

Football God 291

Chapter 291 First training session at the Spotify Camp Nou [1]

"Hola". Lewandowski waved at him.

Sam froze.

'Damn! It's really him!'

'It's the real Robert Lewandowski!'

You could not really blame Sam.

Yes, he had played in one of the biggest leagues in the world in the English premier league.

Yes, he had played against powerful opposition but despite all of that, it was always from a third person POV. Never had Sam shared a dressing room with any of the legendary players that he met in the English premier league.

But now, it was different.

He now shared a dressing room with Robert Lewandowski!

The Polish striker was one of those players that Sam grew up idolizing. He was no striker, but still, who wouldn't love Lewangoalski?

He still remembered the 2019 to 2021 football seasons where Robert Lewandowski hit his peak while plying his trade for the German giants, Bayern Munich, hitting multiple 50-goal seasons.

Like a lot of other football fans, Sam was still bummed by the fact that France football refuses to hand the Polish striker his Ballon D'or trophy till now.

In the rankings of most football fans, the Polish striker is one of the best strikers of the previous generation of the 21st century.

Robert Lewandowski, Karim Benzema, and Luis Suarez are widely recognized as the best strikers of the 21st century and even among the 3, Lewandowski was not the last as he stood his ground even against the likes of those 2.

He was a true legend of football, an all-time great.

At the ripe age of 35 now, he was approaching the tail end of his career but clearly, his physique did not reflect his age.

Lewandowski was in the process of changing his clothes when Sam walked into the pitch, enabling him to see the perfect physique of the Polish footballer.

He was like a hit-man in movies, the perfect shape, perfect abs.

'Damn! He's really a zero-fat football player!'

Zero-fat football players are those dubbed by the football world to have such an intense work-out regime and diet that they don't have any excess fat in their bodies. King of them was Cristiano Ronaldo, the Portuguese G.O.A.T.

Apart from Cristiano Ronaldo though, memorable mentions were Mohamed Salah of Liverpool, and then Robert Lewandowski of Barcelona.

Looking at this player's physique, only one thought dominated Sam's mind. 'I can learn a thing or two from him!'

"Hola!" He finally waved back as he smiled.

He had a lot of things that he wanted to talk about with this legendary striker, maybe request an autograph too and a picture but first, they had a major problem which was their language barrier.

Sam could only speak English and his native language fluently, while Robert Lewandowski could only speak fluent Polish and Spanish.

"Llegas temprano". Lewandowski smiled.

"..."

It took a moment for the Polish striker to realize the language barrier. Chuckling, he scratched the back of his head before pointing to his wrist watch.

Sam quickly caught on to what he meant. "Oh!"

Lewandowski's smile widened. "Todavía hay tiempo antes de que vengan los demás, entrenemos un poco".

Again, Sam was confused but Lewandowski's gestures made him understand. The Polish striker wanted to train with him before the others arrived.

Of course, Sam obliged.

Who would turn down the chance to train with Robert Lewandowski?

As he quickly changed and entered the pitch, his curiosity got the better of him, making him use his snooping tool on the Polish legend.

What Sam saw left him flabbergasted.

'Damn! He's a monster!'

'He's old but he's an old monster!'

Lewandowski's status was just like he expected of such a legendary football player. Most of his skills clearly depreciated already, but his ability was still at an elite level of a ruthless striker.

With that, he quickly entered the pitch and joined the Polish striker.

They did different training drills together, from agility drills to passing drills, to combination drills. And just like that, Sam built a relationship with the first of his new teammates, a veteran of the sport in Robert Lewandowski.

As they trained, the Spotify Camp Nou slowly started being populated with more familiar faces as the rest of his teammates arrived.

Lamine Yamal arrived with Pedri, quickly joining them on the pitch.

Later on, Gavi, Alejandro Balde, Eric Garcia, Jules Kounde, Pau Cubarsi, and the rest of the FC Barcelona squad reported to training.

All of them recognized him as they greeted him in their various ways. Afterall, his signing was one that kind of broke the bank in the club. Besides, they've all heard of what he did in the English premier league.

In the midst of all these legendary and talented football players, Sam felt the pressure, the pressure of playing for a big club.

He felt like his ability was being gauged by his teammates.

He didn't falter due to it though; he also gauged their abilities.

He grinned. 'This competitive spirit, I'm loving it. So this is how it feels like to play for a big club, hehe!'

Soon enough, Hansi Flick, the FC Barcelona head coach walked into the pitch with his assistant as he addressed his players.

The first thing that the coach did was to introduce the new player to his old players, forcing all of them to introduce themselves to Sam after Sam was made to introduce himself first.

After that, training under Hansi Flick finally started.

Having watched a lot of FC Barcelona football last season, Sam was a big fan of Hansi Flick ball. Despite the fact that the Catalan club ended up falling to an imperious Liverpool led by the Egyptian King in the semifinals of the champions league, they still had an amazing season.

Sam could not wait to impress his coach.

Before they started playing with a football, they were led to the gym first where they worked out, improving their physicalities.

Just like the rumors said, Hansi Flick was an advocate for intense training.

Afterall, his playstyle was that of high intensity throughout, a playstyle that perfectly suited Sam's exuberant energy on the pitch.

Sam was Hansi Flick's dream signing for the new season.

Having watched the Nigerian attacking midfielder perform only once, the German coach fell in love with Sam.

Besides, he didn't just pass the eye test, Sam was the full package.

He had the statistics to back up his ability.

Chapter 292 First training session at the Spotify Camp Nou [2]

[Name: Samuel Moses]

[Age: 20]

[Club: FC Barcelona]

[Preferred Position: Attacking Midfield]

[Statistics:]

...

[Enyimba FC:]

Goals: 41

Assists: 31

Games: 54

...

[Fulham FC:]

Goals: 55

Assists: 43

Games: 63

...

[FC Barcelona:]

[nil=]

...

[Total Games Played: 117]

[Total Goals Scored: 96]

[Total Assists Provided: 74]

[Total Combined Goals + Assists: 170]

...

[Trophies won:]

>NPFL title ×1<

>CAF Champions League trophy ×1<

>EFL Cup title ×1<

>Premier League title ×1<

>FA Cup title ×1<

In all of Europe, Sam's numbers were some of the best and most ridiculous.

It presented an interesting read.

Until just this month on the 6th, he was a 19-year-old and despite being that young, he already outputted total-career numbers of certain professional football players already.

His 96 goals in 117 games averaged an incredible ratio of 0.82 goals per game.

Add in his 74 assists to the equation and the numbers became absolutely ridiculous, averaging 1.45 goal contributions a game!

Sam's numbers were just borderline crazy.

Even the best forwards in all of Europe struggle to produce numbers like this, this was the caliber of player that FC Barcelona managed to snap up during the transfer window. They were the envy of other top clubs.

And with it, FC Barcelona was able to complete a star-studded lineup that was tipped to go all the way this season.

After reaching the semifinals of the UEFA champions league last time out, maybe Sam was the last piece of the puzzle that would finally help FC Barcelona to break their champions league trophy drought in recent years.

With the likes of Lamine Yamal, Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha, and Pedri all in the same squad with Sam, FC Barcelona was a fearsome side once again.

And during today's training session, it showed.

Bam! Bam!

Fluent, silky-smooth football was played on the pitch by the players.

After their session in the gym, Hansi Flick led his players to the pitch before letting them loose as they showcased their brilliance on the training pitch.

'Damn!'

'Damn!'

'Damn! These guys are good!'

In Fulham, Sam got the privilege of playing with players that were better than those he teamed up with in Enyimba FC but in this training session, Sam no longer felt like a lone maverick anymore.

He was now in a team of players of even more elite players than what he played and trained daily with at Craven Cottage.

Lamine Yamal's electric dribbling ability that reminded of a prime Neymar Jnr, Pedri's first touch and sheer class in possession, Gavi's relentless energy that matched Sam's, even eclipsing it, Lewandowski's lethal shooting skills, and Raphinha's relentless brilliance, all of it mesmerized Sam.

FC Barcelona didn't just have attack and midfield though. Against the defensive players, despite the fact that this was just a training session, Sam was constantly pushed to his limits.

Up against the likes of Jules Kounde, Inigo Martinez, Ronald Araujo and Pau Cubarsi, Sam was forced to toil hard before getting any results.

Sprawled on the ground, he gorged down a bottle of water even as his eyes shone with a fiery competitive spirit. "I love this!" He muttered.

"Hola!" A sweaty Lewandowski walked up to him again, using his gestures to ask what Sam thought about the training session.

"Intense," Sam replied immediately, grinning. "Very intense!" With his gestures, he also made sure that Lewandowski also understood what he meant.

At that moment, Lamine Yamal also walked up to him, grinning. "Hola Sam!" The young Spanish winger waved.

"You're really good". He complimented in Spanish.

"You too!" Sam praised in a heartfelt manner.

Back in Fulham, Sam was always the focal point of attention, the out and out best player of the squad but here, he felt like just 1 part of a powerful machine again. There were crouching Tigers and hidden Dragons everywhere.

This reality induced a yearning to improve again in him.

His competitive spirit was burning like a furnace. 'I'm loving this!'

By the end of the training session, the rest of the squad already accepted him. From this 1 training session, it was clear that he was the real deal, he was not just all talk and no action.

'Under talk and over deliver'. Sam thought, intending to surprise his teammates with what he could do in their next training session.

Just as they approved him after their first training session together, he also approved them.

This was a squad brimming with talent and potential.

That evening, on getting home, laying down on his bed, Sam could not help but think of his career and its potential trajectory here in FC Barcelona.

'This is an elite squad under Hansi Flick'.

'I wonder how much my career can improve in this time; I wonder if my trophy cabinet can swell again come season end'. He rolled on his bed, grinning even as he clenched his fists excitedly.

Before retreating to sleep, he called his girlfriend who was already back in Netherlands, narrating how his day went to her and how exciting training was.

Kayla could hear the excitement in her boyfriend's tone.

Kayla also narrated her own day to her boyfriend, the ups and downs, including how a new student annoyed her in school, shamelessly professing his love to her.

"Give me his number!" Sam demanded jokingly.

Kayla laughed and agreed. "You better insult his 10 generations!"

"I will".

They both laughed.

In the end, before cutting the call, she asked him an important question. "When will you finally make your debut for FC Barcelona?"

Sam hesitated a bit before answering. "This is unlike when I signed for Fulham when I was just a prospect from Nigeria".

"I have an established career already and after my performance in training today. If I was Hansi Flick, I'll make my debut in the next game".

"Who will you guys be playing against?"

"..."

"You don't know?"

Sam chuckled awkwardly. "Come on babe, you can't really blame me. I'm just coming to FC Barcelona, I'm even yet to see the schedule for the new season".

"Anyways, goodnight, I love you".

"I love you too".

Before sleeping, Sam called his mom.

"Holo son!" His mom's energetic voice sounded through the iPhone.

"..."

At first, Sam was confused but when he understood what she meant, he palmed his face. "Mom...! It's hola. God..., you're learning Spanish?"

His mom chuckled. "How was my Spanish?"

"It's horrible!"

"Hmph! You unfilial son, I'll cut that tongue of yours off!"

Sam chuckled.

He discussed different topics with his mom that night, including when she'll finally get to visit him in Spain before ending the call.

That night, Sam slept with a big smile on his face.

...

The next moment, Sam woke up only to see a notification on his phone.

Ding!

(NEW! Unread message from Coach Hansi Flick...)

Chapter 293 La Liga matchday 2

Ding!

(NEW! Unread message from Coach Hansi Flick!)

As soon as Sam opened his iPhone, he clicked on the message and it opened, revealing its content.

It was the La Liga fixture schedule for matchday 2 of the Spanish league.

(La Liga:)

(Matchday 2 of 38:)

(Real Betis – Leganes)

(Date: 23rd August, 2025)

...

(Mallorca – Villarreal)

(Date: 24th August, 2025)

...

(Elche – Alaves)

(Date: 24th August, 2025)

...

(Sevilla – Getafe)

(Date: 24th August, 2025)

(Real Soceidad – Real Madrid)

(Date: 24th August, 2025)

...

(Celta Vigo – Almeria)

(Date: 25th August, 2025)

...

(Girona – Barcelona)

(Date: 25th August, 2025)

...

(Levante – Athletic Club)

(Date: 25th August, 2025)

...

(Athletico Madrid – Valencia)

(Date: 25th August, 2025)

...

(Rayo Vallecano – Osasuna)

(Date: 25th August, 2025)

Just like the English premier league, the Spanish La Liga employed the same league system of 20 teams competing in a 38-matchday season for the league title.

Last season, FC Barcelona had the last laugh, eclipsing challenges from both Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid to win the title. And this season again, they've started their season in strong form having won against Celta Vigo in matchday 1.

Last season, while Barcelona won the title, Real Madrid came 2nd, Atletico Madrid came 3rd, while Athletic Bilbao came 4th, completing the top 4 teams that were to compete in the UEFA champions league.

Villareal and Real Sociedad completed the top 6, making the Europa league and Europa conference leagues respectfully.

While the battle at the top for European places was exciting, the battle below to avoid relegation was also exciting.

And after a grueling 38-matchday season, despite trying their best, 3 clubs who plied their trade in the Spanish top flight last season were forced into relegation.

The 3 unlucky clubs are Las Palmas, Espanyol, and Real Valladolid who all finished at the bottom of the 2024/2025 La Liga table.

In their place for this new season, the top 3 clubs of La Liga 2, Elche, Almeria, and Levante made the promotion to the top flight league of Spain.

"It's Girona huh?" Sam muttered as he stood up from his bed.

Girona was not exactly a powerhouse of the Spanish La Liga, but they were not to be scoffed at either. After all, just 2 seasons ago, they pushed both Real Madrid and FC Barcelona all the way in the title race.

Knowing his club's next opponents in the league gave Sam some perspective on what he needed to do.

He didn't think too much about it though. Waking up that morning, he quickly washed his face and brushed his teeth before hitting the streets of Barcelona again.

Thinking of something while he jogged, Sam suddenly picked up his phone.

He searched for his name on his contact list and messaged him on WhatsApp.

(Outgoing message to Lamine Yamal...)

A few days ago, he was added to the FC Barcelona WhatsApp group where he got the contact details of his superstar teammates.

At first, Sam wanted to contact Robert Lewandowski but realizing how far the Polish striker's mansion was from his own and also the age restraints, Sam restrained himself, choosing to chat up Lamine Yamal instead.

His reason for chatting was simple, he wanted to make a friend in the FC Barcelona squad just like he did in Fulham with Emile Smith Rowe.

Austin's advise still stuck with him till today.

He knew that to perform at his best, he needed to have a good relationship with his teammates and for that, he needed to start from somewhere.

He wanted to have a jogging partner here in Barcelona.

It didn't take too long for Lamine Yamal to reply to his message.

(I'm in, but it can't be today.)

(I'm occupied with something else. What do you think about tomorrow? If its ok with you, let's start then.)

Seeing the reply, Sam grinned and quickly sent his reply.

(Tomorrow is fine with me.)

That morning, as soon as he completed his daily system quest, Sam quickly reported for training again and this time, he truly dazzled in training, showcasing his ability on a football pitch.

He was still new but his status in the team was already rising, buoyed by the close rapport that he was already building with Lamine Yamal and Robert Lewandowski, 2 big figures in the FC Barcelona squad.

For the next few days, Sam kept on giving his best having established a schedule here in Barcelona already.

Just like in Fulham, his schedule in Barcelona was simple; wake up, complete daily quest, go for team training, come back, train alone, sleep, call girlfriend, sleep, then rinse and repeat.

His life may seem boring but Sam loved his life like this.

That way, he was able to give narrowed focus on his career, focusing all his attention on improving his footballing skills.

It had been working for him for the past 3 seasons of his career and he had no intentions of backsliding now due to finally becoming big.

Sam was a big superstar now, but he didn't let it get to his head, he kept on training and grinding like an upcoming player.

His teammates noticed this every day in training, his coach also noticed it.

Their respect for him increased with every training session, he had an elite mentality that was made for the very top.

This was why a few days later when Hansi Flick, FC Barcelona's head coach finally released his starting XI for the FC Barcelona game, Sam's name was included.

It was his debut game but the German coach trusted him enough to push him into the deep end, starting him from the onset in his first game for the Catalan club.

Was it a clever decision or a rash one?

No one knew, the true answer would only be discovered by the end of the game when the outcome of the game was finalized.

Sam didn't care about what others thought about him though.

He was not new to this, he just had to seize his moment.

Having fought for places in Enyimba FC and then Fulham already, Sam had no intentions of wasting this opportunity that was granted to him.

He was ready to 'Lose Himself'!

Chapter 294 Debut game; against Girona [1]

(ESPN News:)

(Samuel Moses makes his debut for FC Barcelona! What will the young Nigerian bring to La Liga? Can he bring his form from the premier league here?)

...

(SuperSport:)

(The Nigerian Zidane in Spain! Image=)

(Samuel Moses finally makes his much-anticipated debut in the La Liga game against Girona. The original Zidane was made in the Santiago Bernabeu, can a new Zidane grace Spain to rule in the Spotify Camp Nou? We'll know in a few hours:)

...

(La Liga:)

(Girona – Barcelona)

(Date: 25th August, 2025)

The publicity around Sam's debut in the Spanish La Liga was explosive.

Not just ESPN and Supersport, a whole lot of prominent news channels, including TV shows carried on the hype, fanning the flames that billowed in the wake of his FC Barcelona debut in Girona.

Barcelona didn't hold back either as they also fanned the flames. In the official club image edit in the build-up to the game, Sam's picture was the poster-image for the fixture, showcasing FC Barcelona's intent to push him to the forefront.

All of this hype put a lot of pressure on Sam's shoulders in the buildup to the game. But by now, Sam was more or less used to pressure already.

From the suburbs of Nigeria and Africa, playing in the big CAF champions league stages, to the elite stadiums in England playing in the premier league, to even the FIFA Club World Cup against one of the most frightening Manchester City sides ever, Sam had faced pressure and still performed.

This was why he approached this game with a cool mind.

To him, it was just another game, another game where the fans expected him to perform. Another game where he also expected himself to perform.

In the build-up to the game, at first, Robert Lewandowski showed concern for Sam, fearing that the pressure would weigh him down but despite all the pressure, Sam's intense focus and laser-focused training regime shocked the striker.

One look in Sam's eyes and the Polish striker knew. 'This guy..., he's not feeling the pressure'.

'Or more precisely, he's taking the pressure as fuel'.

Just like that, D-day arrived.

25th August, 2025...

In a cold evening in Girona, the 2 La Liga teams entered the pitch.

For this game, Sam didn't have to travel far with the FC Barcelona squad. Afterall, it was a game played here in Catalonia.

Girona were FC Barcelona's neighbors here in Catalonia, it was a derby game and this added even more venom to Sam's debut game.

Both teams approached this game with their strongest lineups.

The home side, Girona started in their regular 4-2-3-1 formation, starting with a 4-man defensive lineup of Blind, Lopez, Juanpe, and Martinez even as their goalpost was protected by their stalwart goalkeeper, Gazzaniga.

The 2-man midfield ahead of the defense comprised of Martin and Herrera, while the 4-man attack ahead comprised Gil, Donny Van de Beek, Asprilla, and Groeneveld who started as the striker for this team.

It was a powerful lineup, but Barcelona's was stronger.

Starting in a similar 4-2-3-1 formation, Barcelona's stalwart quadruple defense comprised of Alejandro Balde in left back, Pau Cubarsi and Ronald Araujo in central defense, and then Jules Kounde in right back.

Inaki Pena started in between the posts as Ter Stegen was still recovering from his injury.

The 2-man midfield duo ahead of the defense comprised Pedri and Marc Casado, while the attack comprised of Raphinha in left wing, Sam in attacking midfield, Lamine Yamal as the right winger, and Lewandowski starting as the striker.

It was a fearsome lineup of superstars.

FWEEE!

The game started.

Immediately after the referee's whistle sounded to kickstart the game, FC Barcelona kicked off the game and instantly, it was clear that they were the superior side as Girona were forced to defend.

For the first few minutes of this game, FC Barcelona hoarded possession, pressuring their opponents as they were forced to defend.

This was despite the fact that they were playing in away ground.

Despite the loud boos by the home supporters, FC Barcelona played superior composed and controlled football, pushing the opposition to the edge.

On all sides of the pitch, FC Barcelona was stacked.

At the base of midfield, Pedri played as the controller while Marc Casado fulfilled his role in this team as the destroyer.

When in possession, Pedri's flair and touch enabled him to wriggle through the aggressive Girona press like a fish through water, effortlessly weaving his way out of trouble like a Weaver born of a Divine Lineage in the world of Nightmares.

And in those few times that Girona won back possession, they were unable to do anything tangible with it simply because Barca's defense was a rock.

Going through the middle was hard as they ran into the destroyer in Marc Casado. The young Spaniard was not scared of getting his hands dirty as he wrestled with the opposition, jumping into tackles with gusto to win back the ball.

His style was still rash and unrefined but it was effective nonetheless.

Jules Kounde in the right was like a sledgehammer, abusing his incredible physicality to shut out Girona's left winger completely even as in possession, he occasionally bombed down the right side of the pitch to support Lamine Yamal.

On the left, his compatriot, Alejandro Balde was even more imperious in attack. The young Spaniard played like a predator with wings.

His silky dribbling cut the Girona press open again and again.

The whole Barca team was playing at an elite level, the attack was not excluded. On the left, Raphina's energy was running Girona to the ground while on the right, Lamine Yamal turned his man inside out like neatly made pounded yam.

As for Barca's striker, Robert Lewandowski, the goal poacher was always at alert, doing his bit in the build-up play even as he waited for his one chance to pounce and score the first goal like a predator stalking prey.

With the whole Barca team playing so well, Sam followed their rhythm, playing a tidy game also.

But in a game with his teammates playing so well, he could do just slightly more than the bare minimum, he never got the opportunity to shine.

It was not a bad thing though; FC Barcelona was still dominating.

Girona tried their best to limit Barca's chances in this game despite their dominance, using a low block to frustrate the reigning champions but in the end, quality shines through.

"GOALLL...!!!" The away fans roared in ecstasy.

In the 31st minute of this game, the deadlock was broken.

The Polish hitman, Robert Lewandowski struck!

Chapter 295 Debut game; against Girona [2]

31 minutes, 0-1...

The hitman was Robert Lewandowski, but the provider was a certain Spaniard, the youngest in the FC Barcelona squad, Lamine Yamal.

Like a wizard brandishing his wand, after receiving a pass from Pedri from midfield, from the right, Lamine Yamal went on an unstoppable mazy run.

With a drop of his shoulder, he beat his man before charging inside. More defenders closed him down but with a few body feints, tidy ball shifts, and a la croqueta, he opened up enough space to chip the ball over to a lurking Robert Lewandowski who aligned his positioning with his run.

The Polish striker's positioning was inch-perfect, he was in the right place at the right time to volley a first-time shot in.

BAM!

The goalkeeper was rooted to one spot, unable to react to the shot.

It was when Lewandowski was already whirling off in celebration that he reacted, turning and angrily kicking the ball back into his own net.

"What a vintage FC Barcelona goal!" The commentator raved.

"Started by Pedri, created by Lamine Yamal, finished by Robert Lewandowski! What a perfect sequence, just as it should be!"

"Lamine Yamal..., the boy is a wonder of nature!"

After that goal, onlookers expected Girona to finally give up on their conservative approach, coming out to open the game up and chase after the equalizer but wary of Barcelona's ability still, Girona remained in their shell.

For the rest of the first half, Barca kept on improving even as Sam finally started growing into the game, showing his creativity but still, a 2nd goal failed to materialize as the first half ended 0-1 in Barca's favor.

During half-time, Hansi Flick told his players a few words and quickly summed it up. "Let's go claim victory!" He declared in Spanish.

FWEEE!

2nd half started and the FC Barcelona domination continued.

Girona continued defending.

'Weird'.

'Weird..., this is so weird'.

As the game continued, Sam could not help but think this.

All his career, all the way from Enyimba, Sam was used to playing for the underdog team. He was so used to being an underdog that he developed a habit of drawing his energy to create miracles from being underestimated.

When his team's chances were written off, that's when Sam shines.

When his team was underestimated, that is when Zinedine Sam bares his fangs and sink it into enemy flesh with ruthless efficiency.

This was why he felt so weird playing this game.

Sam was so comfortable.

His team was almost never under pressure in this game. Barca dominated possession, created the most chances and as the attacking midfielder of this team, he rarely had an opportunity to track back and defend since there was really no need for it.

This was why Sam felt weird. 'I'm not used to this'.

He struggled to motivate himself to do more in this game.

Even the commentator echoed the thoughts of a lot of spectators today. "Sam has not exactly hit the heights that we expected of him in this game".

"He's not having a bad game by any means, but..., that spark, that energy that premier league fans are used to seeing, this is not it".

"It's almost as if he's lacking the spark today".

"Well, that is to be expected, he's still in his adaptation period. I guess even Sam has to go through an adaptation period".

Sam struggled to play at that extraterrestrial level this game but FC Barcelona dominated still. In the 56th minute of this game, Barca scored again.

This time, it was the electric Pedri again as after wriggling through challenges in midfield, he played an unreal through pass for Raphina to run into as abusing his speed, the Brazilian winger quickly ran ahead of the defenders.

Taking the ball in his strides, he took aim before unleashing a powerful shot, rifling the ball into the roof of the net to make it 0-2 to FC Barcelona.

"GOALLLL...!" The fans celebrated excitedly.

Just 2 minutes later, in the 58th minute, the game was finally put to bed as Lewandowski struck again, this time rising high to latch into a perfect Alejandro Balde cross, heading the ball past the Girona goalkeeper and into the net.

With that goal, the outcome of this game became final.

Girona also lost all momentum.

In the 75th minute, Hansi Flick made changes, taking off Lamine Yamal and Robert Lewandowski out of the game as he introduced Ferran Torres and Fermin Lopez to add more energy to the game.

The outcome was that FC Barcelona continued dominating in this game.

In the 82nd minute, Hansi Flick finally pulled the plug, removing Sam from the game even as Gavi entered in his stead.

Just 3 minutes after Gavi replaced Sam, Pedri looped a perfect ball above the Girona defense as the energetic Gavi ran into it, taking one touch to raise the ball beyond the goalkeeper's grasp before rifling it into an empty net.

"GOALLLLL...!" Noise erupted again from the away stands as the traveling FC Barcelona fans screamed at the top of their lungs in celebration.

85 minutes, 0-4...

For the remaining minutes of this game, Pedri and Gavi were by a mile the best players in this pitch as they tormented Girona's defense.

The 2 wonderkids kept on creating chances but due to profligacy in front of goal, FC Barcelona was unable to score another goal.

From the bench, Sam watched the remainder of this game.

"..."

His head was blank.

What was he thinking about? He didn't know.

As a midfielder, he didn't have a bad game by any means as he created his fair share of chances. He had a solid game by all standards but still..., was this the level that he wanted to play at in this club?

Sam could not answer his own questions as he kept watching till the end of this game.

FC Barcelona won the game convincingly 0-4.

Pedri won the man of the match award for this game due to how he controlled the game, and also due to his 2 unreal assists.

Sam got a good 7.4 rating by the end of the game, but at the end, there was a question mark in his head.

"...?"

Was this his level?

Chapter 296 Need to adapt

At the end of the game, Hansi Flick approached his new signing, patting him by the head. "Good job Sam, you played good".

'Did I really?'

Sam smiled at his coach but in his head, he could not help but ask that.

...

(La Liga fixtures:)

(Matchday 2 of 38:)

(Real Betis 2-0 Leganes)

(Date: 23rd August, 2025)

...

(Mallorca 1-2 Villareal)

(Date: 24th August, 2025)

...

(Elche 3-2 Alaves)

(Date: 24th August, 2025)

...

(Sevilla 1-0 Getafe)

(Date: 24th August, 2025)

...

(Real Soceidad 0-2 Real Madrid)

(Date: 24th August, 2025)

...

(Celta Vigo 3-1 Almeria)

(Date: 25th August, 2025)

...

(Girona 0-4 Barcelona)

(Date: 25th August, 2025)

...

(Levante 2-3 Athletic Club)

(Date: 25th August, 2025)

...

(Athletico Madrid 3-0 Valencia)

(Date: 25th August, 2025)

...

(Rayo Vallecano 3-1 Osasuna)

(Date: 25th August, 2025)

...

(Updated La Liga table:)

(1. Athletico Madrid GP: 2/ W:2/ D:0/ L:0/ Pts: 6)

(2. Barcelona: GP: 2/ W:2/ D:0/ L:0/ Pts: 6)

(3. Real Madrid GP: 2/ W:2/ D:0/ L:0/ Pts: 6)

(4. Athletic Club GP: 2/ W:2/ D:0/ L:0/ Pts: 6)

(5. Real Betis GP: 2/ W:2/ D:0/ L:0/ Pts: 6)

(6. Sevilla GP: 2/ W:2/ D:0/ L:0/ Pts: 6)

(7. Villarreal GP: 2/ W:1/ D:1/ L:0/ Pts: 4)

(8. Mallorca GP: 2/ W:1/ D:1/ L:0/ Pts: 4)

(9. Girona GP: 2/ W:1/ D:1/ L:0/ Pts: 4)

(10. Celta Vigo GP: 2/ W:1/ D:1/ L:1/ Pts: 4)

(11. Getafe GP: 2/ W:0/ D:1/ L:1/ Pts: 4)

(12. Elche GP: 2/ W:1/ D:0/ L:1/ Pts: 4)

(13. Rayo Vallecano GP: 2/ W:1/ D:0/ L:0/ Pts: 3)

(14. Real Sociedad GP: 2/ W:0/ D:1/ L:1/ Pts: 1)

(15. Almeria GP: 2/ W:0/ D:1/ L:1/ Pts: 1)

(16. Valencia GP: 2/ W:0/ D:1/ L:1/ Pts: 1)

(17. Osasuna GP: 2/ W:0/ D:0/ L:2/ Pts: 0)

(18. Leganes GP: 2/ W:0/ D:0/ L:2/ Pts: 0)

(19. Alaves GP: 2/ W:0/ D:0/ L:2/ Pts: 0)

(20. Levante GP: 2/ W:0/ D:0/ L:2/ Pts: 0)

After 2 matchdays of the Spanish La Liga, FC Barcelona occupied second spot in the Spanish top flight table even as they shared points with 5 other clubs.

After the end of the game in Girona, on his way home, the Ultimate Football System finally lit up with a notification, notifying Sam of new system quests but he didn't pay attention to them immediately.

He didn't pay attention to his system notifications immediately because he had other things in his mind.

Till he got home, Sam was distracted.

Even as he got home, he was still distracted, prompting him to decide to make a local dish. On the kitchen, while cooking, he cut his finger by mistake with a knife.

"Ouch!"

The stinging pain stimulated Sam, bringing him back to reality as he quickly rushed off to apply first-aid treatment to it.

In the end, pain was what made him calm down.

After switching off the gas, sitting in his room, Sam started thinking and finally, he deduced where the distraction was coming from.

'Dissatisfaction'.

Yes, FC Barcelona won the game.

Yes, they dominated from beginning to end and Sam should be happy but, in the end, he was left disappointed by his own performance.

He didn't have a bad game, he contributed evenly to the game in both offense and defense but used to doing more already in every single game, Sam felt weird.

He was so used to pushing himself to the limits, hitting extraterrestrial levels of yearning to win and inducing miracles that to play a normal again after so long, it unnerved him, making him unable to focus and perform at his best.

As soon as Sam deduced the problem, he chuckled. "I don't even know if I should cry or laugh". He mocked himself.

"Who knew I'd also have a problem like this someday?"

In that moment, Sam finally understood a certain professional football player that he looked up to. The legendary Portuguese, Cristiano Ronaldo.

Back when he plied his trade for Real Madrid, Ronaldo was renowned for having a big ego. Rival fans often had a point to critic and degrade him and that point was his unchanging selfishness.

Cristiano Ronaldo was selfish to a fault.

He wanted the ball all the time, he wanted to be the main man, he wanted to be the one to take the shots, he wanted to be the one to score the goals.

Sam was not thinking like that, but now, he understood how Ronaldo felt in those games where Real Madrid win and his name is not on the scoresheet.

"So, it's like this". He chuckled, feeling truly bitter.

"To think that someday I'll also get to have Cristiano Ronaldo problems," he laughed. "I've really come a long way".

There are steps to problem solving. The first step was identifying and acknowledging the problem, and the next main step was dissecting it down to find a solution.

As soon as Sam identified the problem, he acknowledged it and then he dissected it down for a solution and it didn't take him long to arrive at one.

Actually, it was the only solution that Sam could think of.

"Haha, I need to adapt". He stood up, his eyes burning with a fiery zeal.

"I've gotten so used to playing as the underdog that playing for the superior side and still performing, winning by a landslide feels so alien to me now".

"It's almost like a warrior who's gotten so used to hunting predators that were far stronger than him that he lost the ability to fight weaker prey".

Sam's eyes turned sharp. "But I won't be that warrior!"

"Neither will I be Cristiano Ronaldo!"

"I am Samuel Moses and I shall find my own way, I shall forge my own path!"

For a long time, Sam had always heard of professional football players having to adapt to their new clubs. From the perspective of a fan, he never truly understood till now when he was forced to go through his own period of adaptation.

Sam did not shirk away from the challenge though, rather, he embraced it with gusto.

"I shall adapt..., and then I shall become a legend of this club!"

That night, having solved his mental problems already, he finally removed his iPhone from flight mode, speaking with his girlfriend before sleeping.

Sam slept with his blood boiling in reaction to his new challenge.

Chapter 297 Making new friends

"Hola Sam!"

Sam grinned, looking at the young teenager. "Hola Lamine!"

"Estas... listo para... sugar?" He asked the young winger if he was ready to break a sweat, chuckling and hoping that he didn't just say rubbish after spending the past 30 minutes of his morning to learn it.

The young Spaniard, Lamine Yamal chuckled. "Lo pronunciaste mal, estas listo para sudar?"

"Haha," Sam laughed, scratching the back of his head.

"This Spanish thing..., I hope I learn it fast enough". He grinned.

At that moment was when he noticed that someone else came with Lamine Yamal. After informing the young Spaniard of his desire to find a jogging partner in the FC Barcelona squad, Lamine Yamal agreed to be his jogging partner.

Due to being occupied with other things for the past few days, Lamine Yamal could not keep up with his promise but after the game against Girona where they got to know each other more on the competitive stage, Lamine Yamal finally decided to honor the invite.

He drove down to Sam's apartment in Barcelona early in the morning.

But he didn't come alone, another FC Barcelona player followed him.

As soon as Sam saw him, his eyes widened in surprise. "Hola Gavi!" He greeted, pleasantly surprised even as his smile widened.

"Hola Sam!" The slightly short but energetic midfielder grinned.

Sam didn't even need any explanation to know what was happening here.

Clearly, Lamine Yamal told Gavi of Sam's proposal and interested in it, Gavi tagged along. Sam had heard long ago that Gavi was a training freak just like his energy was relentless on the pitch. Today, he confirmed it.

The 3 FC Barcelona youngsters did not linger much longer as quickly wearing his jogging boots, Sam joined them and together, they jogged through the streets of Barcelona, exercising their cardio.

From the first day that Sam became a professional football player, there was one attribute of his body that he was always proud of, his stamina.

With time as his career grew, his stamina also grew.

But before Gavi's relentless energy, to Sam's shock, he discovered that Gavi's stamina was even higher than his which prompted him to look at the midfielder's stats through his system snooping tool.

~----~

[You have made use of Snooping Tool!]

[Player Name: Pablo Gavi]

>Description: A combative and technically gifted midfielder Pablo Martin Paez Gavira, better known as 'Gavi'. Was born in the town Los Palacios y Villafranca near Seville<

[Player Position: Midfielder]

*Pace: 85

*Shot: 82

*Pass: 84

*Dribbling: 84

*Defending: 51

*Physicality: 78

*Stamina: 88

Overall Rating: 85

[Player Title: Solid Player]

...

Gavi's stamina was more than Sam's by 2!

Even among all the players that Sam had used his snooping tool on, Gavi was on the higher spectrum among all of them in terms of stamina. No wonder the midfielder's energy was so relentless and constant always on the pitch.

Apart from his stamina though, most of his other attributes were weaker than Sam's, Sam was a better player than Gavi already.

The sight of it left him breathless.

'To think I'm this good already..., I almost can't believe it'.

'Just 2 years ago, I was still playing in Nigeria'.

Sam sighed. At this moment, all he felt was gratitude for how smoothly his football career progressed since he made his debut in professional football.

After using his snooping tool on Gavi already, out of curiosity, he extended it, also using it on Lamine Yamal and the result was a bit surprising to him.

...

[You have made use of Snooping Tool!]

[Player Name: Lamine Yamal]

>Description: Lamine Yamal Nasraoui Ebana is a Spanish professional football player who plays as a winger for La Liga club Barcelona and the Spain national team<

[Player Position: Winger]

*Pace: 79

*Shot: 81

*Pass: 85

*Dribbling: 88

*Defending: 33

*Physicality: 76

*Stamina: 81

Overall Rating: 83

[Player Title: Flair Player]

~-----~

Sam didn't expect Lamine Yamal's overall rating to be 83.

Yes, the boy was still just 18 years old but what he did on the pitch spoke about his lethal ability with the ball.

But in hindsight, it was expected. What Lamine Yamal had in abundance was natural talent and footballing intelligence, in the end, most of his physical attributes were yet to peak so 83 was a fair overall rating.

Sam expected that in 2 to 3 seasons, Lamine Yamal would peak, skyrocketing his overall rating to 87, 88, or maybe even 90!

That was how high Lamine Yamal's potential was.

Besides, at such a young age, he already had the flair title.

Of Sam's myriad opponents that he played against in the English premier league, one of the few prominent players he played against with the flair title was Cole Palmer.

For Yamal to already attain the title spoke of the boy's talent.

Sam enjoyed his work-out that morning.

Since by the time they were done, it was already getting a bit late, Lamine Yamal and Gavi just took the opportunity to crash at his apartment and change before driving to training alongside him that morning.

It was weird but that was how boys were.

All they needed was that common element which in this case was football. They've seen each other play, they respected each other's ability, and now working out together was all it took to take their relationship to the next level.

Today was just the precedent.

In the next few days, the 3 of them became much closer even as they continued their training together.

In this time, Sam kept on improving his chemistry with the team in training even as he tried his best to adapt his game.

His greatest hurdle of adaptation at this point was not his football ability, but rather it was a mental hurdle.

To get his mojo back, Sam needed to fight that mental hurdle.

He didn't know if he succeeded yet but he knew that he was making progress and just like this, a few days passed.

In no time, it was D-day again, time for a new matchday.

In matchday 3 of the Spanish La Liga, Sam was finally scheduled to play his first home game in the Spotify Camp Nou before the FC Barcelona fans as Barca took on Sevilla in a blockbuster encounter.

Sam made the starting XI.

Hours before the game though, he finally accessed his system, checking his new season system quests.

Chapter 298 New season; new season system quests

~-----~

[Congratulations! You have played your first game of the new 2025/2026 premier league season for FC Barcelona; you are now eligible for the season system quest!]

[You have unlocked Season System Quests!]

[Your club, FC Barcelona is eligible to compete in 4 fronts; the Spanish La Liga, the Copa del Rey, the UEFA Champions League, and the Supercopa de Espana!]

[Season Quest 1: Spanish La Liga]

[Mission 1: Win the Spanish La Liga title with FC Barcelona!]

[Mission Reward: +2 increase to 2 random football attributes!]

...

[Mission 2: Win the Pichichi Award!]

[Mission Reward: A random shooting football skill!]

[NOTE: The Pichichi Award is the award given to the player who scores the most goals in a single La Liga campaign.]

[Season Quest 2: Copa del Rey]

[Mission 1: Win the Copa del Rey title with FC Barcelona!]

[Mission Reward: +1 increase to a random football attribute!]

...

[Mission 2: Win the best player award of the Copa del Rey!]

[Mission Reward: Random skill points!]

[Season Quest 3: UEFA Champions League]

[Mission 1: Win the UEFA Champions League trophy with FC Barcelona!]

[Mission Reward: +2 increase to 3 random football skills!]

...

[Mission 2: Win the UEFA Champions League Golden Boot award!]

[Mission Reward: A random skill from the King of the UEFA Champions League; Cristiano Ronaldo!]

...

[Mission 3: Win the best player award of the UEFA Champions League!]

[Mission Reward: Random skill points and a random bonus reward!]

[Season Quest 4: Supercopa de Espana]

[Mission 1: Win the Supercopa de Espana trophy with FC Barcelona!]

[Mission Reward: Random skill points and a random bonus reward!]

[Season Quest 5: Individual Excellence]

[Mission 1: Win the Ballon d'or award!]

[Mission Reward: random]

...

[Mission 2: Win the European Golden Boot Award!]

[Mission Reward: random]

...

[Mission 3: Win the IFFHS Best Playmaker Award!]

[Mission Reward: random]

...

[Mission 4: Win the FIFA Best Men's Player of the Year Award!]

[Mission Reward: random]

[System Remark: You're aspiring to become a Football God, nothing beneath excellence is acceptable! No height is too high for you to scale, push beyond your limits and make impossible nothing!]

~----~

"...!"

After looking through the new season system quests that his system prepared for him, Sam clenched his fists tightly, his eyes blazing with fire.

He didn't look at the system quests since because of the kind of mental state that he was in after discovering his struggles with adaptation for playing for an elite club like FC Barcelona.

It was not just about the team, after all, the players made the team.

Sam's teammates were so good that it required something special to shine in a team of so many superstars.

It was just like the problem that Kylian Mbappe faced in his fresh days playing for Real Madrid as he came to a Madrid club that already had a prominent young figure at the helm in Vinicius Junior.

In a star-studded attack with the likes of Vinicius, Rodrygo, Bellingham, and even the likes of wonderkids like Arda Guler and Endrick, Kylian Mbappe struggled at first to hit the meteoric heights that fans were used to seeing in his career.

But all he needed was time and even Kylian Mbappe found his mojo.

Sam refrained from viewing the season system quests since for a reason. In the build-up to this game, when he looked at it now, it became extra motivation for him to perform out there on the pitch.

'It's now or never!' He thought, eyes gleaming with intense energy.

'Let's go and create history!'

FWEEEE!

Sam walked into the pitch with his teammates amid loud cheers from the home supporters in the bright blue and red colors of FC Barcelona.

'I'm really here now'. Sam felt surreal.

He basked in the energy that was being created by the home supporters. The feeling of playing for FC Barcelona, in the Spotify Camp Nou, to him there was no feeling quite like it in the world.

Like expected, both teams approached this game with their strongest starting XI even as Sevilla came with hopes to get a result from the reigning champion's home stadium.

Sevilla started in a 4-3-3 formation with Nyland starting as their goalkeeper.

Ahead of the goalkeeper was a quadruple of players consisting Sanches in right back, Bade, Gudelj, and Carmona. Ahead of the defense stood the midfield trio of Sow, Sambu Lokonga, and Saul.

As for Sevilla's attack, it was anchored by the trio of Lukebakio in right wing, Fernandez, and Vargas.

FC Barcelona matched Sevilla's energy with a strong lineup also, a similar one to their previous game, the only difference being that Gavi started ahead of Marc Casado, playing alongside Pedri in midfield.

As soon as the referee's whistle sounded, an exciting end-to-end game started in the Spotify Camp Nou.

Again, this was a game that FC Barcelona dominated.

This Sevilla was a strong one as they posed some troubles to the home side but not enough to cause significant threat as Barcelona remained the superior side.

For 45 minutes, they tortured the visitors' defense line, Raphina, Lamine Yamal, and Sam repeatedly tearing them apart with their sheer individual quality.

In this game, it was clear that Sam's play was different.

He was more involved in the game.

In the build-up, in the goal threat, he was everywhere this first half.

His silky touch, his combinations with the attacking trio by his side and ahead of him, and the occasional long-range shot, he made the Sevilla defense quake today under the onslaught of his imperious aura.

It seemed like Zinedine Sam was back but in the end, a stalwart Sevilla defense held firm, holding Barca's relentless attacks off for 45 minutes.

Incredibly, despite how much Barca dominated this game and they created chances, they were unable to break down Sevilla's defense in the first half.

The first half came to an end with matters still level, 0-0.

But when second half eventually started, FC Barcelona quickly showed their intent as people who were on a mission.

6 minutes after the second half started, Barca scored.

Chapter 299 Defiant will of the Catalan Giants

Sevilla came to Spotify Camp Nou to cause an upset.

They came to defy the Catalan giants, but FC Barcelona was a club with a defiant will, especially this version of the club under Hansi Flick.

Raphina's form from last season clearly extended into this new season as the energetic Brazilian became the one to open the game up.

Taking a defense-splitting pass from Pedri, Raphina bombed towards the Sevilla goal with the ball but meeting opposition, he slowed down, weaving through challenges with his quick feet and strength as he pushed the ball towards the goal line, cleverly protecting it so he would not be dispossessed.

That way, Raphina was able to drag the attention of 3 Sevilla players onto himself and just as the ball seemed like it would go out for a goal kick, he hit it...

Bam!

Like a specter, the ball squirmed through the block of multiple Sevilla players, ghosting into the box even as an alert Robert Lewandowski pounced.

"...!"

The Sevilla defenders were at alert but the Polish marksman's reactions were faster, pouncing as he stuck his left leg out, hitting the ball with the heel of his boot even as he pushed it into the net.

Sevilla's goalkeeper reacted, diving but the ball just squirmed past his grasp.

"GOALLLL...!" Spotify Camp Nou erupted.

Charging towards the corner flag, Robert Lewandowski crossed both of his arms together, doing his iconic celebration even as the fans also celebrated.

In the 51st minute of this game, Barca finally went ahead.

FWEEE!

The referee's whistle sounded to continue the game and trust Barca, they rode on the momentum that was provided by that goal.

And like that, just 4 minutes later, the 2nd goal entered.

And this time, Sam was at the center of it.

After tracking back to win the ball, Sam regained possession and all the way from deep in his half, he went on a rampaging run.

Abusing his physicality and technical brilliance, Sam slalomed through the middle of the pitch, skipping through one challenge after the other even as fans in this stadium rose to their feet, their eyes wide in anticipation.

From 30 yards out, Sam had free rein in front of him as the Sevilla players miscalculated his solo run but instead of shooting, Sam passed the ball.

Again, his play confused the Sevilla players who tried to predict him.

A few Sevilla players already dove in his path, trying to block his shot only to discover that it was a shot as the ball rolled through the ground with speed, cutting the Sevilla defense open like a hot knife through butter.

Bam!

Raphina got the ball in a position where he had only Sevilla's goalkeeper remaining to beat.

"...!"

Time seemed to freeze, then...

Thud!

The huge goalkeeper charged out aggressively, making himself big.

Raphina had no time to think but he was composed. Everyone expected him to shoot but instead of shooting, having noticed another blue and red jersey to his right, Raphina pushed the ball to his right with the outside of his boot, away from the sprawling lunge of the Sevilla goalkeeper.

Lurking on the right was a certain Polish striker, Robert Lewandowski.

Bam!

One touch to calm the ball, then...

BAM!

Another to rifle it into the net with venom!

"GOALLLLL...!!!" The Spotify Camp Nou erupted for the 2nd time in just 5 minutes as the home supporters roared at the top of their lungs in celebration.

Sam didn't get the assist for the goal, but his imprint was all over that goal.

For the next few minutes, FC Barcelona went on a riot, terrorizing the Sevilla defense even as Sam made his presence known in this game.

He created 2 more deadly chances, 1 for Lewandowski and another for Lamine Yamal as the goalkeeper made incredible saves.

In the 66th minute, he decided to go at it alone again but luck seemed to be teasing him today as Sam's lethal shot ended up hitting the bar and ricocheting off for a goal kick.

"F*ck!" Sam grabbed his head, not believing his missed chance.

At this point of the game, Sevilla was just holding on for dear life but then, piling on to Sevilla's misery, Lamine Yamal turned the game on its head with a moment of individual brilliance.

Robert Lewandowski set up the young Spaniard and as soon as Yamal's leg touched the ball in the 70th minute on the right side of the pitch, he entered the zone state.

Like a prime Neymar Jnr, he weaved through the Sevilla defense from the right, recreating an iconic moment of his relatively short career as drifting in and skipping past another challenge, he hit the ball with his left foot...

Bam!

Yamal didn't hit the ball with too much power, rather, he wrapped the inside of his left boot around the ball, perfectly sending it on a deadly curving trajectory.

Nyland, Sevilla's goalkeeper reacted, desperately diving after the ball but like an automated missile, the ball moved, just curling past his grasp and into the net.

"...!" For a few seconds, the Spotify Camp Nou could not react, then...

BOOM!

The iconic old stadium exploded!

"Yamal!" "Yamal!" "Yamal!"

Yamal chants started around this stadium even as the young Spanish winger ran towards the corner flag with a carefree smile on his face.

On arriving at the corner flag, he emulated his idol Neymar, doing the Brazilian dance celebration.

Sam and a few other FC Barcelona players joined him in dancing.

Sam could not dance so it was awful to the eyes, but he danced still.

Sam thoroughly enjoyed himself this game.

In the 75th minute, he was subbed out of the game alongside other superstars in the squad, giving others the chance to shine.

Barca saw the game out, winning 3-0 at home after a second half onslaught.

In this game, Sam's drought continued, he didn't get a goal or an assist but his performance today was more like the Sam that FC Barcelona fans watched in highlights back in England.

It was clear that he was still the same player and that he was drawing increasingly closer to regaining his form.

Robert Lewandowski won the man of the match award for this game after his 2 goals and assist display.

It was a vintage FC Barcelona performance.

Sevilla wanted to cause an upset but they could not..., this was the defiant will of the Catalan giants.

Chapter 300 A fine run of form

(ESPN News:)

(FC Barcelona in a rich run of form! 5-1, 4-0, and 3-0 convincing performances set them clear as the early favorites for the La Liga title! Has Sam finally recovered the form that made the Catalan Giants swoop in for his signature?)

...

(Supersport:)

(FC Barcelona; a fine run of form! A Robert Lewandowski brace, a Raphinha brace of assists, a Lamine Yamal goal, and a solid Sam display, is FC Barcelona the early title favorite of the La Liga title this season?)

...

(TerminatorRono:)

(Samuel Moses; 002! Hope this is not an Anthony-regen in FC Barcelona. That was how Anthony started in Manchester United, extending his streak to 007 and beyond in no time, is Sam going to do the same with FC Barcelona? For perspective, 007 means 0 goals and 0 assists in 7 games!)

Like expected, after the game against Sevilla, a lot of publicity followed in its wake as FC Barcelona's performance was dissected to the technical bits.

After 1 game of adaptation, Sam had an above decent performance in his 2nd game for FC Barcelona but he was yet to get a goal contribution.

Like expected, while most news channels focused on his positive performance and FC Barcelona's overall form, others focused on criticizing him for his lack of goals and assists in the Spanish La Liga.

Just like Kylian Mbappe was the biggest signing in Spain last season, this season, Sam was the biggest signing in Spain and that tag came with very high expectations.

This was why the scrutiny was so high on him.

Thankfully for Sam, he was not a social media freak which gave him some reprieve from the publicity and abuse that came with his performances in Spain.

While the world spoke and wrote about him, on getting home after the game, happy, Sam spoke with his girlfriend.

Kayla already saw the abuse and everything but knowing that Sam knew how to cope with it, she didn't tell him, deciding to keep silent.

That night, they spoke about a lot of things and when the last game of matchday 3 of the Spanish La Liga was played, Sam finally looked at the updated La Liga table, seeing where Barca now was in the table.

(Updated La Liga table:)

(1. Atletico Madrid GP: 3/ W:3/ D:0/ L:0/ Pts: 9)

(2. Barcelona: GP: 3/ W:3/ D:0/ L:0/ Pts: 9)

(3. Real Madrid GP: 3/ W:3/ D:0/ L:0/ Pts: 9)

(4. Athletic Club GP: 3/ W:3/ D:0/ L:0/ Pts: 9)

(5. Real Betis GP: 3/ W:3/ D:0/ L:0/ Pts: 9)

(6. Elche GP: 3/ W:2/ D:0/ L:1/ Pts: 7)

(7. Mallorca GP: 3/ W:2/ D:1/ L:0/ Pts: 7)

(8. Sevilla GP: 3/ W:2/ D:0/ L:1/ Pts: 6)

(9. Getafe GP: 3/ W:0/ D:2/ L:1/ Pts: 5)

(10. Villarreal GP: 3/ W:1/ D:2/ L:0/ Pts: 5)

(11. Girona GP: 3/ W:1/ D:1/ L:1/ Pts: 4)

(12. Celta Vigo GP: 3/ W:1/ D:1/ L:1/ Pts: 4)

(13. Real Sociedad GP: 3/ W:1/ D:1/ L:1/ Pts: 4)

(14. Levante GP: 3/ W:1/ D:0/ L:2/ Pts: 3)

(15. Rayo Vallecano GP: 3/ W:1/ D:0/ L:2/ Pts: 3)

(16. Almeria GP: 3/ W:0/ D:1/ L:2/ Pts: 1)

(17. Valencia GP: 3/ W:0/ D:1/ L:2/ Pts: 1)

(18. Osasuna GP: 3/ W:0/ D:0/ L:3/ Pts: 0)

(19. Leganes GP: 3/ W:0/ D:0/ L:3/ Pts: 0)

(20. Alaves GP: 3/ W:0/ D:0/ L:3/ Pts: 0)

Barcelona was still locked in a tight-point race with 4 other clubs in the Spanish La Liga.

That night, laying down on his bed, Sam thought about a lot of things, his thoughts lingering on the experience of his first home game in the Spotify Camp Nou. The feeling was one that he would never forget.

Though it didn't pan out exactly as he expected since he didn't get a goal nor an assist, he still had an amazing game and he was slightly satisfied with that.

'I guess I got too used to scoring goals, huh?' He smiled on his bed. 'I do forget sometimes that I'm not a striker, but rather a midfielder'.

Before sleeping, he continued reflecting on his performance today. He wondered when it was finally going to click for him on the pitch.

He could not wait for that moment.

He was not desperate though, he was calm.

"Wayum wayum bi jegedi". Sam muttered, recalling the conversation he had with his dad when offers first came from Europe after his FIFA Club World Cup game against Manchester City where he scored a hatrick and still lost.

That happened a few years ago.

After that game, so hyped, Sam expected offers to come from far and near for his signature but it didn't pan out exactly as he expected.

Instead of the big clubs, rather, it was the small clubs in Europe that lined up for his signature and it affected his confidence a bit till his dad spoke to him.

That day, Mr. Moses told him this quote.

Sam still remembered vividly.

'It's another way for saying trust the process. Take it slow, one step at a time; it's the little drops of water that creates a mighty ocean'. Sam remembered his dad smiling as he spoke to him. 'That's what it means'.

'Wayum wayum bi jegedi'. He repeated in his thoughts before sleeping.

...

The next day, Sam woke up early like usual, even more motivated to go about his daily routine with gusto.

Today, Lamine Yamal and Gavi came a little bit latter than expected and when they eventually arrived, he understood why.

Incredulously, the 2 Spaniards decided to increase the jogging circle without even informing him first.

That morning, they came with Pedri!

"..."

Sam was speechless, just staring at them as they grinned mischievously. In the end, he chuckled. "Hola Pedri!"

From a trio, it became a quadruple.

The 4 of them jogged through the streets of Barcelona together.

The next day, the 4 of them started trending on social media as recognizing them, an FC Barcelona fan took a video of them jogging despite the fact that they wore hoodies that covered their faces.

The video trend for a positive reason though. Speculations of camaraderie between the 4 young FC Barcelona players grew online.

To FC Barcelona fans, it was a good thing. They were excited.

Jogging, working out, going for training, returning home, eating, sleeping, rinse and repeat; Sam continued like this for the next few days to a week and beyond.

And in no time, it was matchday again.

In matchday 4, FC Barcelona was to take on Real Sociedad in an away game.