

Football God 241

Chapter 241 Winning streak [2]

Compared to the game against Crystal Palace, Fulham faced Wolves in their home stadium. It was supposed to be a difficult game, a lot of neutral viewers even predicted Fulham to lose after their display against Crystal Palace.

But to the disappointment of a lot of people, in Molineux Stadium, just like Captain Cairney promised during his last post-match interview, Fulham entered a winning streak and in convincing fashion.

All the criticism seemingly didn't get to them as they put out a statement display in away ground.

From the first minute of this game, Fulham started on the front foot.

An Alex Iwobi brilliance opened up the game as he set up Antonee Robinson who was going on an overlapping run down the left flank.

After beating his man with pace, the left back raised his head, analyzed the situation before cutting a clever ball back to the Nigerian International.

Abusing his physicality after that clever pass, Alex Iwobi bulldozed his way into the Wolves 18-yard box before scoring from a low-driven shot.

The first goal of this game entered in the 15th minute.

10 minutes later, in the 25th minute, buoyed by the loud noise being made by the home supporters, Wolves finally created something of note and it resulted in a goal as their striker, Hwang completed the silky team move.

But that was the only moment of note from Wolves before Fulham took the game by the scruff of the neck again.

In the 39th minute, Alex Iwobi got his brace, scoring a volley from an Emile Smith Rowe pass.

The first half ended with Fulham leading 1-2.

In the 63rd minute of the second half, Sam finally left his imprint on the game after an impressive attacking display so far as his defense-splitting pass set up Muniz one-on-one with the Wolves goalkeeper who did not miss his mark, chipping the ball above him to score a cheeky goal.

The game ended 1-3 to Fulham after a convincing display.

Alex Iwobi won the man of the match award.

...

After the Wolves game, Fulham's next game was the FA Cup clash against Aston Villa, a home game.

The result against Wolves in away ground left the Fulham camp in a happy mood, and this mood quickly translated in their preparations for their next game.

The mood in training was so good that the Fulham players felt optimistic for their next game and most importantly, Coach Marco Silva finally realized something.

In his next interview, the Fulham coach faced the camera with a big smile on his face as he responded to a question. "I have no idea if we'll win, I'm no prophet, but I believe that we'll win".

"Why?"

The coach grinned. "Because Sam is back to full health".

They asked other questions but refraining from answering, the coach trudged off into Craven Cottage as his team made their final preparations for the game.

With both teams eager to win this game, not caring that it was still the 5th round of the cup due to the knockout nature of the tournament, they started with their strongest lineups.

Both teams started with their regular 4-2-3-1 formation.

With the likes of Dibu Martinez, Morgan Rogers, and Ollie Watkins all starting for Aston Villa, they were a strong side but, in this game, Fulham put out another statement display to the rest of the premier league.

They didn't just win against Aston Villa, they thoroughly dissected them, tearing them apart limb for limb like a Lion does to its prey.

In front of their home fans, Fulham thoroughly dominated Aston Villa.

Despite going up against one of the best goalkeepers currently in the premier league, Fulham managed to put 4 goals in Dibu Martinez's net and it was all because of one player who was finally back to his very first.

After his ankle injury, despite the fact that he was playing well in games still, Sam still felt that there was something missing from his complete recovery.

That game sharpness was not yet there.

But a few days ago in training, he felt that it finally returned and, in this game, he was the spear that led Fulham's charge.

In just the 6th minute of this game, Sam opened the deadlock, scoring his first goal in how many games through an absolute rocket shot from outside the box.

6 minutes, 1-0 to Fulham...

"GOALLLL...!!!" The atmosphere in Craven Cottage was electric.

After that goal, Sam went on to put out a playmaking masterclass as in the 18th minute, he played a crazy trivela pass with the outside of his boot, setting up Muniz perfectly to poke the ball into the net past Dibu Martinez.

In the 30 minute of this game, Fulham supporters bore witness to a prime Sam again as like a ghost, he waved through Aston Villa players like they were not there with arrogant impunity.

Inside the 18-yard box, Carlos, the Aston Villa rapidly closed him down only for this center back to be left eating dust as Sam executed his trademark dribble, the elastico.

"Uhhh!" The commentator exclaimed, laughing. "That was diabolical from Sam! Damn! He's feeling it today!"

Sam had the chance to score it himself after cutting through the Aston Villa defense like a hot knife through butter, but he rather squared it across goal for Muniz to poke into an empty net, scoring his braze.

With that, Sam went to 1 goal and 2 assists this game.

But still not satisfied, in the 36th minute, Sam went on another mazy dribble, cutting through Aston Villa players with ruthless efficiency.

Utilizing his perfect dribbling technique, physicality, and vision, he set up Emile Smith Rowe this time as the Englishman rifled the ball into the net.

"GOALLLL...!!!" The home supporters roared.

They were receiving a treat.

With that, Sam got a hat-trick of assists!

Coach Marco Silva was right, Sam was back to his best and trust the home supporters, they paid tribute to the return of the African Zidane.

"Sam!" "Sam!" "Sam!"

The Sam chants blasted out again around Craven Cottage.

In the second half, Fulham reduced their attacking intensity but still, they controlled this game from beginning to end and they excelled through the S factor that truly struck in the 2nd half.

Bam! Bam!

Tiki taka...

Pass, receive, pass, receive..., the S factor tore Aston Villa apart.

By the end of the game, the home supporters were filled with so much dopamine that they kept on singing at the top of their lungs.

Fulham extended their winning streak to 3 games.

They were in terrifying form.

Chapter 242 Winning streak [3]

Crystal Palace destroyed...

Wolves defeated...

Aston Villa swept under the rug...

Finally, it was Brighton's turn to be put under the wrath of Fulham's sword.

In the premier league, Brighton was enjoying a positive run of form but for this premier league fixture, Fulham were the heavy favorites after their 3-game winning streak with impressive wins against Aston Villa and Crystal Palace.

Brighton was out to cause an upset, while Fulham were determined to maintain their streak. It was a clash of ideologies and footballing wills.

With the likes of Adingra, Enciso, and Pedro all starting for Brighton, they were a dangerous side but Fulham did not buckle under the pressure.

In the American Express Stadium in Brighton, it was a high-octane game of attacking football from both sides as they strived to get the lead first.

Defensive masterclasses from both teams kept the 2 teams' offense at bay even as they kept on attacking but in tight games like this, that was when individual brilliance and excellence gets to shine.

In the 42nd minute of this game, the African Zidane shone.

It was a moment of explosive brilliance as Fulham's S factor shone.

After winning the ball back in midfield, Sam quickly sprayed a pass to the right where Emile Smith Rowe lurked.

The English winger beat his man before floating a ball back towards him in the box. Rising into the air in the Brighton 18-yard box, Sam controlled this ball with his chest and as soon as he landed, his right leg swung with power.

Before a defender could close him down, he unleashed a ferocious shot at goal that left the Brighton goalkeeper rooted to the spot.

POW!

All the goalkeeper saw was a blur. In just a moment, the ball was already in the back of the net as the away stands in this stadium erupted.

"And the African Zidane strikes again!" The commentator raved even as the Fulham traveling supporters clamored in joy. "Damn! What a player!"

"He's definitely back to his best now!"

"After his injury, his performances were noticeably affected despite the fact that he was still highly effective as a midfielder for Fulham but now? Now, this is the vintage attacking Sam that we're used to seeing!"

"This is Zinedine Sam in his full glory!"

Charging towards the corner flag, Sam slid on his knees in celebration, pointing towards his head to highlight his mentality as he was drowned in an ocean of boos by the Brighton fans. Objects were even thrown at him.

He didn't mind though, smiling at them.

For the rest of this game, including the second half, Fulham and Brighton strived to score another goal but it never materialized.

Sam's sole goal became the deciding factor in this game.

Fulham racked up another win, extending their streak to 4 wins in 4 games. And with it, matchday 28 of the English premier league was completed.

(Premier league:)

(Matchday 28 of 38:)

(Nottm Forest 2-2 Man City)

(Date: 8th March, 2025)

...

(Man United 2-1 Arsenal)

(Date: 8th March, 2025)

...

(Tottenham 3-1 Bournemouth)

(Date: 8th March, 2025)

...

(Wolves 0-0 Everton)

(Date: 8th March, 2025)

...

(Liverpool 1-0 Southampton)

(Date: 8th March, 2025)

...

(Chelsea 2-1 Leicester City)

(Date: 8th Match, 2025)

...

(Brentford 3-3 Aston Villa)

(Date: 8th March, 2025)

...

(West Ham 1-2 Newcastle)

(Date: 8th March, 2025)

...

(Crystal Palace 2-0 Ipswich Town)

(Date: 8th March, 2025)

...

(Brighton 0-1 Fulham)

(Date: 8th March, 2025)

...

(Updated premier league table standings:)

(1. Liverpool GP: 28/ W:22/ D:1/ L:2/ Pts: 73)

(2. Fulham GP: 28/ W:20/ D:5/ L:3/ Pts: 66)

(3. Arsenal GP: 28/ W:18/ D:7/ L:3/ Pts: 61)

(4. Chelsea GP: 28/ W:18/ D:7/ L:3/ Pts: 61)

(5. Tottenham GP: 28/ W:14/ D:4/ L:10/ Pts: 46)

(6. Aston Villa GP: 28/ W:12/ D:9/ L:8/ Pts: 45)

(7. Nottm Forest GP: 28/ W:12/ D:9/ L:7/ Pts: 45)

(8. Brighton GP: 28/ W:12/ D:7/ L:9/ Pts: 43)

(9. Man City GP: 28/ W:11/ D:8/ L:9/ Pts: 41)

(10. Newcastle GP: 28/ W:10/ D:8/ L:10/ Pts: 38)

(11. Man United GP: 28/ W:11/ D:5/ L:12/ Pts: 38)

(12. Bournemouth GP: 28/ W:10/ D:7/ L:11/ Pts: 37)

(13. Brentford GP: 28/ W:10/ D:7/ L:11/ Pts: 37)

(14. Crystal Palace GP: 28/ W:7/ D:10/ L:11/ Pts: 31)

(15. West Ham GP: 28/ W:8/ D:6/ L:14/ Pts: 29)

(16. Leicester GP: 28/ W:4/ D:9/ L:15/ Pts: 21)

(17. Everton GP: 28/ W:5/ D:6/ L:17/ Pts: 21)

(18. Ipswich Town GP: 28/ W:3/ D:8/ L:17/ Pts: 17)

(19. Southampton GP: 28/ W:3/ D:3/ L:22/ Pts: 12)

(20. Wolves GP: 28/ W:1/ D:8/ L:19/ Pts: 11)

After 28 matchdays of the 2024/2025 premier league season, this was how the premier league table looked like.

Liverpool was still leading but Fulham's distance to the top was now reduced to 7 points. This was still a sizeable margin, but it was better than before and that was all that mattered to the Fulham players.

In the past 3 matchdays of the premier league season, Fulham was the only premier league club to get maximum 9 points.

Compared to them, Liverpool's premier league fixtures were against Man City, Newcastle United, and Southampton.

Their first game against Manchester City was when they stumbled.

Despite the fact that the reigning premier league champions were having a horror season in terms of their regular standards, against their bitter rivals, Man City picked up their form as they played an amazing game against Liverpool.

They managed to take 2 points off the current premier league table leaders, helping Fulham with a huge favor.

Despite this though, Fulham still had a lot to do if their aspirations of getting back to the top of the premier league was to be actualized.

And the first step to this aspiration was their next 3 fixtures, 3 extremely challenging fixtures. Coach Marco Silva compared his team's next 3 fixtures with Liverpool's next 3 fixtures.

(Fulham fixtures:)

(Premier league:)

(Fulham – Tottenham)

(Date: 15th March, 2025)

...

(Arsenal – Fulham)

(Date: 1st April, 2025)

...

(Fulham – Liverpool)

(Date: 5th April, 2025)

(Liverpool fixtures:)

(Premier league:)

(Aston Villa – Liverpool)

(Date: 15th March, 2025)

...

(Liverpool – Everton)

(Date: 2nd April, 2025)

...

(Fulham – Liverpool)

(Date: 5th April, 2025)

Chapter 243 Fixture of death

Coach Marco Silva called it the fixture of death.

Compared to Liverpool's next 3 fixtures in the English premier league, Fulham's next 3 fixtures was much crazier.

Aston Villa was a big team in the premier league these days, but still, the likes of Aston Villa and Everton could not compare to the likes of Tottenham and Arsenal.

And to cap it all off, their last fixture of the 3 would be the top of the table clash between the 2 main rivals for this season's premier league title.

It still felt crazy to a lot of premier league fans that Fulham was competing for the title even at this point of this season, but it was reality.

Fulham vs Liverpool was surely going to be a blockbuster encounter but before that game, Fulham had to survive the challenge presented by Tottenham and Arsenal. It was definitely their most daunting run of the season.

Playing against Tottenham was going to be tough, but mix Arsenal into the scenario and you've got a fixture of death.

Add Liverpool to round up the trio of games and it was a fixture of oblivion.

When the Fulham players realized it in their next training session after the Brighton games, they felt tense but again, it was a certain player who did the job of defusing the tension again.

Sam chuckled. "Light weight baby". He said.

The others looked at him with weird gazes, he only grinned. "What's Tottenham and Arsenal that we can't beat?" He boasted shamelessly.

"You know, during my first ever game against Manchester City, then I was even still playing in Nigeria, but I scored a hatrick!" He patted his chest.

"Cast your cares on me guys, we'll win!"

They stared at him, and then they all burst laughing. "Shameless bastard!" Emile Smith Rowe cursed as the others laughed their asses out.

Well, Sam's boasting did it, making his teammates laugh and forget the grueling task ahead of them.

Indeed, what was Tottenham and Arsenal that they've not played before?

They would simply take it one game at a time while trying to ignore the pressure that the media and fans would definitely mount on them.

With this mentality, the Fulham players were able to break down the fixture of death into small tasks, focusing on the first one, Tottenham.

After the game against Brighton, they had 6 days of preparation for the Tottenham game and in these 6 days, the Fulham players gave above 100% in training even as Coach Marco Silva also worked overtime, analyzing their opponents.

Despite their current position in the premier league table, Tottenham was still a difficult proposition to any team in the premier league, encapsulated by how they beat Manchester City for the second time this season.

The London club's current style mirrored the style of their coach, Ange Postecoglou who had a philosophy of attacking football.

If you looked at the premier league table, Tottenham was a misfit in the premier league mid-table simply because of goal difference.

Most clubs in mid-table had a goal difference of minus and at most, in the single digits but Tottenham's goal difference was in the double figures.

Their philosophy was outscoring you to death. In most games, Tottenham concede but they always try to outscore their opponents.

Sometimes, it works but most times, this rigid attacking philosophy was the reason why Tottenham found it incredibly hard to see out games, leading to avoidable draws and defeats in the league.

Despite this, they were still a formidable side to play against.

In the build-up to the game, Coach Marco Silva studied their opponents thoroughly, trying his best to enter the head of the opposition goalkeeper.

And after his studying, he finally arrived at the perfect way to beat Tottenham at their own game.

...

Another London derby was coming, and Fulham was prepared.

In no time, it was 15th March already as Ange Postecoglou's troops finally made the trip to Craven Cottage in West London.

Right there on the road, the North Londoners got the reception of passionate Fulham fans, initiating them in the energy of this derby game.

The players and coach were not the only ones who recognized the importance of the next 3 fixtures for Fulham's prospects this season.

This was why even as the players gave their all in training, outside, the fans gave their all to get in behind their team, giving them maximum support in the build-up to their team's next 3 fixtures.

They gave the Tottenham squad an adequately hostile welcome.

The lineups for the game were already released and like expected, both teams started with their strongest lineups.

Tottenham started with an improvised 4-2-3-1 formation, with Forster standing in between the posts while the 4-man defense ahead of him comprised Porro, Dragusin, Gray, and Udogie.

The midfield duo comprised of Bissouma and Bentacur while the 3-man offensive trio ahead comprised of Brennan Johnson, Dejan Kulusevski, and Heung Min Son, the Korean winger.

Dominic Solanke started as Tottenham's sole striker.

As for Fulham, Coach Marco Silva improvised for this game, starting with a 4-5-1 formation where he heavily loaded his midfield with players.

Raul Jimenez was the sole striker up front, while the 5-man midfield behind him comprised of Emile Smith Rowe, Sam, Lukic, Alex Iwobi, and Antonee Robinson who was pushed upward this game, starting as a left midfielder.

The 4-man defense comprised of Castagne, Diop, Andersen, and Calvin Bassey who was pushed to left back for this game.

Naturally, Bernd Leno started in between the posts.

As the players went into the pitch, lining up, the noise that was being made by the home supporters rose to a crescendo, flying through the roof.

BOOM!

It was hard to focus amid all the noise.

The Tottenham players were heavily affected as they tried to ignore it. For the Fulham players though, knowing that their fans were firmly behind them, they felt like an extra 13th player was lining up with them on the pitch.

They were extremely motivated for this game and when the referee's whistle finally sounded, the game started with a bang.

FWEEEE!

Chapter 244 Just 1 counter!

FWEEE!

The atmosphere in Craven Cottage was electric.

It served as the perfect foil, fueling the energy currently charging through this football pitch as 2 different football teams clashed in a must-win game.

Just as Fulham wanted to win the game to keep their title race alive, Tottenham Hotspur also wanted to win the game to keep their aspirations for securing a European spot for next season alive.

Football was just like that. Towards the end of the season, every one of the 20 clubs in the English premier league have something they're fighting for.

To those at the top of the premier league table, they fight to keep their title hopes alive, fighting to win the premier league trophy.

As for those in mid-table, they fought to secure European qualification. The prize money for playing in European competitions was worth the fight.

As for those at the bottom of the English premier league, theirs was even more crazy since they fought against relegation.

This was why the latter parts of every premier league season was always the most exciting, and this sentiment was perfectly highlighted by the London derby between Fulham and Tottenham Hotspur.

Amid the loud noise being made by the home supporters, the players on the pitch put on a show, playing an incredible end to end game.

It was a game of extremely high-octane energy.

Despite the fact that they were the ones playing away from home, just like Coach Marco Silva expected, Tottenham Hotspur came roaring out like a Dragon as they took the game to Fulham.

This game, the Korean winger representing Tottenham was absolutely electric as he repeatedly turned Castagne inside out.

The Tottenham striker, Dominic Solanke also posed a big threat as he kept on testing Bernd Leno with his teasing shots, but the Fulham goalkeeper rose to the challenge every single time, for now.

During the first few minutes of this game, it felt like Fulham was just defending, barely holding on to life but this was Coach Marco Silva's tactic today.

Knowing the stakes attached to this game, and 100% sure that Tottenham would definitely attack, Marco Silva's strategy for this game was to first kill the attacking momentum of their opponents. This was why his players defended.

Even Sam dropped deep, defending during the first few minutes of this game and after a dozen minutes or so, the Tottenham attacking juice started dying.

Immediately, like Sharks that smelled blood, Fulham finally erupted.

Starting with explosive counterattacks, Fulham hit Tottenham hard as Antonee Robinson's pace caused a lot of problems down the left flank as the left back turned midfielder created a lot of trouble.

From counterattacks, Fulham finally settled into this game as Tottenham's intensity reduced, the home side taking the game to them.

That was when the true end to end affair started.

And in tight games like this, a certain player tended to thrive, Samuel Moses.

Sam was not the only one who thrived though. His teammates kept up with him today, playing at an elite level and finally, the S factor started ticking.

Bam! Bam!

Playing short, accurate passes in triangular patterns, Sam and Emile Smith Rowe repeatedly cut through the Tottenham defense like a hot knife through butter, occasionally using other teammates to set themselves up.

In the next 20 minutes, Sam and Smith Rowe created 5 chances between themselves, forcing the Tottenham goalkeeper, Forster into making 5 crazy saves.

The goalkeeper's gloves must be burning.

The 2 goalkeepers were at an elite level this game but it was while Fulham dominated after the initial Tottenham intensity, pressing the North Londoners that Tottenham's captain finally created a moment of individual brilliance, adding another highlight to the H.M Son collection.

It started with another rampant Fulham attack led by Alex Iwobi this time.

From the left, the midfielder sprayed a pass across midfield to the right where Emile Smith Rowe lurked, who quickly set up Sam.

Sam feinted a shot, leaving Bentacur to slide past him to no man's land and then feinting another shot, he threaded a pass to Raul Jimenez, but then...

Bam!

Gray, Tottenham's center back slid in as soon as Sam hit the ball as the defender intelligently intercepted the ball before it could get to Raul Jimenez.

"...!" In that moment, time seemed to freeze.

Jimenez was close by, Gray was on the floor, who would get to the loose ball first?

The Fulham striker pounced but the floored defender was even faster, recklessly diving in with his head, head-butting the field in the process as the top of his left eye ruptured, bleeding and swelling but then, he managed to clear the ball to the left..., where Heung Min Son lurked.

Due to Fulham's oppressive attacking raids since, the Korean winger was forced to fall back and defend and now, he got the ball all the way in his half.

Time froze around Craven Cottage.

What would he do with the ball?

Only one thing rang in Son's mind though. 'Counterattack!'

In that moment, this winger instantly entered the zone state as time around him slowed down, the pitch suddenly contracting in his vision even as everything seemed to become 10 times clearer to him.

This winger noticed Emile Smith Rowe already charging towards him, closing the distance, and then...

Bam!

Hitting the ball long along the left-hand side of the pitch, Heung Min Son exploded in a sprint, rushing past Smith Rowe before he could react.

The counterattack already started!

And Heung Min Son was ready to do it alone because no one was up field to support him, not even Solanke, Tottenham's striker as they all fell back to defend.

Thud! Thud!

As this winger's legs ate yards of space down the pitch towards the Fulham half, he looked, noticing 2 more opposition players ahead of him.

As soon as he bolted past Emile Smith Rowe, Lukic, Fulham's defensive midfielder reacted, shadowing him from the middle of the pitch.

Lukic was calm and composed, tracking back while shadowing Heung Min Son till he saw the Korean winger take a heavy touch of the ball, then...

Whoosh!

Lukic decisively slid in to win the ball.

"...!" Son's eyes narrowed as soon as Lukic moved.

This midfielder went in for an accurate sliding challenge only for Son's leg to be faster than him, arriving first as he flicked the ball, raising it above Lukic, and then he jumped!

"...!"

Time seemed to freeze as Son jumped above the sliding Lukic.

"Son is flying!"

"He's blitzed Emile Smith Rowe already, and now Lukic, what a run! Can he go all the way?!"

Just like that, the Korean winger eliminated his 2nd obstacle, leaving only Diop who stayed as Fulham's last man in defense.

Fearlessly, the Korean winger now charging through the middle of the pitch having cut in from the left already went on a straight collision course towards Diop but once the distance between them was close enough, Son staggered.

As soon as the winger staggered, Diop also staggered with him, losing balance; it was just a rapid feint from the Korean winger.

With Diop losing balance...

Bam!

Son hit the ball long again, using Diop's momentum against him to rush past Fulham's last man in defense but due to hitting the ball long, sensing weakness, Bernd Leno aggressively charged out of his post.

But again, Heung Min Son was just that much faster.

Arriving before the ball first, the Korean winger raised the ball high, lobbing it over the goalkeeper as it nestled into the net.

"..."

"..."

".....!"

Craven Cottage was silenced.

"GOALLLL...!" The away stands erupted.

Chapter 245 Aura vs aura!

"GOALLLL...!"

As the away supporters roared at the top of their lungs, Heung Min Son charged towards the corner flag, flashing a charming smile at the camera even as he nodded repeatedly in celebration.

The away supporters roared his name at the top of their lungs.

And just like that, Tottenham led in this game in the 37th minute.

While the Tottenham players celebrated, a certain player in the opposition side already became restless, the voices in his head already rearing their competitive heads again.

'Win!' 'Win!' 'Win!'

Of course, Sam was not about to take such brilliance lying down.

Even as the commentator kept on waxing lyrical about the Korean winger's incredible solo run and goal, Sam was already plotting on how to steal the limelight from him and when the game eventually restarted, he did just that.

FWEEEE!

After the referee's whistle sounded, the signal to continue the game, Tottenham played with more courage, bolstered by the incredible goal that was scored by their captain.

For a moment, they regained dominion over this game but it was only for a brief moment because 5 minutes later, in the 42nd minute of this game, Sam struck.

Having just won the ball back, Lukic cleared it up field and there, Sam jumped, contesting with Bissouma for the ball.

The ball was hit with too much power. It was too high, out of the reach of the heads of the 2 contesting footballers, so Sam improvised in mid-air.

Acrobatically raising his right leg up and above his head, he executed an impeccable touch in mid-air, killing all of the ball's momentum in one touch.

Bam!

Hearing the sound alone, Bissouma guessed what Sam did already and knowing how much his coach warned him about the Nigerian's threat, as soon as he landed, the Tottenham midfielder aggressively pressed to win back the ball.

That... was a mistake.

With a perfect la croqueta, Sam sent the Tottenham midfielder to no man's land but not willing to give up, Bissouma went as far as dragging Sam's jersey to slow him down as he quickly recovered, but this only invited more suffering.

This was because as soon as he noticed his opponent dragging his jersey, Sam slowed down, allowing him to catch up and then...

Bzzz!

Bissouma was made to see stars as with an even more perfect elastico dribble, Sam sent the ball in between the legs of this midfielder, nutmegging him.

"Ugh!" Groaning, the midfielder fought the desire to just give up after that and turned to pursue and brethren, that gave him front-row view of what followed.

Immediately after rinsing Bissouma the 2nd time with his perfect elastico, Sam looked ahead, noting that no more Tottenham player was close to him.

He was still some ways from the Tottenham 18-yard box but to Sam, this was just about enough because setting himself up, he launched his leg backward, gathered momentum, swung and hit the ball with power.

POW!

There were a lot of players in the Tottenham 18-yard box, blocking the Tottenham goalkeeper's view.

The goalkeeper was still squinting, looking for who had the ball among the sea of players when he saw something flash past him.

Whoosh!

When he looked back, the ball was already inside his net!

"...!"

"GOALLLLL...!" The Fulham supporters regained their voices.

"My goodness! What a game this is turning out to be!"

"2 absolutely crazy goals!"

"And Sam just responded for Fulham!"

"It just had to be him!"

"Haha, this is an aura for aura moment! Sam is saying, Son, if you can score that, then I can score this! But what a game!"

Sam did not celebrate, simply walking towards the post and focusing on the Fulham supporters as he waved his arms, riling them up.

The Fulham supporters responded, roaring at the top of their lungs.

The noise in Craven Cottage rose through the roof.

In the 42nd minute of this game, it was 1-1.

The first half came to an end with both teams on level terms.

When second half started, it was even more explosive from both teams as they went for the win. And truly, it was an aura for aura moment.

Heung Min Son raised his game to the next level for Tottenham and it was the Fulham fullback, Castagne who bore the brunt of his wrath as the Korean winger repeatedly turned him inside out, beating him for pace as easily as eating rice.

But it was aura for aura.

Just as Son violated Castagne, Sam was absolutely destroying Bissouma through the middle as the Tottenham midfielder's jersey was already thoroughly stained, testament to how many times he had been forced to rub his body on the ground by the rampant Fulham attacking midfielder.

Despite the brilliance from both star players and the support from their teammates, the 2nd goal refused to come.

The closer the game got to 90 minutes; the more tension gathered.

Exhaustion was already settling in even as both coaches made a few changes, yet the players kept on giving their all.

This was a game of clashing philosophies, will, and desires.

And then, in the 87th minute of this game, the deciding moment arrived.

This time, it was Alex Iwobi who created it as after exchanging a series of one-two passes with Antonee Robinson, the Nigerian International threw a cross into the Tottenham 18-yard box, starting a scramble.

Due to how tight this game was since, even the forwards were forced to defend and as this ball was crossed in, even Heung Min Son was defending.

But still, none of them had quite the same mastery of space as the Space Interpreter himself.

Having inherited Thomas Muller's legendary title, Sam shone with it in this pivotal moment.

As the ball floated in, Bissouma originally marked him but due to the tension of watching the ball float dangerously into his box, for just a fraction of a second, the Tottenham midfielder lost track of his man and that was all that Sam needed.

Like a ghost, he went into this midfielder's blind spot, simultaneously synchronizing it with the best spot in the 18-yard box for him to hit the ball.

And as the ball floated in, he jumped, twisting his body in mid-air as he executed a perfect scissor kick shot.

BAM!

Forster dived, desperate to keep the ball out but Sam just did enough to send the ball past him with power and into the net.

The net shook, then...

"GOALLLLLLL...!!!" Craven Cottage exploded.

Sam's teammates swarmed him, jumping all over him even as the commentator raved about his brilliance and yet, Sam did not bother to celebrate.

That goal... was the deciding moment of this game.

In the battle of aura vs aura, Sam won against Heung Min Son.

The game ended with another Fulham victory though it was incredibly tight, and Sam won another man of the match award.

Chapter 246 Game 1 of 3; a win

"Sam, thanks for having me today. Your incredible performance today helped Fulham to its 5th consecutive win in all competitions, how do you feel?"

Sam grinned at the female reporter. "Of course, I feel great, we won!"

The reporter smiled. "Today, a lot of people feel that it was a personal battle between you and Heung Min Son. How do you feel about the Korean's performance today on the pitch?"

Hearing that, Sam shook his head. "I won't lie, even I was scared of him today". He chuckled. "That goal? That was just bonkers man".

"Heung Min Son is a player that I respect a lot, and today, he proved why with his performance. He is a player that I've followed and loved for a long time". Sam smiled. "The first time I saw him play was during the 2018 World Cup".

"And to be sincere, my respect for Mr. Son started all the way from then even before he became a Tottenham player. He is a quality, quality player, one of the best in the premier league in recent years".

"Honestly, I believe we won due to a stroke of luck". Sam laughed.

"The highlights say otherwise," the reporter chuckled. "An absolute rocket shot and an acrobatic one, I differ to say but I believe it's more due to your skill".

"I won't argue with you". Sam laughed.

"Before I forget," the reporter grinned. "Sam, there's a lot of talk online about your physicality. That mid-air touch and control before your first goal, that was honestly out of this world!" The reporter raved.

"Your fans want to know, how did you do it?"

Hearing that question, Sam chuckled again, scratching the back of his head. "Honestly, even I can't exactly tell, it was all in the moment. But if anyone is to take credit, then I'll have to give it to my mom and dad". He grinned.

"They gave me my incredible genetics!"

The reporter laughed. "If that's right, then thank you Mr. and Mrs. Moses for giving us the privilege to witness a footballing phenom like your son".

Sam laughed.

"Also, scrolling through reactions online, we couldn't help but notice a thread online. Football fans believe that you're morphing into a Federico Valverde type of player already with these banger goals every few games".

Sam laughed. "Valverde is a world-class football player playing for one of the biggest clubs in the world; it is an honor to be remotely compared with him".

The reporter asked a few more questions and then, she asked an eye-catchy one. "Sam, today, we could not help but notice that despite scoring those 2 incredible goals, you refused to celebrate".

"You've never been shy of celebrating your goals before, what happened today?"

Hearing that question, as if he expected it, Sam smiled. "It's not a secret actually". He grinned. "While I was injured, watching my team struggle, honestly that was one of the hardest periods of my life this season".

"So, I decided that when I make my return, I'll return with a trademark celebration".

"So?"

"Don't be impatient," Sam chuckled. "Do the calms".

"What I'm doing now is simply building the tension. When the time is right, I'll debut my new celebration".

"Can you give us a hint?"

Sam laughed, politely declining with his silence.

And with that, the post-match interview finally came to an end, closing the curtain to an unforgettable matchday for Fulham supporters.

They all felt on top of the world after the derby win against Tottenham.

On social media, the name Sam was already trending again.

...

(Fulham fixtures:)

(Premier league:)

(Fulham 2-1 Tottenham)

(Date: 15th March, 2025)

...

(Arsenal – Fulham)

(Date: 1st April, 2025)

...

(Fulham – Liverpool)

(Date: 5th April, 2025)

While to the rest of the English premier league, it was the end of matchday 29, to Fulham supporters, it was the end of just game 1 of 3.

And just as they followed their team, they also followed their archrivals for this season, the high-flying Liverpool led by the Egyptian King, Mohamed Salah.

Like expected, Liverpool won their game against Aston Villa convincingly despite the fact that they played their opponents in away ground.

(Liverpool fixtures:)

(Premier league:)

(Aston Villa 1-3 Liverpool)

(Date: 15th March, 2025)

...

(Liverpool – Everton)

(Date: 2nd April, 2025)

...

(Fulham – Liverpool)

(Date: 5th April, 2025)

For both archrivals, it was a win in their first game of 3 deadly fixtures.

And with the end of matchday 29 of the English premier league, the premier league table was updated again, reflecting the current situation of the league.

(Updated premier league table standings:)

(1. Liverpool GP: 29/ W:23/ D:1/ L:2/ Pts: 76)

(2. Fulham GP: 29/ W:21/ D:5/ L:3/ Pts: 69)

(3. Arsenal GP: 29/ W:18/ D:8/ L:3/ Pts: 62)

(4. Chelsea GP: 29/ W:18/ D:8/ L:3/ Pts: 62)

(5. Nottm Forest GP: 29/ W:13/ D:9/ L:7/ Pts: 48)

(6. Tottenham GP: 29/ W:14/ D:4/ L:11/ Pts: 46)

(7. Aston Villa GP: 29/ W:12/ D:9/ L:9/ Pts: 45)

(8. Man City GP: 29/ W:12/ D:8/ L:9/ Pts: 44)

(9. Brighton GP: 29/ W:12/ D:7/ L:10/ Pts: 43)

(10. Bournemouth GP: 29/ W:11/ D:7/ L:11/ Pts: 40)

(11. Newcastle GP: 29/ W:10/ D:9/ L:10/ Pts: 39)

(12. Man United GP: 29/ W:11/ D:5/ L:13/ Pts: 38)

(13. Brentford GP: 29/ W:10/ D:7/ L:12/ Pts: 37)

(14. Crystal Palace GP: 29/ W:7/ D:11/ L:11/ Pts: 32)

(15. West Ham GP: 29/ W:8/ D:7/ L:14/ Pts: 30)

(16. Leicester GP: 29/ W:5/ D:9/ L:15/ Pts: 24)

(17. Everton GP: 29/ W:5/ D:7/ L:17/ Pts: 22)

(18. Ipswich Town GP: 29/ W:3/ D:8/ L:18/ Pts: 17)

(19. Wolves GP: 29/ W:2/ D:8/ L:19/ Pts: 14)

(20. Southampton GP: 29/ W:3/ D:3/ L:23/ Pts: 12)

Matchday 29 of the premier league brought a lot of drama with it.

Of course, more focus was on Liverpool and Fulham's games but still, blockbuster games like the clash between Arsenal and Chelsea at the Emirates which ended in a 1-1 draw also stole the headlines.

Another news that was now familiar to a lot of premier league fans was Manchester United losing again, and then of course, Wolves' win against Southampton that finally took them above their relegation zone partners from 20th to 19th position in the league table.

It was a matchday filled with a lot of excitement and drama.

Chapter 247 A trip to Emirates Stadium

After the Tottenham game on 15th March, Fulham were supposed to have an FA Cup quarterfinal date against Coventry in away ground on 29th but due to the magnitude of their next premier league game against Arsenal, the FA Cup game was postponed.

And so, the Fulham players had 15 full days to prepare for their next premier league games in one of the most challenging encounters of their season.

Playing against Arsenal was no easy endeavour in the premier league, even more so when this clash was taking place in the Emirates Stadium, Arsenal's iconic home stadium.

If the Tottenham game was a test of nerves to know how tough they were for Fulham, the game against Arsenal was a test of fire.

It was like purifying gold through fire.

This time, Arsenal was the fire. At the moment, they were just a dirty metal suspected to be gold. Through the fire tempering, they would be forced to reveal their true colors, either as pretenders or genuine contenders for the premier league.

Trust the Fulham players, their preparations for their next game felt like a preparation for war rather than just a premier league game.

To them, it was do or die, win by all means or don't play at all.

This was how much it meant to them. And with the black mamba himself training with them every day, all the Fulham players gave about 150% of their full potential in training every single time.

Their training was so intense that when 1st of April finally came, the Fulham players didn't feel like professional football players at all.

Rather, they felt like Netero in the Hunter X Hunter universe after spending a month to recover his nen abilities to its peak.

They felt invincible.

Just like the Tottenham game, it was another derby game between another North London football club.

When the Fulham bus arrived in Holloway, North London, trust the Arsenal supporters, they created a sufficiently hostile welcome for the visitors.

And today, again, the Fulham players followed Sam's lead, plugging their ears with headphones and blocking out the noise as they came out of their team bus, trudging down into Emirates Stadium like they owned the place.

Most times in football, the first step to winning a game starts from the psychological aspect and this was proven, mostly by Real Madrid.

The Spanish capital club were well-known as the Kings of the UEFA Champions league due to their seemingly God-like results in the competition, sometimes literally clawing themselves from the jaws of defeat.

When it comes to mental power in football, their incredible semi-final comeback and win against Manchester City in the champions league comes to mind. They were an absolute powerhouse, and much of their notoriety was attributed to their mentality.

Even FC Barcelona's iconic remontada comeback win against Paris Saint Germain back in 2016 was only possible because they believed.

This was why entering this stadium, the Fulham players believed.

They ignored all the hostility, clearing their minds like a pool of still water, entering this stadium like Kings.

Minutes later when both teams lined up in the tunnel, the tension was palpable between both sides. This was not just any derby clash; this was a top of the table derby clash that may heavily affect who wins the premier league title at the end of the season.

Like expected, both teams started with their strongest lineups.

Starting in their regular 4-3-3 formation, Arsenal's star-studded squad started with an electric attacking trio of 2 Brazilians, Gabriel Martinelli, Gabriel Jesus, and the English star boy, Bukayo Saka.

Their midfield trio was an equally strong one comprising Thomas Partey, Declan Rice, and Martin Odegaard.

Further behind them was the defensive quadruple of Ricardo Calafiori, Gabriel Magalhaes, Jurien Timber, led by the stalwart William Saliba. Starting in between the posts for Arsenal was their regular no. 1, David Raya.

It was a fearsome lineup to face for any team in the premier league.

But Fulham approached this game with 0 fear. Starting in their regular 4-2-3-1 formation, Raul Jimenez started in attack while behind him was the attacking trio of Alex Iwobi, Sam, and Emile Smith Rowe.

Further behind them was the duo of Lukic and Andreas Pereira, while their defensive quadruple comprised Antonee Robinson, Diop, Calvin Bassey, and Castagne. Bernd Leno naturally started in between the posts.

This was a game to die for.

As soon as the players stepped into the pitch, it happened...

BOOM!

The noise being made by the home supporters in red and white exploded, hitting a crescendo as their noise rose through the roof.

Emirates Stadium almost seemed to be shaking from all the noise.

No matter how stalwart their minds was, faced with such an atmosphere, the Fulham players felt their hearts falter a bit but they were not given time to panic because the referee's whistle sounded the next moment.

FWEEEE!

As soon as the referee's whistle sounded and as Arsenal kicked off the game, then...

Thud!

Sam led the press from midfield, pursuing the ball aggressively.

"And here we are in the Emirates Stadium, bearing witness to one of the most decisive matches in the 2024/2025 premier league season".

"It's Arsenal vs Fulham".

"Both teams are in good form, both teams are in 2nd and 3rd position respectively in the league. Both teams are separated by 7 points and most importantly, both teams are at the heart of this season's title race".

"If Arsenal win, they go within touching distance of 2nd position while also closing the distance to high-flying Liverpool".

"If Fulham win, Arsenal's title race would be more or less over as Fulham strengthen their bid for its first ever premier league title".

"Yes, Fulham has never won a premier league title, nor have they ever won a major trophy in England".

"Under the lead of the Nigerian Zidane, they've made a lot of exploits this season, but can they go all the way? Can Samuel Moses create history, pushing Fulham to win its very first major trophy in England?"

"And not just here, they're also in the running for the FA Cup too, 2 major trophies in England".

"Today is the deciding day".

"History beckons, but Fulham have a formidable adversary to overcome today. They have Arsenal to overcome in front of their home supporters".

"Can they do it?"

"We can only watch and see how it turns out".

"And Martin Odegaard gets the ball...!"

A thrilling game in the premier league that would soon graduate to an unforgettable status started in Emirates Stadium.

Chapter 248 Battle in Emirates Stadium; the S partnership strikes again!

Hours before the game, a popular YouTube star who made social media content on football arrived in Holloway, North London in England for the epic premier league clash between Arsenal and Fulham.

This YouTube star was extremely popular with tens of millions of subscribers.

An hour after he arrived, going to Emirates Stadium, he did a live video where he asked fans coming to the stadium a specific question about the game.

"Who do you think will win? Fulham or Arsenal?"

And well, he got replies, a lot of them.

"Sorry blud, Fulham are getting nothing from here today".

"You think so? What of Sam?"

The Arsenal fan grinned. "Who is Sam? Where is Sam?" He looked around sarcastically, but then he faced the camera. "There's nobody in the premier league that can pass through our Saliba, and Sam is among them".

"Today, he'll know the difference between our defense and other defenses".

That was just one out of many replies.

"Hey, who do you think will win the game? Fulham or Arsenal?"

"Arsenal for the win man". The male fan laughed, hugging his girlfriend. "Fulham are good this season but they don't have the depth and experience to win against a team like Arsenal, the pressure of the title race is already getting to them".

"To win against the likes of Arsenal, Liverpool, and even Man City this season, you need much more than temporary form".

"You actually need experience, and that, I must say Fulham don't have".

"Even their talisman, Sam, the boy is still just a teenager".

"My prediction is that Sam will have his worst game of the season today".

This YouTube star got a lot of answers like this and when the referee's whistle eventually sounded hours later inside Emirates Stadium to kick off the game, he was also in the stands, paying attention to the proceedings.

It was time to see if the football fans that he asked were right.

...

FWEEEE!

As soon as the referee's whistle sounded...

Thud!

...Sam started chasing after the ball.

And not just him, all the Fulham players reacted aggressively as soon as Arsenal kicked off the game, chasing after the ball with intensity.

Coach Marco Silva's strategy for this game was a polar opposite of his approach to Tottenham during the early proceedings.

Unlike when he told his team to defend during the early proceedings of the game against Tottenham Hotspur, Marco Silva did not dare make the same decision here knowing the caliber of attackers that Arsenal had at their disposal.

With the likes of Martin Odegaard, Gabriel Jesus, and Bukayo Saka in the lineup, all technical players that excelled in tight-space dribbling, the last thing he wanted was to defend deep against them.

This was why Marco Silva's approach to this game during the early proceedings was an aggressive prime Liverpoolesque gen-gen press!

Thud! Thud!

The Fulham players flooded all over the pitch, pressuring the Arsenal players and forcing them to go back.

And once that happened, Raul Jimenez, Fulham's striker took it from there as he sprinted, rapidly closing the Arsenal goalkeeper down and forcing David Raya to quickly hit the ball upward.

Back in midfield, Lukic rose highest, beating Declan Rice in the aerial battle as the Fulham midfielder won back the ball.

That moment was when the game in Emirates Stadium became complicated.

As soon as Fulham won back possession, the ball quickly found its way to Sam and together alongside Emile Smith Rowe, these 2 friends started creating their magic on the pitch as their telepathic chemistry shone.

The Fulham S factor took over this game.

But Sam and Emile Smith Rowe were not allowed to enjoy themselves with impunity though, not with the likes of Declan Rice and Thomas Partey sharing the midfield spot with them.

After the first 10 minutes, this game became an end-to-end affair.

Arsenal's technical brilliance shone in intervals as Martin Odegaard posed a threat with his vision and neat passes every time that he got the ball in midfield.

On the right side of the pitch, Bukayo Saka, the England International also caused a lot of problems with his silky dribbling and occasional crosses into the box that caused the Fulham defense that never ceased to cause chaos.

Just like Sam and Smith combined for Fulham to devastating effect, the Saka and Odegaard combo was even deadlier in this game.

To fight off their strengths, Fulham responded by playing high intensity physical football as they roughed up the Arsenal players.

Boos erupted from the home supporters occasionally but it only riled the Fulham players up even more, till the moment their challenges started turning reckless as the referee began handing over cards.

By the 30th minute of this game, nothing tangible was created yet until 2 moments of individual brilliance turned this game on its head.

Bam! Bam!

In the 33rd minute of this game, exchanging one-two passes between them, Sam and Emile Smith Rowe penetrated into the Arsenal defense like a hot knife through butter.

After receiving the final pass, just as Sam was about to turn and take a shot, he noticed a wall suddenly obstruct him.

This wall... was William Saliba.

The Frenchman was the one reason why despite Fulham's press since they've not scored a goal yet. But this time, Sam did not force it, instead, he improvised.

With William Saliba sticking close to him, bullying him with his superior physicality, instead of fighting it, Sam juggled the ball up and then...

Bam!

A juggle and a mid-air pass.

Everything happened so fast it almost felt like Sam was operating in a different time space where he played the game at a much faster speed.

Sam's mid-air pass was so accurate that it flashed past the side of William Saliba's face and when the Frenchman looked, realizing what just happened, his eyes widened. 'No!'

It was too late though.

Having read Sam's intentions perfectly, like a specter, Emile Smith Rowe ghosted into the position in the Arsenal 18-yard box where the ball appeared towards the right side of the post.

All this winger had to do was hit the ball with the heel of his boots and it was directed straight into the box.

"GOALLLLL...!" The away stands in Emirates Stadium erupted, screaming at the top of their lungs as the home supporters were stunned.

"What a goal!" The commentator raved. "Perfect chemistry these 2! And ladies and gentlemen, behold the Sam and Smith factor!"

"They've done it again!"

"Surely, they're not going to win in the Emirates, right?!"

Just 4 minutes later, in the 37th minute of this game, after conceding a corner kick, Alex Iwobi floated the ball from the right into the box.

As a scramble started, somehow, Calvin Bassey did it, outwitting everybody as he ghosted into an unmarked spot and leaped high into the air, planting a powerful header towards goal.

"And ohhh...! Alisson with the save!"

"But the rebound is still alive..., and oh! Goallllll...!"

Raul Jimenez pounced on the rebounded ball with cat-like instincts, poking it into the net before the nearest Arsenal defender could tackle him.

"..."

"..."

".....!"

Emirates Stadium was as silent as a graveyard, the only noise being the one that came from the away stands as ecstatic Fulham fans roared at the top of their lungs.

"My God! What are we witnessing right now?"

"Arsenal have collapsed in their own home!"

"Fulham is winning in the Emirates Stadium by 2 unanswered goals!"

"Crazy! Absolutely crazy! No one saw this coming, not even Devil scripted this, this is just out of this world!"

"Fulham are on top of the world at this moment!"

"Can they actually do it?"

"Can they go all the way and win the game?"

Chapter 249 A moment of individual brilliance, electric Bukayo Saka!

(Premier league:)

(Arsenal 0-2 Fulham)

(Half-time:)

Incredulously, the first half of this game came to an end with Fulham still leading the home side by 2 goals.

When the players went to the tunnel to rest, the rest of the world was thrown into a frenzy. Fulham were actually doing it!

This season, there was the perfect term to describe Fulham, the underdogs.

Earlier in the season, that was how fans still predicted.

Premier league fans predicted that they would lose against Arsenal, they would lose against Manchester City, they don't have what it takes to retain their spot at the top of the English premier league table but fast forward to now, Fulham were still within touching distance of the top.

Somehow, Fulham managed to prove all their doubters wrong and against all odds, they were still standing.

Somehow, they managed to get results against the biggest sides in the premier league this season and were still standing strong.

And somehow, in the 2nd half of the season now, they managed to win against Tottenham Hotspur last time out despite all the pressure on them.

And now, somehow, they were winning against Arsenal!

This was unbelievable, this was crazy, this season was borderline madness!

Manchester City was not in the title race any longer, and Fulham was actually in the title race! Was there a crazier premier league season than that?

While the outside world went ga ga over the first half result of this game, in the dressing room, Coach Marco Silva addressed his players.

This coach did not hold back, applauding his players as a proud smile lined his lips.
"Congratulations guys, you all did well out there on the pitch".

"Your pressing was aggressive and consistent; you obeyed my instructions and never gave them too much time on the ball. For that, kudos to you guys". He smiled brightly even as his players also smiled back at him.

"During the second half, they'll want to increase the pressure even more. Their rationale will be that with more pressure, we won't be able to keep up, we'll falter and make mistakes".

Coach Marco Silva's eyes flashed, his face becoming serious. "That is exactly what I want to avoid".

"Don't fall into their rhythm, stay consistent in our own rhythm".

"When they're with the ball, press, never let up!"

"When you're with the ball, attack immediately! Always keep them on tenterhooks, got it?"

"Yes boss!"

"Good, relax your brains a bit and get ready to return to the pitch".

When the players eventually returned to the pitch, just like Coach Marco Silva predicted, all the Arsenal players felt like they received a shot of glucose and adrenaline as it showed in their mannerisms.

Arsenal's approach to this game changed.

FWEEEE!

As soon as the referee's whistle sounded this time, Fulham's suffering truly began as Arsenal took the game to them.

And trust the home supporters, they were firmly behind their team despite the fact that they were now losing by 2 goals.

BOOM!

Their voices rose through the roof of this stadium, creating sonic tsunamis of noise that affected the Fulham players but sheer determination was what kept the visitors going, playing their game.

Still, the Arsenal players tried everything in their repertoires.

From corner kicks, Gabriel Magalhaes and William Saliba, the 2 imposing Arsenal center backs tried to create something but Calvin Bassey and Diop were always at the ready, aggressively fighting the aerial battle with them and winning.

Those corner kicks also led to 2 dangerous Fulham counterattacks.

This 2nd half was even more explosive than the first as both teams played their hearts out. The Arsenal players were getting frustrated, nothing seemed to be working until something magical happened from the right side of the pitch.

Having did his best to keep up with the English International for most of the game, a tired Antonee Robinson finally let up and that was all Saka needed.

Receiving a long pass from Declan Rice, Bukayo Saka executed a perfect touch to bring the ball under control.

As soon as he controlled the ball, Antonee Robinson charged in only for the winger's quick feet to move in a blur, nutmegging him.

And just like that, Robinson was eliminated.

"Ugh!" Groaning tiredly, Robinson could not turn around to pursue immediately and that was the deciding moment.

Drifting with the ball infield, Bukayo Saka ran into more opposition.

He first ran into Lukic but slowing down slightly to draw the midfielder in, Saka used a perfect la croqueta to delete the Fulham midfielder.

Just outside the 18-yard box, the winger looked up at the Fulham goal, raising his leg to unleash a powerful shot at goal but he was not allowed to shoot as Diop came sliding in aggressively.

Saka stopped his shot at the last moment, turning it into a feint as in a show of skill, he trapped the ball, letting Diop slide helplessly past him.

With that, Diop was deleted but Calvin Bassey arrived soon after.

As soon as the Nigerian International arrived, Bukayo Saka staggered and as Bassey staggered with him, panicking, with a drop of his shoulder, the winger exploded past the center back and then, he finally hit the ball with his lethal left foot.

Bam!

It was not one of those powerful piledriver shots, rather it was a perfect precision curled shot towards the top left corner of the Fulham net.

Bernd Leno reacted, jumping on a full-stretch dive but it was not enough as curling beyond his reach, the ball curled back and into the net.

For a brief moment in the Emirates Stadium, there was a moment of disbelieving silence, and then...

"GOALLLLLLL...!!!" Arsenal fans erupted, spreading chaos as some even jumped beyond the barrier and into the pitch, celebrating with the players!

It almost felt like they've won the game.

That goal... had long been coming.

All the pressure since, all the pent-up emotions, they were all let out by that absolutely brilliant goal from the English winger.

Saka chants started around this stadium and in that moment, they could feel it, the switch in momentum.

Momentum was now on Arsenal's side.

Bukayo Saka scored a goal to half Fulham's lead in the 73rd minute of this game, did they have what it takes to draw this game?

"Now, Fulham are on tenterhooks, what a goal!"

"This game is even more interesting now!"

"What can Arsenal do?"

Chapter 250 Imperious Fulham

72 minutes, 1-2...

The pressure in this stadium became palpable, hitting a crescendo.

The Arsenal fans sang at the top of their lungs. And this time, their voices seemed especially more piercing to the Fulham players simply because the atmosphere in this stadium already changed.

The aura of indomitability around Fulham since was now crumbling and trust Arsenal, they took advantage of it.

The commentator asked what Arsenal could do, well, they were about to show it.

BOOM!

Like a lineup of angry Hippos who were just woken from a deep slumber, they went on an angry rampage around the pitch, putting Fulham to the chopping board and literally dissecting them apart with scintillating football.

In the build-up to the goal that changed the momentum, as soon as Bukayo Saka received the decisive pass from Declan Rice, the star boy entered the zone state and now, Antonee Robinson suffered the brunt of a Saka who was in the flow.

BZZZ!

Like a wizard of football, the silky English winger went on mazy dribbles, turning Robinson inside out as the left back was made to look like an amateur.

Every cross into the box, every dribble, every shot that he took left the Fulham defense quaking in its boots even as it ignited the stadium, making the home supporters sing his name at the top of their lungs.

And with Bukayo Saka being unlocked, his level seeped into the rest of the Arsenal team, mostly the midfielders.

Just 5 minutes after Saka's goal, Thomas Partey unleashed an absolute thunderbolt from midfield towards the top right corner of the post.

The powerful shot stung Bernd Leno's gloves, making the goalkeeper's hands hurt as he had to be attended to by medical staff before he could continue.

Of the Arsenal players who stepped up, apart from Saka, another stand-out name was Martin Odegaard.

The Norwegian midfield maestro soon became unlocked like Saka, entering the flow as every touch of the ball that he had seemed to turn into gold.

Every touch, every subtle shift of the ball, every turn, everything he did was crazy effective as he shuffled and cut through Fulham players like they were not there and with his vision, he played those penetrative through passes.

"...!" On the touchline, a certain coach was close to getting a heart attack.

Coach Marco Silva shook where he stood as he watched Arsenal go on a riot, tearing his team apart limb by limb.

The only thing keeping this coach sane was the fact that despite the Arsenal pressure, his players remained steadfast, unwilling to give up.

'Win!' 'Win!' 'Win!'

The monster whispering in Sam's head already reared its head again.

Abusing his stamina, Sam locked his area of the pitch, intercepting 80% of balls that went through his side of the pitch till Arsenal decided to abandon his area of the pitch completely, forcing him to move out of position.

The late stages of this game were incredibly tense and full of drama.

It was not all Arsenal though. At certain intervals, Fulham won the ball back, triggering lethal counterattacks but the Arsenal defense was also high-flying.

In the 88th minute of the game, during another counterattack, Emile Smith Rowe clashed with the powerful Frenchman, William Saliba as he was bundled out of the way, left to bleed as he suffered a fractured nose.

Smith Rowe collapsed on the pitch in pain, grasping his nose.

After a yellow card was handed to William Saliba by the referee, to Fulham's dismay, Smith Rowe could not continue as Coach Marco Silva made another change this game, taking Smith Rowe off and introducing Adama Traore.

As the substitution was made, the Arsenal fans kept roaring at the top of their lungs. They could feel that a goal was coming.

"What an atmosphere in the Emirates". The commentator said. "Chills man, I don't envy any of those Fulham players currently on the pitch".

"The pressure is palpable in the stadium".

Fulham played its freekick but nothing of note came out of it, the Arsenal fans responded by roaring loudly again.

And in no time, it was fulltime.

The referee added 4 minutes of additional time.

To the Fulham players, those 4 minutes felt like a lifetime as Arsenal literally camped in their half, pressuring them to death.

The game was extremely intense and straightforward, Fulham defending for dear life while Arsenal laid siege to them.

Bam! Bam!

Shots kept on being unleashed by the Arsenal attackers like giveaways, but then, in the 3rd minute of additional time, Sam won back possession!

"...!" As soon as his leg touched the ball, intercepting it, Sam felt like a bolt of electricity just went through his brain.

Whoosh!

Declan Rice charged in to win the ball but flicking this ball high, it rose above the English midfielder, landing on his other side as Sam already slipped past him.

Sam went past Declan Rice only to meet 2 more obstacles.

On one side there was Mikel Merino who was already introduced into this game at some point and at another side, there was Ricardo Calafiori blocking his pathway from both sides.

There was no clear path to pass, Sam was blocked but not hesitating even for a moment, Sam drove forward with the ball.

As the 2 players pressed, he did his thing.

Bam! Bam!

Sam's legs hit the ball twice at such a rapid speed, exchanging it between themselves in a zig zag shape as he cut through both players with an incredibly executed la croqueta.

In that moment, Martin Odegaard who stayed back since rushed in to clear the ball but Sam was faster as he dug into his reserves of stamina.

Thud!

With one long stretch of his left leg, he poked the ball past Odegaard's reach and into space as recovering from the stretch, he erupted in pursuit of the ball!

"And Sam has it!"

"He's with the ball! He's broken past the initial press, he only has 2 Arsenal players to beat, is this the counter to kill the game?!"

"Can he do it?!"

Sam did not miss a single step, rushing along the left side of the pitch with the ball but just as he cut in and William Saliba started charging towards him, he hit the ball with the outside of his right boot.

Bam!

Sam executed an immaculate trivela pass to the right!

Immediately after Sam started his run down the left side of the pitch, the fastest player on this pitch, Adama Traore also exploded from the right.

This player ate yards of space with such imperious authority like they were not there and when Sam played this incredible trivela pass, cutting open Arsenal's last line of defense, Adama Traore was there at the receiving end.

This pass was perfectly weighted, arriving just at his front.

Adama Traore could not miss it even if he wanted, not that he wanted to.

As the ball floated in, due to David Raya already charging towards him, Adama Traore did not even bother to control the ball. Afterall, it was already passed to him in the perfect spot to shoot.

Simply swinging his right leg back, using the momentum from his run, this winger unleashed a powerful volleyed shot towards goal.

BAM!

The ball flew past David Raya like a rocket, and into the empty net.

"GOALLLLLLL...!!!" The away stands that had been silent for the past few minutes erupted again, jumping and screaming at the top of their lungs.

"GOALLLLLLLLLLL!!!" The commentator screamed.

"What a goal!"

"Vintage Fulham!"

"Imperious Fulham!"

"Arsenal is Fulham's latest victim! The West London club has now extended their winning streak to 6 wins in 6 games, what a run!"

"What a pass, what a finish!"

"A Zinedine Zidane masterclass!"

Fulham won the game 1-3.