upgrade one of his intermediate level skills to the advanced level, either of Cruyff turn or spatial awareness.

The elastico dribble was a football skill of a higher level which meant it required more skill points to upgrade it to a higher mastery level.

He didn't have enough skill points for such spending.

This was why Sam curbed his expectations, directly taking his gaze away from the skills with intermediate mastery and focusing on the other ones.

He kept his gaze still on the 3 new skills.

Having scored his first headed goal in the game against Liverpool FC, the idea of a power header skill in his repertoire now seemed appetizing to Sam.

And having just gotten a bend it like Beckham ability card, he was even more excited at the sight of the freekick skill.

He no longer hesitated, purchasing both skills.

~-----~

[Skill points have been deducted!]

[You have purchased the basic mastery of the skill: Power Header!]

...

[Skill points have been deducted!]

[You have purchased the basic mastery of the skill: Freekick!]

...

After these 2 purchases, Sam stood up from his bed, picking up a paper and a pen as he wrote all his available skills and their masteries down.

He did a little math, calculating how much his available skill points could go. And once he knew that, he drew a priority table, listing the skills that he needed more than others in a descending order.

After that, Sam went on a spending spree, draining all the skill points that he had been saving since he started earning skill points from his system.

...

[Skill points have been deducted!]

[You have purchased the intermediate mastery of the skill: La Croqueta!]

...

[Skill points have been deducted!]

[You have purchased the intermediate mastery of the skill: Body Feint!]

...

[Skill points have been deducted!]

[You have purchased the intermediate mastery of the skill: Power Shot!]

...

[Skill points have been deducted!]

[You have purchased the intermediate mastery of the skill: Power Header!]

...

[Skill points have been deducted!]

[You have purchased the intermediate mastery of the skill: Freekick!]

...

After his spending spree, Sam's system tab that displayed his football skills experienced a qualitative change and not just that, he got a surprise notification alongside it that left him even more giddy.

...

[Owned Football Skills:]

[Basic mastery level: Step overs, roulette, knuckle shot, overhead kick]

[Intermediate mastery level: Elastico, Cruyff turn, La croqueta, body feint, power shot, power header, freekick]

...

[Legendary Inheritance: Elastico]

...

[Congratulations! Your potential has increased!]

[Your talent rating has increased to S tier!]

~----~

That night, Sam slept like a baby.

Chapter 126 Family's day out

After the incredible performance of his players, helping him win a trophy in his Fulham career, the ecstatic manager, Marco Silva was generous as he gave his players 2 days off to celebrate the victory.

They deserved the rest.

Besides, Fulham's next game was in March 2nd against Brighton in the league at home, so even after the 2 days of rest, they still had 2 days to train and get up to speed for the game.

2 days to train and prepare for a league game was cutting it close but Coach Marco Silva was ready to play the gamble.

Besides, he felt that the vibe in his team was greater than ever before. With some effort, his team should be able to push over the line.

The next morning, waking up and getting the news from his coach, Sam was even more excited as the first thing he did was cancel his family's trip back to Nigeria. This was an opportunity to spend more time with his family in London and Sam was not about to waste it.

After canceling the trip, Sam met up with his sister, handing over his bank account to her and leaving the planning for her.

He told her only a single sentence. "Family's day out".

Hearing that, Sophia's eyes lit up excitedly as she started planning with gusto.

While she planned, getting ready in his work-out clothes, Sam jogged out of the hotel building as he embarked on his daily system quest.

This time, as he jogged through the streets of Fulham, Sam finally noticed a difference compared to previous times.

"That's Sam, right?"

"It's him!"

"The one who helped Fulham win against Chelsea?"

"Yes!"

Sam was stunned. 'Damn! That was fast'.

In the end, he was swarmed by excited Fulham fans and left with no choice, he signed autographs for the fans while also taking pictures with them.

When he eventually extricated himself from them, he was finally able to complete his daily system quest.

~-----~

[You have completed System Daily Quest: Mentality Monster!]

[You have been rewarded with a low-grade physical conditioning elixir!]

~-----~

Starring at the notification, Sam grinned, thinking. 'I wonder when I can finally meet the next milestone of the daily system quest'.

He still remembered the event of his last milestone vividly.

Heck, he doubted he could ever forget it.

After marking the system milestone of completing daily system quests across a period of one year, his system rewarded him lucratively with a high-grade physical conditioning elixir and a high-grade vitality elixir.

Thinking of how the high-grade vitality elixir increased his pace, an attribute he never thought it was possible to be improved and the miraculous effects of the high-grade physical conditioning elixir which he was yet to use, he felt himself burning up with desire.

'I can't wait to meet the next milestone!'

The more time Sam spent with his system, the more he truly acknowledged how lucky he was. There was one thing to become good in football, mastering your strengths, and there was another thing to improve your weaknesses.

In football and life in general, pace is a genetic factor.

Elite football players like Kevin De Bruyne who were slow players would kill to get their hands on something that would improve their pace. And here Sam was, getting it on a platter of gold.

In hindsight, not exactly a platter of gold because he worked hard for it.

Despite the fact that Sam was not a big social media person, he still paid attention to the current news. He stumbled upon the show where an ex-Fulham player talked about him, emphasizing his mentality.

Thinking of it, Sam chuckled. 'When you have something like my system pushing you every day, setting fire on your ass in the form of mission penalties, man, you have no choice but to up your game!'

Sam already had a competitive mentality from when he was young, but with the system's approach, his mentality turned from just competitive to monstrous.

Afterall, he didn't want to lose his system.

To keep it, he would work hard, run himself to the ground and perform at a monstrous level in games no matter how many times it was required.

...

When Sam returned to the hotel, his family was already ready.

Sam's mom and her husband were also excited to go on a family's day out around London. To the Nigerian mom, it was a dream come true.

Sam quickly went in, took his bath and got dressed in some trending clothes before going out with his family.

Well, having given the planning task to Sophia already, as the day progressed, Sam gave her a thumbs up in his mind as he was satisfied with almost everything.

The first place they went to was a famous African food restaurant right there in London. Sam wondered how his sister managed to find this place so fast when he was still looking for a reliable African food plug since.

After eating their fill, they went to the Science Museum in London, one of the top attractions of this city in England.

At the Science Museum, this family of 4 were amazed as they were exposed to marvels of science, some of which they never even conceived as real before now.

After leaving the Science Museum, they visited Stamford Bridge. And this time, Sam had to go on a disguise with his family just to have a tour of this stadium.

His disguise was not enough though, someone recognized his father and that was how Sam was swarmed again, forced to engage in fan service again.

"Don't you think it's time you get a bodyguard?"

Sam chuckled. "I don't think so, they're being so clingy and fanatical because the memory of the EFL Cup win is still so fresh".

"Just give them time, it's normal, they'll focus on other players soon enough".

Mr. Moses shrugged. "If you say so".

After enjoying an unforgettable tour of this iconic stadium in London, Sophia finally pulled the penultimate of her plan, taking her family on a tour to the Buckingham Palace.

"...!" Even Sam did not see this coming.

He was stunned but then thinking of something, he stared at his sister sharply. "How much did you pay to buy this opportunity?"

Sophia avoided her brother's gaze. "Let's enjoy the tour!" She ran ahead.

When Sam later checked his bank account, he felt like strangling his sister but the deed was already done.

By evening, his family already had a great time in London.

They went back to the African restaurant for dinner which his mom already approved as where he should be eating.

After eating, they finally went back to the hotel.

It was a great day out.

...

The next day, Sam finally led his family to the airport.

After almost 2 months of staying with him in London, Mr. Moses was finally about to go back to Nigeria with the rest of his family.

Trust Sam's mom, she prayed on him again at the airport before they left.

As for Sam's decision on where to stay after his dad left, after extensive discussions with his family, he decided to forfeit the chance to live with Alex Iwobi.

He would stay in the hotel until he got his own house here in London.

Chapter 127 Rest, reset, refocus

After sending his family off at the airport, the next thing Sam did was focus on completing his daily system quest.

Once he was done, he went back to his hotel room where he spent less than 30 minutes before taking his car to Craven Cottage.

After over 2 months of staying in England, Sam finally got his first car.

It was a gray Lexus IS 350.

As for his reason for going to Craven Cottage that early? The answer was personal training, Sam went to the stadium to train.

Yes, Coach Marco Silva gave his players 2 days of rest but that did not mean that Sam was must do exactly as his coach said.

Yesterday was more than enough for him to rest. And after having such an enjoyable time with his family, he felt refreshed already.

He already rested to reset, shedding all the mental exhaustion of the past 2 months of grueling English football. And now, Sam was ready to refocus again.

Afterall, winning the EFL Cup was not the end of the world.

The premier league season was yet to come to an end.

Besides, after going through such a significant upgrade in terms of his football skills which resulted in his talent rating increasing to S tier, Sam was determined to live up to the expectations on his shoulders.

He wanted to use today to acclimatize with his new abilities and masteries, getting a full grasp over them before training resumed tomorrow.

And arriving at Craven Cottage, that was exactly what Sam did.

He trained from morning till afternoon and when the sun became scorching, he went home before returning around 5 in the evening. He trained for another hour and 30 minutes before finally retreating home for good.

With that training, Sam shrugged off any effects of the grueling final between Chelsea that still remained. He was back in tip-top shape.

That evening, Marco Silva who was already informed by the stadium staff about his star player who came for training today finally sent the next fixture details to his players.

Their next opponent was Brighton in the premier league.

(Premier League:)

(Fulham – Brighton)

(Date: 2nd March, 2024)

Due to the clashing schedule of the EFL Cup final, Fulham's league game against Manchester United was postponed and a new date was yet to be decided.

This was why they focused on the Brighton game next.

...

The next day, Sam returned to his normal schedule.

Waking up early, completing his daily system quest, getting to the stadium for training faster than every other player, Sam was back.

When coach Marco Silva came for training, he patted his young prodigy by the head, holding back the words he intended to say.

And when training commenced, it was clear that something changed.

To many of the Fulham players, the EFL Cup was their first ever won trophy and after winning it, it did something magical to their confidence.

All the Fulham players trained at a level higher than what they did before. It was clear that the mood in the Fulham camp was a positive one.

The next day, it was the same thing as all the players trained at a level higher than what they normally did and when they eventually welcomed Brighton to Craven Cottage on 2nd May, they taught Brighton football.

Very few people saw it coming despite Fulham's current form.

Muniz led the line from the front as the striker.

And having forced his way into Fulham's starting XI in the important game against Chelsea, Alex Iwobi retained his spot behind Muniz in the left wing.

The 4-man attack was completed by Sam's intimidating presence in attacking midfield and Harry Wilson on the right wing.

Reed and Lukic sat on top the defense as the double pivot for this game, while the 4-man defense comprised of Adarabioyo and Calvin Bassey in central defense. Robinson started as the left back, while Castagne started on the opposite side.

Unlike Fulham's 4-2-3-1 formation, Brighton started with a 3-4-2-1 formation and it was with this formation that Fulham thrashed their fellow English club.

Despite the likes of Evans Ferguson, Enciso, and Estupinian all starting with Lewis Dunk in central defense, none of them could stop what Fulham had for them.

It started early, as early as the 21st minute.

Muniz created the first goal, setting up his right winger, Wilson after some incredible hold up play as Wilson netted the first Fulham goal.

11 minutes later, Wilson turned provider as he set Muniz up after a mazy run down the right side of the pitch.

It was set up for Muniz perfectly, leaving the Fulham striker to tap into an empty net and with that, all Brighton momentum was killed.

For the rest of the first half, Fulham FC dominated.

When second half started though, Brighton improved their gameplay, rushing at Fulham with revenge in mind but the Fulham players stayed compact.

Lukic and Reed both had a decent game as defensive midfielders as they helped the defenders hold the fort, and when Lukic was eventually replaced by Palhinha, this game was killed for good.

The imposing defensive midfielder asserted his authority over the game immediately after he entered, snuffing off all Brighton attacks.

And of course, another stand-out was Sam.

He may not have played a big role in both goals in the first half, but Sam was having an amazing game still as he pinged the ball around in midfield, having an impressive 98% pass accuracy.

Fulham dominated the midfield battle with his help.

Despite the dominance, Brighton refused to give up until after 90 minutes the nail was added to the coffin, sealing their fates.

This time, it was Sam.

Having played a tidy game as more of a central midfielder this game, Sam finally did what he did best, floating a dangerous cross into the Brighton box from the right, igniting a chaotic scramble in the box.

Despite the chaos, a Fulham player dominated as Alex Iwobi rose above his marker, planting a firm header towards goal in the 90th plus 1 minute.

Alex Iwobi scored the goal that destroyed all Brighton spirits in the stadium.

The game ended 3-0 in Fulham's favor.

Muniz won the man of the match award for his incredible performance despite being subbed out of the game at some point in the second half.

It was a triumphant Fulham return to league play after their EFL Cup heroics.

Chapter 128 Hectic schedule [1]

(Premier league:)

(Wolves – Fulham)

(Date: 9th March, 2024)

After winning the EFL Cup and dropping out of the FA Cup already, the only competition remaining for Fulham FC to play in was the premier league.

Fulham's next game was against Wolves away from home in the league.

After thrashing Brighton in the last game, even as the media once again started raving about the shocking surge of the Fulham team, Sam set another personal goal for himself outside of his system.

In the premier league, Fulham was renowned as one of the mid-table teams but Sam was determined to make this identity become a thing of the past.

After the upsurge of performances in recent months, Fulham already rose from 13th position where they were previously in the league by 2 places to 11th place but Sam wanted more.

This was because of his aspirations for next season.

By the end of the season, Sam would not have played a full season for Fulham FC yet since he came mid-way through the season. This was why he started making preparations for next season.

His dad's predictions were that due to the release clause that was slapped on him by Fulham FC, no big club would come for him yet till he proved himself properly through a full season in the premier league.

This was why Sam started planning for his 2nd season in Fulham already.

He already told his dad, the only club's offer that could move him at this point of his career was from FC Barcelona. He was ready to reject any other contract offer no matter how lucrative it was.

His goal was just as impossible as the initial trophy-winning goal from the system since Fulham was not an English club that won trophies.

But Sam's mentality was straightforward to a fault. 'If we could do it and win a trophy, why can't we do it again in the remaining games of the season?'

His goal was an extremely ambitious one.

In the premier league, the top four teams qualify for the champions league, and the fifth-place team qualifies for the Europa league every season.

However, the FA Cup winner also gets a Europa league spot, and if the FA Cup winner finishes in the top five, that spot goes to the next-best Premier league finisher on the table.

If Manchester City wins the FA Cup this season, the sixth-place team in the premier league gets a spot in the Europa league, and the seventh-place team goes to the Conference League play-offs.

But if Manchester United wins the FA Cup this season having made a pretty deep run already, the sixth-place team goes to the Conference League, while the seventh-place team misses out on Europe.

This was Sam's goal, European football.

It doesn't necessarily have to be in the highest tier of European football, the UEFA Champions League. Even if it was the Conference league, Sam was contented with that with Fulham FC, he just wanted to play and create history with Fulham.

To make his crazy goal a reality though, Fulham FC would truly have to step up, entering God-mode for the final stretch of the 2023/2024 premier league campaign.

Not only would they have to win all of their remaining games, but they would also have to pray for their rivals in the league to stumble and not just stumble, to stumble hard. That was the only way for Fulham FC.

Sam didn't give a damn about the difficulty though, as soon as he set his mind towards it, he worked towards it with his monstrous mentality.

For the next few days, Sam focused purely on football.

Every training session, he remained the first player to report to training even as he kept on dazzling with his performances every training session.

Time moved swiftly and in no time, it was 9th May already.

Fulham FC traveled to Wolves; it was not going to be an easy game.

Ready for the challenge though, a Fulham team who was in form started the game with intensity as they managed to shrug off the loud noise being made by the Wolves fans, playing their football away from home.

Fulham playing their game did not mean that Wolves faltered though. Rather, buoyed by the loud noise being made by their supporters, Wolves played beautiful intense football.

Both teams started with their strongest lineups.

With the likes of Pedro Neto, Pablo Sarabia and Gomes all starting in this game, Wolves played incredible football, trying their best to dominate the in-form Fulham team who just refused to give in.

And with the likes of Sam, Alex Iwobi, Wilson, and Muniz all starting from the beginning with Calvin Bassey and Adarabioyou holding the tuff behind, Fulham FC started and played strongly throughout the first half.

The first half was a cagey affair as both teams went against each other pound for pound, going for blood.

Both teams threatened, their star players creating moments of magic but none of it resulted in something tangible yet, a goal.

The first half ended goalless.

When second half started though, both teams played with even greater intensity and Wolves were finally rewarded for their efforts.

7 minutes after the restart, Wolves scored first through their marauding left back as after some impressive link-up play, Ait-Nouri the left back rifled the ball into the net past a sprawling Bernd Leno.

Fulham responded to that goal by upping their intensity, Sam once again impressing with his stamina as he chased the ball everywhere.

But then, against the run of play, Wolves got a second goal in the 67th minute.

Cairney, the player that was substituted in got the goal as he finished off another impressive team move to double his team's lead.

67 minutes in, Wolves led 2-0 and the Fulham fans deflated.

Even the Fulham players lost their conviction but just 3 minutes later, all of their eyes were burning with intensity again as they chased the equalizing goal.

In the 70th minute, having taken matters into his own hands, Sam took the ball from midfield and went on an incredible solo run, slicing through multiple Wolves players including the goalkeeper as he rounded the poor guy before scoring into an empty net.

"GOALLLLL...!" The deflated Fulham fans roared back to life.

That goal turned the tides, giving Fulham the momentum.

For the rest of the second half, Wolves defended, curbing attack after attack from the suddenly rampant Fulham team.

They almost got away with it when at the last minute, after 90 and 8 additional minutes, Fulham got the equalizer to bury all the Wolves enthusiasm.

Again, it was Alex Iwobi and it was Sam who delivered the assist, playing a penetrative defense-splitting pass for the Nigerian International to run into one-on-one with the Wolves goalkeeper and he did not miss his mark, scoring.

Immediately after the goal and the wild celebrations that followed, the referee finally blew the whistle, bringing the game to an end.

Despite playing in such tough away ground in such a tough fixture, Sam managed to produce the goods again, chipping in with a goal and an assist to help his team escape with a point.

He won the man of the match award for this game.

Chapter 129 Hectic schedule [2]

With his man of the match trophy, Sam walked to the dressing room alongside his teammates after the game came to an end.

All his teammates were in a good mood, celebrating their performance. Only Sam had a gloomy look on his face as he reflected on the game.

'2 points missed'. He thought.

He was not satisfied with a draw; a draw only made his chances of dragging Fulham from mid-table to the upper half of the league table even more impossible.

Sam felt a bit of regrets and what-ifs about the Wolves game, but in the end, he just accepted reality and was grateful. 'At least we didn't lose'.

In the dressing room, Marco Silva was in a good mood as he gave a long speech, congratulating his players for the display, calling out a few names and expectedly, Sam was at the center once again.

"Sam, next season, we're pushing for the balon d'or".

The other Fulham players laughed, including Sam.

As soon as Coach Marco Silva was done with his speech though, as soon as he gave his players the signal to leave, he also gave Sam a signal to meet up with him before going to the team bus.

Sam obliged, meeting up with his coach.

Marco Silva hugged him, ruffling his hair playfully like Sam was his son before whispering a few words to him. "You did good today Sam, with your help, we were able to snatch another point from sure defeat again".

"My inner man wants to give you only compliments but you see Sam, I sense a lot of potential in you and I will feel guilty if I don't help in my own way to make sure you fulfill it".

He stared at Sam. "I've noticed an aspect of your game that I think I should critic".

Hearing that, Sam paused, looking at his coach.

"Don't worry, keep going, I'll tell you as we go to the team bus. It's nothing too serious".

"Ok". Sam nodded and moved.

"By now, maybe you're not yet the out and out best player of my team but it's clear that you're the one that brings the X Factor".

"With your presence, we always seem capable of grinding out a result and I'm grateful for that, I appreciate it but you have a weakness".

"You know what that weakness is?"

Sam shook his head.

"You trust your teammates too little".

Sam paused again, looking at his coach.

Marco Silva smiled. "Let's continue walking"

They walked and he continued. "It's clear that you have a lot of confidence in your ability and it's not misguided. You're focused, you're determined, and you work hard. Damn, perhaps the best hard-working 18-year-old I know".

Sam chuckled at the compliment.

"But the thing is, sometimes, on the pitch, you tend to do too much. I know your stamina is one of your strongest points, but you abuse it".

"Don't get me wrong, you pressing is a good thing but sometimes you're so adamant in chasing after the ball that you drift out of position and guess what happens to the team? The team formation gets pried open".

"That first Wolves goal, this was what caused it".

"I love your energy and enthusiasm on the pitch but Sam, you have to learn to trust your teammates more. There are formations for a reason".

"You know what I want you to do next game?"

Sam hesitated slightly and then he shook his head.

"Next game, instead of using your relentless energy to run all over the pitch after the ball, drifting out of position, I want you to use that energy to lock your area of the pitch instead".

"Focus all your energy there and make it an impenetrable wall, and trust your teammates to do the same in their side of the formation".

"You know, once your teammates notice that you trust them more, your performance elevates them. Even if not to your level, but to a level close to yours".

"In the long run, this will build chemistry and benefit the team more than if you try to do everything by yourself".

"And trust me, this is one of the main qualities that separates a maestro of football from a novice".

Sam listened, a serious look on his face and then he looked up at his coach, smiling. "I will heed your advice coach, thank you for telling me".

'He thanked me?' Marco Silva was stunned.

Over the months as he coached this player, Marco Silva tried to get to him, to know him more and to understand his personality.

And especially after Sam confronted him, he saw Sam as a prodigy who knew his worth which was a good thing but was maybe too prideful.

But after this, this coach's opinion of his player changed. 'Not only is he a hard worker and has monstrous mentality, he has the talent too, and most importantly of all, he listens'.

Staring at Sam at this moment, this coach felt seeds of excitement blooming in his heart. 'I can't wait for him to realize his full potential'.

'Football is about to welcome a true monster!'

...

(Premier league:)

(Fulham – Tottenham)

(Date: 16th March, 2024)

The fixtures came thick and fast.

After playing against Wolves away from home 6 days ago, Fulham was to take on Tottenham in their next league game, an even more fearsome opposition.

Their advantage was that they were going to play the game at home.

For Sam, it meant that no rest as he continued reporting to training extremely early every day, working on his skills, improving daily and making sure he stayed fit for the game as he impressed in every training session.

And eventually, the D-day came, 16th March.

Both teams started with their strongest lineup.

Muniz started up front for Fulham. Behind him was a changed trio of Alex Iwobi, Sam, and Willian. Further behind them was Palhinha and Lukic.

The 4-man defense comprised of Castagne, Adarabioyo, Basse, Robinson, and Bernd Leno who started in between the posts.

They were to play against a scary Tottenham team featuring the likes of Heung Min Son, James Maddison, Kulusevski, and Christian Romero.

This was a changed Fulham team though.

They were scared of no one.

Chapter 130 Hectic schedule [3]

FWEEEE!

From the very first minute of this game, Tottenham set a marker with their outstanding Korean forward as the star. Heung Min Son started the first half brightly, torching the Fulham defense with some impressive runs and plays.

And just behind him, the English midfielder, James Maddison also imposed his authority as he orchestrated play for Tottenham.

With these 2 players as the core of the team, Tottenham started brightly, playing high-offensive football under their coach, Ange Postecoglou.

Originally, in moments like this in games of this caliber, Sam would have started running everywhere across the forward line already, desperate to assert his authority over the game and make his team dominant.

But today though, Sam did not run everywhere.

Rather, he focused on making the space around the attacking midfield area where he was positioned impenetrable to the Tottenham buildup.

Focusing on only this, Sam noticed one thing. 'It's so much easier'.

And it bore fruit.

No meaningful Tottenham attack went through the middle as shutting down his area of the pitch with his relentless press, Sam played as a defensive midfielder in an attacking midfield position, winning tackles and intercepting passes.

For the first few minutes of this first half, it was not vintage Fulham yet but this team became more solid than ever before.

With Sam being such an example in the middle of the pitch, the other Fulham players were challenged as motivated, they all elevated their game.

All over the pitch, the Fulham players who were sleeping previously were aroused and once all of them became awake, the game became locked.

It became a cagey affair as both teams could not create any meaningful attack. And as the game finally settled, becoming tight and cagey like this, Sam finally thrived in the deadlock.

With his teammates now performing their jobs close to perfection, Sam got more touches of the ball and more time with it too.

And one rule that premier league clubs were learning recently was that, never allow Sam too much time on the ball.

Sam went berserk!

For the first 30 minutes of this first half, he stayed doing his job to perfection and now once his teammates upped their game, Sam took it a step higher.

Pass after pass, dribble after dribble, he made fans of the black, white, and red persuasion jump up on their feet regularly as gasps constantly erupted around this stadium.

Due to his performance, even the commentator seemed to become a poet as he described his gameplay with different superlatives.

As Sam played, doing one thing after the other, he realized something.

His eyes widened. 'I'm enjoying myself!'

With his teammates now performing their jobs, he got to do even more, thoroughly enjoying himself as he tortured the Tottenham defense.

He was playing the neatest and most aesthetically beautiful game of his life.

The only reason why he didn't create a goal yet was because of Dragusin and Christian Romero's valiant defensive performance at the heart of the Tottenham defense, but even this did not last forever.

In the 42nd minute, the deadlock was finally broken as after receiving the ball close to the Tottenham 18-yard box, Sam held the ball, shrugging off a few challenges before threading a needle pass through the Tottenham defense immediately after Muniz started his run.

The Tottenham defense was rooted to the spot, only reacting after the striker already beat the offside trap and went behind them.

One-on-one with the Tottenham goalkeeper, Vicario, Muniz did not miss his mark, calmly rolling the ball into the bottom left corner.

"GOALLLL...!" Craven Cottage exploded.

"What a goal! What a pass!"

"As accurate and perfectly timed as a shot from a medieval archer's bow! Maybe even Leonidas' bow himself!"

"What a performance!"

"Neat and tidy as you would like".

"Sam has truly taken the premier league like a storm, what a player!"

Both teams went to half-time with Fulham leading 1-0.

During half-time, Marco Silva did not hold back this time, heaping praise on his star midfielder's performance and that was the last cherry to unlock Sam.

You thought his performance in the first half was already great?

Watch out for the second half.

In the second half, Sam still somehow managed to level up his game even more, playing like a seasoned maestro on the pitch as he tortured Tottenham.

If you didn't know him before now, you would never believe that this was just an 18-year-old boy playing against men, husbands, fathers, and veterans.

Just 4 minutes after the restart, Sam sent a looped ball over the Tottenham defense for Alex Iwobi to run into, cutting this defense open again.

The Nigerian International took the ball in his strides, charging towards goal as he held on to possession having been stopped by the Tottenham right back.

As Alex Iwobi bid his time, waiting, Lukic finally arrived at the Tottenham 18-yard box with his late run and immediately, Alex threaded the ball to him.

The defensive midfielder did not hesitate, hitting the ball first time as it floated past Vicario's outstretched arms into the top left corner of the post.

"GOALLLL...!" The Fulham fans got more reason to celebrate.

Sam didn't get another assist, but it was a beautiful pre-assist.

Just 12 minutes after that 2nd goal though, Fulham rounded an incredible performance off with a 3rd goal at the 61st minute of this game.

And again, it was Sam.

Receiving the ball in the Tottenham 18-yard box, as the aggressive Argentine defender, Romero charged towards him, Sam flicked the ball first-time with the heel of his left boot towards empty space behind the Tottenham defense.

Empty space that Muniz charged into and nailed the Tottenham defeat, tapping into the net to score Fulham's 3rd goal of the game.

In the 70th minute, Sam was subbed out of the game but he already did more than enough as he received a standing ovation from the Fulham fans.

A frustrated Tottenham team could not mount a comeback in his absence.

The game ended 3-0 in Fulham's favor and Sam won the man of the match award after his impressive display capped off by his 2 assists.

Fulham took all 3 points from Tottenham.