

LEGENDS 331

Chapter 331: First Training Session with the National Team III

The ball rolled past the goal line, and Osimhen jogged toward Jason with a smile on his face.

“Nice one,” he said as he dapped Jason before glancing over at Zaidu who was getting up from the ground with a wry look on his face.

“Why you go dey dribble me like that now? E no make sense,(Why will you dribble me like that? It’s not cool bro),” Zaidu said aggrievedly to Jason as he walked over.

“You sef, no dey jump enter tackle like mumu(Well, you shouldn’t jump into tackles like an idiot),” Osimhen said while laughing, not caring to display any sympathy for his teammate.

“Don’t worry, I won’t dribble you like that next time,” Jason said with a smile, amused by the situation.

Jason and Zaidu usually trained together back at Porto, but most of the time, they were usually on the same team so Jason didn’t usually go up against Zaidu.

Even the few times they had gone up against each other, Jason usually just tried running past him after doing a few step-overs and didn’t do anything fancy, hence this was a first for him and Zaidu.

However, they did not have time to go over this matter as the manager quickly told them to go back and kick off again while also shouting out instructions, pointing out the obvious faults of the players.

Fweeeeee

Joseph Yobo blew his whistle again to signify kick-off and the internal scrimmage resumed.

Team A once again kicked off and after the kick-off, they looked sharper on the ball and the ball flowed smoothly between them better than before, but Team B’s players weren’t just for show and they performed equally as well to match up to their opponents.

Soon the ball was with Team B again and Shehu Tijani who was in possession sighted Jason making a run at Team A's defense line.

With his confidence in Jason's skills bolstered by Jason's earlier performance, Shehu didn't hesitate to send a forward pass that swept across the green at an amazing pace, making its way behind the defensive line.

The ball passed between William Troost-Ekong, the LCB, and Zaidu Sanusi, the LB, but Jason angled his run to burst past William's right before chasing after the ball and receiving the ball behind him.

Troost-Ekong was only able to watch Jason pull away from him as he was no match for Jason's pace, but Zaidu wasn't giving up on the ball so easily and gave chase to the ball.

Jason and Zaidu approached the ball from different angles, but Jason had a slight edge and reached the ball first with his first touch on the ball, he flicked the ball a little towards the right and the ball rolled in between the approaching Zaidu's legs as he was moving too fast and couldn't react.

"YEEEEEEHH!" some of the players shouted as they watched Zaidu get nutmegged, but Zaidu paid them no heed and immediately tried to recover as he was now in front of Jason, but just as he was turning so he could put himself into Jason's path, Jason flicked the ball forward, sending the ball between Zaidu's legs once again before he could recover his posture.

This time, Zaidu's legs involuntarily tried to react, but he only succeeded in tangling his legs up and falling over while Jason ran past him into the penalty box at Maduka Okoye.

"YEEEEEEEEHHH!" the exclamation from the viewers of the massacre(players included), was louder than the first time, but Jason wasn't done yet.

As he faced off against Maduka Okoye, he swung his leg at the ball to shoot, but just as the Super Eagles goalkeeper lunged into his path, Jason's leg stopped behind the ball and he flicked it towards the right instead, evading the goalkeeper before chipping the ball into the back of the net.

“YEEEEEEEEEEEEHHHHH!!!” this time, the “Yeeeeehssss ” were accompanied by the Nigerian players running at Jason in excitement.

Even the members of team A weren't left out of the excitement as they surrounded Jason, celebrating like they had just scored a goal in the FIFA World Cup Finals.

Gernot Rohr watched the training session turn into a rambunctious mayhem, but could only smile victoriously at the rowdy players surrounding Jason.

It seemed his decision to pull out all the stops to ensure that Jason played for the national team was correct and Jason had begun to validate his sense of judgment by winning over the team after less than an hour of training together.

Nigerians were among the most devout football fans all over the world and they loved their football teams playing exciting football which was exactly what Jason brought to the team.

Goals, assists, electrifying pace, and, amazingly swift but flamboyant dribbling skills were traits that were guaranteed to make any Nigerian football fan fall in love with a player, yet, Jason had all this and more, and even better... he even for them.

The moment Jason got on the pitch in Nigerian colors and displayed his skills, Gernot Rohr was sure that Jason would repeat what he had just done to his teammates to the Nigerian citizens.

Zaidu Sanusi had been used as a sacrifice, but it was all for the greater cause.

The situation soon quietened down and Zaidu walked up to Jason with his aggrievation written all over his face.

“It has been two minutes... two minutes bruhhh,” Zaidu couldn't say more than that and kept repeating it like a broken record.

Jason had quite literally promised that he wouldn't dribble him like that again and he hadn't... instead he had done worse.

At this point, Zaidu was already feeling a little regret that he had personally helped open up Jason's path to joining the Super Eagles, but the thought that it would be a lot worse if Jason decimated him on the field while wearing another country's colors, kept his regret from building up and he could only swallow his pain.

He had brought it on himself and now he had to face the consequences of his actions.

After getting some comforting from some of the players, the training session once again continued.

Chapter 332: First Training Session with the National Team IV

The internal scrimmage continued after that and as more time passed, the players became more at ease with each other and it was clear that their chemistry with each other was building up by the minute.

Soon, Gernot Rohr started making changes to the line-ups of the two teams.

He brought on the players who hadn't been among the starting lineup of the two teams and he also made the occasional switch of players from one team to the other.

He also gave more and more instructions to the players so that they could get more comfortable with each other, but soon enough the internal scrimmage had to come to an end.

After all, it was a training session and not an actual match so it couldn't be too intense or done for too long as that would affect the players' stamina in the coming game that was only two days away.

After the internal scrimmage, the head manager had the coaching staff take over the individual and role-specific training while he left to go begin working on a possible line-up and game plan for the coming game.

Before Jason could join the individual training however, he had to do a quick interview with some of the reporters so that they could be on their way.

Jason headed over to the reporters in the company of Joseph Yobo, the assistant coach who had performed as the referee in the scrimmage.

As soon as Jason walked up to the reporters and they were given the green light to begin an interview, the cameras quickly began rolling, a mic was put into Jason's face, and questions started flying at him from the reporters.

"Jason! It's a great pleasure to have you here in Nigeria and dressed in Nigerian colors as you begin training with the Super Eagles. People would like to know what influenced your decision to play for Nigeria despite your plethora of options?" A balding man who looked to be in his late forties asked Jason, holding a microphone with the words "SilverBird" printed clearly on the microphone jacket.

"I'm not quite sure how to answer that, but I have always held a lot of respect for the Super Eagles and their exploits, as well as the legends of the team who have helped the country achieve great things in the sports sector so when I got the call, I came running, eager to do my part," Jason had never had experience answering a question like this so he just said whatever came to mind.

"Welcome to the team then," the reporter responded with a smile before going on to ask another question,

"... I have to ask, it's been less than a year since you had your professional debut and you have already received an international call-up, how do you feel about that?"

"Well, I'm happy to have been given the chance to perform on the international stage so early in my career and hopefully I can deliver a performance worthy of the trust the manager has put in me by calling me up to the team," Jason said honestly, having it a bit easier with this question that didn't feel like it required an emotional answer.

Another reporter quickly took the place of the first reporter and asked Jason the next question as soon as he was done answering the previous reporter's second question.

"How would you say the atmosphere here at the Super Eagles camp compares to Porto?" another reporter asked, this one sporting an afro on his head and holding a microphone with the words "AIT" printed on it.

“Uh, I’d say the training here is equally as intense as it is at Porto, though the physicality here is quite different. These guys are so hard to push off the ball, but that makes it quite interesting and I think I have a lot to gain from training here,” Jason answered clearly.

“You’ve already started training with your teammates in preparation for the coming game against Sierra Leone on Friday. How would you say are the team’s chances of coming out on top in that clash?” a female reporter with a bob cut on her head that was presumably a wig waved a microphone with the words “Channels” on it in Jason’s face as she asked Jason another question.

“Well, I don’t have any experience in these kind of games as it will be my first time, haha,” Jason gave a small laugh before continuing,

“... but we’ve begun our preparations here and the team’s football has been shaping up nicely and I can see the effort of everybody on the team, so I believe that we have a good chance of coming out on top in the next game if we keep putting in this much effort and enthusiasm,” he continued, his accent sounding quite contradictory to the Nigerian accent in the voices of the reporters.

From there, Jason answered a few more questions from the reporters before he was finally released and he immediately headed back to the field to go rejoin his teammates in training.

The Nigerian players were a rowdy but loveable bunch and Jason soon found himself relating with them like they had known each other for a few years and this quickly built up their understanding of one another and further developed their team chemistry unknowingly.

After quite a few training drills that involved passing drills, agility drills, dribbling drills, shooting drills, one- touch and two-touch rondos, and even a one-on-one session between an attacker and a defender, the Super Eagles finally ended their training session at almost 5 pm.

Out of habit, Jason had wanted to stay back to continue his training till late, but his teammates weren’t having it and dragged him off the field along with them.

It was only later that Jason was told that the bus that carried the team usually came to bring all the players in the morning and left with all the players in the evening after training.

Also with tight schedules like the one they currently had, the players weren't allowed to do a lot of extra training so as to avoid exhausting or injuring themselves, however, there was a gym back at their hotel where the players could do a bit of physical training if they wished to after training.

Jason also later found out that he couldn't even do that tonight as they would be having dinner with the governor of Lagos state that evening which was a welcome party of sorts for Jason.

Chapter 333: Considerations for a New Home I

The dinner for the Super Eagles was held at the Radisson Hotel where the players were staying and it wasn't something held in a formal setting.

The players arrived at the private room for the dinner in white T-shirts and shorts with the Super Eagles Logo on their right breast.

The governor arrived a bit later and after a few festivities where Jason was called out and formally welcomed to the team while also taking a few pictures, the governor left as it was already quite late and the players got to demolish the food that had been prepared for them.

The table was lively and conversations were being held at every corner of the table between groups of players.

Jason was seated beside Osimhen and Zaidu, but Alex Iwobi and Ahmed Musa were seated nearby as well and were in a conversation.

As the most experienced person among all of them, Ahmed Musa had started by giving the four of them advice on their careers since all of them were at pretty big clubs around Europe.

Alex Iwobi had moved from Arsenal to Everton the previous year for a fee of 24 million pounds, Osimhen had joined Napoli from Lescage Lille at a price of 70 million pounds, and Zaidu had joined Porto from Santa Clara.

This made all of them pretty big transfers and Jason paled in comparison to them because he had been signed to Porto on a free transfer, but Porto was a pretty big team as well and the offers were already coming in for him making everyone sure that his exit from Porto wasn't too far off.

“Have you considered where you’ll want to play next?” Alex asked Jason as the conversation had turned to him since he was currently the one with the highest likelihood for a transfer in the coming transfer windows.

“... To be honest, I don’t know because I’ll have to get an offer from some clubs first before beginning to consider my choices, but I hope for somewhere exciting where I can play Champions League football at least,” Jason replied.

He wasn’t telling the whole truth as Adele had already been contacted by a few teams asking about his availability for a transfer in the coming transfer window, or in the summer transfer window of the coming year, but he wasn’t lying about not having made a decision.

Adele had already been contacted by Manchester United, Paris Saint Germain, Atletico Madrid, Borussia Dortmund, and a few other teams, but those four were the big names that had contacted Adele and that was already enough to surprise Jason.

Out of those four big names however, Manchester United seemed like they were the ones who wanted him the most as the level of enthusiasm they showed was much more than the rest, and they were willing to pull out all the stops to acquire him in the summer transfer window of the coming year... or at least that’s what he was told.

Paris Saint Germain had just added his name to their list of probable transfers since they had money lying around and could go into the market for whoever they wished, though that was causing them more bad than good.

Atletico Madrid seemed a bit more serious, but they wanted Jason on a free transfer instead and weren’t willing to spend any money on Jason whose price had been inflated way too much and would leave a huge dent on their finances.

Borussia Dortmund had a bit more enthusiasm and was willing to commit to signing Jason as long as they could either reduce his price to a reasonable level or raise enough funds to pull through with the deal.

Jason hadn't been able to make his decision as there weren't any final offers on the table yet and it was still a long way till the summer transfer window of the coming year since he didn't plan to leave Porto in the middle of the season.

However, if these were the final options he were stuck with when the time to make the decision came, he would rank his choices with Manchester United coming in as his first choice, Borussia Dortmund as second, Atletico Madrid as the third, and Paris Saint Germain as the last.

His reasoning for this was simple and though some of it was due to a bit of his bias, he thought his reasoning was objective enough.

Despite Manchester United's lack of success in the domestic league and on the continental stage ever since Alex Ferguson retired, joining the Manchester United team would have him compete at one of the top levels in the world and the team wasn't a bad one.

Maybe he could even win a few trophies there.

It also helped that they wanted him there quite a bit... also, Manchester United was a major part of Cristiano Ronaldo's origin story and Jason wanted to feel the atmosphere at Old Trafford and see if he could recreate some of his idol's achievements in the red shirt.

Borussia Dortmund and Atletico Madrid were in a close tie for Jason's second choice because they were very good options as well.

One was in the German Bundesliga where the physicality of the game was at one of the peak levels of competitiveness and intensity, while the other was in a league where the two behemoths of the game that housed the two GOATs of the current generation were... of course, Ronaldo had left Madrid already, but that didn't do much to Real Madrid's status.

However, the lack of effort on the part of Atletico Madrid who only wished to sign Jason on free was not something Jason wanted.

If he was going to sign for them on a free transfer, then that would mean he would have to stay an extra season at Porto because his contract didn't end until January 2022 and Porto had a six-month extension

clause to keep him with them till July 2022 which was something Jason would rather avoid, hence his decision to put Borussia Dortmund above Atletico Madrid.

As for Paris Saint Germain... Jason didn't know where to start.

Chapter 334: Considerations for a New Home II

Paris Saint Germain was actually a pretty good choice as they would be able to match up to Porto's asking price.

They would also be able to pay him a ginormous salary which was no doubt, very attractive, not to mention their line-up.

They had the best youthful talent in the football world in the person of Kylian Mbappe playing for them and they had the best of the best players in every position.

They also had players like Neymar Junior, Angel Di Maria, Julian Draxler, Mauro Icardi, Marco Verrati, Pablo Sarabia, Ander Herrera, Marquinhos, Presnel Kimpembe, Keylor Navas and many more.

Any of these players would have other clubs drooling at the chance to have them in their ranks and it was clear that their team was one of the best teams in all of Europe, but there was a major flaw this brought.

Jason wasn't one of the bias people who put down every league in the world but the top four which were the Premier League, La Liga, Serie A, and the Bundesliga, but Jason also knew that their title as the top leagues in the world wasn't a sham.

The French Ligue 1 wasn't too far off from the top leagues, but it still paled quite a bit in comparison and this had been validated by players who could easily make rounds in the Ligue 1 going to the top leagues and becoming unable to pull off such performances.

Radamel Falcao was one of such players and his outing from the Ligue 1 to the Premier League could not be said to be anything less than disastrous with him only able to net four times for Manchester United in twenty-six appearances in the 2014/15 season.

He was also only able to score one goal for Chelsea after 12 appearances for the club in the 2015/16 season which was way worse than Gonzalo Higuain and Alvaro Morata who were touted as Chelsea's worst transfers in the striker position.

Anthony Martial was another such player, but he was way better and was able to perform quite well outside the Ligue 1, his physicality was no match for the Premier League and he spent most of his time in Manchester United in the recovery rooms.

There were other examples like Bakayoko who couldn't hit top performances once they left the Ligue 1 despite constantly pulling off impressive performances in the French League.

The players at Paris Saint Germain however, weren't like those players.

They were tried and trusted players who had conquered leagues outside France before joining Paris Saint Germain, but this was where the problem began.

With player pedigree like that, and a team that was as impressive as that, the Ligue 1 which wasn't much of a challenge to the PSG players in the first place became like easy mode which took off their competitive edge, hence, despite qualifying for the Champions League every year, they hadn't been able to do much in the knockout stages and usually ended up being knocked out as early as the quarter-finals once they came up against any other European giants.

They had managed to make it to the finals in the previous season, but it was quite clear that their luck had a great deal to do with it as they hadn't faced any major European giant of their level until the finals and were only faced with Borussia Dortmund, Atalanta, and RB Leipzig.

Of those three, only Borussia Dortmund posed a bit of a challenge and Atalanta was a team that couldn't match up to them in any aspects.

Leipzig was the worst of those three as they hardly had any history with the Champions League or even at the top level at all. They had only surfaced recently and were shaking up the Bundesliga quite a bit due to Borussia Dortmund slacking off in the last few years, leaving Bayern as the only title contenders.

As soon as PSG were faced with Bayern in the finals, they lost.

Of course, there could be other reasons for this, but to Jason, it was clear that there was a major lack of competitiveness in the Ligue 1 which had relegated Paris Saint Germain to the bottom of the list among the main contenders for his signature.

He wanted to become a legend of the game and he would rather prove himself in tougher leagues than go to the Ligue 1 which people called a 'farmers league'.

'... Ok, maybe that is a little too biased,' he thought to himself wryly, but he wasn't changing his mind.

History was there as a guide for people to learn from and Jason would have to be blind to ignore the examples, especially Neymar Junior who was once touted as one of the greatest and was compared with Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, yet after his transfer to PSG, he slowly disappeared from the conversation.

Neymar went from being compared to Ronaldo and Messi to being compared with players like Sterling and Dybala.

Sterling and Dybala were good players of course, but imagine the disrespect.

Neymar, the prince born in an era of two kings being compared to mere nobles?

Nah... there was just no way Jason could ignore that and attribute it to Neymar's choices regarding money and his lifestyle.

Not when there was more than Neymar as an example.

Marco Verrati, a player who had burst onto the scene before Kevin de Bruyne and someone who was touted to become one of the next legendary midfielders at the level of Toni Kroos and Luka Modric also degraded to the level where he was being compared to the likes of Jorginho.

Like, what in heaven's mercy was that disrespect?

Of course, this was due to Marco Verrati's lifestyle choices as he never stuck to a strict lifestyle of a footballer and was always out partying.

Worst of all, he even began smoking at some point, yet no one called him out at the club because despite letting himself go, his raw talent was enough to still display top-level performances that other players could only dream of having.

Jason knew himself and knew that if he ever let money or pride get to his head and he stopped putting in the effort he was constantly putting in, he would crash faster than a house of cards when a tornado blew past and he would probably never be able to recover.

This was already his second chance and he doubted if he would get a third one so he had to be as cautious as possible of anything that could adversely affect his career even if it seemed like he was being too much or he wasn't thinking straight.

Chapter 335: Supa Eagles Tactical Dilemmas

After talking about their future prospects, the conversation shifted to more fun things and the night passed quickly and soon the players headed away from the table leaving nothing but empty plates behind.

From there they headed to their rooms and settled in for the night, wanting to have a good rest to prepare themselves for the coming day.

The next day at the training ground, the manager had the players have another internal scrimmage just like the previous day, but this time the two teams were using the 4-2-3-1 formation against each other.

The movements of the players on the field were a lot smoother compared to the previous day and it was very clear to see in the attacking, possession, and defensive efforts of the players as they went against each other.

After an hour of the simulated match training session, the manager had them stop the training, called for a tactical meeting, and started giving the players a detailed tactical setup of the tactics they would be using in the coming game.

It went without saying that they would be arranged across the field in the 4-2-3-1 formation since that was what they were training in, but the manager had made quite a few tweaks to the formation so it wasn't the same as a conventional 4-2-3-1 formation.

The reason for the manager going out of his way to make such a change to the formation he had almost always used with the Supa Eagles was of course, Jason.

From Jason's performance during training, it was clear that Jason would inevitably become a very important player on the team, but unfortunately, the position that the head manager wanted him to play was not the same one he played at his club.

The reason for Gernot Rohri not wanting him to play as a winger was because there was already an abundance of wingers on the team, not to mention that there were even some talented wingers that were not called up this time so putting Jason on the wings would make the competition for winger positions become problematic, hence why he was playing Jason in the Center Attacking Midfielder position which Jason could play reasonably well in.

Unfortunately, this brought out yet another problem.

Despite Jason being able to play well in the CAM position, the way he played in that position was far from conventional as he preferred to run around a lot more and also preferred attacking from the flanks than down the middle.

The problem was that despite it being far from conventional it worked exceptionally well and there weren't any problems that had arisen from this style of play so far as he still managed to do his duties in the CAM position while adding his own personal flair...

Unfortunately, no one else on the team could play like that which meant that if Jason wasn't on the field, they couldn't play like that and would need to change tactics or risk a major problem with their performance.

Gernot Rohri's solution to that was that whenever Jason was on the field, their 4-2-3-1 formation would become more of a 4-2-2-1-1 formation with Jason taking the role of a supporting striker instead of just a CAM, but his role as a supporting striker would be as a false 9, or a deep-lying forward who had been given a free role and could join any part of the attacking section of the team.

He could stay up front with the striker in attack, work the ball down the wings, or come into the midfield to help the midfielders hold off their opponents either with quick passes or by applying pressure on the players.

The other players on the team would then adjust themselves to fill in the space he left in the midfield whenever he wasn't there.

And if Jason wasn't on the field, then they'd stick with the normal 4-2-3-1 formation, or shift to a 4-3-3 formation depending on the players in the line-up.

After an extensive tactical meeting with the manager giving out very specific instructions, the manager had the players get back on the field and have another internal scrimmage match to test-run the edited formation and game plan.

The players arranged themselves on the field with Jason's team using the modded 4-2-2-1-1 formation while the other team used a normal 4-2-3-1 formation and soon the match kicked off.

The training session yielded amazing results in the attacking department and despite it being their first time trying it out, it was clear to see that allowing the players to let their youthful passion play out without trying to constrain them to the norms of the football world allowed them to burst forth with creativity and let them find all sorts of way to break through their opponents.

However, it came at a cost... a horrible defense.

It wasn't so bad as to say it was porous, but the Supa Eagles team was lacking in a major defensive talent who they could entrust their backs to and if they slipped up and allowed their opponents through, it was likely to result in them conceding a goal.

It didn't help that their goalkeeper wasn't top-level either.

However, to the head manager, these were all problems that could be solved over time, the formation still needed a bit of tweaking, and over time, the players would get more comfortable with their roles on the team which should make things become better.

For now, they would rely on outscoring their opponents to win games... anyway, football was a game that was won by scoring more goals than the opponents, not by defending more goals.

There was still work to do, but they were on the right path.

After another hour of testing the formation, the manager had the players stop and rest for a while before they went on to spend the rest of the day doing defensive drills to make up for the poor defense of the formation.

Slowly the day went by and the preparations for the upcoming match continued till the sun started dipping behind the horizon.

The players headed off the field exhausted, but excited for the coming day.

Chapter 336: Nigeria vs Sierra Leone Round 1 I

** Friday, 13th November 2020**

3:43 pm

The Supa Eagles had begun their day with an early flight to Benin City in Edo state where the Samuel Ogbemudia stadium that was the scheduled location for the match was located.

On arriving, the players had had a bit of a rest before heading to the stadium and had done a little pre-match stadium

They were now in the locker room, preparing for the game while the manager was going through the last arrangements for the game, one of which was selecting the starting line-up.

“Our starting line-up for the match is as follows;” Gernot Rohri began to call out names with a notepad in his hand.

“Madika Okoyi is our goalkeeper, Keneth Omeruo and Williem Troust-Ekong will be the two center backs for the game,”

“Olai Aina will be the right back while Zaidiu Sanusi is our left back,”

“Aribo Joey and Etebor will be the two defensive midfielders, while Aleix Iwobi will be the center attacking midfielder,”

“In the left mid-field will be Simeon Moses while Ahmad Musa will be on the right and up-front will be Keliechi Ihanacho,” Gernot Rohri finished calling out the names in the starting line-up.

After calling out the names of the players in the starting line-up, a tactical meeting began with the players as the head manager took his time to explain the game plan as much as possible, constantly reiterating each person’s role and how they were to play in their game.

Everyone listened attentively, including Jason who was putting on his training vest over his upper body, leaving his jersey unworn as he would be on the bench.

He wasn’t displeased that he was on the bench as he understood that despite how well he had performed in training, there was no rush in getting him on the field especially since it was a new experience for him.

Anyway, the manager had already promised that he would be given some game time, so he patiently waited for the manager to make good on his promise.

There was no point in being anxious or displeased anyway as it wouldn’t change anything now that he had already put pen to paper.

The players listened intently to the manager's instructions while time rolled by swiftly and it was soon time for the players to head out to the field.

The bench players and the manager headed out first while the starting players went to wait in the tunnel.

Jason dapped his new friends in the team and left with the bench players to head out to the stadium.

A few minutes after they had reached the bench, the players of the two countries began stepping out to the field with the referees leading the lines and they soon arranged themselves on the pitch to begin the pre-match formalities.

They started by singing the national anthems of the two countries in the order of the home team and the away team and everyone on each team had to participate, though Jason was mostly just chewing up his own mouth as he hadn't fully learned the Nigerian national anthem at that point yet.

After the national anthems of the two teams were sung, the pre-match formalities that Jason was more familiar with continued.

The coin was flipped and the Supa Eagles won the toss.

They chose to pass first and left to arrange themselves on their half of the field when Sierra Leone chose their half of the field.

At 5:00 pm, the referee's shrill whistle blew loudly to kick off the game and Keliechi Ihanacho kicked off the game with a pass to Ahmad Musa.

11th minute...

The game had gotten off to a bit of a boring start with the two teams testing themselves out tactically without really making major efforts to break through the other's defense.

There had been a few potshots from both sides, but none of them looked like they would even come close to scoring.

On the sidelines, Gernot Rohri watched the game intently, waiting patiently for his players to find a breakthrough moment, but so far, nothing had shown up.

Just now, Simeon Moses had tried to dribble past a Sierra Leone defender but had ended up having the ball swept away from him and cleared giving Nigeria a corner kick.

Ahmad Musa ran over to the flag to take the corner while the players of the two teams arranged themselves in the Sierra Leone penalty box as they waited for the incoming cross.

Fweeeee

At the referee's whistle, Musa ran at the ball and sent it flying into the penalty box, prompting players of the two teams to shuffle against each other as they tried to get to the ball.

Outmuscling everyone, Williem Trouost-Ekong managed to get away from his marker and rise to meet the ball and catch it with his head.

{Great leap!?

{Goal!}

{He heads it home and sends his Nigeria into the lead!}

{It hasn't taken them long, the Supa Eagles have taken off already!} the commentator shouted excitedly as the scorer celebrated his goal with his teammates.

The Nigerian fans in their homes watching the match shouted and pumped their screens as they watched the ball go in, while another group of fans who had also made bets on the Nigerian game had an even brighter smile on their faces as they watched the scoreboard change.

#18th minute...

After the Supa Eagles opened up the game with their goal, they upped their efforts and tried to further their lead, but the Sierra Leone team was resisting really hard and making efforts of their own to get back in the game.

Soon, the Sierra Leone team found space in Nigeria's half of the field and started a quick counter after snatching the ball from Etebor.

The ball flew from player to player as it moved diagonally across the field from the right to the left until the left winger received a through pass from the striker just as he stepped into Nigeria's 18-yard box.

He didn't hesitate to rifle a shot at the Supa Eagles' goal and sent the ball flying past a sprawling Madika Okoyi to equalize the game.

{Goal!}

{They have their equalizer!}

{That right there is a splendid response to going behind!}

{Sierra Leone don't plan on easily letting their opponents take away all three points from this game!}

Chapter 337: Nigeria vs Sierra Leone Round 1 II

#28h minute...

After the equalizer from Sierra Leone, the two teams were back to where they had started and they once again began tearing at each other, trying to get the all-important goal that would decide the difference between them.

The Supa Eagles were being especially very attacking in their playing style and the possession stats was sixty-three percent to twenty-seven percent in favour of the Supa Eagles.

However, possession wasn't always an indicator of who would win a game as a chance suddenly appeared for Sierra Leone.

The Nigerian players had been trying to break through the Sierra Leone defense, but they were unable to break through and were pushed back to pass the ball into their defense.

Olai Aina had received a pass from Etebor and wanted to send the ball forward, but his pass was intercepted by a Sierra Leone player who immediately pushed the ball forward before sending a through pass past the Supa Eagles defense line that was loose due to the players being out of position.

The Sierra Leone striker got the ball behind his marker inside the Supa Eagles' penalty box and he quickly took his shot.

{He shoots! He scores!}

{Minutes after getting an equalizer, Sierra Leone take the lead!} the commentator shouted excitedly as the Sierra Leone players celebrated their goal while the Nigerian players held their hands up and called for offside as the Sierra Leone striker was behind his marker when the ball was sent his way.

However, the assistant referee's flag stayed down and soon the replay of the goal was shown on the screens of the viewers and it could be seen clearly that though the striker was behind his marker, Zaidiu Sanusi was behind their defensive line and had played the striker offside, so the goal counted.

The Nigerian players could only accept the situation with bitter smiles, but they didn't lose their composure as it was still early in the game and anything could happen.

Soon the players were once again arranged across the field, ready to kick off the game for the fourth time in less than half an hour.

#35th minute...

With Sierra Leone taking the lead in the game, the momentum had shifted, and though the Nigerian team was able to keep ahead in the possession stats, they weren't doing half as much as the Sierra Leone team when it came to pressuring their opponents.

The Sierra Leone team had them on tenterhooks most of the time even though they had the ball most of the time and Gernot Rohri had been shouting at his players from the sidelines to get them to calm down and make use of their possession and advantages.

Unfortunately, his shouts seemed to be falling on deaf ears as nothing was changing.

Spurred by the shouts from the head coach, Aribo Joey wanted to start an attack by sending a lobbed-through-pass forward.

His thinking was if they couldn't get through the defense, then they'd go over it and that was exactly what he tried to do, but before the ball could move a few meters into the air, a Sierra Leone player jumped into the ball's path, blocking the pass and sending the ball into the air.

The ball flew high into the air before coming down in Nigeria's half of the field, not making it past three meters from its starting point.

As the ball was coming down, a Sierra Leone player rose to catch the ball with his head and send it to the nearest teammate who was just outside the Supa Eagles penalty box.

The player received the pass with a smooth tap to bring it under control, but his next move shocked everyone.

Just after barely bringing the ball under control, the player's leg swung back and he rifled a thunderous shot at Nigeria's goal from almost thirty yards away.

{Has a look and has a go!}

{GOAL!!!} the commentator screamed as he watched the Sierra Leone player just pull off a once-in-a-lifetime goal.

{My word! My word! What a stunner!}

{He sent it into the top corner and left the goalkeeper no chance!}

{How beautiful! How unexpected! How Puskas worthy!} The commentator knew that this goal was one for the historic reels and his commentary elevated to match such a scene.

{With that, Sierra Leone have struck back at their opponents! not once, but thrice in a span of less than half an hour since going behind!}

{What amazing powers of recovery!}

The Supa Eagles didn't even know how to feel after seeing such a stunner scored against them, putting them into a two goal deficit against their opponents, but they were professionals and were not going to give up this early in the game, so they headed back to their positions for the kickoff with hard looks on their face.

They still believed, but they no longer wore the smiles that they had worn on their faces when the match started.

#43rd minute...

The game's dynamics had shifted more in favor of the Sierra Leone team after scoring their third against Nigeria, but the Nigerian players weren't going to leave themselves open for their opponents to just have their way with them and they had entered a state of high focus as they played.

They had managed to keep the ball away from their fired up opponents and prevent them from building off their already immense momentum.

The Supa Eagles had adopted a patient, step-by-step approach against their opponents and they were finally about to reap the dividends of their patience.

Simeone Moses was facing off against the Sierra Leone right back on the left flank.

He tried to evade the player and cut in, but the Sierra Leone defender wasn't letting up and Moses instead decided to feint towards the right before rolling the ball towards the left into the path of Sanusi who was running over from behind.

The feint worked and Sanusi caught up to the ball and pushed it forward before cutting in slightly and sending in a low cross into the penalty box.

The ball found its way to Aleix Iwobi who hit it first time into the bottom right corner before the goalkeeper could get to the ball.

{Goal!}

{They have one back!}

{After a series of shocks, the Supa Eagles are finally looking like they're back on track} The commentator's voice lacked the enthusiasm of a huge goal, but his words were soothing to the ears of the Nigerian fans, especially the ones who had placed bets on the Nigeria team winning the game.

Fweeeeeeeee

{It's half-time!}

{It was Nigeria who ended the half on a high note, just getting a goal before the whistle was blown giving their fans hope for a better outing in the second half}

{Will we see yet another comeback in the coming half? Stay around to find out} the commentator spoke as the players of the two teams headed off the field and down to the tunnel for a much-needed rest after that steam-roller of a first-half.

Jason and his bench buddies followed after the manager who walked into the tunnel, heading to their locker room.

It did not take more than a minute for the players to get to their locker room and settle down with some people drinking water while some sitting down to rest their muscles.

Some of the players were even receiving massages.

"I'm not going to mince words with you guys, that was a disastrous outing from you guys... especially defensively," Gernot Rohri quickly began addressing his players as there was a lot to talk about and adjust if the team was going to have a chance against their opponents in the second half.

"What were you looking at that our passes kept getting intercepted?"

"Also, the moment they hit us on the counter, you guys were always out of position for some reason, allowing them to easily get past us and score," It was clear that the manager wasn't happy as he spoke.

"And you..." Gernot Rohri almost growled as he stared hard at Madika Okoyi, but he didn't say anything else, seemingly swallowing his words before they came out.

"...Anyway, the first half is gone and we only have forty-five minutes left to turn this game around so listen up,"

"First thing first, Vitor Osimen will be coming on for Ihanacho," Gernot Rohri started with line-up changes before going into the instructions.

He gave more indepth instructions to the players and pointed out the mistakes they had made in the first half before giving them ideas on how to make sure such situations didn't repeat themselves in the second half.

After all, they had finally managed to reduce the deficit to one and they wouldn't want it to be extended any further and put them back even further.

After a gruelling fifteen minutes of tactical adjustments, the two teams finally returned to the field for the second half with the two teams having switched sides on the pitch.

Chapter 338: International Debut I

Fweeeeeeeee

The referee's whistle blew loudly and the second half got underway.

It was Sierra Leone who kicked off the second half and as soon as the ball began moving, they immediately went on the attack, trying to immediately tap into their momentum from the previous half, but Nigeria responded in kind and charged at them with fervor.

#49th minute...

Sierra Leone had been pushing hard at the gate of Nigeria's goal and had already sent quite a few shots at Nigeria's goal, but they hadn't managed to put any pressure on Madika Okoyi who had easily scooped up the ball every time it came his way.

However, he couldn't let up completely either as the ball was currently being moved around in Nigeria's half of the field by the Sierra Leone team.

A Sierra Leone midfielder sent the ball over to the left wing and the Sierra Leone player received the pass smoothly before facing off against Olai Aina.

The Sierra Leone right winger first tried to do a stepover to confuse the right back, but Aina wasn't budging so the Sierra Leone player opted to feed the ball past him before chasing after the ball.

The ball flew past Aina and the Sierra Leone player chased after the ball he fed forward, but Aina wasn't easily letting him past and stayed on him, but the Sierra Leone player wasn't budging and held Aina as they chased after the ball.

At this point the ball had rolled into Nigeria's 18-yard box which was dangerous for the Nigeria team so Aina increased his efforts to push off the Sierra Leone player and all of a sudden, the player who was so hard to push off before, suddenly fell to the ground surprising the Nigerian right back whose hands immediately went up to signify his innocence, but the referee didn't believe him and the whistle went off immediately.

Fweeeeeee the referee blew hard as he ran over with his hands pointing to the penalty spot.

This singular gesture of the referee had the hearts of every Supa Eagles fan watching the game, the players, and the team manager, drop into depths of despair.

The Nigerian players immediately ran over to the referee to debate the foul, calling for a dive, but the referee wasn't budging as he had seen Olai Aina slam into the Sierra Leone player from behind, sending him sprawling in the penalty box.

The replay of the scene also made this clear so the referee stuck with his decision much to the dismay of the Nigerian players who watched the Sierra Leone players already celebrating before they even played the penalty.

The Sierra Leone captain took up the ball to the penalty spot once the penalty was confirmed and the referee busted himself arranging the players outside the penalty box.

A few seconds later, everything was ready and everyone was in place and the referee's whistle went to his mouth before blowing hard.

Fweeeeeeeee

The Sierra Leone captain ran at the ball and smashed it hard into the bottom left corner while Madika Okoyi had dived right.

{Goal!}

{Well taken penalty!}

{The second half has barely begun, but they have made it four, once again taking a two-goal lead over their opponents!} The commentator spoke excitedly as the Sierra Leone players celebrated their fourth goal of the game while Nigerian players could only look on with bitter smiles on their faces.

On the sidelines, Gernot Rohri called out to Jason who he had told to begin warming up as soon as the penalty was given.

“Hurry over,” He said while his mind ran races in all directions.

His initial plan before the match was to bring Jason on much later in the second half as he had expected that they would be comfortably winning the game by then, but the game which had taken a surprising turn was now spinning out of control.

If there was any time to make changes to his plans and to make desperate moves, there couldn't be any better moment than now.

They were already behind by two goals so the earlier he made changes, the better, otherwise time would soon run out.

Jason who had been called didn't even think of dragging his legs as he wanted to get onto the pitch even more than the manager did.

For him, it wasn't even about who was winning the game or not, he just wanted to play.

Of course, that did not mean he wanted to lose either.

This would be his international debut in two lifetimes so he definitely wanted it to end in a win.

Hence he quickly finished his warm-up routines and began donning his jersey which had the number 17 on its back.

As he was putting on his jersey and making sure everything was in place, Gernot Rohri was giving him instructions.

“You’re coming on for Moses, so Iwobi will move over to the left flank while you’ll take his place in the center, but the two of you are free to switch positions if the situation demands it,”

“Your job on the pitch is to make sure the ball gets forward. I don’t care how you plan to do it, but get the ball forward, and then whether you choose to score or send the ball to a teammate is up to you,”

“Just make sure their net is sent flying at least three more times before the referee blows the final whistle,” Gernot Rohri only gave a general idea of what he wanted from Jason because he understood that when dealing with young talents, it was best for the manager to let the player’s own creativity be the main thing on his mind.

Outliers like Jason had their own style of play and constraining them to a specific type of play which didn’t fit their talents usually did more harm than good so it was best to just let them be.

That was why special talents like that usually had a team built around them instead of being made to fit into a team.

Making everyone else play for them was the way to go and that was what Gernot Rohri was planning for.

He had quite literally made Jason the leader of the team and the only thing that remained was the captain band and even that would surely fall into Jason’s hands someday as long as he kept performing like he was already doing.

{The assistant referee is holding up the board and it seems like a player would be coming on for Nigeria}

Simeon Moses jogged over to the sidelines on seeing his number on the board in red and he high-fived Jason who ran onto the field, sweeping his hair away from his face and tying it up tightly behind his head.

{It's Jason Bolu who is coming on and it will be his first international cap for Nigeria}

{After his impressive performances for Oporto since his debut in February, the Supa Eagles head manager couldn't keep his hands to himself and leave such a talent out of international football}

{At his debut for Oporto, his team was down by two, and now that he's finally getting his international debut, his nation is also down by two}

{Perhaps the manager is hoping that he could recreate the magic that helped his team back then, and considering the player's qualities, I wouldn't put it past him to do just that}

{Sierra Leone will need to put their guards up if they intend to hold on to their lead in the minutes to come} the commentator spoke extensively but the referee wasn't bothering himself with the commentator and had blown his whistle to resume the game.

Jason had already told Iwobi the manager's instructions and he received the ball from the kick off before passing it instantly to Ahmad Musa on the right.

57th minute...

Jason's appearance on the pitch changed the dynamics of the whole game.

The Nigerian players whose confidence has been hit by going behind had received a slight boost when he came on and their performance from that moment on which had managed to start pushing back the Sierra Leone team had only further boosted their confidence.

They had already managed to get away three shots in the few minutes since he had come on and only the magnificent saves from the Sierra Leone goalkeeper had kept them from equalizing.

For Jason personally, he hadn't been able to do much because he had become the focal point of the Sierra Leone defense ever since he came on, but this had in-turn, given his teammates more freedom on the ball and helped them to play better.

However, Jason wasn't going to stay silent forever.

The Sierra Leone team was in possession and had been passing the ball around fluidly as they tried to regain control of the game, but Etebor suddenly intercepted a pass from the Sierra Leone team.

As soon as Etebor claimed the ball, the Nigerian attackers started dashing forward, freeing themselves for a pass from behind.

Jason who was near Osimen said in a low voice,

"Keep running."

Chapter 339: International Debut II

"Keep running," Jason said to Osimen in a low voice.

Osimen nodded affirmatively and kept moving towards the Sierra Leone goal, while Jason reduced his speed and signaled for a pass from Etebor.

Etebor didn't hesitate and sent the ball rolling over.

The ball reached Jason and he turned around to face the Sierra Leone goal only to find himself almost surrounded by the Sierra Leone players with them closing at him by the second.

Finding himself in such a situation, Jason didn't hesitate and immediately pushed the ball toward where he could find the widest space.

The place with the widest space was on the right, and Jason immediately pushed the ball that way and took off, sticking with the basics and just pushing the ball out of the way of his opponents.

Jason didn't move straight and kept moving to ensure that the players obstructed themselves and couldn't reach him, but that wouldn't work forever.

However, it worked long enough for Jason who was drawing nearer to the right side of Sierra Leone's 18-yard box.

Glancing forward to see Osimen still running forward and about to run past the last defender, Jason immediately swung his foot at the ball, sent it high into the air, and curling into Osimen's path in front of the goal.

Osimen saw the ball coming his way and jumped at it superhero-style, catching it off his head and sending it past the Sierra Leone goalkeeper who couldn't reach the ball in time.

{Oh my word!}

{What a cross! And what a header!}

{Jason Express Delivery and Osimen Airlines coming together to create an absolute peach of a goal!}

{Nigeria have one back! Only one left in it now, and there's plenty of time left!} The commentary was as wild as the Nigerian excitement and celebrations ensued on the pitch, off the pitch, and in every building in Nigeria where the match was being watched.

Osimen had gone over to hug Jason and the other Nigerian players weren't left out of the celebrations as they wore their excitement on their faces.

If one didn't watch the match from the beginning, one would think that Nigeria was the one in the lead.

#70th minute...

After the Supa Eagles got their third goal, the Sierra Leone team tried to lock up their defense as they were now only one goal away from conceding.

They had first tried to attack the Nigeria team as hard as they could, but after having two counters that almost ended in them conceding and losing their lead, they had decided to settle back and defend their lead till the final whistle.

Unfortunately, the Nigerian players disagreed with this decision of their opponents as that meant they would be the ones to lose the game, hence they had increased their efforts to get the goal that would be the equalizer.

Sierra Leone's response to this was a tighter defense and more aggressive style of play and it didn't take them long to start racking up yellow cards.

In less than ten minutes, the referee had shown two yellow cards and he was about to show another one when Jason was brought down on the right flank in Sierra Leone's half of the field by a rough tackle from his marker.

As Jason went down, Osimen hurried over and would have done something that could lead to a worse punishment, but he was quickly stopped by Ahmad Musa telling him to calm down.

The referee didn't hesitate to show the Sierra Leone player a yellow card while Jason was pulled up by Osimen.

"Are you alright?" Osimen asked Jason who nodded, the pain from the tackle already fading away.

"Go back to their penalty box, I'll try to send the ball as close to their goal as possible, all you'll need to do is dodge those guys and send the ball in... Hopefully," Jason said to Osimen in a low voice while Ahmad Musa listened in on the conversation.

After receiving a pitch-perfect pass from Jason earlier that helped him score, Osimen didn't have any doubts in mind and he just nodded affirmatively and started heading over to Sierra Leone's 18-yard box while Ahmad Musa did not move too far away.

Jason took the ball and placed it down where the referee pointed out and glanced at the Sierra Leone goal.

He had been brought down on the right flank, just about ten yards from the right side of the penalty box, but the angle was too awkward to take a free kick, otherwise he would have tried to recreate Cristiano Ronaldo's rocket free kick from his time with Man Red.

Of course, it wasn't impossible to take the shot directly, but this was not the time for experiments.

His team was losing and they needed an equalizer as soon as possible so Jason could only go for the better option of sending in a cross and hoping his teammates could finish off the cross.

As for whether Osimen would be the one to actually score, Jason didn't know as he knew that anything could happen in that situation.

He had experienced it firsthand with Mylo and Fabio Viera in the match against Man Blue earlier in the season.

Nevertheless, he was going to do his bit and send the ball towards where he had said he would, whatever happened after that was up to luck, though he hoped the ball ended in the back of the Sierra Leone goal one way or the other.

The referee soon finished arranging the wall and blew his whistle loudly.

Fweeeeee

On hearing the referee's whistle, Jason once again glanced at Osimen from where he stood and took a deep breath before he started running towards the ball and hitting it deftly with his right foot, sending the ball flying.

The ball took off and curled inwardly into the Sierra Leone penalty box.

The players of the two teams surged towards the path of the ball, but Osimen who had received a heads up from Jason was ahead of all of them and as soon as the ball appeared in front of the goal, Osimen was in the air to meet with his head.

{He rises!}

{Goal!}

{It's Jason Express Delivery and Osimen Airlines again and this time, they've gotten an equalizer!}

{What a match! It's the eight-goal that's gone in with both teams having an equal four to their name!}

Chapter 340: International Debut III

The Nigerian fans watching the game could not keep their excitement to themselves and were unleashing their happiness in any way possible as they watched the Supa Eagles celebrate the goal that gave them the equalizer.

Some people were shouting, some were pumping their fists excitedly, and some were hugging each other even though they were supposed to be socially distancing themselves, but at that moment no one cared about all that.

All that mattered was that their team had equalized with quite a lot of time left in the game to go even further and get a winner.

And with the way the Nigerian team was playing, it was not far-fetched for them to go on to make that thought a reality, however, the Nigerian fans could only watch and wait for it to happen while having smiles on their faces.

Even if the match ended with the current score, some of the fans wouldn't mind, but there were some that would.

Those would be the ones who had made a bet for Nigeria to win, so it was either all or nothing.

#76th minute...

After Nigeria's equalizer, the Sierra Leone players had doubled down defensively even more than before and the major focus of their defense was killing any Nigeria attack before it could even start.

To do that, they had put two men on Jason with a third player waiting nearby to join in if Jason somehow managed to evade the two players.

It was already clear that leaving Chef Jason to cook would end with him stewing them up with another "express delivery" to Osimen Airlines that was always waiting for take off.

However, despite their efforts to mark Jason, they weren't able to keep the whole Nigerian team in check.

After seeing what the Sierra Leone players were trying to do to him, Jason changed his strategy and moved forward till he was almost standing beside Osimen.

This was the 4-4-1-1 variant of their game plan where Jason would start playing as a supporting striker instead of a midfielder, leaving the other midfielders with the job of play-making while he moved up to play as a half-finisher.

This quickly threw off the Sierra Leone team's defensive efforts and soon the ball started finding its way past their defensive line again.

With Jason dragging three players upfield, the midfielders behind him were having a field day and constantly sent the ball flying forward for the forwards to receive and send flying at the Sierra Leone goal.

Etebor sent a lobbed through pass into Osimen's path behind the Sierra Leone defense line, but a Sierra Leone defender quickly rose to the air and tried to clear the ball, but only succeeded in sending the ball to the left wing where Aleix Iwobi quickly ran to catch it.

Once he caught up to the ball, Iwobi did not hesitate to send the ball flying into the penalty box where his teammates awaited.

The ball rose in the air and Osimen jumped for it, but the cross was a bit too high and flew over his head before coming back downwards towards Jason who was behind Osimen.

Despite the ball having come down a bit, it was still too high and Jason had to try to head it, thus he lunged at the ball and caught it with his head, doing his best to try and stir it at the goal.

His heading skills were no longer as disastrous as earlier in the year because he had set some time apart to train it, but it was still nowhere near enough and the Sierra Leone goalkeeper had no difficulty in punching away the ball.

{Saved!}

{He just couldn't get it past the keeper!}

{With that save, his quest for a debut goal continues!} The commentator said in a rushed tone as the ball that had been punched away by the goalkeeper was cleared by a defender who hit it towards the side of the pitch and put of play.

There was no way he was going to voluntarily give the Nigerian team a corner kick after their team already conceded two headers in the game.

#82nd minute...

The Nigeria players were constantly increasing the frequency of their attacks now that they had the momentum.

They wanted to stamp their authority while they were on this roll because time was slowly running out.

Ahmad Musa on the right wing cut inside the penalty box looking for space to shoot, but the Sierra Leone defenders covered the whole post from his view and he could not help but look for other options.

Choosing to lob the ball to the waiting head of Osimen, he sent the ball flying into Osimen's path and Osimen didn't hesitate to rise to the ball, catching it on his head and sending it at the Sierra Leone goal, but the Sierra Leone goalkeeper seemed to have entered his own burst of form and he lunged spectacularly for the ball, reaching it just in time to tip it slightly and deflect the ball from its intended path.

Crash!

{Oh, the bar!}

The ball rifles off the bar back into play and flew towards Osimen, but before it could reach him, a Sierra Leone player jumped at the ball, catching it off his head and sending outside the penalty box before Osimen could do something with the ball.

As the ball flew outside the penalty box, Jason stretched his leg at the ball that was just about to pass him as he stood at the edge of the box, barely managing to reach it, but before he could go on to get the ball under control, the Sierra Leone defenders began hassling him from behind.

However, Jason did not give in and pushed off the player hassling him before catching the ball before it moved out of range and then turning to quickly face the Sierra Leone goal.

The player he had pushed off earlier, immediately came charging at him, but Jason didn't flinch and moved forward as well, dragging the ball forward with the front edge of his boot, before suddenly changing direction and flicking the ball to the right to perform a reverse Elastico and create a few centimeters of space.

Not bothering to confirm whether his feint worked, Jason immediately swung his leg and unleashed a powerful shot at the Sierra Leone goal.

{He gets a shot away!}