

LEGENDS 451

Chapter 451: Live Interview II

On countless digital screens all over Turin and even quite a few worldwide, a dark image of Jason walking into a club locker and walking up to a jersey with his name and jersey number on it.

"Not bad," he muttered and the scenes began to fly by quickly as he donned his jersey and his other kit.

"Let's see what I can do," he muttered as he stepped up and walked out of the locker room and then the screen went dark.

When it lit back up, a picture of the scoreboard in the Inter Milan vs Uventus match was shown and then the scene perfectly transitioned to a scene of Jason jerking his legs and then running up to the field and dapping the other Inter Milan players on the way to his position on the field.

Once again the scene transitioned into Jason breathing hard as he started running.

Huff *Huff*

Jason breathed hard as he chased after the ball that was flying over to the left side of the field.

It was a highlight reel from the match that was showing, more specifically the scene where Jason dribbled past Skriniar three times in a row.

The people watching couldn't take their eyes away from the screens as they watched Jason first flick the ball past Skriniar, then flick it over him maliciously after the defender caught up, and then the final cutback that sent Skriniar stumbling over himself.

The people who were watching from computers and phones immediately began sending in comments that expressed their feelings.

{Absolute savage, this guy! As if once wasn't enough, he did it three times! If I wasn't well-learned, I'd think this was a face-slapping novel by those Chinese guys} one user typed out with an extra five laughing emojis.

{Isn't he too much of a showboat?} another guy commented as Jason ran into the box, only to be fouled by Hakimi who was chasing from behind.

{Show boat or not, he's definitely putting on a show and helped the team get a penalty} a third guy commented, running to Jason's defense.

In the studio, Jason was also watching the movie he was starring in not knowing how or when these Uventus guys put this thing together because he didn't remember being videoed for any of those things apart from the first two scenes which he thought they had added to the first intro video when he joined the club.

'The power of the media is crazyyyyy' he thought as he watched the scenes and even the commentary that he was sure was never in the actual match.

The video continued and Jason watched a few highlight reels of himself on the ball moving across the field.

Just when he began thinking it was a bit too much, the screen changed again and showed another cut scene of himself panting a bit with his hands on his knees and then his voice came again.

"It's not enough" he said and this time, Jason's eyes went open wide as he knew that he definitely hadn't said that in any of the previous shoots, yet the person talking sounded exactly like him.

'What the fu*k did these guys do?' he thought amusedly, glancing at the camera guys around him.

For once he was thankful that the interview was live, otherwise, who knew if he'd find himself in a documentary movie at some cinema next.

Turning his eyes back to the screen, a scene was showing where he was talking to Ronaldo and Danilo and then the next thing he knew, he was watching himself send a curling cross into Inter Milan's penalty box that Ronaldo connected with and put into the back of the net, far away from the reach of Handanovic.

{Ohhhhhhhhh!}

{Impact! Instant Impact!}

{It's only been a few days in Turin for the new man and he's already playing like he's the biggest dog in town!} The commentary did not resemble what Jason had actually heard at the stadium when the ball went in, but at this point, he couldn't be bothered to care and was just impressed at their editing skills, but before he could get a hold of himself, the person who would be hosting the show held up three fingers and the fingers began to reduce by the second.

By the time, Jason had caught a hold of himself, the countdown a light switch indicator signifying that they were live came to life.

Jason who had completely forgot what he was supposed to say when the camera began rolling opened his mouth and said the first thing that came to his mind.

"If you guys aren't on the production for the next Batman movie, then I probably wouldn't watching it," Jason said with a laugh, stunning the reporter who was his partner for the interview, but the guy was a professional and just laughed with giving a response and began with an introduction for Jason.

"Good Evening people from around the world, and welcome to Uventus TV's first interview with the newest face on the team, Jason Rose," the reporter gave a quick opening speech and the interview began with Jason smiling and waving at the camera.

"On behalf of all the fans, I welcome you to Turin once again," the reporter said and Jason smiled and responded,

"It's good to be here," he said with a laugh.

“That’s good, that’s good,” the reporter nodded, keeping the conversation flowing.

“How are you finding it here in Turin?” the reporter asked Jason.

“Cold. Being thrown from the warm atmosphere at Porto to the chilly temperature here has been a bit of a surprise, but I’m getting used to it quickly,” Jason replied honestly, after all, he had experienced winter in the USA quite a few times so this much cold could only make him uncomfortable for a bit.

“That’s good, that’s good, the fans would like to hear that,” the reporter responded quickly and quickly thought of the next question he would ask.

“So, how are you settling in?”

“How different are things here compared to back at Porto?” the reporter asked Jason.

“Uh, well, it’s been fun meeting the new guys. Everyone’s so nice and that helped me settle in quickly,”

“Thankfully, our chemistry together is also showing on the pitch, you know, it always helps to know your teammates,” Jason replied after a little thought.

“But it’s a little crazy you know, being in the same locker room with players like Chiellini, Bonucci, Rabiot, even the manager is awe-inspiring, and then there’s Ronaldo... I mean, I can’t even say I wasn’t starstruck when I saw them,”

“You can literally feel the confident aura that we can defeat anybody with this team... It’s similar to how it felt back at Porto for the most part, but it’s a little different you know,” Jason continued.

“Well, it’s true that they do have the capacity to have that kind of confidence, with all the big names you just mentioned,” the reporter laughed.

“Rightttt, I’m glad for that as it’s clear that I have a lot to learn from those big bosses,” Jason laughed as he added.

“Oh wow, I’m impressed with your willingness to learn and I’m sure the viewers are as well,” the reporter said.

“Of course I have to learn, I’m still very far from what I hope to see myself become,” Jason nodded with a smile.

“Oh wow, it sounds like you have big aspirations,” The reporter interrupted.

“Who doesn’t?” Jason replied with a question and sat back a bit.

“If I don’t have dreams, then what do I have?” Jason laughed.

“Crazy football skills, a good physique, an unbelievably handsome face, should I continue?” the reporter replied with a smirk and Jason’s first thought was,

‘What kind of glazer is this dude, bruh, get off my di*k!’ but outwardly, he just had his mouth opened for a second.

“You’re saying it like I had a choice in being this much of an eye candy,” Jason first said, then realized that some of what he said was wrong.

“I mean, I did put in some work at the gym and on the field to get better physically and technically, but, it’s not too bad to want more, right?” he returned the question to the reporter.

“I can’t disagree with that sentiment, haha,” the reporter laughed, but internally, he was feeling a bit aggrieved at Jason dismissing his facial advantage that made most men feel insecure.

“Anyway, moving on, how is it like at training with the team?” the reporter quickly moved to the next question, after all, they didn’t have all day.

"I love it. Training with guys who have such a winning mentality and good skills is actually quite fun and I'm doing a lot to learn, you know,"

"Funny enough how the manager always joins us on the field to show us a lot of what he wants us to learn,"

"It's like training with monsters," Jason laughed.

"Sounds like you have a few stories at the training ground already," the reporter said, wanting Jason to elaborate to lighten up the atmosphere.

"How can I not, the very first day, we were having a training match and I had a bet with Cristiano on who could have more goal contributions,"

"I was leading after a bit, but this guy literally just kicked the ball from more than 30 yards out and scored, absolute monster," Jason reminisced with a wry smile.

"That does sound like Ronaldo," the reporter laughed.

"True, but I wasn't expecting that on my very first day," Jason laughed as well.

"it must have been quite the shocker," the reporter laughed.

"Yeah, no one even tried something like that back at Oporto," Jason said half-mindedly.

"Speaking of back at Oporto, a lot of people are wondering why you chose to leave the team in the middle of the season," the reporter quickly took the opportunity to move on to the next segment of questioning.

Chapter 452: Live Interview III

“Speaking of Oporto, many people are wondering, even I am wondering why you chose to make a switch mid-season to Uventus on loan, especially when you were doing so well back at Oporto,” the reporter moved to the next question which was one that had everyone curious.

“I mean, Porto is still in the Champions League, and you were doing pretty well, already consistently starting matches despite your young age and all that, ”

“A lot of people are confused as to why you would choose to move to another team on loan in the middle of the season, the fans of Oporto are especially confused as to why you would leave,” the reporter analyzed and Jason immediately opened his mouth to interrupt before the reporter asked too specific a question.

“It’s Uventus man, would you have let such a chance slip by you if you were in my shoes,” Jason said half-truthfully.

It was true that he wouldn’t have let such a chance slip by him if he could, but he more than anyone knew that it wasn’t the only reason why he flew off the ship called Oporto.

“That’s true haha, but still a lot of fans feel like that wasn’t the only reason, especially with the telltale signs happening before the transfer,” the reporter laughed.

“What telltale signs?” Jason asked curiously, wondering if these guys knew something that he didn’t know.

“Well, humor me for a bit as this is all speculation,” the reporter began and Jason could feel an inkling of something explosive about to happen.

“Okay...” Jason muttered and sat back.

“Okay then, let me first mention our conjectures before I put together what I think happened and you can tell me whether I’m on the right track or not,”

“Sure,” Jason replied, taking a bottle of water and opening it up.

“Okay, let’s first start with the news that you had a fight with one of your teammates in training last month and while you were seemingly punished by the management as you didn’t play for like three matches after that, the other person wasn’t punished at all,” the reporter and Jason’s jaws clenched involuntarily, but no one noticed since he had a bottle to his mouth.

“That means to say that either you were the complete aggressor and that everything that happened was your fault but we all know that fights don’t happen like that,” the reporter said with a smirk

“Hmm,” Jason mumbled and kept listening, putting the bottle aside for a bit.

“I feel like the club management was a bit biased in their actions and maybe that struck you wrongly, causing you not to hesitate too much when the offer from Uventus came in,” the reporter continued.

“Well...” Jason began, wanting to defuse the situation before things became a bit out of hand.

This kind of questioning route wasn’t even supposed to be happening in this kind of interview as far as he was concerned.

Uventus and Oporto were pretty much business partners at this point, so there was no reason for an interview that targeted Oporto’s reputation to happen here.

No matter what he felt like saying, he couldn’t allow something like this to continue as he was the one who would get caught inbetween if something damaging happened and he couldn’t afford that happening at the moment.

It could happen after he was no longer tied to them by contract, but for now, it could not happen for any reason, but before he could even open his mouth, the reporter opened his mouth to continue,

“But, that’s not all, there’s some speculation about the actual cause of the fight between you and your teammate,” the reporter continued and Jason who was about to interrupt paused for a second.

“... With an imagination like that, you should be writing novels instead of articles,” Jason said after a pause and put the water bottle back to his mouth.

For a second, he had been tempted to allow the guy to continue, especially considering the situation.

It seemed like this guy didn't care about holding back and would probably have an idea of what had happened between Jason and Mylo, but after thinking about it for a second, Jason saw no reason to allow the reporter guy to continue.

What was there to gain from ousting Mylo anyway?

All it would do was make some people think bad about him. It wouldn't change anything else.

It wasn't the first time something like this had happened in the football world and it wouldn't be the last so what was the point anyway?

Admitting what happened would be like personally putting a green hat on himself in front of the whole world.

Why would he choose the mutual destruction route against Mylo?

In a month, he would meet Oporto on the field and then, he'd make his grievances known, after all actions speak louder than words.

“Are you saying I'm on the wrong track?” the reporter asked, not happy that Jason had interrupted before he dropped the bomb, but he didn't show it on his face.

“I didn't say that,” Jason replied, putting the bottle down again.

“Then-...!” the reporter was about to continue.

“But I also didn’t say you were correct either,” Jason interrupted again, blocking this guy who seemed to have an agenda to put a green hat on his head in front of the world.

“Huh? What is that supposed to mean?” the reporter asked.

In response, Jason made a gesture of zipping his mouth and then opened his mouth to swallow the imaginary key and then downed it with water like he was swallowing a tablet.

“Next question,” he said after putting the bottle down.

{Huh?}

{Zipping the mouth and then unzipping it to swallow the key, genius idea. Why didn’t I ever think of that?}

{This guy is a clown}

The comments went wild after Jason’s actions that didn’t make any sense and people were laughing at his actions that didn’t make any sense, but quite a few of the viewers were also watching while their brain cogs were rolling as Jason hadn’t exactly denied the speculations made by the reporter and had only deflected them.

This was like literally telling them that something definitely was up, but he wasn’t going to be talking about it.

Chapter 453: Super Coppa I

19th January 2021

10:34 a.m

At the Continassa, players were boarding the team bus.

The next match up for the Uventus team was the Italian Super Cup finals and they would be going against Napoli.

The match was scheduled to take place at the Mapei Stadium at Reggio Emilia.

Reggio Emilia didn't have a commercial airport and unless the players had plans to sky dive into the stadium like the Supa Strikas, then they had to go by bus which would take five hours at the earliest, hence they were leaving early.

The players who had been selected in the line-up had received a notice and were at the stadium, loading up their bags into the bus before getting on the bus.

Jason was also at the stadium, lucky to have been picked by the manager though he hadn't been expecting it, but he wouldn't argue about whether he was deserving or not.

As long as he was called to play, then he would shut up and do exactly that.

With headphones over his ears, he sat in the bus and his mind involuntarily went back to the previous day's interview.

After getting past the annoying segment where the focus was on his reason for leaving Oporto, the rest of the interview was actually quite fun.

He had answered a few more questions relating to himself and had even played a few games with the reporter... selection games.

Picking out his best eleven among the players in the world currently, his favorite legendary player in some specific countries, and the question that was always asked of talented youth footballers, "Ronaldo or Messi?".

There was even a little segment where he interacted with some of the Uventus fans... indirectly of course.

It was merely answering some questions in the comments... the light hearted ones of course.

All in all, it was quite fun and when it ended, it didn't feel like a waste of his time which coming from someone like Jason, was quite the compliment.

Well, now it was over and now he had to focus on other things.

Hopefully, the manager would allow him to start in the coming game, Jason thought hopefully, but inwardly he was laughing at himself for even thinking that boldly, after all, the other players on the team weren't pieces of cardboard paper.

While Jason was deep in thought, the bus filled up and soon began moving, shortly after, he fell asleep.

20th January 2021

8:12 p.m.

In the Uventus locker room, the players were kitting up for the match after the last tactical meeting with the manager.

Jason sat in a corner, already kitted up, but over his jersey, he wore a training vest as he wasn't selected in the starting line-up.

He was on his phone at that moment, reading a little about some important football news.

Swiping to check something he missed while reading, he ended up pulling down the notification bar and then he saw a notification he seemed to have missed since early that morning.

It was a notification about the scores of Oporto's last match.

Since he was subscribed to news about Oporto, the notification had been sent to his phone, but he had been too busy to check it earlier.

His interest roused, he clicked on the notification and saw the scores only to find out that Oporto had lost.

It was a Taca da Liga Semi Finals match against Sporting CP and they had lost 2 – 1.

Looking at the timeline of the goals, Jason's eyebrow rose in surprise.

After a tough first half, Oporto scored in the 79th minute of the game, opening up the scoreline only to be trashed in the final minutes by two dying minute goals in the 86th minute and the 92nd minute respectively.

"Damn," he muttered as he went to check the lineup and found Mylo's name.

It seemed the manager had started Mylo over the other strikers and the dumb kid had repaid his manager's faith by having a completely uninfluential game.

Jason had to fight off a smirk from appearing on his face as he read related articles about the match as well as some tabloids about the fans reactions to the match results.

He didn't even care about whether Oporto was his team or not, he was currently reveling in Mylo's bad performance and didn't care whether Oporto had just lost their chance at yet another trophy in the season.

What did it matter to him anyway?

He had nothing against his former teammates, but the club had chosen to oust him instead of a disgusting snake so there was no way he was going to feel sad for them losing the game.

Jason's mood that had been a bit dampened by not being selected by Pirlo in the starting line-up immediately improved and his face lit up in a smile as he threw his phone aside and started heading out of the locker room to go sit on the bench.

There was a spring in his step as he moved with a smile on his face and walked out of the tunnel.

The stadium was slowly filling up with fans and Jason waved at a few of them as he moved to the bench.

Despite how stressful it was to come to this place by road, taking a train would cut down one's travel time to two hours which was still stressful, yet there were still fans slowly filing up the stadium.

"For the love of football," Jason smiled as he sat on the bench with his other bench buddies and began to wait for the match to kick off, his eyes unconsciously flying over to the trophy that had been placed at the entrance of the tunnel.

{Today is the day}

{Twenty days after the new year and these two teams have their chance at their first silveware of the year}

{They have ambitions and they have effort}

{Can they have silver? We'll find out in the ninety minutes to come}

Chapter 454: Super Coppa II

{Here is the line-up for the Uventus side} The commentator did his job as the players of the two teams began to arrange themselves across the field after singing their anthems.

{What we're seeing here is the familiar 4-4-2 formation that is favored by the current manager} he continued as the line-up was displayed on the screens watching the game.

{Standing between the sticks is Wojciech Szczęsny and he will be Juventus's most pivotal member in keeping the ball out of their goal. He's been in fine form lately}

{Danilo stands on the right side of the defense and the center is tightly guarded by Bonucci and Chiellini. Alex Sandro is the left back for today}

{In the middle of the park, we have a rarely seen partnership between Rabiot and Ramsey. Out wide are Bernardeschi and Chiesa on the right and left respectively}

{Up front we have a strike partnership between Cristiano Ronaldo and Dejan Kulusevski, we'll be expecting good things from them today}

{What do you think of this line-up, Fabrizio?} the commentator asked his commentary partner.

{I think it's a strong team. Strong defense line, a midfield that looks like they can control the ball, pacy and technical wingers who aren't afraid to make the run, and finally, two danger men upfront who we can almost always guarantee to score goals}

{I think we're in for an exciting game, Giuseppe} Fabrizio quickly analyzed the line-up and gave out his speculations.

{I think so as well, Fabrizio} Giuseppe responded with a little laugh.

{Moving on to the Napoli side, they seem to be arranging themselves in the 4-2-3-1 formation}

{it's Davide Ospina in goal, Manolas and Koulibaly standing right in front of him, while Mario Rui and Di Lorenzo stand out wide on the left and right sides respectively}

{Bakayoko and Demme are playing as holding and defensive midfielders while we have Zielinski, Lozano, and Insigne just ahead of them}

{In front we have the lone striker, Andrea Pentagna} Guiseppe quickly listed out the players in the Napoli team's starting line-up.

{It seems to be well matched up on paper, though I have to admit, the Napoli side does look quite a bit weaker than their opponents, don't you think, Fabrizio?}

{Well, like someone said, it's Uventus they're up against. They're not many football teams all over the world that can claim to be equally matched or even surpassing them on paper}

{However, football is a game of twists and turns and the fans love that. I'm pretty sure that if the Napoli player can play their cards right, defend well, control the ball, and attack when an opportunity arises, with the right amount of luck, they might just be able to end this with another silverware in their cabinet despite their strong opponent} Fabrizio analyzed.

{That's a very big if against a team like Uventus, but far be it from me to speculate so directly. I guess we'll just have to wait and see how things go in the match} Guiseppe replied.

{It's time for kick-off!} he shouted as all the arrangements were finally done and the referee had his whistle in his mouth and ready to blow.

Fweeeeeeeeeee

Without hesitation, the referee blasted his whistle and the game kicked off quickly, each side of the field filled with eleven players in distinct and different colors surged at one another, ready to battle it out for the silverware waiting to be taken if only they ended up on top after ninety minutes.

The match didn't take long to begin exciting the fans in and out of the stadium.

The ball moved quickly across the field from player to player all with the aim of sending a shot flying at their opponent's goal.

The first goal-scoring chance soon appeared in merely the 13th minute of the game...

The Uventus team had been passing the ball around, but they didn't have too much control of possession as they couldn't keep the ball for too long against opponents like Napoli, however, they had been doing well defensively and were severely limiting their opponents.

Every attempt of the Napoli side to break past the Uventus defense line was met with indignance from the Uventus side who simply refused to be broken down and whenever they retrieved the ball, they always burst forward on the counter, trying to catch their opponents off guard.

Despite trying to catch their opponents on the counter, they didn't pass the ball recklessly and the ball moved across the field with precision.

Currently, the Uventus team had just burst forward on another of their counter attacks and this time they seemed to be home free as Chiesa was making a run from the left and there was no one in his way.

Just as he began cutting in, he suddenly noticed Ramsey running across from the right side of the pitch just behind the last defender and Chiesa didn't hesitate to send a powerful grounded pass across the field.

Seeing the ball coming his way, Ramsey burst forward with as much pace as he could muster, just barely making it past the last defender and hitting the ball with his first touch.

{Ramsey!!!} the commentator shouted as the ball flew at goal.

Ospina didn't need an invitation to lunge at the ball, but he fell short and couldn't reach it.

CLANG!!!

The ball slammed against the bottom right post and rolled out of play.

{Oh my word! How did that not go in!?!} The commentator's loud voice contained all the shock that everyone was feeling seeing such a beautiful goal-scoring chance going to waste.

{It was a well-worked attack. The pass was inch perfect, the finish was just inches short of a cutoff mark}

{The player looks gutted that he's missed that} the commentator continued and as he was saying, Ramsey who was on the field had his hands in his head after watching the ball fly wide after smashing off the post.

Sending an apologetic look at his teammates, he turned around, covering his face once again in exasperation at having missed such a chance.

Chapter 455: Super Coppa III

#28th minute...

The match was still a goalless one despite the efforts of the two teams to change the situation, however, with the increasing number of chances at both ends of the field, it was looking like sooner or later, one of the teams would succeed in opening up the game.

Currently, the Napoli team had a corner and after the referee's whistle, the ball was sent flying into Uventus' penalty area.

With the Uventus players' height advantage, it didn't need to be said who was more likely to get to the ball first and the ball was quickly headed out of the penalty box, but Insigne who was standing outside the penalty box soon got his leg to the ball and brought it under control.

Pushing the ball forward back toward the box, he glanced at the players in the penalty box and knowing that there was no way he could get a better chance than that moment to take a shot, he didn't hesitate and sent a powerful drive at Uventus' goal.

The ball flew powerfully and deflected off a teammate, suddenly changing direction and flying towards the bottom right corner of the goal but shockingly Sczesny managed to reach it and caught it deftly, not giving his opponents any chance to rebound the ball.

{Good shot, but the keeper was equal to it! Fantastic save from Sczesny} Guiseppe called out loudly.

The Napoli players disappointedly began to leave the Uventus' 18-yard box while the Uventus players commended the goalkeeper before leaving.

Sczesny stood up and with a quick glance across the field, made a decision.

Moving forward a bit, he sent the ball high across the pitch with a high punt.

#35th minute...

Half an hour had already gone by which was a third of the match's duration and there still wasn't any change to the scoreboard, yet the excitement at the stadium hadn't dwindled in the slightest as the two teams on the field had been displaying exciting and attacking football which kept them on the edge of their seats up till now.

At any moment, a period of possession could turn to an attack and the fans just couldn't get enough of it.

Once again, it was Uventus on the attack and they were working the ball towards the penalty area.

From the right flank, Bernadeschi who was with the ball did a quick feint to escape his marker enough to send a pass towards Ronaldo in the center.

Receiving the ball outside the penalty box, Ronaldo stopped the ball, pulled it back to confuse the defenders then kicked it forward, sending a pass to Kulusevski who had just run behind Koulibaly and was one on one with the goalkeeper.

Ospina immediately rushed forward on seeing the pass and jumped into the path of Kulusevski who had hit it immediately.

Spreading himself wide had allowed him to block the shot and the ball flew back outside the box, but Ronaldo quickly jumped in the way of the ball and brought it under control before quickly kicking it at the goal which was empty, however, as soon as the ball flew off at the goal, Koulibaly threw himself in the way of the ball and just barely deflected it with his body.

The ball bounced off Koulibaly's body and flew at the goal, but at the last moment, it smashed against the bottom left post and rolled out of play.

{Saved by the bar!}

{They were scrambling over themselves there and they just managed to stay afloat!}

{The scores remain unchanged yet again!}

{Napoli have to put more effort into shutting down attacks like this or they might not get to stay equal with their opponents for much longer!} Guiseppe shouted with excitement while the Uventus players began arranging themselves inside the penalty box for the corner kick.

The corner kick was taken quickly, but was headed wide by Rabiot who got his head to it first and Napoli was given a goal kick.

The match continued with both teams making more efforts at triggering a change on the score board.

Shots were sent flying, crosses were sent flying in, attempts at dribbling were made and runs at goal were made, but the end of the first half continued to draw closer and neither team still didn't have anything to celebrate despite their efforts.

{Fweeeeeeeeeee!}

The referee's whistle blew loudly across the field, bringing an end to the first half of the game.

The players began to walk off the field breathing heavily, their breaths forming white mists in front of their faces.

{It's the end of the first 45 minutes of the game and despite an excitement filled half, the scores remain as they were at the beginning of the game} Giuseppe began.

{It was an half filled with exciting football as you said. Shots were sent flying in from all sorts of angles and quite a few chances presented themselves} Fabrizio added.

{I'm honestly quite surprised that the two teams are still stuck in a deadlock. A score like 2 – 2 feels more likely with how many attempts those two had taken at each other} he went on to say, his eyes following the players who were headed into the tunnel for the break.

On the field, the Juventus players quickly headed to their locker room for their break, discussing among themselves as they rued their missed chances in the first half and began discussing among themselves how best to advance in the second half.

Pirlo, the head manager joined his players and the half time tactical meeting quickly began with the manager addressing what he felt needed to be addressed.

There wasn't much to talk about however as the players were already doing well, they were just a bit unlucky to not be ahead as despite them having a similar number of shots to their opponents, theirs were mostly on target as compared to their opponents who were not even able to take shots in comfortable areas thanks to the efforts of the defenders.

After a quick discussion, the players rested their muscles for the remaining time left in the break and were soon back on their way back to the pitch for the second half of the game.

Chapter 456: Super Coppa IV

Fweeeeeeeeeeeee

The referee blew loudly to kick off the second half of the SuperCoppa Italia and the ball began moving across the field once again.

It was the Napoli side that kicked off the second half and they patiently began passing the ball among themselves while the Uventus side began to press, wanting to steal possession from their opponents.

While the Uventus side was pressing them, the Napoli side tried to break through past the Uventus midfield but before long, they lost the ball after a bad pass.

Uventus quickly pounced on the ball and tried to start a counterattack, but the Napoli players quickly pulled back and blocked the Uventus players trying to get past them quickly, causing the Uventus team to slow down their play.

The match soon settled into a back-and-forth one, with both teams launching attacks on their opponents at the slightest whiff of a space.

#64th minute...

The Uventus side had just retrieved the ball from their opponents who had been on the attack and without needing any extra stimulus, they immediately launched a counter attack and began moving the ball swiftly across the field.

Soon the ball found it's way to Rabiot in the middle of the park and he tried to push forward, but his marker started hassling him and he sent the ball towards Ramsey who was nearby.

Before receiving the ball, Ramsey was already looking for the best way forward and he soon found it in Bernadeschi who was running at top speed down the right flank.

With his first touch on the ball, he sent a powerful curling pass behind Mario Rui.

The ball flew powerfully down the right flank and looked like it would roll out of play, but Bernadeschi increased his pace and just barely managed to reach it before it rolled out of play.

Pushing the ball forward and back to a safer place on the pitch, he quickly began cutting into the penalty box, glancing behind to check where Mario Rui was.

Once he was inside the penalty box, he didn't hesitate and quickly sent a grounded cross into Ronaldo's path.

A burst of pace was all Ronaldo needed to outpace his marker and strike the ball powerfully at goal.

{Can they take the lead!?!} Giuseppe shouted expectantly.

{Yes they do!} He shouted as the ball slammed into the back of the net, Ospina unable to stop it.

Ronaldo immediately took off down the sideline, leaving everyone with no doubt what he was going to do.

Jumping and turning mid-air, the Uventus fans did their part and shouted *SIUUUU!*

{What a goal!}

{We saw it coming, and now they've done it!}

{They've gone and broken the deadlock and their opponents are distraught!}

{Something tells me that this match is about to become more interesting!} Giuseppe did not mince his words as he shouted exuberantly while the Uventus players and their fans celebrated their goal.

Luckily for the Napoli player's frame of mind, the celebrations did not continue for too long and the match soon continued.

#74th minute...

Jason wore his training vest over his jersey as he warmed up on the sidelines after being called up by the manager.

Soon he was done warming up and stood beside Pirlo who was giving him instructions as Chiesa ran over to the sidelines.

“Stay alert and ready to burst forward from your flank when we are on the attack,” Pirlo instructed while Jason nodded as he listened.

Chiesa soon reached the sidelines and after a double high-five with Jason, he stepped off the field, while Jason ran onto the pitch and headed to his position on the left flank.

After the substitution, the match quickly resumed.

Napoli was currently playing as hard as they could, trying to get a goal that would put them back on level terms, but Uventus’ defense wasn’t to be thought little off and they blocked chance after chance of the Napoli team.

The Uventus team wasn’t only defending though and were also taking the opportunity to put more pressure on the Napoli team that was so eager to score.

#82nd minute...

Yet again, another Napoli attempt at scoring against their opponents had been foiled and the Uventus team had burst out on a counter attack, wanting to punish their opponents.

The ball moved quickly across the field, Uventus breaking through the center.

The ball moved from Bentacur to Ramsey and Ramsey sent it forward to Morata.

At this point, they had just barely passed the halfway line and Morata quickly sent the ball to Ronaldo, planning to do a quick one-two pass routine to confuse the opponents, but Ronaldo had a different idea.

With his back facing the goal, he put out his right foot and flicked the ball with the outside of his foot, sending the ball past him and into the box, but it had changed direction ever so slightly towards the left.

Before Morata could even mentally complain about what Ronaldo did, he saw the ball moving into the path of Jason who no one but Ronaldo noticed had been running in from the left.

The ball was still mid-air when Jason reached it.

Not bothering to control the ball, he angled himself and volleyed it with his first touch.

{Hits it first time!} Giuseppe shouted as he watched Jason hit the ball.

The ball rocketed towards the top right corner and curled inwards, slamming into the top corner of the goal.

{Ohhhhhhhh!}

{What a wonderful goal!}

{It's his first goal in new colors and what a spectacular one it is!} Giuseppe shouted loudly, but Jason who had crashed to the floor because of the angle at which he hit the ball, quickly stood up and ran towards the sidelines before jumping into a power slide.

The other Uventus players were soon there to celebrate the goal as well with him while the Uventus fans were screaming at the top of their voices because, with two goals in the 82nd minute, the match was quite literally in the bag.

{Hitting it on the volley after such an unconventional pass from Ronaldo, he didn't disappoint the trust of his teammates and put it past the keeper!} Giuseppe commented.

{I'm still stuck on that position he was in when he hit the ball, he literally disabled gravity and struck the ball powerfully. Powerful shot, delicious curl, what a stunner!} Fabrizio added as the replay of the goal was being shown on the screens in the stadium.

The Napoli players looked on as their opponents celebrated another goal against them and their hope to get anything from the game slowly slipped away, however, they didn't give up hope and quickly sent the ball back to the middle of the field so that they could quickly kick off the game.

The Uventus players also headed back to their half of the field and the game kicked off for the fifth time in the match.

As soon as the referee's whistle blasted, Mertens sent the ball towards a teammate and the Napoli team immediately launched an attack.

The minutes that followed were filled with desperate attempts by the Napoli players to get a goal but try as they might, they just weren't able to get the goal they were after.

Instead, the Uventus team began to have even more space to attack due to the defenders going forward to join the attack.

#90 + 2...

The added time for the game was four minutes and at this point, Napoli had given up on equalizing the game, but they still pressed forward, seemingly trying to get a consolation goal but things just didn't fall in the right place for them.

{This Napoli side we've seen today, has not been able to do well on the attack} Giuseppe commented as he watched the game.

{Exactly. The wing play has been pretty okay, but the finishing has not been up to par} Fabrizio added.

{I guess that's what happens when the main striker of the team is injured. Osimen's presence is sorely missed by this Napoli squad} Giuseppe continued.

{It's Jason on the left, he seems to be looking for a way forward} Guiseppe commented.

Jason was up against Ghoulam and was trying to get past the right back, but the player was proving to be a difficult adversary and didn't want to budge, however, this wasn't Jason's first rodeo.

He suddenly moved towards the right as if trying to cut in, and as soon as Ghoulam reacted and followed his movements, Jason snapped back towards the left and fed the ball forward before chasing after it.

Ghoulam immediately gave chase, but Jason was already a distance away and sent an early cross into the penalty box.

The ball flew high into the penalty box, but Jason had used a bit too much power because of the urgency of the situation and the ball flew over the face of the goal.

Ronaldo who was in the box chased after the ball and reached it before it flew out of the penalty box, before turning back and facing the goal.

Koulibaly immediately came at him but Ronaldo did two step overs and snapped to the left, moving the ball out of Koulibaly's reach before sending chipping a pass at Morata.

{He takes to the air!?!}

Chapter 457: First Trophy in Italy

{Header!!!!}

Guiseppe shouted exuberantly as Morata's head connected with the ball.

The ball flew downward thanks to Morata's efforts at directing it and it bounced past the goalline before nestling itself in the back of the net.

{Goal!!!}

{Three!}

{Surely now, there's no way back!} Guiseppe shouted in joyous excitement.

{What poise, what excitement, what joy, they have this one in the bag!}

{Their opponents did not expect this! Just when they thought everything was over, Uventus have put a final nail in the coffin!}

The commentator's words served as a backdrop to the excitement that swept through the Uventus fans at the stadium.

The Uventus fans were not the majority at the stadium, but with how loud they were shouting, one couldn't tell the difference between half of the stadium shouting and the whole stadium shouting.

The whole team was taking their time to celebrate their goal and the Napoli players could not even be bothered to stop them because there was nothing that would change.

They were more distraught at losing the game than angry at their opponents for scoring another goal against them.

The Uventus players also didn't mind the chance for an uninterrupted celebration period, but they didn't overdo it as the final whistle was less than three minutes away.

They could celebrate as much as they wanted to by then, so they put aside the extravagant celebrations and headed back to their side of the field and the game kicked off again.

The Napoli team kicked off the match again and began passing the ball around, but there was a lack of desperation in their movements that was present in their movements earlier.

The Napoli players moved the ball around patiently while the Uventus players gave chase, but they didn't chase too hard, however their effects were enough to keep the Napoli team in check and unable to send the ball forward.

This state of football didn't last for long and the referee soon put his whistle to his mouth to blow the final whistle.

Fweeee *Fweeee* *Fweeeeeeeeeee*

The Uventus fans who were already singing and cheering for their team entered another gear and burst forth with louder and more excited cheers taking over the stadium in that moment.

{There's the final whistle!}

{It is over!}

{Despite the excitement that this match brought, there were no twists and Uventus have coasted to victory here!}

{Their opponents look unhappy, they played hard and did their best, but their best wasn't enough against this Uventus team}

{Swift, precise, and powerful, they punished their opponents for their mistakes and coasted to victory, successfully earning themselves their first silverware of the season} Guiseppe gave remarks as the Uventus team began the first rounds of celebrations.

{They're happy you have gotten it. Look at the joy on their faces as they celebrate their win} Fabrizio added as the Uventus players, the substitutes and the manager went to celebrate with the fans.

{You know, it's especially funny when you think about the new arrival at the club, Jason} Guiseppe commented, his eyes falling on Jason who was jointly celebrating with his teammates on the field.

{This makes it his second trophy this season. He already got his hand on a trophy back in the Portuguese league and now he has a second one while his team lost their chance at another trophy just yesterday}

{Do you think his absence was a major cause of his home team being disqualified?} He asked his commentary partner.

{It's hard to say it's not as we have seen from just a few minutes of the kid being on the field that he brings a lot of dramatic flair to the game that is not exciting and efficient}

{He can almost always be trusted to shake things up in a deadlocked game and Oporto was missing that in their last match}

{But then, they were the ones who allowed him to be loaned out to another team at this crucial point in the season so there's no point crying over spilled milk}

{Uventus will be happy to have this lad and he's already bringing them returns on their investments} Fabrizio replied laughingly.

{Right you are} Guiseppe laughed.

{With their first silverware in the bag, this team's morale must be sky high and they'll be feeling they can do anything. Their opponents in the coming match would have a hard time trying to keep them in check and avoid being swept away by their flooding morale}

Guiseppe and Fabrizio kept conversing about various topics to entertain the crowd as the award ceremony was being set up.

Back on the field, Jason was jointly celebrating with the team while they began heading towards where the trophy had been set up.

As he walked with his teammates with a smile on his face, Jason could almost feel himself drowning in the happiness of the moment.

He had achieved yet another milestone on his road towards becoming the best.

Despite not having played any part in qualifying for the competition, he had played in the finals and had done his part in helping the team win thus he did not feel like a freeloader.

Even if he was a freeloader, so what, the right to write history only belonged to the victors, only people who didn't have an array of achievements had things to prove would argue the mundane matters of whether one was deserving of a trophy or not.

Other people simply didn't care that much and would just let the thoughts slide over their mind.

Now that he had one of the available trophies in the Italian League within his grasp, his greed was aroused towards the other trophies in the league.

Quickly recalling that there was only one other domestic cup left in the league, the Coppa Italia, and the League title left for the taking, he could feel his hopes rising up.

With a team like Uventus, it wasn't too far fetched for him to dream of taking all the available trophies in the league that year.

Of course, it wasn't going to be an easy endeavor as the other teams in the league would be doing their best to stop them from doing that as they also fancied their chances with those trophies as well.

Any of those trophies would look good in the cabinet and every team that was qualified salivated at the chance to take those trophies.

Bad enough, those teams had enough quality to get in the way of Jason's dreams to sweep up all the available trophies.

However the only thing Jason thought of at that moment was,

'Bring it on,'

There was nothing he could do about the obstacles in his way other than to get past them and if they were proving to be too annoying, then he'd go through them.

He had a solid team backing him up as well.

'Scared' was the last word that he could think of.

Frankly, he fancied his chances .

'Ah wait, there's the Champions League too...' Jason suddenly remembered.

In the heat of the moment, he hadn't remembered that he was still in a Champions League team.

'Do we have a chance at the Champions League?' he could not help wondering internally.

The answer was... yes, they did.

Uventus had the team quality to challenge for the Champions League and they would, but challenging for the Champions League was a lot more difficult than challenging for a domestic cup in the Italian League.

The reason why he didn't compare it to winning the League itself was because they were not comparable in a sense.

The Champions League was against the best football clubs in Europe which was the continent where the biggest clubs in world football were.

There was a group stage and a knockout stage.

On making it to the knockout stages, one would have two matches to prove that they were ultimately better than their opponents before they could move on to the next stage.

The competition was the greatest test for a team aiming to become Champions of Europe.

On the other hand, there was the league title which didn't seem as impressive as the Champions League to some people, but only people knowledgeable about the football world would know the kind of dedication and consistency needed from a group of players to get that trophy.

To win the league title in any league in Europe, one would have to consistently put in good performances all year round in each and every game, outperforming about 19 other teams who were trying to do the same thing.

It was even harder for a big team as they had to compete in domestic competitions, and continental competitions and everyone had big expectations for them to perform to the peak of their capabilities in every game as if there was no such thing as exhaustion.

Smaller teams in the leagues did not have such constraints and would have the energy to match their opponents skills this it was just as difficult to win a League title over the Champions League, if not more difficult.

However, all that thinking didn't matter to Jason.

The trophies had appeared on his radar and he was going to try to get them.

Whether he succeeded or not was not an issue to deal with at present.

'Thinking about the Champions League... Uventus next match was against Oporto, wasn't it?' Jason recalled and a smile broke that would make one confused as to whether it was a grin or a smirk broke out on his face.

Chapter 458: Teammate or Opponent

The rest of the night passed by quickly to Jason, but the excitement of the night wasn't lost on him despite him already setting his eyes greedily on even more trophies.

After the stage was set, the awards ceremony began and the players stepped up one by one to receive the award before stepping to one side, and finally, after all the Uventus players had each received a medal, Chiellini, the team's captain stepped up to receive the trophy.

Once he received the trophy, he took it back to his teammates and the air was already bubbling before anything, anticipation already building as the captain and the remaining players took the cup-lifting pose.

With one swift movement the trophy was raised the next moment and what followed it was the loud excited shout of Uventus fans at the stadium and those watching the match.

Social media was already feeling the brunt of Uventus victory as even though it was a small victory compared to all other trophies in the league, the Uventus fans weren't going to let go of the chance to banter with their rivals who didn't have any silverware yet.

For the next day, Uventus winning the Italy SuperCup became a guaranteed trend on social media in the Italian hemisphere, and pictures of them lifting the trophy as well as the highlights of the game surfaced everywhere, showing the efforts the Uventus fans were putting in to spread the gospel of their team.

Some unfortunate Napoli players became memes thanks to the expertise of the videographers at the stadium, but that was the last thing on the minds of the Napoli players who were still down at losing the game, but there was no time for them to stay downhearted.

The season was just reaching its midway stage so this was no time for them to wallow in the disappointment of missing out on a trophy as they were still in contention for others, hence they quickly perked up... at least on the outside.

Jason noticed Osimen on the field with his teammates after the award ceremony and he seemed to be comforting some of his teammates.

Seeing a fellow countryman and teammate, Jason didn't hesitate to go over.

Osimen didn't notice Jason's presence until Jason was almost behind him and one of his teammates finally called his attention to Jason who was approaching.

"My boss, what's up na?" Osimen's accent did a 180 and returned to its Nigerian roots as he sighted Jason.

"I'm cool, how are you doing? I heard about your injury, when will you get better?" Jason asked as he dapped the man and they shared a half-hug.

"It's just a sprain man, I'll be match-fit before the end of the month," Osimen said with a smile as he pulled back from the hug.

"So, hopefully, I'll be able to play against you next month?" Jason asked with a smirk, playing around a bit.

"For sure, we'll see who scores more in that match," Osimen took Jason's words in stride and replied laughingly.

For most people, this kind of questioning would annoy them especially after their team had just lost a trophy, but the Nigerian bloodline in Osimen would not be triggered by these level of words. He had faced off against even more harsh provocations during normal banter so there was no way he would be triggered by this harmless question.

It may make one seem like they were brainless, but it was how most Nigerian men were. They didn't waste their time reading into their fellow's words during banter.

One couldn't say the same about the Nigerian women though as those ones were a special breed of women even among the vast species of touchy women worldwide.

"Congratulations on your trophy sef,"

“Sharp sharp, you just reached this place and you already have one medal. It’s not even been a week bro,” Osimen said to Jason, not a hint of jealousy in his voice

“Na sky daddy doings please,” Jason laughed and raised his hands harmlessly, putting all the blame on God like all Nigerians did when they didn’t want to explain or did not know how to explain something that had happened to them.

“Nice nice, I also wan tap some of your grace,” Osimen did not argue and laughed along with Jason before he pulled out his phone.

“Let’s take a picture together, let me too snap picture with person wey get medal,” Osimen whispered the second part of his sentence as it might get on the wrong side of some of his teammates who were still a bit down after the loss.

There wasn’t any need for that anyway as the nearest person in a light blue shirt was far enough away from them that they wouldn’t be able to hear what they were talking about.

“Sure sure,” Jason nodded and got beside Osimen while Osimen opened his camera app and quickly took a few selfies.

“Send those to me yeah,” Jason remembered to say as he dapped Osimen again.

“Sure, sure, I’ll send it to your Instagram,” Osimen replied as he and Jason snapped fingers at the end of the dap.

“Ok cool, later man,” Jason nodded and turned away and headed back to meet his teammates.

What followed were a few more joyous celebrations with the fans, some songs Jason didn’t know, a few pictures and videos with teammates, and interviews.

For individual awards, Ronaldo had gotten the best player of the award, but since there were three top scorers, that award was postponed and would be sent to Jason, Morata, and Ronaldo later.

The golden gloves went to Sczesny without much debate, after all, he had managed to keep the opponents at bay for the whole game.

Of course, a lot of the credit for that went to the Uventus defenders, but the only other contender for the award had conceded three goals in one half so there wasn't any suspense in the referee's decision.

After answering a few interesting questions from the reporters who still hadn't gotten tired of poking around until they found player's sore spots, Jason headed into the tunnel along with the rest of his teammates.

Chapter 459: Business and Business?

21st January 2020

10:38 a.m.

The sun was bright and the moods of the Uventus players who had won a trophy just the day before were a lot brighter, but inside the bus that was carrying them back to Turin, most of that brightness couldn't be seen on their faces.

The players would be on the bus for the next four hours back to Turin and most of them were using that to catch some sleep as most of them had been up late celebrating the newest addition to their accolades.

The few who weren't sleeping were either on their phones or conversing in low tones.

Jason wasn't asleep yet, but he planned to go to sleep soon enough.

As a new member of the team, he couldn't avoid celebrating with his teammates the previous night, nor did he want to, so he had joined in happily and they had a good time within the restrictions of what could be allowed mid season.

Of course, Jason joining in the celebration didn't mean he drank... rather, he just ate a few delicious foods that he had been avoiding due to their counter effects on his physical training...

Since it wasn't even Turin, the celebration wasn't too big and was done in their hotel's bar.

He had stayed up a bit late but had still gone to sleep earlier than most at the celebration, but even that wasn't enough and he still wanted to go back to sleep, however, there were a few things he needed to attend to before then.

The previous night, he had checked his phone to check the picture Osimen sent to him and after seeing the pictures, he picked the one that he thought looked best and posted it with the caption "We win together... get well soon" and he added the Nigerian flag.

Then he posted a few other pictures with different captions to celebrate the team's win.

He also posted a video of his first goal with the caption "First of many".

It was a statement of intent, one that he planned to take serious and follow through with. There was the added benefit of the pressure such a proud statement brought, so he would always be hard pressed to work hard to make it come to pass.

It was when he was posting that he received a message from Adele and Maya Singh.

Immediately recognizing it as business, he noted it down mentally and prepared to put his phone down, but another message came flying in.

This one was from a verified user on Instagram, causing him to take a look and he was surprised to see that it was Big Shaq.

Wondering what the musician wanted from him, he decided to check the message before calling his aunt and then going to the party.

By the time he read through the message, he had an amused look on his face.

It wasn't a congratulatory message from the musician which would have felt weird anyway since they didn't exactly know each other that much.

The contents of the message was instead in a direction Jason hadn't expected as it was a feature request for Jason on a song.

It was funny to Jason because he was a footballer and not a musician so he had first wondered if the message had ended up in the wrong DM, but after reading further, he understood the reasoning but was still amused.

Apparently the freestyle he and Big Shaq had done in Nigeria the previous year had become a bit of a trend and some people started using it on short videos and in skits, causing it to become an even bigger trend.

The problem arose because of how catchy the "song" was.

To Jason and Big Shaq, it had just been a bunch of rubbish they had said while following the beat, and while it had surprisingly come out well, they hadn't thought much of it and had put it behind them after that day, but some genius had taken it upon himself to take that small bit that they had rapped online and put it together in a way that it felt like a teaser of a song.

It was that teaser that had then blown up.

Big Shaq had found out about it later, but hadn't bothered himself with the trend and had simply ignored it, however, others didn't and the song had somehow managed to get inside their head and didn't want to get out so they had taken to social media asking Big Shaq when the actual song would be released.

Even Big Shaq was surprised by the number of tags he had seen in the last few weeks concerning the song.

He was someone who made music for fun and not for the career of it.

After he had made his first hit, he had tried to build off it with another song, but while that song had made the charts as well, it was mostly due to the fame he had amassed from his first song and the song was not that good.

He knew that much and only focused on music as a side mission, but now people were calling him for a song and he felt like doing it, hence after the tags had become a bit too much, he finally contacted Jason who had been a co-singer in the formation of the song and wanted to ask him about whether he wanted to feature on the song.

Jason who was on the receiving end of that text was now stuck in an amused dilemma.

It wasn't something he could decide that night and he didn't want to rush to make a decision, hence he had categorized it as business as well and added it to the number of things he would respond to later, yet as he looked at his phone in the bus, re-reading the message with a clearer mind that wasn't overwhelmed by excitement, he still couldn't break out of the amused dilemma he found himself in.

'I guess we'll decide that later then,'

Chapter 460: Business and Business? II

After putting the matter of the song aside, Jason opened Adele and Maya's message.

They contained the same thing in essence, the only difference was in their personal view and how they constructed their messages.

What he needed to be informed about was that the product launch date of Rosember had been set to February 1st and massive campaigning would be done with Valentine's Day as a target.

The product was already being produced massively at the factories and would be sent to the countries that were targeted for launch.

The company had already made deals with quite a few malls and beauty houses where the product would be on sale by counter and there would also be a lot extra that would be available for delivery to a lot more countries.

Also, the company had struck an endorsement deal with Georgina Gio.

Despite properly appropriating the funds Jason had invested, there still wasn't a lot left, so they could only settle on a short term deal with possibility of extension.

For now, it was only an endorsement deal of ten posts on her social media accounts for a million dollars.

Maya didn't want to promise ambassadorship at this point because the company currently did not have the financial capacity to bear such a burden, but she had hopes for it in the future.

Jason was glad to see that everything had been settled on that end so all he had to do now was to wait until the day of it's project launch.

Suddenly he remembered that he had mentioned earlier that it would be nice to make the project launch be sometime at the end of the previous year because like it kind of tallied with the ember at the end of their brand name, but unfortunately, the company couldn't work with such a schedule...

Unless they wanted to fail absolutely dismally, of course.

Nobody wanted that so they ended up with February 1st.

'Anyway, back to this,' Jason thought and his focus returned back to Big Shaq's offer for a feature on the song.

Honestly thinking about it, there was no problem with doing it.

Since it was going to be an actual song, it would be done in a professional setting and would be edited appropriately by a producer so there was not much risk of Jason making a fool of himself on the song, not to mention that there was literally already a teaser of the song out and people liked it.

It also wasn't a problem with his identity as there was no problem with him singing a song as a football player, hell, even people like Memphis Depay had songs out... though one could not say the songs were top-level.

"Fu*k it, let's just do it, maybe it'll be fun," Jason muttered to himself and responded to Big Shaq's message.

{Sure, gimme some details and we can work something out on my schedule} he typed out and pressed 'send'.

Despite deciding to do it, Jason wasn't going to break his schedule just so he could record a song. His priority was still football and this interesting side quest of music that had popped up was just that for now.

A side quest... nothing more.

He didn't have time to chase both a music career and a football career at the same time unless he wanted to be mediocre at both.

If he was going to do something, then he'd rather do it to the best of his capabilities and would always be reaching for the stars and though his passion for music was mostly listening to songs, if he decided to make a career of singing, he'd want to focus more on it and that would affect his football life and if it didn't affect that, it'd definitely affect his personal health because juggling two such high-intensity jobs was more than dangerous for one's health and mentality and Jason didn't have enough health and mentality to go round.

An unfortunate but sad truth.

Once he was done replying, he turned off his phone and closed his eyes to sleep, making a mental note to call his aunt and Adele later in the day when he was less busy.

England...

Michael Dapah felt his phone vibrate as he lay on his couch watching TV while stuffing himself with some self-prepared popcorn.

For someone who was supposed to be a music artist, he was a little too free to do anything he wanted with his time and that was the part he loved most about his life.

He didn't have to push himself too much, worrying about his account balance running out of zeros because he was spending a lot on promotion and all sorts of money sinkholes.

His first two songs had made him quite a bit of money and they were still making him money because people were still listening to them, not to mention that during the time of their peak, he had also taken the chance to join a few shows and had made a little extra money.

Of course, there was also his earnings from social media which guaranteed a steady stream of income.

Since he wasn't like most other chocolate-skinned artists who blew all their money on diamond chains and designer clothing, he still had a lot of money left.

He had his parents to thank for his upbringing that was helping him manage his money and allow him to live like a homebody who did whatever he wanted when he wanted.

He was living the dream life of every man, sleeping when he wanted, waking when he wanted, playing games when he felt like it, traveling when he felt like it, plus the occasional comfort of a female whenever he was feeling frisky.

The lucky one pulled his phone nearer from afar while still focusing on the TV as the show was currently at a suspense-filled part and he did not want to take his eyes off, so despite having pulled the phone over for quite a bit, he still hadn't checked his phone.

It was only when the episode showing was over that he finally remembered that his phone was in his hand.

Quickly remembering why it was there instead of the original edge of the couch where he usually placed it, he opened it up to check a few things before the next episode of his favorite show began.

He soon found Jason's message and a smile appeared on his face.

"I guess I'm going to Italy," he muttered, remembering that Jason was no longer at Porto.

"... After three more episodes," he added and threw his phone back over to the edge of the couch as the next episode of the show began.