

LEGENDS 271

Chapter 271: Recovery Ends

The match ended with a scoreline of Porto 2 – 3 Boavista.

Porto had lost.

Their last-minute goal could only serve as a consolation for them and helped to reduce the goal difference lost from their loss.

It did nothing to mitigate the loss and Porto was left with nothing but a minimized loss.

The Porto players and fans were disheartened, but they soon perked up as it was still early in the season and they could still recover from this loss.

All they needed to do was to keep winning and avoid situations like this one from happening often.

It was almost impossible to go undefeated throughout the season so it was very likely that this wasn't the last loss that the Porto team would experience in the season, but they had to make sure that the wins they had more than covered for their losses.

That was the only way to avoid losing the title of champions.

Luckily, Porto was a team that knew how to do just that so the minds of the fans remained at ease.

The results of the match had seen Porto drop to the 6th position on the league table, but the players quickly put that behind them as the days of the international break arrived.

Players like Luis Diaz, Zaidu Sanusi, Pepe, and some others who received international calls ups left to join their national teams while the rest of the players were hard at training every day at the CTFD Portogaia.

The head manager and club staff were also not idle as it was still the transfer season.

On the 5th of October, Danilo Perreira finalized a loan deal with the French hegemon, Paris Saint-Germain.

It was a loan deal with an option to buy at the end of the season and though Sergio Conceicao was a bit sad to see Danilo go, Danilo himself had pushed for the deal and wanted to move to greener pastures... Or so he thought.

In the end, Danilo Perreira had left the Porto squad and would be heading straight to Paris after the International break as he could not leave yet due to being part of the Portuguese national squad.

With that Porto's already thinning midfield became thinner and to counter that Sergio Conceicao pushed forward his plans to loan a few players he had eyes on earlier.

A transfer deal was currently impossible as he only needed the players to fill in should a situation require so.

One of the players Sergio Conceicao had his eye on was Felipe Anderson who played as a winger who played for the English team, West Ham.

Due to squad issues, Felipe Anderson had not been involved in the West Ham starting lineup for a while so he would be open to the deal, the Porto head manager hopes.

He knew that despite currently being ousted from the starting lineup, Felipe Anderson's quality couldn't be denied so he wished the deal would go through and luckily it did.

Felipe Anderson was open to the loan deal as he did not wish to permanently leave West Ham yet, but also desired more playing time.

Perhaps he hoped that if he performed well enough with Porto, he would be more involved in the West Ham manager's plans in the future.

Either way, everything worked out for both sides and on the 6th of October, 2020, Felipe Anderson joined Porto on a season-long loan deal.

Apart from Felipe Anderson, Sergio Conceicao had also gone ahead to loan a midfielder, Marko Griujic from Liverpool, and a defender, Malang Sarr from Chelsea.

The loan deals were completed consecutively on the same day and the players quickly joined the Porto squad in training.

After transfers were completed, the new players were quickly incorporated into the team and joined the Porto team that were training extra hard to make up for their loss in the last match.

The match they would be having after the international break was against Sporting CP so the Porto team had a lot to do if they wanted to ensure a victory against such an opponent, especially when they were coming from a loss in their last game against Maritimo.

The days moved by swiftly and the day that all Porto fans as well as quite a few other football fans had been anticipating impatiently finally arrived.

On the 13th of October, Jason finally resumed training with the Porto team.

The news made waves in the media and the many Porto fans took off to social media to announce the return of the 'Rose Dragon' to the squad of the dragons.

Meanwhile, Jason did not care about the media storm that was brewing because he had returned to training, but instead was just happy to be completely recovered and could join the team training sessions again.

He had arrived at the training grounds first and had a talk with Sergio Conceicao who welcomed him back to the team and told him to take it easy with his training as neither of them hoped for Jason to be injured again.

After easing Jason's mind with a promise to include him in the team's line-up soon, he sent Jason to the field to join the remaining team members.

Quite a few members of the team weren't at the training ground due to having received international calls ups, but Jason didn't mind and joined the players who were around.

As Jason joined the players who were already training, he received welcomes from his teammates.

Not forgetting to personally introduce himself to the new members of the team, he answered his teammates with a few witty comments and soon threw himself back into training just like he usually did before his injury.

A few teammates, especially the new members were surprised by how hard Jason was training when he just came back from an injury, and quite a few trainers tried to tell him to reduce the intensity at which he was training but after responding like he had heard them, he went on to train just as hard or even harder than he was already doing.

A few trainers had wry smiles on their face as they told the trainers trying to tell Jason to reduce his intensity, that this was how Jason normally was and he wouldn't listen if they tried to make him slow down his training.

A few members of the team, especially the new guys were seemingly motivated by Jason began to train harder and faster, but before long, they were soon wheezing and struggling for breath.

Chapter 272: A Glance at the Top

7:10 pm

Jason was still at the CTFD Portugaia training ground for the Porto senior team, hard at training.

Everyone else had left, even the trainers, and Jason was the only one still on the training ground juggling the ball.

He had single-mindedly been juggling the ball for almost two hours.

It had been two full months before he could simply lose himself in training like this and Jason didn't let go of the first opportunity he got to train as much as he wanted with the ball.

The team doctors would disagree with him training this hard, saying that it could increase the risk of re-injury, but their thoughts didn't matter to Jason who thought to himself that since he was using his legs mostly for the training and not his previously injured shoulder, there should be no problem.

However, he also didn't want to overdo it, so he brought his training session for the day to an end and went to wash up before packing up his things and beginning to leave.

As Jason walked toward the car park while enjoying the evening breeze, he thought he heard a noise coming from the training ground of the Porto juniors as he walked by the training grounds.

Normally, Jason would have ignored it, but it was already evening, so it was a bit strange to hear the sound of a ball at the training grounds.

Jason had an elaborate thought process and he knew that he was a special case, which was why he was able to train till now, and it was something he was proud of.

Suddenly feeling the urge to see who the like-minded individual who was still training at this time, Jason headed into the training ground and soon came to the side of the green field.

On the field was a figure clad in green and red training gear that had the Portuguese national team's emblem on its chest, running back and forth between cones with a ball at his leg, before unleashing a powerful shot that made Jason's hair stand on end.

As Jason caught a glimpse of the figure's face, his mouth dropped open in shock.

How could he not be shocked when a figure who stood out in the football world as the image of hard work, unwavering dedication and determination, and egoistic pride that was supported by results, was training right in front of him?

Jason wasn't someone who focused on the news a lot, but while glancing at the news in passing in the last few days, he was sure he had seen something about the Portuguese national team being unable to use their stadium in Oeiras for home matches for a while and apparently, they would be using other stadiums in Portugal for the time being.

Jason did not know why the stadium in Oeiras could not be used as he had only glanced at the news in passing since it didn't really concern him, but Jason had not expected to see a player from the Portuguese national team at the Porto training ground.

What was even more shocking was that the player was Cristiano Ronaldo.

'Am I dreaming right now?' Jason thought to himself as he slapped a palm against his right cheek and winced slightly at the pain, immediately confirming that he wasn't dreaming.

The slap had seemingly shaken Jason's brain into functioning and he realized that the stadium that was probably selected to be used by the Portuguese national team this time was probably the Estadio do Dragao.

If that was the case, then it wasn't too far-fetched that CTFD Portogaia could be used as a training ground by the national team, but despite realizing that, Jason's nervousness did not disappear.

'Should I go meet him and ask for an autograph? Or maybe a picture? Or maybe we can train together?' Different thoughts started running through the mind of a hopeless Cristiano Ronaldo fan.

Just like how Jason had quite a few fans now, Jason was also a fan... a staunch and unredeemable fan of Cristiano Ronaldo.

He had been a fan of Cristiano Ronaldo in his previous life despite both of them being of similar ages, Cristiano Ronaldo stood out to him as what he aspired to become.

Rising over everyone with not just talent but unwavering dedication and hard work that put him in the same picture as Lionel Messi, the greatest football talent to have ever graced the football field.

Ronaldo was that guy, and Jason could not help but respect him.

One of the major pillars of Jason's drive to strive to become the best was inspiration from Cristiano Ronaldo who showed that with enough hard work, even the insurmountable could be mounted.

Cristiano Ronaldo was the personification of everything Jason had aspired to be but failed, but even now that he had gotten another chance and was on track to becoming a player as great as Cristiano Ronaldo, Jason still couldn't keep his excitement in check.

He was internally fanboying hard, but then a sudden thought struck him as he saw Cristiano Ronaldo glance at him for a second and then continue with his training.

'Even though he stands at the peak of more than what I hoped to be, he's still here training hard while I'm already leaving the training ground,' this thought suddenly appeared in his head and immediately cooled off his excited thoughts.

Right now, he had merely embarked on his journey to arrive at the top, and he was still not even in his prime age yet, but Ronaldo who was already at an age where most footballers had either retired or were planning to was training harder than him without getting distracted for a second.

Jason suddenly felt ashamed of himself.

Various thoughts that could justify his actions popped up in his head.

He was just coming off an injury and had already overdone his training, excessive training could prove to be harmful, e.t.c.

All those thoughts swirled around in his head and tried to make him feel better, but Jason couldn't accept it.

He had already failed to reach the top once, but even after getting another chance he was still not doing the best he could possibly do.

As for the thought that he had already done his best, Jason called bullshit on that thought.

Jason didn't know when Ronaldo arrived, but estimating that Ronaldo came earlier than his teammates and was still here, it was impossible for Jason to have trained more than him, yet Jason's muscles were already screaming.

If his muscles were screaming, then Ronaldo was probably going through worse especially since he was double of Jason's age, yet he still stubbornly persisted.

'I'm not doing enough,' Jason thought to himself as he turned around and headed out of the training ground and went to his car.

He was too embarrassed to walk up to Ronaldo who he admired and wanted to surpass when he wasn't even doing enough.

Jason quickly drove home and despite the hunger pangs that were hitting him waves, he went to the room where he kept his gym equipment and hopped on the treadmill.

From that day henceforth, he planned to train till he was half-dead.

Merely surpassing the limits wasn't enough, he had to surpass the surpassed limits time and time again until he could stand above everyone.

Maybe at that time, he wouldn't be embarrassed to stand beside a player like Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi.

Chapter 273: A Glance from the Great

****14th October 2020****

6:03 am

Jason arrived at the CTFD Portogalia at a time earlier than he had ever done before and he quickly headed to the training ground for the Porto senior team, hoping to get in a few hours of personal training before the team training began.

On his way to the senior team's training field, he was passing by the Porto Juniors training field when he suddenly had an urge to check whether Ronaldo had already arrived and was training.

Sure as can be, when Jason went in to check, he came across Ronaldo doing laps around the field and it was clear that Ronaldo had already been there for a while.

Thus Jason's first internal confrontation against Ronaldo ended with his loss.

Ronaldo had left the training ground later than Jason the previous night and though Jason had done some physical training at home, to him, it didn't count as he knew that while he would not be having a match until at least the seventeenth of the month when Porto would be going up against Sporting CP, Portugal was having a match that very day.

It was a friendly match against Serbia, but Jason knew that it was almost impossible for Ronaldo to not feature in the match, yet here he was training like that was all that mattered in the world.

Shaking his head at his own inadequacies, Jason turned around and began walking away, intending to go and do his own training as it was clear that his work ethic was still quite lacking.

As he walked away from the field, he didn't see Cristiano Ronaldo glance at him with an interested smile as he ran.

Though he usually spent most of his time in his training, it was impossible for Ronaldo to not know about Jason who had been making waves in the football world ever since his appearance on the Porto team roster midway through the previous season.

Jason's face was also especially difficult to forget if one had seen it once, not to mention that they were under the same agency so it was impossible for Ronaldo to not have seen or heard of Jason, especially now that he was in Porto and the news was full of Jason's return to training.

When Jason had stopped by the day before, Ronaldo had immediately recognized him and knew that it was his first day back at training after an injury thanks to the noise the media was making about it, yet Jason had trained till late even after his teammates had left.

To Ronaldo, that was already worthy of commendation, but it seemed that Jason wasn't satisfied with himself after seeing Ronaldo himself at the training ground after him.

Ronaldo could see through all this because Jason's emotions could be seen in his eyes which was not a normal thing for Jason, but it seemed like his agitation at seeing Ronaldo had brought down his mental defenses quite a bit without him noticing.

It also helped that Ronaldo could recognize the look easily as it was a look that Ronaldo himself usually had on his face.

He was never one to accept that someone else was putting in more effort than him and he quickly noticed that trait in Jason.

Thinking to himself that the future of football was bright, Ronaldo returned his full focus back to his training.

There was nothing for him to do as it seemed like Jason was already on the right path, and he wasn't going to go out of his way to help someone else get better when he still had work to do.

Thus the path of those two personalities once again diverged after coming to a brief intersection.

Whether there would be another intersection in their paths, neither of them knew, but they also knew that if it truly happened, then it would happen on the green.

When that happened, neither of their previous thoughts would come up and all they would think about was how to get the better of the other person.

Jason headed to the training grounds for his team and began his own training.

He first began with warm-up exercises to heat up his muscles and prepare them for the training session, and once he was done warming up, he began with a light jog.

He might have called it a light jog, but he planned to run laps around the field for an hour and he quickly got to it, keeping his breathing constant and his motions rhythmic.

This was a stamina-building exercise as Jason knew that despite his current stamina that seemed to be high, it wasn't enough to support his high-octane movements throughout a full 90-minute match.

That was why there were periods of silence from him in games that he played the full 90 minutes.

His body simply couldn't keep up with all the movements he wanted them to do for as long as 90 minutes so he usually conserved energy and only burst out whenever there was an absolute need for him to do so.

He could decide to maintain the same tactic, but he knew that his opponents in the future would soon grasp onto that weakness and come up with a tactic to keep him silent for most of the game.

The other teams weren't stupid, hence he had to keep improving and covering up his shortcomings.

His solution to the stamina problem was an improved stamina and a restructuring of his movements to consume less energy to get past an opponent.

Neither of the two solutions was easy to achieve, but he had time so he had picked up the easier solution for the time being which was improving his stamina, as restructuring one's movements wasn't something that could be done easily because as at this point, all his movements were more of habits that he had gained through repetitive training than conscious movements.

He did them without thinking about his next move and his body usually moved before his mind caught up in some situations hence it wouldn't be easy to change the movements that had been so deeply rooted they were more of muscle memory than actual memory.

Increasing stamina was way easier so he would focus on improving stamina while slowly restructuring his movements.

With those thoughts, he kicked off his training and began jogging around the wide field.

Chapter 274: Liga NOS 2020/21, Matchday 4

****17th October 2020****

{The international break was over and the players had returned to their clubs for the professional leagues around the world to continue}

{Today is matchday 4 for the Porto team who will face Sporting CP here at Estadio Jose Alvalade in Lisbon}

{Porto have a lot to do if they are to redeem themselves after their last loss against Maritimo, but Sporting CP who currently stand at the top of the Liga NOS rankings will not make it easy for them}

{The players step on the green with full focus and the determination to win written all over their faces}

{As usual, Porto seem to be arranging themselves in their usual 4-4-2 formation that gives them enough control defensively and in the midfield, while also allowing them to quickly strike from all sides and overload the opponent's penalty area when they are on the attack}

{The line-up for the Porto side features Augustin Marchesin in goal as usual}

{The team captain Pepe will be pairing up with Ivan Marcano in the defensive center while they will have Zaidu Sanusi and Wilson Manafa on the flanks}

{In the middle of the park, we have Otavio and Mattheus Uribe in the center hoping to control the midfield while supporting their teammates both offensively and defensively once the situation arises}

{On the wide sides of the midfield are Jesus Corona on the right and Luis Diaz on the left. They will play along with the two in the center to keep the ball moving while also making runs down the wing to supply the forwards when they can find some space}

{Speaking of forwards, Porto has a striking partnership between Sergio Oliveira and Moussa Marega and they will be hoping to get one or two past Sporting CP's goalkeeper today}

{The Sporting CP's line-up sees the return of a player that the Porto fans have been waiting eagerly for. Jason Bolu is back on the team, but the manager doesn't seem to plan to risk starting him yet and he is on the bench}

{However, the Porto fans would be hoping to see him get some minutes in the second half as long as the manager's gameplan concurs}

{The Sporting CP lineup is as follows...}The commentator went on to dictate the rest of the Sporting CP's line-up. With the pre-match formalities over the game kicked off.

Sporting CP was the one that kicked off the game.

The game got off to a quick start with sporting CP beginning to pass the ball around while evading the Porto players and slowly moving the ball forward, advancing through the Porto midfield.

Porto didn't just let them through but did their best to push them back, but Sporting CP did not give up and kept pushing forward and soon they found a chance.

Goncalves soon found Pedro Neto on the left side of Porto's penalty box with a through ball.

Pedro Neto stepped past Wilson Manafa and sent a cross inside the penalty box, Santos leaped into the air, out-jumping everyone and getting his head to the ball first.

The ball flew to the right side of the post after bouncing off Santos' head.

Augustin Marchesin dived after the ball, but couldn't reach and the ball nestled into the back of the net.

{GOAL!!!}

{It's sporting CP's who score first!}

{Pass after pass, they broke down Porto's defense and smashed one past the goalkeeper!}

{Porto are stunned! Things are already not looking good for them!} The commentator shouted in excitement as the sporting CP team went on to celebrate in joy at having scored first against a tough opponent like Porto.

The Porto fans could only watch in dismay as their team conceded a goal in less than ten minutes of the game.

They could only keep their fingers crossed and hope that their team could make a comeback later in the game.

The celebrations were soon over and the game resumed.

The minutes that ensued were rough for both sides. Almost as if they had chosen violence within the next fifteen minutes, three yellow cards were shown to players from both teams.

Goncalves was the first person to get a yellow card and he was shown a yellow card by the referee just two minutes after his team went in the lead.

This was because the Porto team had reacted quickly and vigorously as they tried to get an equalizer after conceding so quickly but sporting CP wasn't planning to allow them and they reacted quickly.

Goncalves soon brought Diaz down when he tried to dribble past him.

A freekick was played and the game continued, but with fouls from the sporting CP side becoming more frequent, the Porto team quickly became impatient and started returning the violent challenges in kind.

Jesus Corona and Zaidu Sanusi soon got yellow cards as well in the 19th and 20th minutes respectively.

Despite the match getting rougher the Porto team did not lose sight of the goal, which was to equalise as quickly as possible.

Soon, the chance to do so arrived for them, with sporting CP making a mistake and losing the ball in the final third of the field.

Otavio quickly snatched the ball and took off down the field as fast as he could, before long he sent a through pass down the left wing towards Luis Diaz, who took control of the ball with a smooth flick of his foot.

Stepping over the ball a few times to trick his marker before suddenly darting towards the left and sending a cross into the penalty box of the sporting CP team.

The ball rose over every one and flew towards the middle of the box where Sergio Oliveira awaited with his body poised to jump.

As soon as the ball reached him he caught it off his head and sent it flying towards the right side of the goal, but the sporting CP goalkeeper reacted quickly and lunged for the ball, managing to get the tip of his fingers to it and deflected the ball.

CLANG!!!

The ball smashed off the right post and bounced back into play but before it could move further than a few metres, Jesus Corona appeared behind the ball and smashed it back into the net.

{GOAL!!!}

{Just 15 minutes after going behind the have equalised!}

{The keeper got to it the first time but couldn't react when it was rebounded back into the back of the net by the Porto man}

{They are back on equal terms!}

Chapter 275: Ups and Balances

With Porto back in the lead, they began to play more boldly, took more shots at the sporting CP team, and used their momentum to push the sporting CP team back.

The sporting CP team did not easily give in to the pressure from the Porto team and fought back as hard as they could, but it was clear the Porto team was pushing them back.

This continued for a while, and soon the end of the first half was rapidly approaching.

Porto had the momentum and they wanted to convert that momentum to a goal before the first half ended.

With an eye on the clock, they passed the ball around among themselves and soon the ball made its way to the edge of the sporting CP team's penalty box.

The Porto players exchanged the ball among themselves while preventing the sporting CP players from getting a touch on the ball.

Otavio soon found a chance to send the ball forward, and he didn't hesitate to do so.

The ball swept across the field towards the right where it was brought under control by Jesus Corona who quickly sent in a low cross.

The ball found Moussa Marega in the penalty box and he unleashed a dastardly shot at the goal, but the goalkeeper quickly reacted and jumped into the way of the shot, barely managing to reach it and push it out of the way for a corner kick.

With time running out, neither of the two teams wasted time and quickly ran up into the penalty box for the corner kick.

Otavio quickly took the corner and sent the ball flying into Sporting CP's penalty box where the players of both teams jumped into the air to contest for the ball.

Sergio Oliveira from the Porto team was the one who managed to get his head to the ball first, but the ball had hardly flown at the Sporting team's goal when it was blocked by a player and bounced back.

Mattheus Uribe happened to be inside the box but couldn't jump for the ball but when the ball came his way he quickly reacted and sent the ball flying at the goal with a resounding thump.

The goalkeeper wasn't able to react on time and by the time he could finally react the ball had already flown past him at a thunderous pace, smashing into the back of the net.

{GOAL!!!}

{A testament to their powers of recovery, a beautiful comeback goal just on the cusp of halftime}

{That has changed the dynamics of the game! Beautiful, beautiful goal!}

{Despite starting off on the wrong foot, it seems like things are finally going right for the Porto side} The commentator's excited cheers rang through the microphone and were broadcasted to the viewers.

It served as the perfect accompaniment to the Porto team's celebration and the Porto fans watching the match joined in on the celebration from their homes.

The Sporting CP team couldn't understand what had happened and how they were suddenly pegged back especially when they were the ones who had opened up the game.

But there was no time for them to think and the game soon continued only for the first half to end a few minutes later.

The players of both teams quickly trudged to their locker rooms for a rest and a tactical meeting among themselves and their managers.

In the Porto locker room, the head manager did not waste much time on applauding his players but quickly went into the game plan for the coming half.

Despite them taking the lead, he knew that they could just as easily be pegged back once again, hinch was something he wanted to avoid at all costs.

Thus he gave the appropriate instructions to each player on every side of the pitch and once the fifteen minutes of rest was over he sent his players back out to the field.

The Sporting CP team had had a similar conversation, but they were more focused on how to bring out the best of their attacking side so that they could quickly get an equalizer and then focus on taking the lead once again.

With the fifteen minutes of rest over, the match once again resumed with both teams once again tearing at each other and vying for a victory over the other, but despite the presence of excitement at both ends of the pitch, the scoreboard remained the same.

It didn't take long for the managers of the two teams to start making substitutions.

On the Porto side, Sergio Conceicao first took off Sergio Oliveira and put Mehdi Taremi on, while also taking off Zaidu Sanusi to bring on Chancel Mbemba.

With them having three center backs on the team, the Porto head manager thought that the team would be safer against attacks from the opponent, and the team transitioned into a 3-5-2 formation from their usual 4-4-2.

But despite the changes to the line-ups from both teams, time continued running out without either of them being able to make a difference to the scoreline and soon there were only about ten minutes left in the game.

Looking at his bench, Sergio Conceicao decided to go full defensive instead of attacking and trying to get an extra goal which could leave the team vulnerable.

With that thought in mind, he made one last change which was to bring on Diogo Leite for Wilson Manafa which led to his team having 4 center-backs on the pitch, however, their shape remained the same and instead the newest defender was given a free roaming duty to move to anywhere the ball was and shut down the opposition player while the other three CBs would stay in place.

For a while it worked, and then suddenly the Sporting CP team which despite making chances earlier had been unable to cause any waves suddenly pushed forward, overloading the Porto team's half of the field and sweeping through them.

The ball moved quickly among the green and white shirted players while evading the Porto players and soon, they had arrived in front of the Porto pass.

Neto quickly evaded Diogo Leite and sent a pass to Vietto who took the shot with his first touch on the ball, sending it towards the bottom left corner of Porto's goal.

Augustin Marchesin immediately dived after the ball, but he was unable to reach and could only watch as the ball rolled past his outstretched palm.

Chapter 276: Prelude to UCL Opening Game 2020/21 Season

{Goal!!!}

{We thought it was over! But they are dragging it back!}

{In the dying minutes of the game, sporting CP have gotten their equalizer!}

{Is there still time for one more!?!} The commentator shouted exuberantly, his excitement almost palpable enough to see.

{The Porto team are stunned to have their lead snatched from them in the dying minutes of the game!}

{Whatever shall they do next!?!}

Sergio Conceicao was stunned at what was happening and he couldn't keep his voice down as he shouted at his players who had let the ball get past them.

Even the Porto players couldn't believe what was going on and could only stare in confusion and disappointment as their opponents celebrated wildly in front of them.

The poor performance of the Porto defenders that led to the goal left the fans livid and they began to openly swear at the players who did not shoot down the sporting CP players in time.

The sporting CP players and fans did not care about the Porto players or their fans and only cared that they had equalized the game in the dying minutes.

The game soon resumed with Porto's kick-off, and immediately after kick-off, the Porto team charged into the sporting CP's half of the field, trying to reclaim their lead, but the sporting CP team seemed to have come to an agreement that they would rather end the game in a draw.

Thus despite Porto's attempts and efforts to try and regain their lead, the sporting CP team stayed defensive, not budging from their half of the field.

With that, time continued running until it ran out.

Fweeeeeeeee

The referee blew the final whistle, and the game came to an end.

The final score was Sporting CP 2 – 2 Porto.

Overall, it was not a bad result for either side, but Porto wished they had won instead because this merely the fourth matchday yet they are had dropped points again.

Sporting CP had also dropped points but they had only dropped to the second position while Porto remained in the sixth position only due to their high goal difference.

The fans were not happy either even though they had fought a team like sporting CP to a draw. It was still early in the season yet their team was already dropping so many points and they were not happy about it.

Unfortunately, the game was already over, and there was nothing they could do about it.

Once again, they could only look forward and hope that this string of bad performances had come to an end, but they doubted whether their team could win their next game.

The next opponent of the Porto team was Manchester City and it was also the opening game of their Champions League campaign, and it did not need to be said that it was going to be a tough game for them.

The Manchester City team was no soft persimmon and was definitely a harder nut to crack than Sporting CP, yet Porto hadn't even managed to defeat sporting CP and the Porto fans could not help having doubts about the coming game.

They could only hope that their team had it in them to not be defeated too badly by Manchester City.

As the players headed off the field, they exchanged words with each other. Jason had expected and hoped that the head manager would give him a chance but clearly the manager had other plans and Jason wasn't able to come on.

He knew it would take some time before he could be back on the pitch but he hoped it could be earlier and wished that the manager had given him a chance in the game but the manager had not even considered him.

Hopefully, he could be part of the team in the next match.

Those were Jason's thoughts as he avoided the reporters and headed into the tunnel.

He didn't know what the reporters were thinking that they were looking to interview him when he hadn't even stepped on the pitch, but whatever their reasons, he didn't like it because it felt shady, hence he avoided them and headed to the team locker.

In the team locker, Jason started preparing to leave and it didn't take long for him to get ready since he hadn't played, but just as he was zipping up his bag, the manager finally arrived in the locker room and he did not look happy.

Given that the results of the game weren't too bad, Sergio Conceicao did not look like an angry dragon, but more like a slightly peeved cat, yet even that was enough for the players to know that he wasn't pleased with what had happened on the pitch.

"I'm not going to sugarcoat it lads, you played shit in the second half..."

"You were especially sloppy in the last minutes of the game, but you didn't do well enough to further our lead within all that time and you even lost it,"

"We need to correct that if we are going to have a chance against Manchester City on Wednesday," Sergio Conceicao let out his inner thoughts to the players, but didn't let his anger at drawing the game make his tone harsher than it should be.

"With that in mind, I expect to see all of you in training tomorrow, we have a lot of work to do," the Porto head manager said his final words and headed out again, leaving the players behind in the locker room to finish packing up.

The locker room once again filled up with conversations as the manager left.

The players weren't too burdened by their draw against the Sporting CP team, rather they were more infuriated instead and had to let out their aggravation by talking about it.

Some blamed themselves, some blamed others some simply laughed it off, some took the opportunity to make jokes out of the situation, and a rare few had already put the match behind them and were focusing on the next game.

Jason was among the rare few who were already focusing on the next game, but he joined the guys making jokes to make fun of some of the other guys.

When the Porto team finally got on the bus laughing and joking with each other, the people who saw them thought they had won the game instead due to how animated they were.

Chapter 277: The Blue Side of Manchester I

****Wednesday, 21st October 2020****

8:03 am

The Porto players had begun arriving at the CTFD Portogaia as early as 7:00 am because they were supposed to leave for England that morning by 9 am, thus they had arrived early and started packing their luggage into the bus and getting on the bus.

Jason had arrived a bit late which wasn't like him but since he had been training till late the day before, he had not rushed himself that morning as he didn't want to exhaust himself any further.

He wasn't feeling too tired, but he didn't want to stress himself in any way that morning and had woken up just before 7 and leisurely cleaned up before strolling out of his house, grabbing his previously packed luggage, and getting into his car.

Despite all this, he still managed to get to the training center before 8 am.

With his earpods in his ear, he hummed as he climbed the stairs leading up to the bus,

“Yeah, I’m in this bit*h with the terror, got a handful of stacks, better grab an umbrella,”

“I make it rain, I make it rain,”

“I’m in this bit*h with the terror, got a handful of stacks, better grab an umbrella, I make it rain,”

“I make it rain on them h*es, I make it rain,” Jason sang while bobbing his head as he looked around for an open seat and found one beside Fabio Viera who was calling him over.

Dapping Fabio before he took his seat, Jason sat down and took out his earpods from his ear, briefly pausing his music and asked Fabio,

“Where’s Coach?”

“He stepped out to get something, but he said we’ll be leaving in about ten minutes. If you came any later, you might have missed the bus and the match,” Fabio responded to Jason.

“Why are you just coming though?” He asked, knowing that Jason was normally not punctual because he usually arrived ahead of the appointed time.

“Nothing really, I just wanted to sleep in for a bit,” Jason replied half-mindedly.

“... Alone, or something you were doing last night had you weak in the knees?” Mylo who was seated behind them suddenly chimed in.

“Fu*k off man, not everyone is like you,” Jason shot back in an annoyed tone as he immediately understood what Mylo was getting at.

“Hey, I was alone last night,” Mylo protested immediately as he felt his honor being poked at.

“And how many times this year is that?” Jason asked him, turning to look back at him.

“... Not including the lockdown period...” Jason added as he remembered the lockdown period when they were stuck in their homes.

“Hmm, that’s 1, 2, 3...” Mylo immediately began counting with the aid of his fingers.

“I think it’s like my seventh time this year,” Mylo finally answered back with a grin.

“Exactly,” Jason scoffed as Mylo had just proved his point, but the others who were listening to the conversation couldn’t believe their ears.

“Wait, what!?” Fabio Viera exclaimed incredulously.

“Bruh, what the fu*k?” Otavio couldn’t believe his ears either.

“Chill guys, seven is a lot, I know, I’m literally a virgin at this point,” Mylo cut in, speaking tearfully.

“You say what?” Zaidu Sanusi exclaimed laughingly in a thick Nigerian Accent.

“Do you like, have a girlfriend... Or like two?” Fabio Viera asked curiously.

“I wondered the same thing at first when I first started living with him, but after seeing ten different girls in seven days, I stopped wondering,” Jason answered the question before Mylo could open his mouth.

“Cheiiii! Ten girls in seven days! How!?” Zaidu Sanusi asked in shock, his Nigerian accent making his reaction more comical than it actually was and a few other guys were already laughing hard.

"This guy is a menace to society," Jason said as he picked up his earpods again.

"The real question is where does he even find many girls?" Fabio Viera immediately asked the most important question.

"I don't even know bruh, but I started being thankful that my sister is in heaven instead of being on the same planet with this guy," Jason answered with a little laugh, but he actually meant his words as there was no way he would have wanted a female family member of his to be anywhere around someone like Mylo.

"Hey!!!" Mylo finally couldn't take it anymore and shouted

"I got respect for you bro, but no, I wouldn't trust you with anything that has a hole," Jason shot back in response to Mylo's aggravated shout.

"Hey!!!" Mylo shouted aggravatedly again as he could hear his reputation being tattered.

"I'm with Jason on this, stay away from my sisters should you ever have the luck to even meet them," Otavio immediately began taking steps to protect his family.

"Heyyyy!!!" Mylo shouted incredulously and was about to defend himself when Sergio Conceicao got on the bus, putting an end to the conversation.

"I'm guessing everyone's here," The Porto head manager spoke as his eyes quickly swept across his players, and not noticing any face missing from the ones he had selected, he immediately gave orders for the driver to begin moving as he also took his seat.

The bus quickly began moving through the streets of Porto and soon reached the airport.

Without much of a hassle, they headed onto the team's private jet.

The necessary checks had already been done before the players arrived and it wasn't long before they were in the air.

The plane was in the air for about two and a half hours before the passengers noticed the plane beginning to descend, letting them know that they had arrived in Manchester.

The plane touched down at the Manchester Airport (MAN) and the players swiftly deboarded as they had to quickly head to their accommodations for a short rest before they began their final preparations for the game.

After finishing the check-ins, the Porto players got on a bus that had been loaded with all their luggage and the bus headed out.

On the bus that drove towards the Dakota Manchester hotel where the team had made a reservation, Moussa Marega pulled out a Bluetooth speaker.

"If we're in the UK then we gotta have some UK music, innit?" He said, his voice taking on an overly exaggerated British accent.

"Both hands on the back when I tap it, grab it, and slap it, Becky a savage,"

"Let me show you a magic trick, you can have this dick after that man vanish," the speaker blasted out the remix track of the Drill track; Keisha & Becky by Tion Wayne, Russ Millions, Aitch, Swarmz, Sav'o, and JAY1.

The music enthusiasts who knew the song rapped along as much as they could, while the others just ignored Marega's antics.

The bus carrying the players soon arrived at the Dakota Manchester hotel at almost 1 pm and the players got off and moved into the hotel and checked in, receiving keys to their rooms.

Before heading to their rooms, the players first had lunch at the restaurant in the hotel before heading to their rooms to rest till 4 pm.

Jason headed to his room as well and as soon as he got into the room, he set an alarm for 3:30 pm before jumping onto the comfy bed and immediately falling asleep.

BRNGGGGG!!!

Jason's phone rang loudly and immediately put an end to a slumber he was enjoying, but duty called and he didn't dare to snooze the alarm.

He immediately got up and headed to the bathroom to wash his face.

Washing his face with the refreshingly cool water, the remnants of sleep that remained in his eyes quickly disappeared and Jason glanced at himself in the mirror.

His gleaming blue eyes stared back at him, but there was nothing to see apart from a face he saw in the mirror every day.

Soon a slight smile appeared on his mostly impassive face as he once again remembered that he was about to be part of a Champions League game for the first time in his two lives.

'Who would have thought?' Jason wondered to himself, unable to wipe the smile on his face away.

Looking back at his previous life when he had thought his dreams were over, he would never have believed that he could take part in a Champions League game as anything more than a spectator because anything above that was not open to him.

He couldn't even be a pundit or a commentator in a Champions League game in his previous life.

He simply didn't have the qualifications for that...

But now, everything has changed.

He was about to head to a Champions League game as a player and even though he wasn't sure if he would play or not as the manager hadn't announced the starting line-up, Jason knew that even being on the bench was something he could never hope to achieve in his past life.

That being said, Jason wasn't about to settle for just being on the bench and he hoped that the manager would give him a chance on the pitch, even if it wasn't a starting position.

With these thoughts in mind, Jason began dressing up in a black suit.

Chapter 278: The Blue Side of Manchester II

A black bus drove into the grounds of the ETIHAD stadium and parked in front of the opening into the stadium.

The Porto players began to come down from the bus looking smart in their black suits as they walked into the stadium amidst the flashes of dozens of cameras capturing all their movements.

Jason also came down behind Fabio Viera and Mylo but Jason's dressing was a bit different from the rest as he wore a double-breasted overcoat over his suit due to the cold temperature of the surroundings... or at least, that was his excuse for looking like a Peaky Blinder.

He looked more like somebody going on a business trip to off somebody than somebody who had a football match to play in a few hours.

Waving at the cameras as he walked by, Jason quickly made his way into the ETIHAD stadium with his teammates as they headed to the locker room assigned to them.

Once in the locker room, the Porto players began to undress out of the stuffy suits that they had worn into the stadium, and dressed up in more comfortable sportswear that they would use to train before the match.

while most of the players began to get ready for the pre-match training Sergio Conceicao and Pepe, the team captain, and Sergio Oliveira, the team's vice-captain headed out for a pre-match press conference.

Despite the manager, captain, and vice-captain leaving the players behind, the other club staff, namely the assistant coaches, led the players to the field to begin their training.

in the Porto locker room, the players were back inside after completing their pre-match training. the head manager had also come back with the other players that he took along with him to the press conference.

With all the physical preparations done and the match's starting time rapidly approaching it was time for the manager to select the team's starting line-up, the bench players, and the game plan.

the lineups would be shared through the media after the players in the starting lineup were selected by the manager, but the game plan of the Porto team would not be shared with the media.

"All right boys, let's get into it,"

"Our formation would remain the same 4-4-2 as usual,"

"For the starting lineup, Augustin Marchesin will be in goal, defending the sticks,"

"Our two center-backs will be Pepe and Chancel Mbemba, I don't need to tell them their jobs I believe, I'll be expecting them to take out every threat to our defense should come too close for comfort," Sergio Conceicao began filling out the jobs of each player in the formation.

"In the right back position we will have Wilson Manafa, and in the left back position, we will have Zaidu Sanusi, I expect them to do their defensive duties while also staying open enough to help on the counter should the opportunity present itself," the Porto head manager said while looking at the two concerned players.

"In the center of the park, Otavio and Mattheus Uribe will partner up to control the midfield and contribute to the attacking and defending jobs of the team,"

"If we have the ball I expect those two to keep the ball moving around. they should be the connection between the forwards and defenders, and once the ball is in the final third I want them to be just behind the strikers,"

"There," Sergio Conceicao said as he pointed to the spot on the whiteboard where he was to explain the formation.

"They must be ready to support the strikers if they ever get boxed in, once they receive the ball, I want them to send it down the flanks where there should be more space" the manager further explained.

"Ignoring that, they also should help the defensive efforts of the team when we do not have the ball,"

"Moving on, the left winger will be Luis Diaz, while the right winger will be Jesus Corona,"

"I want the two of you to run down the wings at every opportunity you get,"

"Our opponents have especially fast wingbacks which means that we cannot usually outrun them, but because of the attacking nature of their team, the wingbacks usually go up to join the attackers which means as long as we're fast enough we can break through from the flanks, especially from the right,"

"We will be depending on you two for that. If the opportunity to run into the box comes, don't hesitate. Still, if the wingbacks can get back in time to stop our attacks, then you can send the ball into the penalty box instead," Sergio Conceicao made it clear what he wanted to see from the wingers.

"Our two strikers for the match will be Mehdi Taremi and Sergio Oliveira, who will be partnering with each other to try and break past our opponents whenever they leave themselves open,"

"I want you guys to run into spaces once they open up so that your teammates can send the ball to you," Sergio Conceicao said as he drew the line with an arrowhead trying to depict what he wanted the strikers to do.

“I think you guys have the idea of what I want to see from you in the match,” Sergio Conceicao said with a gesture at the board that was now filled with all sorts of drawings and lines.

the players nodded affirmatively as the manager had been descriptive enough with his instructions.

“On the bench are the rest of you who did not hear your names in the starting line-up,” Sergio Conceicao said to finish up the basics of the meeting.

While the confirmed line-up of both teams was released to the public, the players and their managers stayed in the locker rooms to continuously go over the game plan and give even more specific instructions to each player.

the time passed quickly and soon it was time for the players to head out to the field with the starting Time of the match quickly approaching.

**

{It is finally here, the long-awaited, long anticipated, and long-expected day for the Porto and Manchester City fans has finally arrived}

{Today is their team’s opening day in the Champions League, the first game that either of the two teams would be playing in this competition}

{The fans have waited patiently, and they finally will be satiated with this exciting encounter between the Champions of England and the Champions of Portugal}

{What should we expect from the game!?!}

{My name is Derek Rae and my partner in co-commentary is Alan McKenzie} The main commentator of the game gave his introductory remarks as the players of the two teams stepped out of the tunnel and walked onto the pitch.

{The Champions League football is back again in the 2020/21 season of football}

{It began yesterday with other teams already having their opening match and now we are here in what is arguably the biggest match of the night, it is Manchester City versus Porto here at the ETIHAD stadium}

{Porto will have to be careful in this match against this opponent if they hope to gain anything from the game as we've seen many teams crumble in front of this club, especially here at their home ground}
Alan McKenzie added his own commentary to the game.

{Let's go straight into the lineups of the two teams} Derek Rae once again began commenting.

{The Manchester City side seems to be arranging themselves in their usual 4-3-3 formation that we've seen and known to be a personal favorite of their manager Pep Guardiola}

{The Brazilian Ederson will be in goal}

{Kyle Walker and Oleksandr Zinchenko will be the wingbacks partnering up with John Stones and Eric Garcia in the Center of the defense to keep the Porto forwards at bay}

{In the central defensive position is the legendary Fernandinho Who is also the team captain, and with him are Ilkay Gundogan and Bernardo Silva in the midfield}

{Up front, we have Riyad Mahrez on the right, Raheem Sterling on the left, and Sergio Aguero in the center}

{Manchester City will be looking to control possession of the game which Porto is also known for so we may end up seeing a battle for possession, or maybe either of the two teams has something different in store for us}

{Moving on to the Porto side...} Derek Rae went on to list out the players in Porto's starting lineup while the players arranged themselves on the pitch while waiting for the whistle to kick off the game.

The captains of the two teams waited while the referee did the coin toss and it landed on heads.

With Fernandinho having chosen heads, the Manchester side had won the toss and Fernandinho chose to pass first.

With that, Pepe selected a side and shook hands with Fernandinho before the two captains went to join their teammates telling them of the final decision.

While the players arranged themselves on the field and waited for the referee's whistle to start the match, the bench players of the two teams settled in their seats, waiting patiently for the match to start.

Chapter 279: The Blue Side of Manchester III

Fweeeeee

The whistle in the mouth of Andris Tremanis who was the referee for the match blasted loudly as he blew into it, signifying the start of the match.

The Manchester City team was the one to kick off the game and it was Aguero who stood over the ball and sent it back into his team's half of the field, the ball rolling towards Ilkay Gundogan who quickly got it under control and sent the ball back towards Riyad Mahrez on the right.

The Porto players immediately rushed at the Manchester City team that was looking to start an attack.

With the Porto players fanning out and blocking any forward passing lanes, Riyad Mahrez didn't have any way to send the ball forward and he quickly opted to send the ball back instead of trying to get through the Porto players by himself.

He didn't have that kind of agility and even if he did, he didn't dare to go against the team's playing style as that was a surefire way for him to get taken off by his manager.

With Mahrez sending the ball back, the Manchester City team fell back a little so that they could keep the ball moving and avoid losing possession.

Soon enough, however, they began moving forward with the ball and tried to break through the Porto players, but they inevitably ended up losing possession of the ball as the Porto players weren't leaving any space for the Manchester City team.

#14th minute...

The match had been underway for almost a quarter of an hour, but apart from a higher percentage of the possession stats, Manchester City hadn't been able to get anything going as opposed to the Porto team which had lesser possession but had already created a few chances.

Porto was currently ignoring possession and trying to catch Manchester City on the counter.

To do this, they would soak up pressure and once the Manchester City defenders were far enough from their positions, the Porto players would increase their defensive efforts and try to snatch the ball so that they could quickly strike their opponents on the counter.

This playing style had been working for the Porto team so far as they had already been able to strike the Manchester City team on the counter three times and already had two shots, one of which was on target and had been barely saved by Ederson because of the awkward position from which the shot was taken by Sergio Oliveira.

Of the other two counterattacks, the Manchester City defenders had been able to get back in time to stop one, and the other was shot off-target by Jesus Corona.

Currently, Manchester City was once again on the attack and trying to get their first meaningful shot of the game away, but the Porto players weren't budging and were holding down the fort defensively, leaving the Manchester City team with no other options but to keep the ball moving.

Gundogan had just received the ball and he quickly laid off the ball to Bernardo Silva who smoothly escaped a tackle from Matheus Uribe but wasn't able to do the same with Otavio who immediately pounced on him from behind and hassled for the ball.

With no options for a pass, Bernardo Silva opted to pass back to Fernandinho who trapped the ball under his foot and without wasting any time sent the ball towards Kyle Walker on his right, but just as the ball was about to reach Kyle Walker, a figure in a Porto blue and orange jersey burst forward and intercepted the pass while kicking it forward all in one smooth movement.

Luis Diaz immediately raced after the ball that he had just snatched from the Manchester City team, catching up to it in less than two seconds and immediately taking off down the left flank, running for all he was worth.

He quickly crossed the halfway line and kept running down the left flank, not daring to change direction as he could hear someone running behind him.

As Luis Diaz entered the final third, he began to slow down his pace slightly, and once he reached the left side of Manchester City's penalty box, he suddenly made as if to stop his run, surprising Kyle Walker who was already preparing to tackle him from the right once he started cutting inside.

Trying to stop himself from running past Diaz, Kyle Walker almost slipped and barely managed to slow himself down enough, but in that short moment, his legs were a bit too far apart from each other, allowing Luis Diaz to flick the ball in between his legs and jump over his outstretched right leg.

This time Kyle Walker wasn't able to react well and tumbled on himself while Luis Diaz who had gotten past him ran after the ball and quickly cut into the penalty box before sending a pass towards Sergio Oliveira who had just arrived outside the penalty box.

Luis Diaz had made the pass because of John Stones who stood in his path, but after making the pass, Diaz didn't give up on the attack and kept moving while making sure to stay onside, and just like he expected, Sergio Oliveira who had received the ball immediately caught on and sent a pass back the moment John Stones tried to commit to tackling Sergio Oliveira instead of marking Luis Diaz.

Luis Diaz immediately burst out to catch the pass and without taking a touch to get the ball under control, he wiped his foot swiftly against the ball, curling it around Ederson and watched it settle into the back of the net before running off to the sidelines to celebrate.

{GOAL!!!}

{Porto open up the game early with a devastating counterattack that Manchester City wasn't able to stop!}

{A clever interception, an absolutely splendid run from the goal scorer that left his marker tumbling and unable to recover, clever thinking with his pass to the nearby teammate, and he crowned all his efforts with a splendid finish!}

{We saw it coming from early on and now Porto has converted one of their chances and taken the lead against their opponents!}

{Manchester City has struggled to make an impact on the game so far and now they have been pegged back, What will happen from here!?!}

Chapter 280: The Blue Side of Manchester IV

There was a short pause in between celebrations because some Manchester City players had tried to claim the goal as an offside goal, but after a check with the VAR, the referee allowed the goal as Luis Diaz had somehow managed to stay onside, though narrowly.

With that, the celebrations of the Porto players continued.

While the Porto players celebrated their goal at the ETIHAD stadium, the Porto fans who couldn't be at the stadium did not show less enthusiasm and excitement as they celebrated from their homes.

On the sidelines, Sergio Conceicao clenched his fist and a hint of a smile appeared on his face as he turned away from the players celebrating.

He would not admit it, but he was more than a little happy at having taken her lead first, but he also knew that it was too early to get overly joyous at scoring a goal.

He knew how dangerous his players' opponents were, especially when they were on the back foot, and it was his job to remind his players before they got carried away.

As the Porto players headed back to their half of the field, Sergio Conceicao repeatedly told the players to maintain their focus and composure and the players nodded affirmatively as they took to their positions on the field.

Soon the game resumed with another kick-off from the Manchester City team after a shrill whistle blast from the referee.

#24th minute...

The match between Manchester City and Porto had heated up after Porto had scored and now the Manchester City team was raining down attacks in the form of players and balls into the Porto team's penalty box.

It was like the Manchester City team had chosen to no longer take a no from the Porto defenders as an answer and they somehow managed to squeeze the ball into the Porto penalty box and past the Porto players.

At first, Porto was able to keep up with most of the attempts by the Manchester City players, but soon they were being overwhelmed by the Manchester City players' constant rotation.

The off-the-ball movement of the Manchester City players was impossible to keep up with as every player on the Manchester City team was always moving to keep themselves free which always left at least one or two options open for a pass to the player with the ball.

Unsurprisingly enough, even with all the confusing movements from the Manchester City players, it was only the Porto players who were confused and finding it hard to keep up.

The Manchester City players were becoming freer and settling into their element and the Porto team's defensive grasp on them was rapidly loosening and after a few wasted chances, Oleksandr Zinchenko found Raheem Sterling with a through pass.

Raheem Sterling had just run past Wilson Manafa as he received the pass, smoothly bringing it under control and cutting inside the Porto penalty box from his wing.

With Raheem Sterling having escaped from his grasp, Wilson Manafa immediately began to chase him down, not willing to let him get away, but he had barely touched Sterling from behind with a plan to hassle him off the ball when Sterling crumbled to the floor like his skeleton was made of air.

Wilson Manafa's hand immediately went up in the air to signify that he had barely touched him, but as if the universe had decided to throw all the bad luck in the world his way, the referee's whistle blasted loudly behind him.

Wilson Manafa turned to face the referee pointing at the penalty spot and he immediately ran up to the referee to defend himself that he had barely touched the opponent, but the referee wasn't budging and all he did was put a hand to his ear and consulted the VAR.

However the VAR recorded that Manafa had indeed touched Sterling but as for how hard the collision was remained undecided which meant that it was up to the referee to decide whether to give the penalty or not and unfortunately for the Porto team, he decided to grant a penalty to the Manchester City team.

The Porto players could not believe that the referee actually gave the penalty and went up to complain, but apart from a threat that they would receive yellow cards for complaining further, they gained nothing and could only watch the Manchester City team set up for a penalty.

Sergio Aguero took the ball to the penalty spot as he was the one to take the penalty for his team.

He set the ball on the spot and used the spikes of his boot to create space behind the ball for a clean hit before stepping back and waiting for the referee's whistle.

The referee made sure everything was in place before putting his whistle to his mouth and blowing hard on it.

FWEEEEEE

Aguero ran at the ball with ease in his steps before smoothly hitting the ball down the middle of the goal while Augustin Marchesin had already dived down the left side of the goal.

{Straight down the middle and he puts it away!} Derek Rae shouted into the microphone with excitement

{That was very cheeky coming from Aguero and he would have been a laughing stock if the goalkeeper stayed in the middle, but luckily the goalkeeper misjudged him} Alan McKenzie calmly analyzed the goal, his tone not having as much excitement as his co-commentator.

{I don't think it was as much luck as it was experience and skill as we've seen him do this quite a few times} Derek smoothly put out his own opinion and ensured a non-stop flow of commentary.

{I don't know about that Derek, but what I do know is that Manchester City have equalized with that penalty} Alan took up the commentary a gain.

{Porto will be kicking themselves if they don't end up winning this game, what are your thoughts on the penalty decision, Alan?} Derek asked his partner in the box.

{It was clear that the Porto defender did come in contact with the Manchester City winger, but I don't think such a touch warrants a penalty, but the referee made the decision and the penalty was given} Alan replied without a pause, keeping the commentary flowing.

{You're right that the referee's decision cannot be changed and because of it, Manchester City has gotten their equalizer. Porto has a lot to do from now on if they want to keep Manchester City from building off the momentum of their equalizer and going on to score another} Derek Rae said as Porto once kicked off to resume the game.