

Football God 271

Chapter 271 FA Cup final; against Manchester United

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[You have completed a Season System Quest!]

[Congratulations! You have completed Season Quest 1!]

[You have completed mission 1: Win the English Premier League with Fulham FC!]

[You have been rewarded with +4 increase to 2 random football abilities!]

[Your Pace attribute has increased by +4!]

[Your Dribbling attribute has increased by +4!]

...

[You have been rewarded with +10,000 Skill Points!]

...

[You have been rewarded with a bonus reward: X Factor pill ×2]

>X Factor pill: In football, the X factor is a variable in a given football game or situation that can have the most significant impact on the outcome of the game. When this pill is ingested, you become that variable, massively enhancing your team's chances of winning a game<

...

[You have completed mission 2: Become the top assist provider of the English premier league!]

[You have been rewarded with a +5 increase to your passing attribute!]

[You have received a random passing skill!]

[Skill randomizing..., please wait...]

[You have received a passing skill: Mesut Ozil Bounce Pass]

[Congratulations! You have completed Season Quest 4!]

[You have completed mission 1: Secure a top 4 finish for Fulham FC, guaranteeing Champions League football for your club in the next season!]

[You have been rewarded with a +5 increase to your physicality and defending attributes!]

[Season Quest 5: Completed]

[Season Quest 3: Failed]

[Season Quest 2: Pending]

[Congratulations! Your overall system rating has increased to 87!]

[Player Attributes:]

*Pace: 86

*Shot: 85

*Pass: 85

*Dribbling: 82

*Defending: 40

*Physicality: 81

*Stamina: 86

Overall Rating: 87

~----~

In one day, Sam's attributes increased explosively, taking his overall rating to a staggering figure of 87.

'Damn!' This was his only reaction on seeing that figure.

The season was yet to end for Fulham unlike most other clubs in the premier league, but still, it was a legendary season already.

Sam and all his teammates were already immortalized in Fulham, recognized as legends of Fulham football club after creating history, bringing the club's very first major trophy.

The fact that it was the premier league title made it even more special.

The past few days, everyday felt like Christmas to Fulham supporters.

The more he grew, the harder it was to improve his attributes, Sam already learned this after playing so many games this season for Fulham.

This was why he felt so much more different after his attributes experienced such an explosive growth. 'Damn! I doubt even the system expected me to complete so many season system quests'.

'If it did, it would have never made the rewards so lucrative'.

This was also another highlight of the incredible feat that Sam achieved with Fulham this season.

Originally in the premier league, Fulham was a renowned mid-table team, they were never synonymous with winning trophies not to talk of winning the premier league trophy.

To win it in his second season with the club emphasized the difficulty of what Sam just did, he made the impossible possible with Fulham.

The footballing world was still reeling from the brilliance of the little Nigerian, but for Sam, the season was not over yet.

The FA Cup final was originally scheduled for 17th May but due to the premier league schedule, it was postponed to after matchday 38 of the premier league.

Almost a week later after playing Man City in the last matchday of the premier league, on the last day of May, Fulham lined up on the pitch again against the other Manchester club in a blockbuster FA Cup final matchup.

(FA Cup:)

(Final:)

(Manchester United – Fulham)

(Date: 31st May, 2025)

For the last time this season, this legendary Fulham side lined up on the pitch against a vastly improved Manchester United side under the tutelage of Ruben Amorim in a blockbuster FA Cup clash.

On that night, Fulham fans witnessed another Sam masterclass.

Both teams started with their strongest lineups and like expected, Ruben Amorim had a special plan to shackle the Fulham superstar.

Manuel Ugarte, the Manchester United midfielder was tasked with being Sam's shadow for this game, man-marking him to restrict his impact on the game.

Manuel Ugarte did an amazing job, reducing Sam's impact in the advanced parts of the field but in response, Sam simply decided to do more without the ball as he abused the Manchester United midfielder with his stamina.

By half-time, Manuel Ugarte did a good job as the scoreline was still 0-0 but by then, the midfielder was already out of breath as Sam pushed him to his limits.

In second half, the floodgates finally opened.

Manuel Ugarte dug in, restricting Sam's impact offensively but still, Sam did enough of the little bits to let his teammates shine.

In the 71st minute of this tight game in Wembley Stadium, Emile Smith Rowe finally did it, floating a pass for Alex Iwobi to neatly sweep into the Manchester United net as Wembley Stadium erupted, fans of the Fulham persuasion roaring at the top of their lungs.

In this game, the Manchester United players could not help but feel that Sam was even better and faster.

It was almost like he was not yet used to his body's new capabilities which helped Manuel Ugarte in barely keeping up with him.

7 minutes after Alex Iwobi's goal, in the 78th minute of the game, Bruno Fernandes struck for Manchester United, an absolute rocket from midfield.

POW!

And just like that, Manchester United were level again.

Fulham dragged it to after fulltime before winning it late in additional time as Rodrigo Muniz became the hero, pouncing onto an Emile Smith Rowe cross and heading home past Andre Onana to make Fulham FA Cup champions for the first time in their history.

Emile Smith Rowe won the man of the match award for this game after his impressive 2-assist display.

FWEEEE!

As soon as the final whistle sounded, the Fulham players felt vindicated, giving in to their emotions again as they cried, hugging each other excitedly.

When their families entered the pitch to celebrate with them, they felt that this was the best year of their life.

Lifting the premier league title last week and the FA Cup this week, was there a period of life better than this?

They were living the dream.

And with that, Fulham did the unthinkable, winning the double of the premier league and FA Cup trophies of the 2024/2025 season.

It was a record-breaking season.

It was a legendary season and at its heart was Samuel Moses.

Chapter 272 Perfection mastery level

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[You have completed a Season System Quest!]

[Congratulations! You have completed Season Quest 2!]

[You have completed mission 1: Win the English FA Cup with Fulham FC!]

[You have been rewarded with +2 increase to 2 random football abilities!]

[Your Dribbling attribute has increased by +2!]

[Your Shooting attribute has increased by +2!]

...

[You have completed mission 2: Win the best player award in the English FA Cup!]

[You have been rewarded with a random reward!]

[Reward randomizing..., please wait...]

[You have received a Skill Upgrade Card!]

[Grade: Perfection!]

[Choose the specific skill that you want to use this card on:]

~----~

For Fulham, the football season officially came to an end.

At the end of the FA Cup game against Manchester United in Wembley Stadium, after the wild celebrations by the Fulham players, the fans, and their families, time finally came for the award ceremony.

Just like other major football tournaments in the world, the FA Cup also had individual awards.

There was the Golden Boot award whose iteration for the 2024/2025 FA Cup season was won by Mohamed Salah, bolstered by his incredible 5-goal haul in earlier rounds of the competition.

Mohamed Salah won the golden boot for scoring the most goals in the tournament while Bernd Leno won the Golden Glove award as the best goalkeeper of the tournament.

As for the Golden Ball award that was given to the best player of the tournament, it naturally went to Sam after his talismanic performances that led Fulham to the final of the FA Cup, eventually winning it.

It was the first major individual award of Sam's career.

After the game, the celebrations didn't end in Craven Cottage as like the fans, Sam returned to his apartment alongside his family, extending the celebrations.

That night, he had the temptation of drinking himself to stupor but knowing just how weak he was with alcohol, he was able to refrain from the stupidity.

But at the end, with friends like Smith Rowe, Ian, Kayla and his family around, it was a memorable moment for Sam.

That night, in his room, his girlfriend consolidated the memory for him as he had an intimate moment with Kayla to never forget.

By the end of it all, Sam sighed contentedly. 'I love my life'. He thought.

From there, they went to the bathroom where they took their bath together before retreating back to the bedroom where Kayla quickly slept.

With his girlfriend sleeping soundly in his arms, Sam finally had the time to focus on his system notifications and this was when he saw all of this.

Once again, his attributes increased but he didn't pay attention to that, rather he paid attention to the reward for being the best player of the tournament.

'A skill upgrade card?!'

If Kayla was not sleeping so soundly in his arms, resting on his chest, Sam swore he would have jumped up to scream in joy.

This was his first time receiving a skill upgrade card from his system but instinctively, he already knew what this card could do.

And looking at the text next to it 'Perfection', he felt hyped.

'Finally!' He thought excitedly. 'I'm about to take one of my skills to the mastery level of perfection!'

Earlier in his career after he just got the Ultimate Football System, the system informed him that football skills are ranked according to mastery and that they were divided into basic, intermediate, advanced, and perfection masteries.

Since then, Sam already grew a lot, even having multiple advanced skills now but he was yet to have a football skill at the perfection mastery.

But with this skill upgrade card, this reality was about to change.

Before making his decision though, he navigated through his system interface, focusing on all his active skills.

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[Active skills:]

[Basic mastery level: Body feint; step overs; roulette; knuckle shot; overhead kick; rainbow flick; trivela shot, basic penalty technique, basic freekick technique]

[Intermediate mastery level: Elastico; Cruyff turn; La croqueta; Body feint; Power header]

[Advanced mastery level: Spatial awareness; Power shot]

...

[Legendary Inheritance: Elastico]

[Legendary Inheritance: Spatial Awareness]

[Legendary Inheritance: Power Shot]

\*\*\*

One look at his active skills and his subconscious immediately pointed to 2 skills, his only 2 skills at the advanced mastery level, his spatial awareness and power shot skills.

The choice felt rational and right but Sam did not make the decision immediately, rather he took his time, thinking out of the box.

'I need to be careful'.

'Afterall, I don't know if I'll ever have an opportunity like this again, I need to make it count'.

And when he thought hard about it, the reason that dissuaded him from the 2 obvious choices was because of the suspicion that the skill upgrade card could be used on any skill to improve it to the perfection level, even skills that were previously at the basic level.

'If it's this way, using it on a skill that's already at the advanced mastery level is a waste'.

'Besides, I have legendary inheritances on both my spatial awareness and power shot skills. No matter how long it takes, so long I keep on training, someday, I'll get them to the perfection mastery level and even eclipse it'.

That was all the analysis he needed to make his decision.

And after carefully glancing through his other skills, he asked himself a question, a question that he got after building his experience on the highest tier of football this season.

'In those games when nothing I do work, what skill can help me instantly turn defeat into a draw or victory?'

As soon as he asked the question, he got only one answer.

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[Perfection Grade Skill Upgrade Card has been used!]

[Your skill, Basic Freekick Technique has been upgraded to the Perfection mastery level!]

...

>Perfect Freekick Technique<

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After making his choice that night, satisfied, he hugged his sleeping girlfriend tighter to his body before checking his full system status again after so long.

~----~

[Player status!]

Host: Samuel Moses

Current Career Status: Reigning Premier League champion, Reigning FA Cup champion, Reigning FA Cup Golden Ball winner

Talent Rating: S

Player Position: Attacking Midfield

Player Attributes:

\*Pace: 86

\*Shot: 87

\*Pass: 85

\*Dribbling: 84

\*Defending: 40

\*Physicality: 81

\*Stamina: 86

Overall Rating: 87

...

[Owned Football Skills:]

[Passive skill: Stalwart]

>You have proven your credentials as a reliable stalwart with well-rounded attributes in the middle of the pitch. You can score, you can assist, you can dribble, and you can press; you are the complete package<

>+10% to all 4 packages when on the pitch<

>All 4 packages refer to your shooting attribute, your passing attribute, your dribbling attribute, and your stamina attribute<

[Active skills:]

[Basic mastery level: Step overs; roulette; knuckle shot; overhead kick; rainbow flick; trivela shot, basic penalty technique, scissor kick]

[Intermediate mastery level: Elastico; Cruyff turn; La croqueta; Body feint; Power header]

[Advanced mastery level: Spatial awareness; Power shot]

[Perfect mastery level: Freekick Technique]

...

[Legendary Inheritance: Elastico]

[Legendary Inheritance: Spatial Awareness]

[Legendary Inheritance: Power Shot]

...

[Ability cards:]

>Shoot it like Lewy<

[Card uses remaining: 2]

>Thread it like KDB<

[Card uses remaining: 2]

>Bend it like Beckham<

[Card uses remaining: 2]

...

[Trophies won:]

>NPFL title ×1<

>CAF Champions League trophy ×1<

>EFL Cup title ×1<

>Premier League title ×1<

>FA Cup title ×1<

...

[Title: Space Interpreter!]

[Title: Legs of Steel!]

[System Remark: An elite young talent playing in one of the best leagues in the world!]

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'Finally! My talent rating is at S rank!' Sam felt excited on seeing that figure, he felt nostalgic as he remembered when he just started his career, when he played for Enyimba FC back in Nigeria.

Compared to when he just started, his growth was staggering.

'I've come a long way'. He thought, feeling melancholic.

Chapter 273 Wild celebrations

3 days later, in a press conference...

"Thank you for respecting our invitation and coming Sam".

"It's an honor to be here". Sam smiled at the reporter.

What Fulham did this season; it was nothing short of legendary.

Despite the fact that days already passed since the FA Cup game, the celebrations still continued at full swing as excited Fulham fans simply could not forget their unreal fortune this season.

Sam already turned into a cult hero in the city of Fulham, he was literally worshipped in the town as his celebrity status rose even higher.

He truly was a superstar now.

On the wake of a massively successful season for Fulham, a record-breaking one in their history, a news platform that covered the premier league organized a press conference and Sam was invited to take part in it.

The purpose of the press conference was to delve more into his story and his life, to know the Nigerian who changed the fortune of Fulham as a city and a club.

"Sam, I already did my research before now and you know what?" The male reporter grinned. "I found some interesting data about you".

"I couldn't help but notice that despite the fact that you're still just 19 years old, you've won 5 official trophies already which is crazy, 4 of them being major trophies that are recognized in the world".

Sam chuckled. "Really? I didn't really count". He awkwardly scratched the back of his head, making the reporter chuckle.

"I won't even try to fathom how the brain of geniuses like you work," the reporter laughed. "Anyways, in case you forgot, in the past 3 seasons of your small career, you've won the NPFL title, the CAF champions league trophy, the EFL Cup title, the premier league title, and then the FA Cup title".

"At such a young age, winning so much already just underlines how talented you are," the reporter looked at him. "Sam, can you tell us which of these trophy wins was more important and exciting to you?"

"That's a difficult question," Sam smiled. "In terms of importance, obviously, I'll say the premier league title win this season".

"Fulham have never won a premier league trophy before now, so helping the club win a title of such importance, it's a thing of great pride to me and my teammates so that's obviously my answer".

"When it comes to the most exciting of them though," he rubbed his chin, smiling.

"That's difficult, right?"

Sam laughed. "Yeah, it's really difficult".

"I mean, the FA Cup and premier league race this season was tough. Even on the last matchday, I thought we lost till Crystal Palace handed us a lifeline," he wiped away imaginary sweat from his forehead sarcastically. "I can't thank them enough".

The reporter laughed. "About that, Liverpool are still launching a complaint to the premier league that Man City let you guys score so many goals against them".

Sam shrugged. "If they don't believe we won fairly, that's on them, they should keep on lodging complaints".

"I and my teammates do know we gave our all to win and it's only fair that we won, undermining our win is not nice but it's what it is". He smiled.

"So?"

"Huh?"

The reporter smiled. "You're yet to answer my question".

"Ah, ok," Sam rubbed his chin in thought before answering. "If I was to say it objectively, my most exciting trophy win has to be the CAF champions league win".

"I mean come on, I'm used to being the underdog but in that tournament, we were below underdogs, we were massive underdogs!" He laughed.

"Man, winning against the likes of Al Ahly in penalties to progress to the final, and then the win against Wydad AC, those are moments that I won't forget in my life even till my death bed".

"You think?"

"Yeah, I do think so". Sam laughed. "That tournament has a special place in my heart, I can say it helped in molding me into the player I am today".

The reporter smiled. "Talking about the player you are, Sam, we want to know more about you. Can you tell us your story?"

"Your struggles, how you started, and how you made it to this level".

Sam smiled, a reminiscing look coming over his face. "It's a long story..."

Sam took his time in the interview, telling his story to the reporter and the viewers who learned a lot about him that day.

His story was indeed long, and eventful, almost fantastical even.

That interview made Sam's reputation in the football world rise even more, making a lot more football fans to know about him.

Afterall, football fans loved to hear the story of an underdog who fought fate and overcame challenges before rising to prominence.

Even after the interview, for Fulham fans, the celebrations for their legendary season were not yet over, rather it was just starting.

The executives at the club didn't want to have a forgettable celebration as they planned an open bus parade around the city of Fulham, parading their 2 trophies before their fans.

The next day after Sam's interview, Wednesday, 4th of June, Fulham fans took to the streets as the open bus parade started.

Tens of thousands of Fulham fans flooded the streets.

Amid loud music and a boisterous atmosphere, the fans got the privilege of having a great time alongside their players as they wildly celebrated their trophy wins of the past season.

At the end of Sam's interview, the reporter asked him a sensitive question about his future since big clubs were already circling round for his signature.

Manchester City did not hide their interest in Sam, and they were just one of the numerous big clubs now gunning for Sam's signature after his record-breaking 2nd season with Fulham.

The reporter asked him about it and Sam's reply had one theme at the center of it, the theme of FC Barcelona.

He did not hide his love for the Spanish club, bringing some controversies in Fulham but the fans did not pay attention to it as their love for him eclipsed anything that could strain their relationship.

That day, they celebrated wildly through the streets of Fulham.

After the open bus parade, the celebrations extended to deep in the night as Coach Marco Silva took his players to a night club to continue the celebrations.

It truly was a memorable day for the players.

...

2 days after the open bus parade in Fulham, the world of football consolidated again to watch the greatest game of elite club football, the UEFA champions league final.

The final was to be played between 2 Giants of football, Liverpool of England and Bayern Munich of Germany.

The venue was Wembley Stadium in England.

Chapter 274 UEFA champions league final; Liverpool vs Bayern Munich [1]

(UEFA Champions League:)

(Final:)

(Liverpool – Bayern Munich)

(Date: 7th June, 2025)

Due to the hectic schedule of the domestic leagues, the date for the UEFA champions league final was postponed from 31st May to 7th June.

It was already D-day.

...

Wembley Stadium, England...

It was the UEFA champions league final.

That night, the mood in London was one of excitement and anticipation.

It almost felt like Christmas and it was not just in England, this same feeling was experienced by literally every football fan across the world.

Hours before the game started at night, the stadium was already filled to the brim with fans in red and white.

Both clubs wore their iconic red as their home jerseys but due to rules of the tournament, the German club, Bayern Munich became the one to relent as they came to the final with their white 3rd kit.

It was a clash of white and red in the stadium.

The atmosphere was boisterous. Liverpool fans were excited as they were labelled as the favorites in this epic final matchup.

They may have suffered the heartbreak of the premier league title since Fulham clinched it out of their grasp at the last moment after a record-breaking campaign, but if their team could win this trophy, their hurt egos would be soothed.

It was as if they already forgot the premier league pain as they came in numbers, going behind their team in full support.

Banners of the Egyptian King, Mohamed Salah filled the stadium already as the Liverpool fans showed their passion, love, and support for their club.

An hour before the game, the official lineup of both clubs was released.

Liverpool started with the same 4-2-3-1 formation that they've been using for most of this season, just a different one from the regular one since certain Liverpool players who were held back by injury already made their return to the pitch.

Luis Diaz started as the striker ahead of the Uruguayan, Darwin Nunez while behind him was the attacking trio of Cody Gakpo, Dominik Szoboszlai and the Egyptian King, Mohamed Salah.

Behind them was the midfield duo of Alexis Mac Allister and Ryan Gravenberch, while their quadruple defensive set-up comprised of all Liverpool legends in Andrew Robertson, Virgil Van Dijk, Ibrahima Konate, and Trent Alexander-Arnold.

Alisson Becker naturally started in between the posts.

It was a formidable line-up from the English club, but their German counterparts had a lineup that matched theirs in star power and renown.

Bayern Munich started in a similar 4-2-3-1 formation with the English national team captain, Harry Kane started as the striker spearheading the attack.

Behind Harry Kane was the attacking trio of Micheal Olise, Jamal Musiala, and Kingsley Coman while the midfield duo comprised Joshua Kimmich and Pavlovic.

Their 4-man defense comprised of Alphonso Davies, Eric Dier, Dayot Upamecano, and Guerreiro while the ageless German legend, Manuel Neuer started in between the posts as Munich's no. 1.

As soon as the players of both teams entered the pitch, the noise in Wembley stadium hit a crescendo, rising through the roof like a wary cry.

**BOOM!**

The tension was palpable as players of both sides coped with it the best way they could, and then the referee's whistle finally sounded to kickstart the game.

FWEEEE!

That whistle... was a whistle for war.

The game started even as 2 strong teams slugged it out in a battle for supremacy in the iconic Wembley Stadium.

Liverpool and Bayern Munich were evenly matched in the early proceedings of this game, the game was tight and like expected in a game this tight, once the superstar players settled in, their genius started showing.

For Bayern Munich, the focal point of their attack, the young German attacking midfielder, Jamal Musiala showcased his talent as he dazzled in attack.

Whenever the ball got to him, Bayern Munich's attack went ga-ga!

With him leading the offense with his dazzling penetrative dribbles, sending the Liverpool defense backpedaling in panic, Bayern Munich felt alive.

With him leading the attack behind Harry Kane, he let all the Bayern Munich attackers flourish around him, constantly torturing the Liverpool defense.

The only reason why they were yet to score was because of a certain Dutchman, Virgil Van Dijk.

Having had an amazing campaign so far already, Virgil Van Dijk carried this form to the final of the UEFA champions league, bossing the game in tyrannical fashion as the rest of his defense were forced to rise to his level.

Bayern Munich gained their mojo first through Jamal Musiala's brilliance but Liverpool's attack was not idle in the most important game of their whole season.

Trust a certain Egyptian King, he was not going to stay idle.

Liverpool's attack struggled to click at first but singlehandedly, Liverpool turned the situation around after turning Alphonso Davies inside out a few times already as the Bayern Munich left back was made to suffer.

With Salah regaining his form first, the rest of the offense followed as Luis Diaz started having an amazing game up-front.

From the 30th minute of this game, from a tight game where few chances were created, it transitioned into an intense end to end game.

Liverpool attacked; Bayern Munich defended...

Bayern Munich attacked; Liverpool defended...

It was a clash of absolute heavyweights of football!

To neutral fans not affiliated to either club, they were having the treat of their lives as both clubs played exciting and incredibly intense football.

Despite the high level of this game and the exciting offensive plays, a goal seemed elusive until the 39th minute of this game when a moment of individual brilliance tore the stalemate apart.

Jamal Musiala became the first to enter the zone state!

In the 39th minute of the game, the young German channeled his inner Lionel Messi, scoring a Puskas award-worthy goal.

After Joshua Kimmich helped Alphonso Davies, double-teaming Mohamed Salah to steal the ball, he quickly sprayed it to the midfield where Jamal Musiala lurked and that was where it started from.

Bam!

As soon as the young German's leg touched the ball, electricity seemed to surge through his body.

What followed was pure magic.

Dominik Szoboszlai was closest to him but as soon as this player pressed, like a slippery eel, Jamal Musiala literally levitated on the ball, rotating as he executed a silky-smooth roulette to ditch the Liverpool midfielder in no man's land.

1 destroyed...

Whoosh!

Trent Alexander-Arnold who went on an overlapping run before recovered, going on a sliding tackle but flicking the ball up, the German midfielder jumped over him, making this stadium erupt with gasps of awe.

2 destroyed...

As soon as he jumped above Trent's sliding tackle, Jamal Musiala kicked the ball up field before charging after it.

He quickly met a road block in the form of the imposing Dutchman who stood at the heart of Liverpool's defense but undeterred, the young German continued his run as he obliterated Virgil Van Dijk with a drop of the shoulder and exploding off with speed in the other direction.

The Dutchman recovered though, putting the pressure on him.

Jamal Musiala slowed down as he used the opportunity to show his silky dribbling skills in their full glory.

Tap! Tap! Tap!

It didn't feel like football, rather, it felt like this winger was tap dancing!

His legs moved back and forth at a dizzying speed, stepping over the ball, dragging it back and forth, dazzling with it till the imposing Dutch defender felt dizzy.

As soon as Virgil Van Dijk stuck out his leg...

Bam!

Jamal Musiala kicked the ball in-between his legs!

"WOAHHHHH...!" Gasps erupted around this stadium.

In that moment, Jamal Musiala set himself up one-on-one with Alisson Becker, the Liverpool goalkeeper and as he charged out, keeping his goal, he slotted the ball towards the bottom right corner of the goal.

The net rippled!

"GOALLLLLLLLLL...!!!" Wembley Stadium erupted.

Chapter 275 UEFA champions league final; Liverpool vs Bayern Munich [2]

"GOALLLLL...!!!" Wembley Stadium erupted.

"My GOD! What a goal!" The commentator raved.

"What a solo goal!"

"What a solo run!"

"Jamal MUSIALLLLAAAA!"

"The boy is insane, come on, what a run, what a moment!"

"And just like that, the direction of this game has been overturned, Bayern Munich are now leading in Wembley Stadium!"

Even as Wembley Stadium erupted, having clattered into Alisson Becker after scoring past him, Jamal Musiala ignored his pain, jumping to his feet as he charged towards the corner flag in celebration.

As soon as he arrived at the corner flag, he spread his arms, embracing the energy of the ecstatic Bayern Munich fans as he did his friend's celebration.

He did the Jude Bellingham celebration.

"Musiala!" "Musiala!" "Musiala!"

The Bayern Munich fans roared his name at the top of their lungs.

...

At a certain apartment in England, a certain Nigerian could not help eating his popcorns faster as he watched Jamal Musiala celebrate on the TV.

Sam felt his heart racing as he watched the German youngster celebrate.

"What?" His girlfriend turned to look at him, having noticed his sudden change in mood though she knew it was related to the ongoing game.

Hearing that question, Sam grinned, turning to look at his girlfriend. "Have I told you that the first game I ever watched was a UEFA champions league final game?"

Kayla ate her popcorns. "No".

Sam chuckled. "My dad took me to a viewing center to watch the game. Then, I was very small, I think 6 or 7".

"On that night, I watched my club, FC Barcelona take on Manchester United in the UEFA champions league final and win, creating a memory that I don't think I can ever forget".

He smiled. "The UEFA champions league means more to me than other football tournaments. You see, it has a special place in my heart".

Kayla ate another round of popcorns, nodding. "Ok?"

"You won't understand". Sam chuckled as he paid attention to the TV again. "I can't wait to lace my boots in the UEFA champions league!" He clenched his fist even as his heart kept racing.

...

FWEEE!

The referee's whistle sounded again for the game to continue.

Jamal Musiala's goal turned this game on its head, making Liverpool who was still relatively calm for most of this game suddenly feel tense.

Urgency soon found its way into Liverpool's offensive play.

Afterall, this tournament already traumatized Liverpool in certain ways, mostly the UEFA champions league final itself.

In the past few years, apart from their iconic 2019 UEFA champions league win under their iconic coach, Jurgen Klopp over Tottenham, Liverpool has made the champions league final 2 more times under the same coach but both times, the outcome ended in a heartbreak for the Merseysiders.

Though both defeats came against the same club, the inevitable Real Madrid, it still left a trauma in them already.

This was why in this final, when Liverpool started trailing behind their rivals in this final, wounds that were created from old traumas became opened.

Fear of losing again struck.

For the rest of this half, urgency was visibly detected in Liverpool's play as they pressed Bayern Munich but the German giants remained defensively disciplined, cleverly shutting off any threatening Liverpool attack.

In the end, the first half ended 0-1 with Bayern Munich leading.

During half-time in the Liverpool dressing room, the atmosphere was tense and silent as Arne Slot approached the situation cleverly.

Instead of trying to make his players more hot-blooded, pushing them to the edge with motivational quotes, he instead tried to calm their nerves.

Like a psychologist, he entered his players' heads, reminding them about the importance of today's game while not putting more pressure on them.

His strategy worked.

When the time for half-time finally ended, as the Liverpool players came back to the pitch, it was clear that they were calmer.

That urgency and desperation in the final minutes of the first half were nowhere to be found, having disappeared already.

FWEEEE!

When the referee's whistle sounded, it was like the game was starting all over again as calmly, both teams approached the game with a conservative approach.

Trying not to make any mistake, they gave themselves time to adapt to the game again and once they did, they finally raised the intensity.

BOOM!

This time, the intensity was even higher than that of the first half.

And it was not just Liverpool either, Bayern Munich also wanted to score a 2nd goal to secure the game, making both teams resume their attacking play.

Liverpool kept on trying but nothing happened still, they were being frustrated by Bayern Munich's stalwart defense.

50 minutes, no goal...

60 minutes, no goal...

70 minutes, no goal...

No longer able to keep his cool, Arne Slot finally decided to ditch his composure, making changes as he finally made changes, the most glaring one being the fact that he introduced Darwin Nunez to take his striker spot in the team.

He removed Cody Gakpo, moving Luis Diaz back to his left winger spot and that change was the game-changer.

Liverpool's attack changed immediately.

It no longer felt like Arne Slot football at all, rather, it felt like Jurgen Klopp football again as Liverpool embraced their old ways of gen-gen pressing.

The Liverpool players ran all over the pitch like a swarm of ants that knew no retreat, only knowing to fulfill the order of their Queen even if fulfilling it meant death. They played like rabid beasts ravaging all over the pitch.

Liverpool embraced chaos again.

And in the chaos, while Bayern Munich cowered, they thrived.

4 minutes after this change, Liverpool finally got a tangible result and it came from the substitute in Darwin Nunez.

Having become an agent of chaos already, the Uruguayan striker became the catalyst, creating the moment that led to Liverpool's goal in this game.

And the one who scored it?

It was a familiar name.

After being frustrated for most of this game, Liverpool's Egyptian King finally made himself known, striking when Liverpool needed it the most.

Salah struck!

Chapter 276 An agent of chaos? No..., the master of chaos!

In the 70th minute of this most important game in a club's season, feeling his team losing grasp of the game, Liverpool's coach, Arne Slot decided to take a big gamble with his substitutions.

This coach decided to abandon control and embrace chaos.

It was just like a legendary writer once said. If you're experiencing a writer's block and getting stuck in the storytelling, make a meteor fall into your world in the next chapter, turning everything upside down.

In essence, embracing chaos.

Liverpool embraced chaos.

In the 70th minute, Arne Slot took off Cody Gakpo and introduced the erratic Uruguayan striker, Darwin Nunez, taking Luis Diaz back to his favored left-wing berth. And that change became the game-changer.

Immediately after Darwin Nunez entered the pitch, the energetic Uruguayan became an agent of chaos on this field.

With Luis Diaz upfront previously, Liverpool played more towards control, keeping their intensity steady and their offensive build-up balanced but with Darwin Nunez upfront, all of this changed.

Darwin Nunez was an agent of confusion.

As soon as he entered the pitch, he ran everywhere across the forward lines, becoming the focal point of the Liverpool press as he pressed the Bayern Munich defense energetically like a monster, starting the press from upfield.

That sudden change seemed to rattle Bayern Munich.

Vincent Kompany, the young Bayern Munich coach encouraged his team to build-up their game from the back, starting the passing from either their prolific goalkeeper, Manuel Neuer or the 2 center backs.

Originally, this tactic was a tried and trusted method but with Darwin Nunez suddenly pressing so energetically, it became a risk.

This did not make Bayern Munich change its playstyle though, after all, it was a professional football team.

This decision... was a mistake.

It came back to bite them in the butt.

For the first few minutes after the changes were made, Bayern Munich continued playing their game even as they adapted to the sudden Liverpool intensity but in football, just 1 mistake was needed to change a game.

And that change came in the 74th minute of this game.

Liverpool's aggressive press forced the Germans to keep on playing side and back passes, and one of those passes was a mistake.

Joshua Kimmich overhit the pass, sending it just behind Dayot Upamecano.

"...!"

Trepidations went through Wembley Stadium immediately.

"It's an overhit pass, and Darwin Nunez is nearby!"

"Upamecano is already recovering but is he fast enough?!"

Thud!

"Oof...!"

As soon as the pass was overhit, in that moment, Darwin Nunez seemed to become a prime Benzema, sensing the opportunism in this moment and the Uruguayan did not miss his moment.

As soon as the ball moved, as if on ultra instinct, his legs also moved as he instantly accelerated from 0 to 100 in a single second!

Thud! Thud! Thud!

Darwin Nunez chased Dayot Upamecano down like he would chase a thief!

And this was not any mere thief, this was a deadly thief, a thief that was out to steal a first UEFA champions league title from his trophy cabinet.

Darwin Nunez would not allow it!

The race was close due to Dayot Upamecano's head start as they both arrived at the ball but before the Bayern Munich center back could do anything tangible, Darwin Nunez crashed into him with his body and then, outstretching his legs, he hit the ball...

Bam!

Nunez overhit the ball.

"...!"

The 40-year-old Bayern Munich legend and goalkeeper, Manuel Neuer reacted immediately after the Liverpool striker overhit the ball, chasing it but again, Darwin Nunez's raw speed proved the difference maker.

Thud!

Darwin Nunez ate yards of space like they were not there!

He arrived before Manuel Neuer, pushing the ball past him again towards the goal kick but before the ball could roll away and be wasted, his speed made him recover again and without looking, Darwin Nunez played a pass into the box.

"...!"

In that moment, time in Wembley Stadium seemed to freeze.

A few things happened at once.

Manuel Neuer was charging back towards his post, Dayot Upamecano and Eric Dier were recovering, Alphonso Davies already recovered, arriving close to the ball already as it rolled towards a Mohamed Salah that was unmarked in the box!

Bam!

Salah's first touch and instantly, the Egyptian King entered the zone state.

He was unleashed!

Alphonso Davies touched Salah's shoulders, tactically shoving him to make him lose balance and lose the ball but in response, Salah slowed down.

The rapid Bayern Munich left back went ahead of him in the process but it was a bait, as Davies pressed, Salah obliterated.

With a drop of the shoulder from Salah, the Bayern Munich left back staggered and with a rapid chop of the ball with his left foot, Salah sent Alphonso Davies to no man's land, sending him one way and erupting the other way.

Alphonso Davies destroyed...

Manuel Neuer was yet to arrive at his post, an opportunity!

Salah raised his lethal left foot to shoot at the empty goal but just as he did...

Whoosh!

...Eric Dier went on a powerful sliding tackle!

The Bayern Munich center back went on a powerful sliding tackle, but the ball that he expected didn't come, it was a fake shot!

'Eh...?'

Having slid already, the defender could not pick himself back up immediately but he had a partner who finally arrived in Dayot Upamecano.

The powerful Bayern Munich defender rushed in to clatter into Mohamed Salah but cleverly, the Egyptian King dodged the defender's reckless charge, pushing the ball in between his legs in the process.

Dayot Upamecano obliterated...

By now, tens of thousands of Liverpool fans in this stadium already stood up to see how this crazy moment would end.

The 2 defenders could only watch in despair as Salah closed in on their goal with the ball, they put all their hopes on the towering figure of Manuel Neuer, the Bayern Munich legend who manned the posts, but not today...

**BZZZ!**

Manuel Neuer was made to see stars by the defiant Liverpool legend.

Like lightning, Salah's legs moved at a rapid speed as he executed the la croqueta, cutting through Bayern Munich's last man in defense as Manuel Neuer fell helplessly to his butt.

The goalkeeper and his defense got front-row view as the Egyptian King ran unopposed towards the empty net.

Salah could as well run with the ball into the net but filled with adrenaline, he raised his left leg and unleashed a powerful shot into the empty net!

**POW!**

The ball surged into the net with power, and then...



"The Egyptian King has struck!"

"The Pharoah of Liverpool has struck!"

"My God, Darwin Nunez is the agent of chaos that Liverpool needed to turn this game around but Salah? Freaking hell, he is the master of chaos!"

"He thrives in chaos!"

"He's proved it again that he can do it again and again!"

"At first, we called it the Mane, Firmino, and Salah, masters of chaos but in recent seasons, it's the Mohamed Salah show!"

"It's the Pharoah's show!"

"The Pharoah is the King in Egypt, now Liverpool's King, what better game for a King to show what he's capable of than the final game of the season?!"

While the commentator raved about him, Salah charged towards the corner flag amid the thunderous roars of the Liverpool fans to celebrate.

As soon as he arrived at the corner flag, he spread his arms in celebration, taking in the adoration of the Liverpool fans.

And then, with pupils dilated in sheer anger and defiant adrenaline, he pumped his fists aggressively. "Come on!!!" He screamed.

"Salah!" "Salah!" "Salah!"

From the Musiala chants at first by the Bayern Munich fans, the Salah chants soon started in Wembley Stadium and that moment was the turning point.

After that goal, everything changed.

After that goal, Mohamed Salah changed.

FWEEEE!

The game restarted but there was a lingering feeling that the game already escaped out of Bayern Munich's grasp, and what followed next proved it.

Mohamed Salah was unleashed after that goal.

74 minutes, 1-1, but he was not satisfied.

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

Sam was not the only professional football player that had a chant for victory in his head. In truth, all the best players in the world had one.

When the going gets tough, when they needed it the most, they call on it and it was what helps them exceed their limits, creating vintage performances at the highest stage that forever remain engraved in history.

Kylian Mbappe's performance in the late stages of the FIFA World Cup final back in 2022 was a great example and in this moment, Salah channeled the same energy to take this important game by the scruff of the neck.

Alphonso Davies bore the full brunt of an unleashed Salah.

Bzzz! Bzzz!

The Canadian left back was tortured by the Egyptian King for the next few minutes, turned inside out as Salah played at an extraterrestrial level.

He was not the only one though.

His goal woke the whole Liverpool team up, dousing them with endless energy and on the left side of the pitch, Luis Diaz also went ga-ga in attack, dazzling and torturing Guerreiro, the Bayern Munich right back with his lethal dribbles.

While all this happened, Darwin Nunez continued doing what he did best, he continued being an agent of chaos and confusion.

And in that chaos, Liverpool thrived.

Bayern Munich was not idle, they had no intentions of rolling over to their opponents as with Jamal Musiala still balling at an elite level, they also threatened occasionally but Liverpool's defense was also already unlocked in this game.

Virgil Van Dijk became the other Liverpool player to enter the zone state.

Like an indomitable Tiger, he protected the Liverpool defense, turning into a prime Paulo Maldini as he snuffed off any dangerous attack before it could build momentum.

For the final minutes of this game, the towering Dutchman was imperious at the back, protecting his team long enough for the attack to strike!

And they did in the 86th minute of the game.

Salah received an absolutely unreal pass from Trent Alexander-Arnold down the left-hand side, leaving Alphonso Davies chasing shadows again but just as the rapid left back was to recover, Salah played a pass...

...a pass that was even more unreal than Arnold's pass.

He received Arnold's pass with one touch of his right foot, shifted the ball into his superior left foot, and then, he hit it with the outside of his boot.

Bam!

Salah obliterated the Bayern Munich defense with an unreal trivela pass, sending the ball long enough into the path of a rampaging Darwin Nunez.

But the Liverpool striker was double-teamed by Dayot Upamecano and Eric Dier, limiting his influence.

Nunez was just the distraction though; Salah's true target was Luis Diaz.

With all the focus on Nunez, restricting him, the ball rolled ahead of him further to the left where an unmarked Luis Diaz rushed into.

"Wow! Luis Diaz is unmarked!"

"Can he do it?"

"Manuel Neuer is charging out!"

The mere sight of the towering Bayern Munich goalkeeper charging towards you was intimidating, but keeping his cool, the Colombian took one touch of the ball to set himself up and then...

Bam!

He rifled it into the bottom left corner with his right foot.

"GOALLLLLLLLLLL...!!!" Wembley Stadium erupted again.

And just like that, Liverpool completed their comeback as they led this game.

But a certain Egyptian King was not satisfied yet.

As Bayern Munich recklessly sent players up field, searching for the equalizer, Liverpool was once again pressured but keeping their cool they defended as a team till the 89th minute when the German club was caught out of possession.

It was the imperious Van Dijk who won the ball again, pushing it towards Alexis Mac Allister who already replaced Dominik Szoboszlai in this game at some point as without looking, the Argentine midfielder hit the ball long up field towards the left where a certain Egyptian King lurked.

Salah took the ball in his strides, turned Eric Dier inside out, leaving him on his butt before charging towards goal.

As Manuel Neuer charged out again, he cleverly played a lobbed shot, raising it above the Bayern Munich goalkeeper and into the net.

"My good freaking Jesus!"

"Salah has done it again!"

"He's scored again!"

"That's 2 goals and an assist!"

"It's a Mohamed Salah show! Liverpool have won it late!"

Wembley Stadium erupted as Liverpool fans celebrated wildly, feeling like they would go crazy out of sheer joy and euphoria.

It truly was a Mohamed Salah masterclass.

Bayern Munich tried but they could do nothing tangible. In the end, the UEFA champions league final came to an end with a Liverpool win.

Liverpool won 3-1 over their rivals in Wembley Stadium.

Chapter 278 A legendary individual season

"What a moment for Liverpool!"

"What a game!"

"A model champions league final!" The commentator raved. "Exciting from start to end, what a game!"

"From the beginning to the end, there was no boring point, an end-to-end game of elite attacking football!"

"What a spectacle it was!"

"Both clubs played their hearts out on the pitch!"

"All over the pitch, we had exciting matchups all over. Jamal Musiala vs Virgil Van Dijk, Mohamed Salah vs Alphonso Davies, Darwin Nunez vs Dayot Upamecano, what an exciting spectacle it was!"

"Having had a terrific season for club and country in the 2024/2025 season so far, winning the Bundesliga title already as Harry Kane finally broke his trophy curse, Jamal Musiala was once again a menace in the final, terrorizing Liverpool's defense repeatedly!"

"The boy is in a class of his own. It's a pity that he had to play against the team led by a player that's arguably had the best season in all of Europe".

"Of course, I'm talking of the Egyptian King".

"This season will be remembered as a Mohamed Salah legendary season!"

"Yes, there's Sam and his Fulham in the premier league who created history, clinching the premier league title from Liverpool at the last moment but that should take nothing from Salah's performances this season".

"Individually in the premier league, he had the most prolific season of his career in terms of both goals and assists".

"With 35 staggering goals alone in the English premier league, he comfortably won the golden boot award while at the same time coming extremely close to matching Erling Haaland's goal record of 36 goals in the premier league across just 1 season".

"The only thing separating him from that legendary Man City season where Haaland made his appearance known to England is just one goal".

"You just have to know how terrific of a season it is when you produced numbers that are competing with a prime Erling Haaland's numbers".

"He lost out to Sam in the assist race by only 2 assists!"

"Considering how much of a creative freak that boy is, Salah was amazing!"

"Honestly, if not for the interjection of Fulham, Salah's season is among the all-time great professional football seasons out there".

"But still, it was a legendary season!"

"I mean, come on, 47 goals and 28 assists in all competitions, making a total 75 goal contributions, that's just crazy numbers!"

"The greatest numbers of Salah's career!"

"That's Messi and Ronaldo numbers!"

"That should tell you how crazy of a season it was for the Egyptian King, football fans of the Liverpool persuasion witnessed greatness this season!"

"Winning the UEFA champions league trophy alone is enough to make it a legendary season, and it cannot help but feel like a farewell to Anfield from the incredible Egyptian King despite the fact that he signed a contract extension".

"It is a shame that he failed to win another premier league title in the end after such a legendary 96-point season in the English premier league".

"Surely, he is the front-runner for this season's ballon d'or award now!"

Even as the commentator raved, the celebrations already started on the pitch as the Liverpool players gave in to their emotions, celebrating wildly.

Mohamed Salah especially broke down in tears of joy as his family joined him on the pitch. Today's win was a culmination of previous unfulfilled ambitions, extreme hard work, and dedication that all resulted in this beautiful moment.

He felt grateful for being graced to experience a moment like this for the second time in his career after experiencing it only once when Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane were still his strike partners.

Considering how changed a side this Liverpool was compared to that Liverpool side; his first UEFA champions league win seemed like it happened ages ago and it was what made his emotions cascade.

But in football, the universal rule of victor and loser always applies and on this important day, Bayern Munich were the losers.

Even as the Liverpool players rejoiced, celebrating their historic 7th champions league title, the Bayern Munich players experienced a cascade of emotions too but unlike Liverpool's, their emotions lingered on the sad side.

A young Jamal Musiala especially could not control his emotions as the German attacking midfielder gave in, collapsing in a fit of tears.

More senior players of the Bayern Munich attacking squad had to meet him, consoling him even as they tried to mask their pain.

Harry Kane, the veteran England striker had another UEFA champions league heartbreak after facing his first with Tottenham Hotspurs back in 2019 against a vastly different Liverpool side.

'Always Liverpool...,' this striker could not help but think.

But he took the defeat calmer than most of his teammates.

After all the celebrations, time finally came for the award ceremony. After a legendary Champions league season, Mohamed Salah won a duo of individual awards, going home with the golden ball award for the best player of the tournament and also the man of the match award for the final itself.

Liverpool did not have a clean sweep of individual awards though.

Despite losing out in the end, after his crazy goals earlier in the tournament, including a hatrick in the quarterfinals of the champions league, Harry Kane took home the golden boot award for the most goals scored by a single player in the tournament.

Manuel Neuer also took home the golden glove award after a final legendary run in the champions league despite the fact that the veteran Bayern Munich goalkeeper was now 40!

Apart from his performance in the final against Liverpool, in earlier games, most prominently in the blockbuster semifinal clash against the previous reigning champions, Real Madrid, Manuel Neuer put out masterpiece displays in both games that helped them knock Real Madrid out of the competition.

Alisson Becker was good, but Manuel Neuer was just slightly better in this specific UEFA champions league tournament.

After the game though, during an interview where he faced the camera, the Bayern Munich no. 1 goalkeeper finally announced bombshell news.

"This is my last game in football".

"I'm retiring".

Chapter 279 End of the 2024/2025 season

The 2024/2025 football season finally came to an end.

After an exciting campaign across the top 5 European leagues, the season finally came to an end, finalizing the winners of each domestic league and the winner of the elite European competitions.

(English Premier League:)

(Winner: Fulham FC)

...

(Spanish La liga:)

(Winner: FC Barcelona)

...

(Italian Seria A:)

(Winner: Atalanta)

...

(German Bundesliga:)

(Winner: Bayern Munich)

...

(French Ligue 1:)

(Winner: PSG)

...

(UEFA Champions League:)

(Winner: Liverpool FC)

For all the major 5 European leagues in the world, 3 of the winners were regular faces while 2 of them were underdogs that rose up, stealing the trophy right from under the nose of the supposed favorites.

Paris Saint Germain of France were regular winners of the French Ligue 1 title, so much that certain football fans referred to their league as a farmers' league so PSG winning the Ligue 1 title again was no surprise.

The same thing applied to the German Bundesliga. The big news was not Bayern Munich winning the trophy, the big news after the win was Harry Kane finally breaking his trophy curse.

Despite having a prolific career that spanned over 10 years already, this was the English captain's first time winning a trophy.

It was crazy but it was reality.

In the German league, it seemed like things were finally back to default settings after Bayer Leverkusen's legendary unbeaten run last season, clinching the title from Bayern Munich to extend the duration of Harry Kane's curse.

The Spanish La Liga was no different. FC Barcelona or Real Madrid winning the La Liga title was not a new occurrence but more of a regular one, Atletico Madrid winning it either would not feel too odd.

Afterall, the first 2 were the 2 big giants of Spanish football while Atletico Madrid was a close runner for 3rd position.

The shocks this season though were provided in the English premier league that was rated 1 among the top 5 European leagues, and then the Italian Serie A.

What Napoli did, led by Kvaratskhelia and Victor Osimhen 2 seasons earlier to clinching the Italian league title was widely accepted by football fans as occurrences that happen once in decades.

Afterall, it was the first Scudetto win of the Italian club for decades after their legendary run under the legendary Diego Maradona.

That league victory cemented Kvaratskhelia and Victor Osimhen's statuses as legendary figures in Naples, exploding them to the world stage.

After that season though, the Italian league returned to default settings as it was Inter Milan, AC Milan, and Juventus challenging for the trophy again.

Nobody expected that just one year later, another such legendary underdog run like that of Napoli 2 seasons earlier would happen again.

This time, it was Atalanta and this time, it was led by Ademola Lookman, the reigning CAF player of the year winner.

The Nigerian International was electric all season, chipping in with iconic performances to drag his team from the throes of defeat to victory regularly even as the rest of the Atalanta team also stepped up in crucial moments.

Their coach did the rest, providing them the perfect foundation to flourish as they ended up winning the Scudetto, creating a crazy underdog story.

Atalanta's Scudetto victory was a crazy underdog story, but it still paled in comparison to what happened this season in the English premier league.

This season, the world of football was taken by storm as the impossible happened, ending a crazy season with Fulham winning the premier league trophy!

Only regular watchers of the English premier league would know how shocking and impossible this feat was.

Before the season started, Fulham's A.I-predicted chances of winning the premier league title was literally 0!

That was how low of a chance they had of winning the league title.

Their chances was not just low, it was literally non-existent!

In a league featuring the likes of Manchester City, Chelsea, Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, and Tottenham Hotspur all in the same league, it was literally impossible for underdog stories to be created.

It was the toughest football league in the world for a reason.

When Leicester happened back in 2016, a lot of football fans attributed Leicester's underdog story to the fact that most of the heavy hitters of the premier league all had an off-season in that specific season.

But even this argument was not valid with Fulham this season.

Afterall, Liverpool recorded a crazy 96-point season! And yet, Fulham still won the premier league trophy.

This was beyond crazy, this was bamboozling.

Of course, with Fulham's victory, the main man at the center of it all was pushed to prominence as Sam's superstar status in England rose even higher.

Not just in Fulham anymore, across the cities of England, he became a big celebrity as a lot of football fans now knew about him.

Of course, with such popularity came new endorsement deals as Sam entered negotiations with a few big companies.

While all of this happened and the football world slowly processed the fact that a football campaign was over, to the professional football players, they embraced the rare holiday period.

Big professional football players all around the world posted pictures of them winding down with their families and friends after such a grueling season.

Some went on holiday trips; anything that could help relieve stress.

And Sam was no different. Unlike most of the others who went on luxurious trips though, as soon as the season came to an end, alongside his girlfriend, Sam took a flight to Nigeria to meet his family.

Unlike before, his status was even bigger now.

In the airport, he was swarmed by a mob of football fans as the manager of the airport had to come out just to escort him, unknown to Sam that the man was also a fan till he later secretly requested an autograph.

"..."

Sam was speechless. 'Damn! I really am big now'.

Once he managed to extricate himself out of the crowd after doing his best to attend to them a bit, he finally entered the car that was prepared for him alongside his girlfriend as they rode off.

Driving through the familiar Abuja Road, Sam looked outside through the window, sighing. 'It feels like ages ago since I've been here'. He thought.

Chapter 280 Home, sweet home [1]

Abuja, Nigeria...

In a big supermarket at the heart of the Nigerian capital city, a mature middle-aged woman dressed in elaborate native attire that highlighted her Southern Nigerian origin, most likely Delta State surfed through the goods on display.

She had a happy smile on her face as she moved.

As this customer surfed through the supermarket, hovering around the spices section for making native Nigerian soups, one of the cashiers could not help paying attention to her repeatedly.

"Do you know her?" One of the guy's colleagues asked.

For some reason, this cashier suddenly seemed excited. "I think," he nodded but then he changed his words. "No, I do know her".

When the middle-aged woman finally went to the cashier, pushing her shopping cart forward for her goods to be calculated, the cashier put on his best smile on his face even as he calculated her goods.

After he was done calculating, he inputted it on the computer even as the mature middle-aged woman handed her debit card over to pay for the goods.

The transaction was completed swiftly. After handing her debit card to her and telling her the customary thank you for patronizing, this cashier hesitated before asking. "Madam, please you're Samuel's mom, right?"

Hearing that, the middle-aged woman beamed. "You know my son?"

The cashier's smile widened. "Of course!" He answered exuberantly. "Who doesn't know Sam?" He laughed.

'Oh my God! It's really her!' This cashier felt like he was going crazy inside.

Mrs. Moses smiled with a proud look on her face. "He's coming to visit today," she beamed. "He recently won..., what was it called again? The premiership in England..."

"The English premier league!" The cashier corrected respectfully, carefully shifting on his chair even as Mrs. Moses smiled.

"Ah! Yes, the premier league". She laughed. "Since he's coming back, I decided to make his best food to celebrate his win," she grinned. "He loves Banga soup and hot fufu a lot".

"Ahh!" This cashier was stunned.

'The almighty Sam? Eating fufu?!!!'

In that moment, the indomitable and inviolable image of Sam that this cashier had in his head diminished a bit but, in the end, he accepted it. "That just shows that he's human and a normal Nigerian like me, right?"

In that moment, no longer hesitating, this cashier asked. "Ma'am, please can I have a picture with you?"

Seeing the look on the cashier's face, Mrs. Moses could not bring herself to reject his request. Besides, she was absolutely loving this.

Click! Click!

After a few clicks of the camera, while the cashier was feeling fly and excited, Mrs. Moses suddenly made a random suggestion.

"Why don't you come over to my place today? Have dinner with us".

"...!"

This cashier stared, too stunned to believe what he just heard and, in the end, he asked for clarification. "Please ma'am, were you talking to me?"

"Of course, Sam loves to share a meal". Mrs. Moses grinned.

In that moment, this cashier felt like crying. 'Dreams do come true afterall!'

'I feel blessed!'

The cashier didn't wait, directly going to his manager to use his only leave of absence for the month as he decided to go with Mrs. Moses.

As they left, thinking of something random, this avid football fan and cashier looked at Mrs. Moses again. "Ma'am, please don't let Sam be like other professional football players, please convince him to represent Nigeria".

"Huh?"

"The world cup is coming up again next year and Nigeria is yet to even secure qualification. At this rate, we'll fail to qualify for a 2nd straight world cup".

"With Sam though, I believe that we can do it".

"Please convince him to play for Nigeria".

Mrs. Moses looked at the boy, slightly confused but in the end, she nodded. "Of course, Sam is going to play for Nigeria".

"I mean, who else was he going to play for?"

Hearing that confident tone, this cashier heaved a sigh of relief but at the same time, he felt sweat gather in his head. 'This woman...', he chuckled nervously. 'She sounds even more fearsome than Sam is on a football pitch!'

...

"Do you remember that hotel?"

When the plane flew through the skies of Abuja, recognizing a certain landmark building at the heart of the city, Sam smiled as he pointed through the window of the aeroplane, showing his girlfriend.

Kayla failed to recognize it at first but once she did, she blushed.

Few months earlier, after Sam made his debut for Nigeria, fulfilling one of his ultimate dreams which ended up concluding in a sour note, in an effort to console him, Kayla went to great lengths.

That night, things escalated inside the hotel room where they booked and, on that night, Sam ceased to be a virgin.

Not just Sam, she too.

Reminded of that night, she blushed fiercely before lightly punching him by the arm and looking away. "Ahem," she cleared her throat. "I don't recognize it".

Sam laughed. "The sound of a terrible liar".

"Get lost!" She punched him harder this time.

They both laughed, fully embracing the feeling of coming home already as the plane finally touched down in the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport.

There, Sam's whole family was already waiting for him; his dad, his mom, and Kayla who already returned to Nigeria months ago. But apart from his family, Sam was surprised to see someone else.

"..."

Seeing the questioning look on his face, Mrs. Moses chuckled. "He's a fan that I met today while going to get ingredients from the supermarket".

"I invited him over to have dinner with us".

"Ok," Sam nodded, smiling as he turned to face the young man. "Nice to meet you, I'm Sam".

"I k-know, I know your name," he stammered, taking Sam's handshake and as soon as he did, he felt like electricity was coursing through his body.

'It's Sam!'

'The real Sam! Oh my GOD...!'

That night, during dinner, the cashier experienced the best day of his life as he ate with Sam and his family.

Of course, he asked for permission before recording a bit of how it went.

Sam didn't even need to do anything but still, he made this fan's day as the cashier went home feeling inspired and on top of the world.

"I ate with Sam!" He kept on muttering as he finally left the mansion.