

LEGENDS 261

Chapter 261: Two Weeks in Lisbon, Fourth Week of Recovery

“See, this is why I hate maths, they’re always talking about x and y when they should be talking about u and I,” Jason smoothly delivered the pick-up line with nary a glance in Sofia’s direction, but the silence after he finished talking made him involuntarily look over at Sofia.

Jason locked eyes with Sofia who was looking at him over five different emotions in her eyes that made for a complicated look before she turned away with a little laugh as she muttered,

“Good one.”

Sofia went back to talking about what she was saying earlier, but her tone had noticeably softened.

The evening passed in a blur and Jason was already seeing improvements in their relationship, but it wasn’t yet time to move even further because, despite the improvements, he knew he could not be hasty.

Or at least that’s what the chronicles of romance that he was spending all his time researching pointed at.

*12th September 2020**

The days had passed by quickly for Jason.

For him, it was a cycle of waking up, doing a bit of training at the hotel gym, doing research on matters of romance, watching the occasional friendly match, making the occasional trip to Porto to get his shoulder checked by the team doctor, and finally, evening and weekend dates with Sofia.

So far, everything had been going well with his shoulder steadily recovering and no longer hurting as much as before and he could already move his shoulder a bit, though it still hurt to move his shoulder.

The team doctor said that he would soon start physical conditioning to regain motion in his shoulder which meant that his holiday in Lisbon was coming to an end soon.

The Porto team had done well in pre-season, managing to win six out of seven games that they played, only losing one to Oliveireinse due to being hit with a lightning-fast attack in the first minute of the game and somehow being unable to return the favor due to Oliveirense defending all through the match.

Overall, the pre-season could be said to be a success.

The head manager had also completed the deals to bring in the two forwards Mehdi Taremi and Evanilson to the club, once again filling up the spaces available in the front of the team's attack.

However, with the performance of Sergio Oliveira and Mylo in the striking position during the pre-season, the manager would have a headache setting the line-up as Mylo and Sergio Oliveira had more than proven themselves capable of being able to fit into the team and operate very well from upfront.

This was currently giving the head manager a headache because he now had a lot more considerations to make concerning the team's line-up and game plans for the quickly approaching season, but Sergio Conceicao didn't mind as this was a good kind of headache as far as he was concerned.

From worrying about lack to worrying about having too much, who wouldn't like such a situation?

All this didn't bother Jason as he didn't feel that his position on the team could be in danger yet, because, despite the team's current overpopulation in the attacking department, it was still a bit lacking in the wingers department which for Jason meant a quick return to the line-up after his recovery... hopefully

Leaving the matter of the team aside, Jason felt that the training he was subjecting his lower body to during this period would have helped him improve his motor skills and that his stamina had probably improved quite a bit, but so far he wasn't able to test that yet as he did not dare to push himself too much at a time like this because of the risk it carried to his injury.

However, he was eagerly anticipating his full recovery so he could see how much improvement he had made.

Finally, regarding his relationship with Sofia, there had been some progress, but there had also been an unexpected hindrance.

Jason had kept meeting up with Sofia and they had progressed through all the stages according to the romance chronicles he had read.

Holding hands, putting his hand in her lap, first kiss... and then they had stopped.

The cause for the stop was a bit unclear, but also unclear to Jason.

This was a confusing way to say it, but it wasn't wrong.

During the time that Jason had been in Lisbon, he had taken a few pictures at the instructions of Adele to post on social media.

Adele's reasoning was that Jason needed to show his fans that he was recovering and he was fired up to get back on the field.

It was a purely business idea, and since it wasn't good for a player building up his brand to avoid contact with his fans for too long, Jason had acquiesced and updated some aspects of his time in Lisbon.

He had made sure not to post any pictures of him training as it wasn't appropriate for him to be training already, but he posted other pictures.

Jason had also posted a few pictures of him and Sofia together, though he always made sure to cover her face with a huge emoji at her bequest.

Apparently, Sofia didn't want to be disturbed by reporters due to her relationship with Jason which was something Jason understood and respected.

He knew that some people didn't want fame of any kind and just wanted a normal life far away from flashing cameras, constant interviews, and their every move being scrutinized by the public.

The problem had arisen on the night of their relationship's greatest progress.

After grabbing something to eat, they were walking through the streets when someone bumped into Sofia and somehow spilled some alcohol from a flask he was holding onto Sofia's face mask.

The culprit had apologized quickly on seeing what he had done, but neither Jason nor Sofia had reacted as they saw that it was an honest mistake and the guy was even apologizing.

Letting the guy off, they left him and continued their walk, but before long, the scent of strong alcohol started making Sofia uneasy so they moved to a less crowded place and Sofia had taken off the mask to breathe some fresh air and clean her face a bit.

Seeing Sofia's pink lips on full display, Jason couldn't resist making a move, or the temptation of her lips, and had slowly slid down his mask under a guise.

"I don't think it smells that bad," he had said as he brought his face closer seemingly to try and smell the alcohol, but once he was within striking range, his eyes locked on her eyes first and then on the target and in a split second he moved before she could catch on to his movements.

His agility came on full display as he captured her lips with his own, eliciting a shocked gasp from Sofia who was unable to respond and was seemingly in a daze.

After about three seconds, he pulled away from her, while keeping his eyes on her face as he muttered,

"Tastes as enticing as it looks."

"Y-You, You kissed me," Sofia muttered as her hands went to her lips with shock and surprise written all over her red face.

Jason's response to her was another target lock and attack on her lips.

Sofia who was still in a daze from the earlier kiss was even more unprepared for Jason's second kiss which was two seconds longer this time before he pulled away.

"Y-You did it again!?" Sofia stammered out with her tanned face showing a shade of red that was noticeable to Jason as her eyes darted around to ascertain if they were being looked at before her eyes fell on Jason's face again, but before she could even react, Jason did it a third time.

This time, he slowly took his time nibbling her lips and employing his long dormant lip skills on Sofia who despite her reaction after Jason kissed her, was seemingly never able to react during the kiss and could only be a recipient of Jason's smooth and caressing lips.

Jason's tongue was about to lash out but he managed to control himself before he went past what was fitting for a first kiss... plus, they were still in the middle of the streets.

Pulling away for the third time, Jason's face finally moved to a distance that was safe for Sofia's lips and his right hand went up to his lips as he swiped his thumb across them.

"The first time was a taste, the second was a confirmation, and the third was simply for my enjoyment,"

"That's the answer to the question swirling across your mind right now..." Jason said with a shifty smile, but the composure in his voice was fake.

He was internally feeling as anxious as when he was to take a penalty in the penalty shootout in the previous season.

"Y-Y-You!" Sofia didn't have any words to say and just continually stammered as she glanced at Jason with indignation written all over her face.

Chapter 262: Liga NOS is back!

Despite how Sofia was glaring dangerously at Jason, Jason himself did not feel any danger from her stare and simply laughed off her attempts to look dangerous.

There was nothing Sofia could do about it at that point and her fingers involuntarily went to her lips more than five times as they headed back the way they came, but her fingers would stop on touching her mask.

In her eyes were a rush of various emotions that made for a complicated gaze in her eyes as she stared at Jason's back while he led the way.

Jason did not dare look back as he was already at his wits end trying to maintain his composure after what he had just pulled off.

In the end, neither of them was able to continue their earlier conversation so they were silent until they parted ways later.

The problem came the next morning when Jason woke up the next morning to a link that Adele sent him.

The link led to a tabloid that had a picture of him kissing Sofia on the front page with the title being,

"Youth Football Sensation sighted in Rival City scoring off the pitch. Even injuries can't stop him from getting a win."

"What the fu*k is this sh*t?" Jason had no words.

Apart from the horrendous title that made absolutely no sense, he was annoyed by what the tabloid itself was depicting.

He did not need to read the tabloid to know that whatever was written there was untruer than even rumors which was to be expected from a tabloid and there was nothing he could do about it.

He could sue them, but that was just about a waste of time as there was no point since the article was already out and there was nothing to gain from suing them either.

The only good thing so far was that whoever was sneakily taking the pictures wasn't able to get a clear shot of Sofia's face.

The only time they could have gotten a clear shot of her face that night was when she had taken off her mask, but Jason was all over her lips at that time so there was no clear snapshot of her face which made it look like Jason had a mystery girlfriend, though that was no big deal as Jason was not hiding it.

The problem was Sofia's reaction to the whole thing... If she noticed at all.

Jason hoped she didn't see the tabloid since it wasn't a famous one, but he underestimated the extent that journalists would go to create a sensation, especially during the transfer season.

Soon other media channels began to send out articles about Jason's appearance at Lisbon during the transfer window and soon all sorts of rumors broke out about a possible transfer to Benfica for Jason.

That was bullsh*t and Jason knew this, but other people didn't and soon he started receiving calls from people about the rumors that was floating about.

After finally managing to convince Porto's head manager that he was merely in Lisbon for a holiday and not signing any contract deals behind the team's back, Jason finally managed to get some peace.

The fact that the manager had even called him in the first place was already strange as it was this same guy that had put a hundred million Euros tag on his head before the transfer season window even opened.

The head manager of all people should know how difficult it was for any club to pull out a hundred million Euros, not to mention a club like Benfica.

He wasn't denying the history of the Benfica club, but the club was more likely to be the one selling a player for that amount than buying a player for that amount.

As a matter of fact, transfers that went above the fifty million mark in the Liga NOS were already rare enough so the chance of a transfer deal of a hundred million was almost an impossibility.

Or at least, that was what Jason thought, but who knew what could happen.

Before Jason could enjoy a bit of peace after answering all calls from his teammates and manager, another call came in and this one was from Sofia.

Surprisingly or unsurprisingly, Sofia had seen the tabloid, but her face wasn't shown so there was no harm done, but to avoid being continuously pestered by the media, especially now that it was known that Jason was in Lisbon, they couldn't meet as often anymore... According to Sofia.

To Jason, this way of thinking was flawed as he couldn't care less whether he was seen or not, but as Sofia had a problem with it, he didn't have much of a choice.

There weren't much private places they could meet at unless they planned on doing private deeds and their relationship wasn't that far gone yet.

With that causing a halt on all of his other romance plans, Jason didn't bother delaying and headed back to Porto to start his rehabilitation period.

The season was already approaching anyway and he had to be ready to jump in the moment he recovered as the longer he was off the field, the harder it would be to get back on the field.

This wasn't only referring to his fitness, but also the chemistry of the lineup.

The manager had to take into account the chemistry of the lineup and if the player chemistry deteriorated instead of increasing when he brings Jason back into the lineup after his injury, he may have to bench Jason for a while.

Jason wasn't about to be fall down the pecking order in the club so he immediately headed back to Porto.

It was time to regain focus.

He had spent two weeks chasing love, but the returns were slow and he couldn't afford to wait any longer.

With Jason heading back to Porto to begin his rehabilitation, time flew by even faster.

As he focused on recovering full motion in his shoulder, he also began doing light football drills to further accelerate his return to match fitness.

He didn't want to have to wait till his shoulder was fully healed before he touched a ball again.

He hadn't stopped physical training right from the start, but it had been a while since he had had a training session that involved a ball as it was dangerous and Jason accepted that fact, so he had avoided it.

The first of the last four weeks of Jason's speculated recovery period passed by and the long awaited time finally arrived.

****19th September 2020****

9:00pm

{The new season had arrived and it is Porto's first match day of the Liga NOS 2020/21 season}

{For everyone who was hoping for an exciting match for the new season, we have Porto vs Braga!}

{The dragons will be hosting Braga here at the Estadio do Dragao in a match that guarantees excitement worthy of our patience till this point!}

{The two teams have met many times in this competition and many times outside this competition and while one would think the Dragons to be the stronger opponent, Braga have proven that they have what it takes to be dragon slayers in the last few seasons}

{Will the defending champions of the League title continue their run from last season, or will they suffer a setback right here at the start of their season campaign, we'll have to wait and see} The commentator got to work, building up even more excitement for an already anticipated first game of the season.

Porto fans everywhere had set other things aside at this time of night, ignoring sleep and staying glued to their screens to witness with excitement, the first Porto game of the season.

Not only Porto fans, but fans of other teams, and even a few neutrals who didn't have anything else going on tuned in to watch the game.

Jason was also in front of his TV in his house holding a slice of pizza that he had ordered.

Unfortunately for him, his left shoulder had not recovered to the point where he was able to cook without risks so he had to settle for buying food ever since he was injured and that wasn't something he fancied too much, but beggars can't be choosers.

He bit into the slice of pizza as he watched his teammates step out of the tunnel in the newly designed home jersey for the 2020/21 season.

It was still blue the familiar blue and white colors but the design was different with the blue stripes being thinner and more numerous than on the previous season's jersey.

To him, it looked almost exactly the same, but who didn't know that football clubs changed their jerseys every season so they could get people to buy jerseys every year.

However, he wasn't complaining as that was a part of the game and was a way for the fans to support the club.

Though that didn't stop Jason from thinking it was funny.

It was the same thing that a particular multinational American technology company that sold phones with almost the same features, or even lesser features with each release and people kept buying because it was socially unacceptable to some people to not use that company's products.

Jason could understand buying a new jersey with a different design every season because it was cheap, and it was something done for passion, but he could not understand buying a new phone almost every six months because of a trend.

'I can never understand these Gen-z kids,' he muttered to himself as he watched the match kick off.

Chapter 263: Liga NOS is Back! II

Porto would be using their usual 4-4-2 formation and the players in the starting line for the match against FC Braga were as follows;

GK: Augustin Marchesin,

LB: Zaidu Sanusi,

CBs: Pepe, Ivan Marcano,

RB: Wilson Manafa,

CMFs: Mattheus Uribe, Otavio,

LMF: Luis Diaz,

RMF: Fabio Viera,

CFs: Moussa Marega, Sergio Oliveira.

Porto and Braga's first game of the 2020/21 Liga NOS kicked off with a sharp blast of the referee's whistle at 9:00 pm sharp and the game took off.

With both sides being relatively well matched, the first few minutes of the game were spent testing each other, but by the fifth minute, the ball had begun flying from one corner of the field to the other with both teams already looking to get the game to a quick start.

By the time another ten minutes elapsed, the teams already had a few shots at their opponent's goal, but it was hard to tell who had the upper hand as they were still matching each other pace for pace.

In the 21st minute of the game, however, the balance of the game was broken, and surprisingly it was done by the Braga team.

Despite all the talks about the two teams being equally matched, even the neutrals would pick Porto as more likely to win so when the Braga team got a ball past the Porto goalkeeper everyone was surprised.

The Braga team had been on the attack, the ball moving fluidly but swiftly among them and the ball had ended up being crossed into the penalty box by Ricardo Horta and found Andre Castro who was making his debut for the Braga team.

Andre didn't hesitate to make a dream come through with a thunderous smack at the ball that sent it flying into the top right corner of the Porto goal.

{GOAL!!!}

{Before the game began, we debated whether Braga had it in them to be dragon slayers, and now they have taken a step in that direction!}

{Dream strike from the new Braga man! He's gotten a goal on his debut!}

{Is this a sign of good things to come for Braga!?!} The commentator did not hesitate to get to work and his excited commentary filled up the stadium that was devoid of physical cheers.

The Porto fans watching the game felt their confidence take a hit as they saw their team go behind, but they kept their heads up as they had unwavering trust in their team to still be able to pull off a comeback.

At the Estadio do Dragao, the match soon resumed after the Braga team was done with their celebrations.

Unlike the fans of the Porto team expected, after the kickoff to resume the game, Porto didn't make any special efforts to go above and beyond what they were already doing.

It wasn't that they didn't want to equalize the game, but they knew more than anyone else how important it was to keep one's shape after conceding a goal if they wanted to avoid conceding even more.

They could not afford to lose their cool especially now and go behind even further just because they were rushing to equalize.

There was still time.

Thus the Porto team first secured their defense and shut down all the spaces that the Braga team was able to slip through earlier and from there they gradually went on the press to retrieve possession.

After retrieving possession, they settled for keeping possession and slowly advancing up the field.

Inevitably, they lost the ball a few times, but they always managed to snatch the ball back before the Braga team could get into a dangerous position, and from there they went back on the attack, pushing the Braga team back.

The end of the first half was rapidly approaching but Porto hadn't yet gotten the equalizer that their fans so dearly wanted to see.

On the sidelines, the assistant referee held up the board to show that there would be an additional three minutes of injury time.

Almost as if on cue, the Porto team suddenly burst out on another attack after seeing the time that had been allocated to them as injury time.

Fabio Viera who was with the ball on the right wing tried to dribble past his marker down the right wing, but even though he managed to create a bit of space after a quick cut to the right, it was not enough for him to get a cross in so he passed back to Wilson Manafa behind him.

Manafa didn't hold the ball for long and quickly released the ball to Otavio who was on his left and just a few meters outside Braga's penalty box.

Otavio received the ball on the move and laid the ball off to Moussa Marega who was in the Braga penalty box but had his back facing the goal.

Otavio had begun moving forward after giving the pass and his marker immediately chased after him thinking that Marega would return the ball to Otavio to complete a one-two pass routine, but Marega instead made a tricky move of making a pass to his left with a fancy flick and Sergio Oliveira was there to receive it.

{Oh, a cheeky pass...! Can he find someone!?!}

Sergio Oliveira rammed the side of his right foot into the ball from the edge of the penalty box and sent the ball flying into the bottom left corner of Braga's goal.

{Oliveira!? GOAL!!!}

{Porto have their equalizer! And it's come just before half-time!}

{There couldn't be a better time to get an equalizer for the Porto team!} The commentator once again burst out in excitement, commenting excitedly for all he was worth, fully displaying his impartiality to the fans of the two teams.

He was only subservient to the team that performed plays worthy of his excited commentary and that was clear.

However, the Porto fans could not be bothered to care about that at the moment as they were instead more focused on celebrating their team's equalizer just as much as the Porto players at the stadium.

Chapter 264: Liga NOS is Back! III

#45+2...

Fweeeeee

The referee blew the whistle to resume the game and the Braga side kicked off.

Immediately after kick-off, the Braga players swarmed into Porto's half of the field, giving support to the player on the ball as they wanted to launch a last attack before the whistle to end the first half was finally blown.

They were a bit anxious at having their lead snatched away from them just before halftime and they launched an attack intending to immediately take back the lead.

The ball flew from one Braga player to another as they overloaded Porto's half of the field.

Soon the ball reached Porto's final third and the Braga left winger sent in a cross, hoping to create a chance for his strikers, but Pepe had been watching the ball all the while and as soon as the ball came into the box, he lunged into the path of the ball and kicked it away to clear the ball.

Due to the ball being too fast, Pepe wasn't able to kick the ball out of play like he intended as the ball flew towards the middle of the field instead where it was brought under control by Fabio Viera who had moved to the middle of the field.

With most of the Braga players having charged forward in an all-out attempt to regain the lead before the halftime whistle, the players in front of Viera were less than half of the Braga team which presented the opportunity for a counterattack.

Viera did not waste any time and immediately began pushing forward, but before moving three meters in the direction of Braga's goal, his left leg snapped back and he sent a through pass down the left that carved through the already dwindled Braga defense.

Luis Diaz was the one the ball was intended for as he charged down the left of the field to catch the ball, leaving his marker to have a face full of his dust.

Despite leaving his marker behind, another Braga player immediately appeared to block his path, but Diaz had already gotten to the ball in the final third of the Braga half.

Slowing his pace so he could have more control over his movements, he kept his head up as he did a few step-overs to confuse the Braga player before suddenly darting down the left again to create just enough space to send the ball into Braga's penalty box.

Moussa Marega was there in the penalty box to receive the ball, but with time running out, he knew he had to move fast and he put his foot into the path of the ball with just enough power to bring the ball to a halt in front of him while he swiftly changed his body position into a more optimal position for a shot.

This didn't take more than a second and as soon as he was ready, Marega unleashed a powerful shot at the Braga goal, but before he could rejoice a Braga defender jumped into the path of the ball and deflected the ball just enough to send the ball flying out of play instead of the back of his team's goal.

Unlike the disappointment that one would expect to see from the Porto players, the Porto players close by immediately held up one hand and began calling for the referee.

"Handball, ref!" Marega called out as he ran to the referee while tapping his right arm with his left.

To the Porto players' joy, the referee's whistle followed after with his hand pointed to the penalty spot in the Braga spot.

{What's this? It seems like a penalty!}

{They barely managed to stop Porto's counterattack that would have ended in a goal, but it seems the Braga defender's hand was touched by the ball!} The commentator's words immediately got the Porto fans in a frenzy as huge smiles appeared on their faces, while some of them even began hugging themselves in celebration as if their team had already scored the goal.

The Braga players weren't going to just allow the penalty to be decided without getting a word in and the Braga captain immediately went to the referee to try and convince the referee that it was a 'ball-to-hand' instead of a hand ball, but the best he could manage to do was to get the referee to consult the VAR.

Less than a minute later, his efforts were rendered to oblivion as the VAR agreed with the referee's decision to call a penalty as the player's hand was already in an unnaturally high position.

With the penalty given, Marega immediately took the ball to the penalty spot and stepped back to take the penalty.

The referee quickly set everything in place and less than a minute later, the whistle was blasted loudly followed by Marega blasting the ball into the bottom left corner of the Braga goal out of the reach of the goalkeeper who had dived the correct way.

{Well taken penalty! He smashed it without any care for trickery and the goalkeeper couldn't match his efforts!}

{With that, Porto take the lead for the first time in the game and it's only been less than three minutes since they got their equalizer!}

{What powers of recovery!}

{They're showing their opponents what it means to be defending champions! They just wouldn't stay down!} The commentator's excited commentary once again filled the stadium but the Porto players weren't even listening as they chased after Marega who had run to the sidelines and jumped into a slide.

The Porto fans weren't listening either as they were cheering loudly while shouting down the hate-watchers who were with them and telling them not to underestimate their team.

"Can your team make a comeback within 3 minutes of injury time!?"

This was a question that a lot of Porto fans were using to shout down the non-Porto supporters who were hate-watching the game with them.

"It's just a penalty, you'll see Braga make a comeback as well in the second half," was the most heard response to that question, but the Porto fans just scoffed at those non-believers who refused to see the light.

Chapter 265: Liga NOS is Back IV

After the Porto team had performed a dramatic comeback at the end of the first half, the first half ended and the players headed to their locker rooms for a much-needed fifteen-minute rest.

Due to the comeback, the conversations the managers of the two teams had with their respective players had drastically changed from what they had originally intended, and unlike Sergio Conceicao who was happy with the change, the Braga coach wasn't happy with the change.

All Sergio Conceicao had to do was make minor adjustments to a game plan that was already working and give a few players more instructions on how to shut down their opponent's attacks, and find spaces to get more goals.

However, in the Braga locker room, the manager had to function as a motivational speaker, a strategist, and a cold general to his players all in a bid to ready them for the upcoming second half.

Time passed quickly with all that going on.

Fweeeeee

The referee's whistle blew to start the second half and Braga was the team that kicked off the second half of the game.

After passing the ball around for almost a full minute while warding off the Porto players from stealing possession, they quickly began implementing their manager's instructions.

Quickly sending the ball down the wings where the Porto defense was slightly weaker, they tried to work their way into the Porto penalty box, but despite managing to break past the defense a few times, they had been unable to equalize thanks to heroics from the Porto goalkeeper or the terrible luck of the Braga players.

The clock continued running down but neither of the two teams managed to score another goal and soon the managers turned to their bench.

Players from both teams were substituted on and off to try and break the deadlock in the second half of the game.

For the Porto side, Jesus Corona was the first player to come on the pitch.

Coming on for Fabio Viera in the sixtieth minute after his injury against the Braga team in the last game of the previous season.

After Jesus Corona was Mylo who came on for Sergio Oliveira in the 72nd minute.

However, despite the changes made by the two managers to the lineup and their game plans as the game continued, neither of the two teams managed to score a goal even by the 85th minute of the game.

With the end of the match approaching, the Braga players let go of all reservations at the bequest of their manager and they stormed forward into the Porto half with the intention of getting at least an equalizer since a comeback was looking almost impossible for them at this point.

The Porto manager's response to that was another substitution, but instead of the defensive player that almost everyone was expecting, the manager had instead chosen to bring on one of the new strikers who had just joined the team in the transfer window, Mehdi Taremi.

Mehdi Taremi did not need much of an adjustment period after joining Porto as he was already playing in the Portuguese League hence why he could quickly become a part of the Porto head manager's plans.

Sergio Conceicao's counter plan to the Braga team's all-out attacking strategy was a counter-attacking strategy of his own.

When the Braga team had done something similar in the first half, the Porto team had been able to launch a devastating counterattack that although didn't directly lead to a goal, led to the penalty that gave his team the lead.

The Porto manager planned to exploit this weakness hence his addition of fresh legs to his team's front line.

In the 88th minute of the game, just as Sergio Conceicao had expected, the Braga team had lost the ball and left themselves open to a counterattack and according to his instructions, his players didn't hesitate and immediately burst forward with the ball.

The ball flew from player to player as the Porto team burst forward, running into spaces where there was and sending the ball ahead when the space was narrow.

Soon the ball reached the final third of the pitch, but due to the Braga team's efforts, they were almost recovered and were gradually blocking the counterattack.

Jesus Corona who was with the ball saw the space closing up and sent a last-ditch through pass forward to no one in particular, but Mehdi Taremi chased after the ball and got behind it just as it entered the right side of the penalty box, but though there wasn't a single player in front of him, the angle he was standing at was too awkward for him to take a shot and hope to get a goal.

Knowing that his agility would not allow him to right himself while evading his marker who was right behind him, he decided to do the next best thing.

Changing direction slightly so he was in a slightly less awkward position and made as if to shoot the ball, alarming his marker and causing the guy to lose his head and clash into him from behind.

The moment he felt the Braga player crashing into him from behind, he didn't waste any time in going along with the flow of force and even jumped a bit to add a bit of exaggeration in as he fell to the ground in Braga's penalty box.

Fweeeeeee

The shrill blasting of the referee's whistle from somewhere behind him let him know his plan had worked as he sat up with a hint of a smile on his face and held his hands up to call even more attention to his situation.

Taremi didn't have to overreact further as the referee was already pointing to the penalty spot for the second time in the match and it was still against the Braga team.

With his aim already achieved, Taremi was pulled up by Jesus Corona without much fanfare, but there was an evident smile on his face as he watched the Braga players argue with the referee that he had hardly been touched and that he had dived.

In truth, Mehdi Taremi also knew that he had dived, and a lot of other people could see it as well, but the problem was that the Braga defender had aided his performance by slamming into him from behind, thus despite his over-exaggeration of the situation, the penalty was rightfully given.

In the end, the Braga players weren't able to convince the referee and Mehdi Taremi put the ball down on the penalty spot as he was to take the penalty.

Chapter 266: Liga NOS is Back V

Fweeeeeee

The referee blew his whistle loudly and Taremi stepped up to the ball and hit it towards right down the middle of the goal but unfortunately for the Braga goalkeeper, he had chosen to dive to the right.

Without any suspense, the ball smashed into the back of the net and Mehdi Taremi took off down the sidelines while pointing at the Porto logo on his shirt with excitement all over his face.

{Right down the middle! Cheeky penalty, but he's gotten away with it}

{It's his first for his new club and his first in new colors!}

{You can see the excitement on his face which shows how much it matters to him to hit the ground running!}

{The Porto fans will hope to see more from their new man in the upcoming season after a wondrous display on his debut!} The commentator's comments didn't stop there, but while he continued his commentary, almost no one was paying full attention to his words.

The excitement had already permeated to the Porto fans away from the stadium and they were already celebrating loudly.

Some of them had already taken off to social media to show off their team's win despite the clock still running.

The Porto players at the stadium were also excitedly celebrating the goal with Taremi while the Braga players' countenance was in shambles.

Just when they were so close to getting an equalizer, they had gone on to concede another goal one minute to the end of the ninety minutes originally allocated for the match.

If a comeback was impossible before, it was an equalizer that looked even more impossible now.

The Braga manager and the Braga fans all thought the same because despite not wanting to give up hope, they still had to look at realistic tendencies and events.

It was already hard enough to get an equalizer when they were merely a goal behind, but now they were two goals behind, had quite literally run out of time, and had to face a Porto team that would do anything to protect their lead.

The Braga players trudged back to their positions with their heads down but as soon as the referee's whistle was blown, they forgot their situation and began playing with even more ferocity than before.

They had internally decided that even if they could not get an equalizer, they could at least reduce the goal difference and significantly lessen their future efforts to overcome the setback of losing the first game of the season.

Unfortunately for Braga, despite their ferocious efforts, they were equally matched by a Porto team that wasn't willing to let them get past their goalkeeper another time.

After four added minutes of hard and fast football, the final whistle of the game was blown and the match came to an end with the scores; Porto 3 – 0 Braga.

{The final whistle has been blown and Porto bask in their win!}

{For them, it's the perfect start to the season!}

{Despite the early setback, they showed calmness and composure to pull off a fantastic comeback and their efforts have been crowned with their first victory in the Primera Liga 2020/22 season}

{The players are happy, the fans are happy, and the manager will not be scolding his players for a few days, that's for sure!}

{Fantastic debuts from Andre Castro and Mehdi Taremi, both scoring a goal, but one has taken victory for his team while the other will have to wait a little longer for his first victory with his club}

{My name is Marcus Estrelda, thank you for watching}

{The anticipation is over, the Liga NOS is back!} The commentator gave ending remarks as the players walked off the field with one side more positive than the other.

At Jason's house, he took a picture of the match on the television screen before the scene changed to a studio and posted the picture with a congratulatory caption on Instagram and Twitter.

After that, he turned off his TV and headed to his bedroom, as it was already past 11 pm.

Watching the match had gotten his blood boiling and he wished more than anything that he had already recovered and could jump on a field immediately, but the slight pain still coming from his shoulder whenever he overexerted it in the slightest denied him that thought.

With a heavy sigh, he lay in his bed, making sure to avoid putting any pressure on his shoulder as he didn't want his recovery period to extend any longer than it already was.

Turning off the lights, he reactivated his preset alarm for 6 am and slowly went to sleep.

****26th September 2020****

The past week had passed by quickly with Jason throwing himself into his rehabilitation and doing everything he could so he could rejoin the team even a day earlier.

He was already able to move his shoulder quite a bit and his physical examinations showed that he was recovering well, but his recovery was still following the estimated period and it was unlikely that he would be completely recovered in less than the original two weeks left of his estimated recovery period.

In the end, Jason couldn't cheat nature, but his efforts weren't without reward as he was already considered a match fit in all but his shoulder.

This meant that as long as his shoulder recovered to the point where he could be given the green light to join the team again, he could immediately join the team's line-up... As long as the manager selected him of course.

Of course, he'd still have to keep his brace on for a few weeks even after he was cleared to rejoin the team to greatly reduce the risk of re-injury but Jason didn't mind bearing with that much if he could be on the field with a ball at his feet.

While Jason had his full focus on his recovery, the second match Liga NOS matchday for the Porto team had arrived and they were to face off against Boavista at the Estadio do Bessa.

While Jason had only his couch pillows for comfort as he watched the match from his television, his teammates were already warming up for their match against Boavista at their opponents home stadium.

Chapter 267: 6th Week of Recovery

The match between Boavista and Porto began at 9:00 pm sharp and less than ten minutes into the match, Porto had stamped their superiority in everyone's face.

Despite not yet getting a goal, Porto had fully controlled the game and the Boavista players had hardly been able to step foot into Porto's penalty box during the few times they had been in possession of the ball.

By the tenth minute, Porto had already registered three shots at the Boavista team with one of them being on target, but the Boavista hadn't yet been able to register a single shot at the Porto team.

As a team with the qualifications to be in the top-flight Portuguese league, Boavista had slowly upped their efforts and were soon matching the Porto team in the later minutes of the first half as opposed to the first ten minutes of the game.

Every minute that passed, the end of the first half drew nearer but neither Boavista nor Porto had managed to get the better of each other's goalkeepers.

After a few more minutes, the referee's whistle blew loudly, bringing an end to a goalless first half.

Despite Porto having the upper hand for most of the first half, they hadn't been able to convert their chances into an advantage for themselves and had ended the first half without registering a goal on the scoreboard much to the surprise of the viewers of the game and the dismay of the Porto fans.

After fifteen minutes of rest and reshuffling of game plans by the managers of the two teams, the second half finally began with another blast of the referee's whistle.

Porto kicked off the second half and launched an attack.

The Boavista players were slow to react and couldn't stop the Porto team who cruised past them and soon a grounded cross from the left of Boavista's 18-yard box found Jesus Corona in front of the goal and he didn't disappoint everyone's expectations.

He quickly slotted the ball past the Boavista goalkeeper and ran off to celebrate his goal with his teammates.

The Porto fans immediately perked up and joined in the celebrations as their team had swept away all their unease merely two minutes into the second half.

The celebrations quickly came to an end and the match resumed, with the Boavista upping their efforts and trying to quickly get back on equal terms with Porto, but the Porto players invalidated all their efforts twelve minutes after their first goal.

Porto took a corner kick and Sergio Oliveira beat everyone in the air to get his head to the ball first and sent the ambling for the ball, but unable to stop the inevitable.

With that Porto doubled their advantage over the Boavista team.

The Boavista team that had been doing their best to try and equalize the game had now been pegged back even further and no longer dared to sit back.

They sent forward their players in droves, trying to overload the Porto team's half of the field and pressure them into making mistakes.

Unfortunately for the Boavista team, Porto wasn't a team that would easily crumble under pressure, especially against teams of their level.

The individual skills of each Porto player were displayed whenever they had the ball and they played the Boavista team like a fiddle.

The Boavista team wasn't able to do much and could only chase after the ball as hard as they could, but this only tired them even further and the Porto players took advantage of that to begin attacking.

Pass after pass after pass until Jesus Corona found Moussa Marega in the penalty box with a high cross that Marega didn't hesitate to head home in the 67th minute.

{GOALLL!!!} The commentator's excited shout followed as the ball nestled in the back of the net while Marega was celebrating with his teammates.

After the goalless first 45 minutes of the game, Porto had gotten into their stride and had already put three past their opponents in half the time they had spent in the first half.

The Porto fans couldn't be more ecstatic with the current state of things and even Sergio Conceicao had a rare smile on his face as he nodded while he watched his players celebrate their third goal.

Not stopping with a smile, he called Mylo who was on the bench, and told him to warm up and prepare to get into the game.

Normally, he wouldn't make a decision to bring on a player like Mylo whose abilities weren't clear yet in a match when it was more beneficial to rack up the scoreline, but this time, Sergio Conceicao was willing to let things run their course and use this chance to give Mylo some minutes on the pitch.

Of course, this was also a calculated decision on his part and wasn't done out of frivolity.

The team's line-up was a limited resource and he would only pick the best players that had the capability to lead the team to a win thus he could not keep giving Mylo a place on the team just because he did well in a few pre-season games.

The team was no longer lacking strikers and now the fight for a striker position was a survival of the fittest battle.

Mehdi Taremi had already started proving himself in the last match and though he had put Mylo on as well in the previous match, Mylo hadn't been able to do much with the ball apart from get a few shots at goal, but Sergio Conceicao was willing to give him a few more chances to prove himself as he was still a greenhorn, hence his decision to bring Mylo on.

On hearing the head manager call for him, Mylo quickly warmed up, put on his jersey, and adjusted his laces before going to the manager.

Sergio Conceicao quickly gave him a few instructions while the match went on.

Soon the ball went out of play and an assistant referee held up the board to signify a substitution.

On the board was the number 27 in red and the number 20 in green.

Sergio Oliveira soon came running over and high-fiving Mylo before stepping off the pitch while Mylo ran onto the pitch.

Chapter 268: 6th week of Recovery II

Running onto the pitch at a quick pace, Mylo soon settled into his position up front alongside Moussa Marega and the game quickly resumed.

After scoring their third goal of the game, Porto had changed from being a little laid back and had fully loaded their cannons, firing shots at the Boavista team at every opportunity.

The ball flowed fluidly among them as they worked their way through the Boavista players.

Despite just being subbed on, Mylo fitted perfectly into the formation and he played his part in keeping the ball flowing.

All this was thanks to his training with the senior team since the pre-season period, thus there was no sense of alienation in his movements, and with him being a striker, he had no need to run at the defenders so he didn't lose the ball needlessly and simply passed to whoever was open whenever the ball reached him.

Soon the Porto team was on another attack and the ball flew from player to player as they looked for a space to send the ball through.

With youthful exuberance in his eyes, Mylo locked eyes with Jesus Corona who was about to receive the ball from a pass by Otavio.

Seemingly understanding Mylo's hunger for a goal, Jesus Corona smoothly got rid of his marker with a perfectly executed Cruyff turn before sending a through pass behind the Boavista that Mylo was already running ahead to receive.

With his marker now chasing behind him, Mylo chased after the ball, outpacing his marker thanks to his fresh legs.

Seeing that his defenders had been taken out of the picture with that pass, the Boavista goalkeeper wasn't about to let Mylo get to the ball and potentially score a goal so he rushed off his goal line.

Unfortunately, the goalkeeper had underestimated Mylo's agility as Mylo burst forward even faster as he saw the goalkeeper come off his line.

The goalkeeper immediately realized that Mylo would reach the ball first after seeing his increased speed, but he couldn't back off anymore and rushed forward even faster, pulling out energy reserves he didn't even know he had.

As expected Mylo reached the ball first and he immediately tried to chip the ball over the goalkeeper who was off his goal line, but the Boavista goalkeeper immediately lunged upward as he had anticipated Mylo's actions due to his experience.

Managing to get the tip of his fingers to the ball, he elevated the path of the ball than Mylo intended and instead of dropping into the back of the net, the ball bounced against the crossbar and bounced

back towards the field, but before either Mylo or the goalkeeper could react, Marega burst past the two of them and stomped the ball mid-air into the back of the net with dramaticism.

{GOAL!!!}

{They have four!}

{Boavista are being swept away in this second half!}

{There's still nineteen minutes left till ninety, how many more will come!?!} The commentary filled everyone's ears as they watched the Porto team celebrate yet another goal in the second half.

Marega celebrated his brace happily with the team and Mylo who was a bit down at not having put the ball away himself joined the celebrations with a smile on his face.

The Boavista players did not know what to feel as they watched the Porto team celebrate another goal against them while they were powerless to resist.

Or more like they had tried to resist, but their efforts were completely invalidated against their opponents and they had to keep on picking the ball out of their goal.

Unfortunately for the poor Boavista players, the Porto team wasn't done with them yet and another ten minutes later, Marega sent a pass to Luis Diaz who tipped the ball in between his marker's legs before cutting in from the left wing and evaded the other Boavista players before unfurling a curling carpet shot at the top right corner of the Boavista goal.

The Boavista goalkeeper did not hesitate to dive for the ball but the ball flew just over his gloved palms, crashed against the inside of the top right side of the right post, and flew into the back of the net.

{GOAL!!!}

{Off the bar and in!}

{Splendid run from the left wing and he just couldn't be stopped!}

{The Boavista players have nowhere to hide! Their incompetence in defending remains glaringly obvious and they are punished yet again!}

{The Boavista manager has a lot of work to do in re-arranging his team's backline after this game... Hopefully, that remains a major concern for him rather than a search for a new job} The commentator's words were harsh but nobody doubted them.

The Boavista manager would be lucky if he didn't lose his job after such a showing from the Boavista players even though it wasn't his fault that his team was losing so badly.

Of course, he wasn't free from blame as he was the one who set the game plan and picked the players who were in the lineup, but there was a limit to what a manager could do and most of the work on the pitch was done on the pitch.

Whether it was the Porto players that were too hot to handle, or that the Boavista players hadn't been up to par to be able to at least not lose so badly, the Boavista board wouldn't care and the manager was the one who would face their wrath.

Such was the nature of professional football and there was nothing anyone could do about it.

Even legendary managers weren't absolved of this part of the game.

The Boavista manager was just the unfortunate one to be caught in the jaws of the Porto team and unfortunately for him, the nightmare wasn't over yet as Porto was once again on the attack.

The ninety minutes of the game was already over and the match had already had two minutes of overtime and had at least another two minutes left.

Porto moved the ball forward, looking like they wanted to go out with an explosive bang.

The Porto fans in their homes had sat up in anticipation as they saw the ball move from one Porto player to the other.

Soon the Porto players passed their way to the front of the Boavista 18-yard box and Otavio tried to break through the defenders and darted towards the left and the Boavista players followed after him.

With Otavio drawing the Boavista players to the left side of their penalty box, the right side was a bit freer of players and Otavio had anticipated this when he took the ball to the left.

Quickly doing a back pass to Mattheus Uribe who quickly sent a pass to Mylo who had run into the space created by Otavio.

Mylo didn't hesitate and immediately drove his foot into the ball as soon as it came into his path.

Chapter 269: 2020/21 Liga NOS; Matchday 3

The ball took off at a high pace and slammed into the top right corner of the Boavista goal despite the goalkeeper's efforts to keep the ball from going in.

{GOAL!!!}

{Six of the best!}

{Finishing with a bang and it was a finish with a bang!}

{It's the young player's first goal for the club and you can see the excitement on his face as he celebrates with his teammates, happy to have impressed the manager!}

{The fans must be impressed by his efforts as well and now have another player to look forward to} The commentator delivered his commentary with fluency despite his excitement.

Sergio Conceicao on the sidelines nodded as he saw that his gamble had paid off, however, this did not automatically mean that Mylo had gotten a first-team spot yet.

All this goal had done was buy him more time to impress the Porto head manager and only if he proved that he could score goals consistently would Sergio Conceicao even consider elevating him to a first-team position.

Less than two minutes later, the referee blew the final whistle, bringing an end to the game with the score of Boavista 0 – 6 Porto.

With that Porto catapulted themselves to the top of the table with their absurd goal difference of +8 after just two matchdays in the new season.

Things were already looking for the defending champions as they once again rooted themselves at the top of the league table.

What was needed from the Porto team now was consistency in their results and the Porto fans did not have doubts that their team could stay on top of the league table.

The Porto players were also confident that they could retain their position at the top of the table by continually giving out good performances like this one and their confident attitudes could be seen on their faces as they walked off the pitch.

After the match, the Porto team spent the night at a hotel before returning to Porto the next morning with a week of training imminent.

There would be one more match before an international break between the 5th and 14th of October, 2020.

Jason had never received an international call-up before this time, and he wasn't likely to receive one with him still in recovery from an injury.

As for whether he would receive an international call-up another time, he didn't know yet, but he hoped to receive one and had already been planning for it.

He was eligible to receive an international call-up from two countries which were Nigeria and the USA.

Jason had tried to be objective with his choice between the two teams, but no matter how he tried to think about it, he was more biased towards Nigeria than America.

While the international competitions the two teams would be exposed to were around similar levels, the chasm between the talents available to the Nigerian team and those available to the American team was vast.

The talented players Jason currently knew to be in the Nigerian national team included Victor Osimhen at Napoli, Kelechi Ihenacho from Leicester City, Samuel Chukwueze at Villarreal, Alex Iwobi at Everton, Zaidu Sanusi who played at the same club as Jason, and many others.

Yet the only two players that came to Jason off the top of his head when he thought about the American national team were Christian Pulisic who played for Chelsea, and Weston McKennie who played for Schalke and among those two, it was clear that Christian Pulisic's nationality as an American was due to his birth in the United States as he also had a Croatian nationality.

Jason didn't know what Christian Pulisic was thinking when he chose the American national team over the Croatian national team, but Jason found it hard to make the same decision.

Thus at the moment, Jason was more inclined to the Nigerian national team than the American team, but his choice still depended on who came calling.

However, he believed that as long as he kept playing well, he should have the right to make a choice.

****3rd October 2020****

6:30 pm

Matchday 3 had arrived for the Porto side and they would be hosting Maritimo at the Estadio do Dragao.

As usual, Porto was using the 4-4-2 flat formation and their line-up was as follows,

GK: Augustin Marchesin,

LB: Zaidu Sanusi,

RB: Mattheus Uribe,

CBs: Pepe, Chancel Mbemba,

CMFs: Otavio, Fabio Viera,

RMF: Jesus Corona,

LMF: Luis Diaz,

CFs: Mehdi Taremi, Evanilson.

The pre-match formalities did not take much time and the match soon kicked off.

Right from the start of the game, the two teams went at each other, matching each other's efforts and letting everyone know that it would be a tough game for both teams.

It didn't take too long to open up the game and this was done by the Maritimo team.

In the 24th minute of the game, they caught Porto on the counter.

Nanu had sent a through pass to Rodrigo Pinho who darted through the open space and smoothly put the ball past Augustin Marchesin before running down the sidelines to celebrate.

The hearts of the Porto fans watching the game sank, but with utmost trust in their team, they thought to themselves that Porto could make a comeback.

The match continued soon after and time ran down, but just before half-time, the Porto team got a corner after a shot from Evanilson was blocked by a Maritimo defender.

Jesus Corona was the one who was to take the corner kick and at the referee's whistle, he sent the ball curling inwardly into Maritimo's penalty box.

The players of the two teams crashed against each other as they fought to get into position, but Pepe outmuscled his marker and leaped into the air to connect with the ball and send the ball flying into the top right corner of the Maritimo goal.

The Maritimo goalkeeper had dived and hoped to get a hand to the ball, but his hope remained that... hope, and he could only watch the ball smash past him and into the back of the net.

Chapter 270: Nothing or Nothing

{GOAL!}

{Equalizer! They're back on level terms!}

{On the cusp of halftime, they've gone ahead to make a statement of declaration, giving their fans anticipation for the second half!}

{The Porto captain outjumped everyone to reach that! He may play from behind, but he doesn't hesitate to lead from the front when needed and his team needed this!} The commentator went on and on, but no one on the Porto side cared about that.

They were too busy celebrating their goal to bother with the commentary of the game that was meant for the fans in the first place.

The Porto fans were also excited that their team had scored, but more than excited, they were more relieved than excited because finally, it didn't seem like their team was playing a losing game.

The game soon continued, but not long after, the halftime whistle was blown and the two teams trudged off the field for their fifteen minutes of rest.

In the locker rooms of both teams, the managers were doing their part in preparing the players for the second half.

The managers admonished those who needed to be admonished and commended those who needed commending.

They also made adjustments to the game plans and gave improved instructions to the players and soon the fifteen minutes of second-half preparation were over and the players marched back to the field.

With a blast from the referee's whistle, the second half of the game kicked off.

The two teams once again went at each other, not forgetting to incorporate their manager's latest instructions into their gameplay but surprisingly it was the effects of the Maritimo manager's instructions that were first seen.

In the 52nd minute of the game, the Maritimo team took the lead once again.

Rodrigo Pinho had managed to find Nanu with a splitting through pass that Nanu managed to get to after stepping behind the Porto defense line.

Using his pace to make sure the Porto players stayed behind him as he cut in from the right, he smoothly curled the ball around Augustin Marchesin.

The Porto players had immediately called for offside, but after a VAR check, it was determined that Nanu had managed to stay onside so the goal was allowed.

The Maritimo team was overjoyed as they went back to celebrating after the goal was allowed while the Porto players could only look on in a daze.

The Porto fans were just as dazed as the Porto players but they kept up their hopes as it was still early in the second half and there was still ample time for the Porto team to make a comeback.

Unfortunately for the Porto fans, the Porto players were seemingly thrown off by Maritimo's second goal and were unable to equalize the game even as the time ran down quickly

By the 70th minute, even Sergio Conceicao was feeling anxious and he started making substitutions.

He took off Evanilson and Mehdi Taremi to bring on Moussa Marega and Sergio Oliveira.

He also took off Matheus Uribe and brought on Wilson Manafa.

After using all his subs, he called for an all-out attack from his team because the sooner they could equalize, the easier it was for them to make a comeback.

Sergio Conceicao wasn't about to lose the third game of the season and sent as many players forward as possible, but still, Porto wasn't able to get the equalizer they so dearly wanted.

The goal just wouldn't come for them.

When the end of the 90 minutes was only a few seconds away, an assistant referee held up the board to display that there would be six minutes of added time.

On seeing this, the Porto players began playing with more frenzy than ever before, but not only did this not work in their favor, it also worked against them as spaces began appearing in their defense.

Spaces that the Maritimo team did not hesitate to take advantage of and soon another splitting-through pass that found it's way to Nanu yet again.

Nanu received the ball and danced around Zaidu Sanusi with dainty steps and sent him sprawling before sending Augustin Marchesin flying after the ball but unable to reach it.

{GOAL!!!}

{Maritimo have three!}

{Surely there's no way back for Porto now!}

{With this goal, Maritimo are just a few minutes away from being called dragon slayers!}

{This goal scorer has been very instrumental in this lead with him having a hand in every goal for his side!} The commentator gave Nanu his much deserved accolades, while his words to the Porto team were harsh, but the Porto players couldn't refute him.

It was a disheartening moment for the Porto players and their fans.

Sergio Conceicao couldn't even find the enthusiasm to be furious at his players and simply watched with a steely look on his face as the Maritimo players celebrated their goal.

The celebrations of the Maritimo team were soon over and the game kicked off again.

The Porto team kicked off the game once again and started exchanging the ball among themselves.

Before long, they started advancing into the Maritimo half of the field, making sure to not lose possession.

At this time, even though the added time had run out, the referee still did not blow his whistle and let the match go on, and the Porto players immediately considered this a chance to reduce the goal difference.

Keeping the passes flowing, they teethered just outside the Maritimo 18-yard box, but the Maritimo team didn't plan on letting them get past and just sat back.

The Porto team, however, couldn't remain patient when they were already out of time and Otavio who had just received the ball decided to just take the shot.

It was a nothing-or-nothing moment.

He knew that if he took the shot and missed, the match would end with their loss, and even if he managed to score, they would still end up losing as the referee would blow the whistle immediately after.

But that didn't stop him, and he stepped forward with the ball, drawing his marker at him because of his movements and skillfully evading the Maritimo player's tackle.

By evading his marker's tackle, he managed to create a bit of space and he immediately let the ball fly from the edge of the box where he stood.

The ball flew towards the left side of the Boavista goal and the Boavista goalkeeper immediately followed after the ball, looking like he could become a hero and stop a last-ditch effort of the Porto side, but one of his defenders suddenly tried to clear the ball instead.

The Boavista defender swung his leg at the ball, but missed just slightly and only deflected the ball away from his goalkeeper's path and into the back of the net.