

LEGENDS 531

Chapter 531: Set Piece Duty Reshuffle I

****2nd March 2021****

“Bro, who do you think will win between Inter and AC?” Mckennie asked Cuadrado as they walked through the corridors of the Uventus stadium.

“It’s hard to put a finger on that one, though. Inter has been playing well, and they’re still top of the table, but that AC Milan is not so easy to beat, especially with that Rafael Leao guy who’s playing for them,”

“He has an annoying way of turning up in completely unexpected situations. Kinda like Jason here,” Cuadrado said, ruffling his hand through Jason’s hair.

“What the hell, man,” Jason complained immediately.

He had been trying to gather the hair together so he could tie it up, and Cuadrado decided to casually set him back a few seconds by ruffling his hair.

Cuadrado didn’t feel any remorse about what he had just done though, and laughed heartily at Jason. Mckennie and a few other players joined him in laughter as they kept walking.

The Uventus players were heading out to the field for a pre-match warm-up before their game against Spezia, which would be held at their own stadium.

As usual, they had hopes of victory in this match as well.

Especially since the team above them, Inter Milan, was in a top-tier match-up.

If there was any likely time for Inter Milan to drop points, it was today, and the Uventus team planned to capitalize on that if it ever happened.

The match was still about an hour away though.

The players continued walking forward, conversing with another in low and loud tones depending on the conversation and they were soon at the entrance to the tunnel.

Right as they stepped out of the tunnel and were hit by the stadium lights, they were also hit by the slowly rising noise in the stadium.

The stadium was already slowly filling up with fans waiting for the game to begin, and quite a few of those fans were seated near the tunnels.

As the players showed up at the entrance of the tunnel, the fans' attention immediately shot in their direction. Some shouted the players' names, while others reached out for a handshake or an autograph.

Unsurprisingly, most of the fans were calling for Ronaldo's attention, but a new development was that Jason was the second most popular name among the fans, and a great deal of those voices sounded feminine.

Jason didn't know what caused the sudden increase, as no one told him anything.

He had been off social media for a little while, as he had been more focused on training the last few days, but he still responded to the fans as best as he could.

He gave a few handshakes, signed five autographs, and waved and blew kisses to the fans who were far away.

Of course, only the far-away female fans received flying kisses.

All the male fans were entitled to were waves and salutes.

After quickly attending to the fans, the players quickly went to their side of the field to begin warming up for the game.

The manager had already told them the line-up for the game and discussed most of the game's tactical set-up, so the players did a bit of practice with one another for what they planned for in the game.

"Hey, let me take some set pieces in this game," Jason suddenly asked when Ronaldo and Cuadrado were discussing the setpieces for the game.

Normally, Cuadrado was in charge of the left corner and long free-kicks, while Ronaldo was in charge of penalties and short free-kicks.

Danilo, Alex Sandro, and Dybala sometimes took part in the set piece-taking whenever they were on the pitch, but these two were the main guys.

"Free kicks or corner kicks?" Cuadrado asked Jason, not minding too much as he knew Jason had good accuracy and was good enough to take it.

"Only kids choose; I want 'em both," Jason snickered.

"I don't know if you know, but nineteen is still a kid," Ronaldo countered and laughed.

"Eighteen is adulthood age; I can drive and drink a beer if I want," Jason countered, trying to get a word back in.

"Nineteen still has 'teen' in it. It's all an illusion," Cuadrado backed up Ronaldo and laughed at Jason as well.

"Eighteen is just the age for adulthood because the government of all those countries needed kids to fight in wars back then. It used to be 21," Mckennie, who was nearby, chimed in.

"That's a weird take, but okay... a bit morbid though,"

“Anyway, I want to take some corner kicks,” Jason replied.

“And a short free-kick,” he continued, turning to Ronaldo, snarkily rubbing his hands.

“I can do corner kicks, you’ll only get three, though, and if you cross sh*t, then that’s the end of it,” Cuadrado said, nodding as he spoke.

“Three’s okay. I’m not after corner-kicking duty,” Jason laughed.

He only felt like taking a few set pieces on the pitch since it had been a while since he had taken set pieces anywhere apart from training.

The only reason he was able to take set-pieces in Oporto was that they had lost Telles, who was the major set-piece taker, and Oliveira wasn’t playing all that often thanks to the squad arrangement.

Normally, it would be difficult for someone like him even to get any chances on a set piece.

“Ororo?” Jason asked, turning to Ronaldo for permission to take short free kicks.

“One... you get one chance to take a free-kick every game from now on,” Ronaldo said, his words surprising everyone who heard.

Everyone knew that as long as Ronaldo was on the pitch, he would take all the short-distance free-kicks, even in the national team, so no one expected to hear Ronaldo give him a chance in every game.

One chance per game didn’t seem to be much, but to someone like Ronaldo, it was like he had willingly taken a step back and allowed Jason to be a co-free kicktaker on the team.

It was not something anyone expected to happen.

“You’ll need to do it again and again if you want to get good at it, and it seems like you already have talent in this direction, so, for now, one chance per game,”

“if you score a free-kick, you can take another one in the same game, and if you score three free kicks in total, I’ll increase the chances to two times per game,” Ronaldo continued speaking, totally oblivious to what everyone was thinking as their eyes continually widened with every word that came out of his mouth.

Chapter 532: Set Piece Duty Reshuffle II

“If you score five, then it can be three times per ga-...”

“What are you doing?” Ronaldo stopped talking and turned to Dybala who had the back of his hand against his neck.

“Checking if you have a fever,” Dybala said bluntly, not hiding his intentions or the shocked look on his face.

“I’m fine,” Ronaldo pulled off his hand, but Dybala pulled his hand away and put it back on Ronaldo’s neck as if he was determined to check Ronaldo’s temperature.

“Why do you need to check my temperature anyway?” Ronaldo asked as he once again pulled Dybala’s hand from his neck.

“Are you even hearing yourself right now?”

“You just allowed Jason to take short free kicks!” Dybala put into words what everyone else was thinking.

“So? You’re saying that like it’s a weird thing,” Ronaldo answered, sounding confused.

“You never do that!” Dybala retorted immediately.

“That’s because you never ask,” Ronaldo rolled his eyes, finally realizing what was happening.

It was actually something as simple as that, but Ronaldo knew it all stemmed from a misunderstanding that he was too selfish to share such a chance.

Not that he wasn’t selfish... kind of.

But it wasn’t to that extent.

He didn’t mind allowing other players to have a chance occasionally or if the situation demanded it.

The problem was that most people never thought to ask him about it, perhaps because of all he had achieved.

As one of the top free-kick takers and penalty-kick takers of all time, he was guaranteed to be the one taking such set pieces at any team he went to, but contrary to popular belief, he didn’t take everything.

He often let others take free-kicks and penalties if they just asked him.

Back at Madrid, he had players like Bale, Isco, Ozil, Di Maria, Kroos, Modric, and others competing with him for free kicks and penalties.

He was the main taker, but they also took their fair share of those set pieces and that was why they were so accomplished at it. All they had to do was ask him, and he would let them have at it a lot of times.

However, because he had been with them for so long, it was easier for them back in Madrid to make that kind of request to him, but here at Uventus, no one ever bothered to ask him.

It was almost like they all felt like he wouldn’t allow it or was too selfish to allow them to have a try.

That was like thinking Messi was a selfish player because he often made runs at the opponent without passing the ball to anyone until he reached the penalty box.

Everyone had their perks, and while Ronaldo had to admit that he might be a tad bit more selfish than many other football players, one did not get to become the fifth top assist ranker of all time by being irredeemably selfish.

All his Uventus teammates would have had to do was ask him, and he would have let them have a crack at the penalties or free kicks.

Morata, who was also his teammate back at Madrid, knew that and would occasionally score penalties even with Ronaldo on the pitch, but somehow, the others hadn't caught on to that.

"Try asking me next time," Ronaldo rolled his eyes and began to pull Jason away, continuing what he was saying before the sudden interruption.

Everyone else just watched the two of them walk away and keep talking.

"You're kidding me. All we had to do was ask?" Chiesa said in a flabbergasted tone.

"Nah, I call cap. He's just training his protege. That's what's doing," Mckennie said while shaking his head. He sounded like he was trying more to convince himself than to convince others.

"Yeah. He's just looking for someone to carry on his legacy," Mckennie continued, still sounding doubtful as he remembered that he had run away from training with Ronaldo when he just arrived at the club.

"You know I always told you guys. Ask first," Morata snickered and continued his training, not too shocked by what was happening.

It was also new to him that Ronaldo had committed to allowing someone to take a free kick in every game, but it wasn't that surprising that Ronaldo allowed Jason to take free kicks.

Maybe, as Mckennie had said, Ronaldo wanted to foster a protege in Jason, and that was why he was making such a commitment, but it wasn't really that shocking and wasn't worth bothering over.

What Morata was bothered about was how he was going to get back to scoring ways. He hadn't been hitting the target lately, and he needed that to end soon; otherwise, the manager might begin having second thoughts about leaving him in the starting line-up.

Too many competitors were popping up for his place lately.

It did not take long for the other Uventus players to regain their bearings and get back to warming up for the upcoming game.

They could get back to this matter later; for now, they needed to earn another three points from today's opponents.

They quickly went back to their warm-up and finished up before quickly heading back to the locker room to change into their jerseys.

A few minutes later, the two teams were back on the field, already done with the pre-match formalities and ready to get on with the match.

Fweeeeeeeeeee

The referee's whistle signaled the start of the game, and the Spezia side quickly began moving the ball around the field.

The Spezia team didn't immediately get to attacking as soon as the game began.

They were more preoccupied with keeping possession of the ball and not giving the Uventus team any chances to steal possession and wreck havoc before they had settled into the game.

Their plan worked, and while they couldn't always keep possession, they did enough to cool down Uventus' momentum right at the beginning of the match.

The match soon began to rage though, as the Spezia side couldn't keep the Uventus team in a lock for long.

The ball soon began to end up around the Spezia's 18-yard box more times than they could manage, but they held on for dear life while also doing their best to push back the Uventus team.

They didn't have much success holding on for too long though.

Chapter 533: Spezia I

#29th minute...

The Uventus team was on the attack and had caught the Spezia on a sudden counterattack after stealing the ball in the middle of the field.

The ball was quickly taken down the right flank by Kulusevski, who ran past the Spezia players with all the enthusiasm of a galloping horse, weaving his way past tackles with practiced ease.

While he was doing his best to avoid losing the ball, he had made it to the right side of the penalty box, but the Spezia players kept jumping into his path, doing their best to get in the way of any attempt to send the ball into the box to the waiting forwards.

Kulusevski turned back and tried to create some space with a few tricks, but the Spezia players were like cockroaches who just didn't want to let go.

In the end, Kulusevski had no choice but to attempt a cross even in such tight conditions.

If he held on to the ball for any longer, he would lose it, which would be a waste, not to mention that it could also lead to a counterattack against his own team.

With his mind made up, he once again turned back, did a couple of stepovers to create some space, and then hit the ball, aiming to send a cross towards the center of the penalty box.

The Spezia players, who knew Kulusevski had no other option but to cross the ball, were ready for this move, and one player quickly got in the way of the cross.

The ball bounced off the Spezia defender's body and flew back toward the field, but as it barely reached the edge of the penalty box, Bentacur appeared behind it, catching it on his chest and hitting it on the volley before it reached the ground.

{He lets it fly!} the commentator screamed.

The ball flew powerfully off Bentacur's foot and curved at an unnatural angle before smashing against the inside of the crossbar and bouncing downward.

The ball smashed past the goal line, and despite being far away, Bentacur saw that the ball had clearly gone in, and he took off to the sidelines.

{They open up the scoring with a banger!}

{What a goal from the midfielder!}

{His instinct said hit it, and hit it he did!}

{Are Uventus on another route to victory with this step they've taken!?!}

Bentacur had reached the sideline and jumped into the air while pumping his fists in excitement while the Uventus fans were screaming their hearts out in excitement as they jumped around on their feet.

In Turin, the Uventus fans who weren't at the stadium joined in the celebrations as well.

#38th minute...

Jason received the ball on the left flank and slowed down as he faced off against his marker, not making any intense movements or trying to charge into the penalty box.

Looking at his teammates' positions, he saw no point in making an unnecessary forage into the penalty box at that moment.

No one was close enough yet, and the Spezia players were doing their best to ensure that stayed the case.

They were already leading anyway, so Jason opted to pass the ball back to Alex Sandro, who had moved upfield to join the attack.

Alex Sandro received the ball and immediately laid it off to Ramsey, who was nearby. Ramsey, in turn, sent the ball to Bentacur, who was a few meters away from the edge of the penalty box.

Bolstered by his goal earlier, once Bentacur received the ball, he immediately made a forage forward, holding off his marker as he tried to draw nearer to the penalty box, but he didn't make it a few steps forward before he was slammed into by a Spezia player who had little patience for his antics.

Without surprise, Bentacur was thrown from his feet and collapsed to the ground like a broken tower.

Fweeeeeeeeeee

The referee immediately blew his whistle and came running over, pulling out a yellow card to show the Spezia player who had made the rough tackle.

{Physical challenges aren't frowned upon, but that might have been a little too much; he's going to be booked for that}

{Uventus have a free kick in a dangerous area}

{Usually, it's the Portuguese starman who usually takes these, but today, there seems to be a reshuffle among the set piece duties} The commentator put his observation into words as he watched Ronaldo throw the ball over to Jason.

Ronaldo had already taken a freekick earlier, but it had flown into the wall and slammed into a Spezia player who now knew how it felt like to be hit by a cannonball.

Luckily, this cannonball was made of softer materials, so he survived with a lot of pain and a red bruise on his body where the ball had hit him.

Jason took the ball and put it inside the white semi-circle that the referee had made with white spray.

After putting the ball down, he took five steps back and looked at the goal, as well as the wall that the referee was arranging.

{The Spezia team can't be too careful here as scoring freekicks are part of this young lad's CV}

{It is within shooting range, and the goalkeeper is shouting out orders to the wall so that he can have a better chance of saving this free kick should it be on target}

All that was happening was being carefully watched by Jason, who was trying to decide how best to take the free kick.

The distance was neither too close nor too far, which presented a problem as now he couldn't be too focused on either power or curl.

If he used too much power, the ball would end up flying over the bar, but if he was too focused on curl, there would be enough time for the goalkeeper to position himself and reach the ball.

He didn't get too much time to think as the referee blew his whistle loudly, indicating he could take the free kick.

Phew

With a sharp exhale, Jason swallowed audibly and ran at the ball and swung powerfully at it.

Chapter 534: Spezia II

tHUMP!

Jason's leg hit the ball powerfully, sending it flying at Spezia's goal.

The ball took air instantly and approached the wall in an instant, curling outwardly and dodging the heads of the defenders who took to the air by mere centimeters and continued towards the goal.

After making it past the wall, the ball continued toward the goal and began a slight descent, looking like it would nestle into the right side of the post, but in the last minute, Spezia's goalkeeper appeared in everyone's view.

Releasing himself at the ball like an arrow off a bow, he demonstrated amazing flexibility and put his two hands into the path of the ball, pushing it off its intended path and out of play.

{Spectacular save!}

{We all thought it was going in!}

{The goalkeeper has outdone himself with that one!}

Jason had his hands on his head as he came to terms with the reality that the goalkeeper had somehow gotten his hands to the ball.

He wasn't so prideful to think that he would instantly score a free kick on his first attempt, but he couldn't stop himself from hoping he could.

"Nice try, but try to aim more for the top corner next time." Ronaldo patted him on his back and advised.

"Also, learn to use more power behind your free kicks so that the goalkeeper can't even react," he continued, saying it like it was the easiest thing in the world.

"... Sure," Jason muttered, taking his hands off his head and beginning to head back to his position.

He would have to work on that during training because he knew that Ronaldo was right.

Since freekicks were taken from far away, they had to be powerful and accurate enough that the goalkeepers couldn't react to them or couldn't reach them.

One shouldn't be deceived by people like Messi who seemed to be doing it without much effort.

In reality, Messi's freekicks had achieved the perfect combination of power and curl and that was why he was able to continuously put them in the back of the net.

The shots were actually powerful, they just didn't look at it.

Jason had once jokingly called it a genius's trick of the light... and then he cringed right after that.

Fweeeeeeeeeee

{There's the whistle; the first half is over!}

{Uventus will be going into their locker room with a one-goal lead}

{It was a half filled with exciting football and quite a few close calls. The only discontention the fans might have is that there aren't more goals yet in the game, but they may have their wishes fulfilled in the second half}

{As long as the two teams keep playing like this, that is definitely possible}

The commentator continued talking while the players quickly headed to their respective locker rooms to have a quick tactical meeting and to rest their slightly exhausted muscles.

#62nd minute...

{Ronaldo!!!} the commentator shouted as Ronaldo lashed at the ball, sending it at the Spezia goal, but a Spezia defender jumped in the way of the shot not willing to take any chances with the game that seemed to be slowly slipping away from their grasp already.

The ball bounced off the defender's leg and flew out of play for a corner.

The Spezia defender crouched down sneakily rubbed his ankle that felt like it wanted to detach from the rest of his body after being hit by the ball.

Jason, who was near the corner flag, received a ball from the ball boy and waved to Cuadrado that he would be taking the corner.

Cuadrado immediately understood and didn't bother running over, opting to stay outside the penalty box for the corner kick instead while Jason put the ball down and stepped.

As he waited for the referee's whistle, he tried to look for where would be best to place the ball, and a few seconds later.

He raised his hands to signal his intention to his teammates... or at least to try to point them in the right direction.

The referee's whistle followed shortly after.

Fweeeeeeee

At the referees whistle, Jason ran at the ball and swung it into the air, sending it high and towards the center of the penalty box.

The players in the penalty box were already pushing against themselves before the ball came flying in, but as the ball came flying in, they intensified their efforts and once the ball was in range, the players who had freed themselves and were in the path of the ball took to the air.

Ronaldo who had managed to free himself jumped for the ball, but was surprised to find that the ball was a few centimeters too far away from his head and he was unable to reach it.

However, his attempt to take to the air had confused his opponents and they were even more surprised to see him miss the header.

The ball flew past Ronaldo in mid-air and flew further where it was met by another player in black and white stripes.

Morata, who was Jason's target for the corner had moved appropriately and had not been confused by Ronaldo jumping for the ball.

When Jason was signalling, he had put five fingers in the air and then removed one finger.

It had most people didn't notice it, but Morata had realized that five plus four equated nine, which was his jersey number.

He had thought it was a bit far-fetched, but there was no harm in going off an hunch and luckily, his hunch had paid off as he received the perfect cross.

Ronaldo confusing the opponents was an added bonus and Morata was able to freely leap to the air and connect with the ball, sending it past the goalkeeper without much difficulty.

{Off his head and in!}

{Not only are they good at open play goals, they also have a way with set pieces and they have shown that again!}

{They are up by two and it's beginning to look like there's no way back for their opponents!}

Morata had already run to the sidelines to celebrate and hugged Jason tightly in appreciation for the assist.

His goal drought had ended with this.

Chapter 535: Spezia III

{A crowd is applauding loudly as he comes off}

{He's been a sight to see in this match, making runs down the wing, keeping his opponents on their toes, an assist just a few minutes prior, and a free kick that almost went in}

{We're not sure why the manager is taking him off, but it seems tactical}

Jason didn't pay any attention to the commentator and just clapped as he walked off the field, having been subbed off for Chiesa.

He wished he could stay on for longer, but it seemed the manager had seen enough from him and was giving other players a run-out.

Jason had no opinion about this though and went to sit on the bench without a word of complaint, chatting with the other players on the bench as he took his seat among them.

On the field, the match continued after the change.

#71st minute...

After Uventus scored their second goal, the Spezia team began playing with even more desperation as they tried to find a way back before the clock ran down further.

They launched the ball forward as much as they did, giving up stability through possession for a chance to overload the Uventus defense, but while this method looked like it was working, it could just as easily backfire.

Unfortunately for Spezia, they were not in luck today.

Cuadrado intercepted a pass made by a Spezia player who was trying to find a teammate in Uventus' 18-yard box.

On stealing the ball, he noticed Chiesa making a run down the left flank and without hesitation, he drove the ball powerfully into the air, sending it flying and curling into Chiesa's path.

Chiesa saw the ball coming and kept running, having already made it past his marker and the thin Spezia defense line.

Upon recognizing the dangerous situation his team was in, the Spezia goalkeeper couldn't stay on his line and rushed out, hoping to get in the way of the Uventus man.

Everyone watched as Chiesa and the Spezia goalkeeper raced for the ball that had yet to land.

As they approached the ball, which also approached the ground, it became clear that Chiesa was nearer to the likely landing spot. However, Chiesa also knew that if he tried to get the ball under control, the goalkeeper would have enough time to clear it.

Seeing that the goalkeeper was already out of the penalty box, Chiesa's instincts took over.

He jumped up to catch the ball in the air before it reached the ground, hitting it just enough that it would continue its flight over the goalkeeper.

Since the goalkeeper was no longer in the penalty box, he didn't dare try to put his hand in the way of the ball, as that would result in a red card.

Only after the ball flew over him did he realize that even if he had tried to catch it with his hands, he wouldn't have been able to reach it.

Realizing how bad the situation was, the goalkeeper, who still had hope that his team could still get something from the game, decided to sacrifice himself and bring Chiesa down.

Quickly stretching out his leg to trip over Chiesa, who had landed and was running past him, he caught Chiesa's ankle, and the Uventus player stumbled to the ground inevitably. But how could Chiesa, who had gotten the ball past the goalkeeper and only had to put the ball into an empty goal, stay down?

Even as the momentum of his fall threw him forward, he struggled back to his feet and continued running after the ball, to the surprise of the Spezia goalkeeper.

With no one left in the way, Chiesa caught up to the ball and kicked it into the back of the net before continuing his run down to the sidelines and falling down dramatically, tired out from what he had done to ensure the ball ended up in the back of the net.

The Uventus fans, however, were over-energized with excitement and cheered loudly while the other Uventus players ran over to celebrate the goal with the goalscorer.

{He's only been on the pitch a few minutes, but like a force of nature, he ran through his opponents and sent the ball into the back of the net!}

{The manager would think he deserves an assist for making that substitution!}

{With a three-goal lead, surely now, there's no way back for their opponents!} The commentator pronounced his speculations, which were like thunder that shattered the last hope some of the Spezia fans still had as they watched the game.

The Uventus fans didn't care for the emotional loss their opponents were feeling as they revelled in the excitement and satisfaction of another approaching victory.

The Spezia fans could only watch, completely distraught as the Uventus team celebrated.

#89th minute...

The game was almost over and the Spezia fans were already packing their things, intending to leave as soon as the final whistle was blown, not wanting to be present when the Uventus team and their fans will be celebrating their victory over their team.

The Uventus team, however, weren't done with the Spezia team.

They kept the pressure high on the Spezia team, not relaxing in the slightest and constantly sending the ball forward as if they wished to still score a few more goals despite their win already guaranteed.

The assistant referee on the sidelines had held up the board, and two additional minutes would be added to the game time.

There was no way back for the Spezia team and no risk to their victory.

Yet, the Uventus team tirelessly kept knocking on the opposition's goal, and soon Cuadrado found Ronaldo with an early cross into the box.

Before his marker realized what was going on, Ronaldo was already in the air, and he caught the ball off his head, skilfully sending it to the top left corner of Spezia's goal.

The Spezia goalkeeper did his best to reach the ball with an amazing leap, but he fell short, and the ball flew past his outstretched palm and collided with the inside of the net.

{GOAL!!!}

{Dying minutes, and this man still chooses to have his say!}

{He wouldn't let his team run rampant on their opponent without having a say in it, and he's finally done so spectacularly!}

{What a cross! What a header! What a goal!}

{Christiano Ronaldo makes it four for Uventus!} the commentator shouted while Ronaldo ran to the sidelines, jumped and turned around mid-air before landing with his arms outstretched beside his thighs.

SIUUUUUUUUUU the Uventus fans shouted on cue to the celebration.

Chapter 536: Flaying Lazio I

6th March 2021

After Uventus' big win against Spezia, they had celebrated for a while and though their moods had been slightly dampened when they heard that Inter Milan had managed to beat AC Milan, holding on to their three-point lead over Uventus, the Uventus players did not let it affect them for long.

The season was still a fair distance from its end and there would be enough time to make up for the point's deficit, after all, they hadn't even played their second round match against Inter Milan.

With their minds made up, they refocused on training, and the days quickly passed.

Today was Uventus' next step in the Serie A.

A match against the top flight team, Lazio and even before the match, the moods in the locker room was more serious than usual.

Lazio was a fairly strong team and while they weren't as strong as an opponent like Inter Milan, they were also very dangerous and could easily beat Uventus up if the Uventus side acted careless and slipped up.

Pirlo emphasized repeatedly in the locker room that the players must keep the pressure up on their opponents, not giving them any chance to get into any momentum.

One of the reasons for the manager being especially thorough in his warnings and tactical set-up for the match was that he was resting a few important players for the upcoming Champions League second leg.

Pirlo knew that his team currently had a three-goal advantage over Oporto, but he had also lived long enough to see even worse advantages overturned in the craziest of situations, hence he didn't plan on taking any chances with the Oporto game.

He planned to rest a few pivotal players in this game and then unleash them on their opponents in the next match right from the start.

He wasn't going to wait until those guys had gained any momentum before trying to stifle them, that was stupid and this wasn't a friendly game.

In important games like the Champions League knockout stages, momentum could lead even the worst teams to outperform themselves and defeat even the so-called football giants.

Pirlo wasn't going to allow himself to be the goliath that was felled by Oporto because of a moment of carelessness.

Unfortunately to do that, he had to risk an important match in the Serie A, hence his tensed state.

His job was at stake here, as winning domestic cups wasn't enough to ensure that he stayed as Uventus's manager.

Only the Serie A or the Champions League would do.

In the end, the manager called out the players in the starting line-up.

"Sczesny, Danilo, Rugani, Demiral, Bonucci, Bernadeschi, Kulusevski, Ramsey, Rabiot, Morata, and Dybala, are in the starting line-up," Pirlo informed the players and continued discussing the game plan with the players for a few minutes before releasing them to kit-up and prepare for the game.

The Uventus players could also feel the tension and the urgency in the manager's tone and actions and though their jobs weren't on the line, they also didn't feel like losing, otherwise, where would they hide their face.

The Champions League had eluded Uventus for more than twenty years and this year, they had a good feeling about the Champions League finally, so they could understand the manager's concerns.

At the same time, they also knew that the success of this plan depended on them.

Their performance in this game would be very important for their momentum and the Uventus players were an epitome of seriousness as they readied themselves for the match.

When the time ran by and the match finally began, the Uventus players immediately ran at their opponents with the ball, making use of the atmosphere of their home stadium to try and pressurize the Lazio team.

However the Lazio team had come prepared and didn't balk easily at the pressure and they played back just as hard, doing their best to disturb Uventus team from building any momentum.

While the Uventus tried their hardest to break the deadlock, the Lazio team attempted to do the same, sometimes pressuring the Uventus back all the way into their own half.

#14th minute...

The match had just barely begun and the fans at the stadium were already at the edge of their seats due to the intensity at which the ball was moving across the pitch.

The Uventus fans especially looked concerned.

As if it wasn't bad enough that their team seemed to be playing with a weaker team, it was clear that this weaker team seemed to be struggling to contain their opponents, especially the defense.

The midfield was still able to do their duty a fair bit, but once the Lazio team got past the midfield, it was almost guaranteed that they could get a shot away as the Uventus defenders seemed to be lagging behind the pace of the match.

Soon enough, it seemed like the Uventus fan's fears would be realized as Milinkovic Savic broke into the penalty box, looking for a shot.

Bonucci who seemed to be the only Uventus defender still performing reasonably enough immediately jumped into his path to block any incoming shots, but as if he had predicted this, Milinkovic faked the shot and made use of the space left by Bonucci to send a pass forward.

Bonucci immediately turned back, thinking his teammates would have covered the space he opened up, but quickly fell into distress when he realized that the ball had swam past the defense line without anybody to block it.

His other fellow defenders seemed to be more focused on marking their men, but while they did that, it left an unmarked Correa enough space an time to latch on to the pass and fire it past Sczesny.

The Lazio fans at the Allianz Arena erupted in cheers like they wanted to overturn the stadium in their excitement while the Uventus fans looked on in dismay at their team falling behind.

{Lazio have done it!}

{They came here with an agenda and they have taken a step forward in the right direction!}

{Uventus just can't keep up with their swift moving style of play and ingenious midfielders!}

{If they don't bottle up in the coming minutes, we just might witness a shocking end to their splendid run of form!}

Chapter 537: Flaying Lazio II

#39th minute...

After conceding a goal to their opponents so early in the game, the Uventus player had to deal with the angry manager on the sidelines who didn't say a word and only stared at them with a cold look in his eyes.

With the manager staring at them like that, the Uventus players could feel cold sweat appearing on their backs and they began to play like their lives depended on it, not wanting to know how the manager would react if they kept playing like this.

Before long, it was clear to see that the Uventus team had tightened up at the back and had realised their mistakes, now able to resist their opponents.

The Lazio team tried to build off the momentum of their first goal, but the Uventus team fought back hard, not giving them any chance or space to break through.

On the other hand, their attack was also beginning to threaten the Lazio team so the Lazio team had no option to drop back to try and stifle the growing momentum of the Uventus team.

However, this move was a mistake because as soon as the pressure on their defense reduced a little bit, the Uventus team sent the ball forward immediately, putting the opponents under pressure instead.

Lazio immediately tried to react to this sudden surge of attacking pressure, but before they could plug the holes that opened up in their defense, the Uventus team moved the ball through in a beautiful display of swift possession football.

The ball didn't stay at the leg of one player for more than three seconds and quickly darted across the field, finally reaching Dybala as he received a pass from Ramsey and charged into the penalty box with the ball, planning to finish off the attack.

Lazio's defenders reacted swiftly and chased after him two of them trying to dispossess him while another one moving towards the goal, intending to block a shot if Dybala somehow managed to get a shot away.

Dybala faked a movement towards goal before suddenly changing direction back towards the flank, trying to confuse the defenders, but only one of them fell for his ruse while the other one stuck to him like glue, trying to push him off the field.

Not wanting to waste the chance, Dybala, gave the ball a further push and crossed the ball across the face of goal where Morata was waiting.

Morata caught the ball on his chest and wanted to volley it, but a Lazio defender bumped into him, making him miss his timing and hitting nothing but air as he swung his leg at the ball.

Realizing that he was out of time as the goalkeeper had appeared in the way along with another defender, Morata thought of another ingenious idea and immediately put it into action.

Suddenly flicking the back heel behind, Morata's actions left all the Lazio players looking at him confused.

The ball rolled between the legs of the defender behind him before the guy could react and appeared in front of Rabiot who quickly slotted it into the open goal since everyone's attention was focused on Morata previously.

{Goal! Uventus!}

{It's not taken them long, they're back in it now!}

{What a crafty pass, he tricked everyone with that sudden back heel pass and Rabiot didn't disappoint}

{Well worked goal!} the commentator shouted in excitement as Rabiot ran down the sidelines to celebrate his goal with the Uventus fans finally shouting at the top of their voices.

Now that they had something to shout about, they did not hesitate to let out their excited screams of joy and excitement of how the game would go from here now that they had equalized the game.

On the sidelines, Pirlo's face that was tightened up in annoyance and anxiety, loosened up a bit and he nodded to himself as he watched the excitement in the stadium.

The players soon returned back to their respective halves of the field to kick off the game once again and right after the game kicked off, the Lazio team once again pushed forward at the Uventus team.

Normally one would expect them to avoid something like this considering that there was still a lot of time left, and they had to avoid giving the Uventus team chances to build off their momentum, but the Lazio team seemed to be thinking differently.

They seemed to want to take back their lead before half time and the Uventus team quickly realized their plan, letting the opponent have the ball, but settling at the back to defend against any goal scoring attempt from their opponents.

It had to be said that Italy probably had the best tactical structure for defending in football as well as some of the best defenders and Uventus satisfied those two criterias, making it easy for them to keep the Lazio players out until the whistle signifying the end of the first half was blown and the players of the two team wasted no time walking off the field.

They would only have fifteen minutes of break, and they had to make every minute count.

As the Uventus players reached their locker room, they met the manager already waiting there with the magnetic tactical board already arranged.

“Take your seats quickly, we have things to go over,” he called out to the arriving players.

The Uventus players quickly sat down to listen to the manager who had once again turned to the board.

“I’ve watched the game so far and apart from when you were floundering about like dullahans who had lost their heads, most of your actions on the pitch was apt for the situation we encountered out there, but in the second half, I’m going to need more from you guys,”

“It’s clear that because of their tactical set-up, they’re finding it difficult to respond to any sudden changes in pace,”

“It hasn’t shown clearly because of the individual actions of those defenders, but their formation leaves a hole that doesn’t close quickly, and I want you to make use of that,”

“Here’s how you are going to do it,” Pirlo began his explanation, re-arranging the magnetic pieces on the board to aid his explanation.

#57th minute...

The second half had begun a while ago and both teams had been going at each other right from the moment the whistle had blown.

Whoever scored the first goal in the second half would have an advantage over the other side and both sides wanted that to be them, and they were working hard to one up the other.

However, after being on the receiving end in the first half, the luck of the Uventus team had changed and Dybala managed to send a ball in behind after escaping his marker.

Morata and the Lazio raced at the ball, trying to be the ones to reach there first, but Morata reached there a second earlier than the goalkeeper and chipped it over the goalkeeper who came flying forward.

The ball flew over the goalkeeper and flew slowly at the net, but Morata was already running towards the sidelines even though a Lazio defender was chasing after the ball and seemed like he would reach it.

Unfortunately for the defender, he was more than a second too late and the ball nestled safely in the back of the net while Morata jumped into a knee slide with a smile full of ease on his face.

{Cheeky! Very Cheeky!}

{He didn't hesitate to chip the ball over the goalkeeper, and he's taken the lead for his team!}

{What powers of recovery from this team! They're showing clearly why they are the defending champions of the league title}

{Lazio are stunned and the crowd is wild!}

Throughout the whole stadium, one wouldn't be able to find any Uventus fan on their seat as everyone was on their feet celebrating loudly with the rest of their fans this comeback that had happened before their very eyes.

The Uventus had been putting out good performance after good performance and at this point, the Uventus fans could almost burst from all the pride and bragging rights their team was feeding them game after game.

Nobody even wanted to get into an argument with the Uventus fans these days because of their scary momentum and no one even mentioned the fact that they were still currently second on the table as now they had begun to share that position with Inter Milan since they had caught up in goal difference stats.

#60 minute...

Right after scoring their second goal, the Uventus team were full of momentum and tried to burn through their opponents to force another goal to secure their victory, but the Lazio team wasn't happy about that.

As if it wasn't bad enough that they were already behind, the opponents wanted to score another goal immediately after scoring one?

Where was it so easy?

The Lazio players weren't going to allow such nonsensical disrespect, and their tackles gradually became aggressive, but that only came back to haunt them when Bernadeschi was brought down in the penalty area by a defender who had lashed out after the player dribbled past him.

Bernadeschi did not hesitate to crumple to the ground when he felt the impact as he already knew that the angle he was at was not suitable for a shot.

Fweeeeeeeeeee

The referee came running over while pointing at the penalty spot and pulled out a yellow card as well, showing it to the rash defender.

The Lazio players quickly rushed to the referee to try to change his mind, but the referee wasn't listening and had his mind made up.

He didn't even need to consult the VAR and had seen what happened clearly the first time.

Chapter 538: Playing Lazio III

The referee quickly arranged the players outside the penalty box, not bothering to listen to the Lazio players who tried to downplay the tackle.

His decision was already made and no one was going to change it, much to the excitement of the Uventus fans who were already jumping around on their seats as Morata stepped back from the ball.

After ensuring that everything was in place and all the players of both teams, apart from the penalty taker and the opponent goalkeeper, the referee put his whistle to his mouth and blew loudly.

Fweeeeeeeeeee

As soon as the referee's whistle blew, Morata ran up to the ball and hit it deftly, sending it flying at goal.

The ball flew toward the bottom right corner, which was the direction the Lazio goalkeeper had guessed the ball would come at, but the ball moved too fast for him to even get a hand to it, and by the time he reached the ball's path, it had already gone past him and smashed into the back of the net.

{He puts it away with poise and perfection!}

{Three for Uventus! Two for him!}

{The Uventus fans express their joy and are blowing through the roof!}

{What a comeback from Uventus! What powers of recovery!}

{They started from behind and are now two ahead!}

The commentator was still talking when Morata reached the sidelines, jumping into the air with a fist pump.

The Uventus fans screamed excitedly as they celebrated alongside him, uncaring for their opponents, who now had to watch this wanton display of excitement without being able to do anything about it.

Luckily for the Lazio players and their fans, the Uventus players didn't jubilate for too long, and the game soon continued.

After going two ahead, Uventus did not give up on scoring but became a bit more conscious of the ball.

They did not easily burst forward on the attack so as to avoid losing the ball, which was very annoying for the Lazio players, who spent more than half the time chasing the ball.

If they ever retrieved possession, the Uventus players would descend on them like possessed demons, wanting to wrestle the ball back and forcing them to move it quickly.

This prevented the Lazio team from forming a rhythm, so apart from a few sudden counter attempts that ended with a saved or a deflected shot, Lazio had nothing to show for the next twenty minutes after they had gone two goals behind.

At the eightieth minute, the managers of both teams had already made a few substitutions, and a few other substitutions were also being prepared to come on.

Jason was on the sidelines, jogging a bit and warming up after the manager had told him to get ready to play for a few minutes.

After a quick warm-up, Jason pulled off his training vest and met the manager for final instructions.

Seeing Jason arrive, Pirlo put an arm on Jason's shoulder and said in low tones, "You're going to be subbed on for Dybala."

The manager's words immediately made Jason look up in confusion as Dybala was currently playing as a striker, so the manager said he would play as a striker for the few minutes he would be on.

'Was this a tactical thing, or was the manager testing something,' Jason wanted to ask, but the manager didn't give him any time to speak.

"In the center, I want you to drop back a little bit behind Morata so you can receive the ball and then take it forward,"

"You can take it through the center, the left, or the right; just take it forward and make sure it stays in their half of the field,"

"This is majorly for time wasting. I don't want us to give them any chances even to get one back, and keeping the ball in their half of the field is the best way to do that,"

"However, since we also want to defend, only some of the midfielders can move up the field to support you and help you keep the ball, so what I want is you making an attempt to score anytime you can,"

"Don't only focus on wasting time. If you see a chance, take it," the manager quickly told Jason his plan while signaling to the assistant referee that he wanted to make a substitution.

Jason nodded, enlightened about the manager's tactics but still wondering why it had to be done from the striker position.

He could do the same thing on the flanks if the manager wanted, but there was no point in asking, so he waited on the sidelines for Dybala, who came jogging over.

Giving him a high five, Jason ran onto the field while Dybala stepped off, clapping to the crowd while the crowd also applauded his efforts on the pitch.

{It's Jason who comes on. He's been in fine form of late, managing three goals and three assists in the last three Serie A games}

{There's only about ten minutes left in this game, but I wouldn't put it past him to extend his record here} the commentator said as Jason ran onto the field, whispering the manager's instructions to the relevant players and they also moved to tell the others.

The Uventus fans were already cheering Jason loudly as he came on, with some of them chanting,

"And Jason makes it four. He's going to make it four,"

Jason smiled as he heard their words. It was funny that they already believed he would score a goal when he didn't even know what he was doing on the pitch yet.

The ball hadn't even touched his leg yet.

The Uventus fans did not seem to notice the wry smile on his face; they just kept on singing as if they could see the future.

The match had already continued while the Uventus fans were singing.

With a corner kick from the Lazio team, the ball was sent flying into Uventus' 18-yard box, but the Uventus players had been alert and the ball had been quickly cleared and the ball was sent forward.

Chapter 539: Flaying Lazio IV

According to his position, Jason stayed in the center with Morata, waiting for the ball to advance forward until it reached them.

When the ball reached Jason, he immediately turned with the ball and ran towards the right flank, pulling his marker along with him and Ramsey immediately ran through the space left behind.

Before the Lazio team realized what was going on, Jason had sent a chipped pass into the path of Ramsey, who had almost made it behind the Lazio defense line.

Despite the sudden events catching the Lazio team off guard, they quickly responded and tried to close Ramsey down, but Ramsey caught the ball on his chest and sent a through pass toward the left.

The ball flew behind the last Lazio defender, and Morata burst out from behind him, appearing in the path of the ball as it entered the penalty box.

{This one for the hat trick!?!} the commentator shouted out as Morata poised to hit the ball.

WHAM

With a resounding whack of the ball, Morata sent a powerful curling ball at the Lazio goal, but as if his ancestors descended on him, the Lazio goalkeeper unleashed a superhuman dive and caught the ball with the tip of his gloves and pushed it up and over the bar.

{Ohhhhhhhhh!!!}

{Terrific shot! Terrific save!}

{Morata is distraught! He's been denied his hat-trick by a goalkeeper who had let him run riot earlier!} the commentator shouted while Morata had his head in his hands while he rued the missed chance.

The Uventus fans were even more pained that Morata had missed such a chance to run riot on the opponent once again.

After tasting big victories, the Uventus fans couldn't deny that they hungered for more, and Morata wasting a chance to further their lead to three rubbed off them the wrong way, especially when he just wasted the perfect chance.

Nevertheless, he had performed well throughout the game, so the fans didn't unleash the slight annoyance that appeared with the missed goal.

The cameras turned to Jason and his figure appeared on the screen as he got into the box and walked around, looking for the best position to be in for the corner kick.

{He's barely been on the field for a few minutes, and he's already injected energy into Uventus' attacking attempts that seemed to be exhausted earlier} The commentator was still speaking when the referee's whistle went off, and Cuadrado passed the ball to Ramsey who had come short.

On receiving the ball, Ramsey turned and faked a pass into the penalty box, tricking his marker and instead sending the ball back to Cuadrado, who had jogged back upfield and was seemingly not interested in sending the ball into the box.

The Lazio players weren't idiots and knew that this could be a ruse, but they were already losing, and time was running out for them to gain anything from the game, so they had no choice but to chase after Cuadrado in a bid to snatch the ball back.

While the Lazio players began to rush out of their 18-yard box, Jason slowly moved alongside them to ensure he wasn't offside.

He didn't know what Cuadrado was planning, but he knew that it wasn't like Cuadrado to not attempt to cross the ball into the box.

Keeping that in mind, he didn't fall back too quickly.

Just as he suspected, once the Lazio players were nearby, Cuadrado turned back and passed the ball back to Ramsey, who had moved a bit towards the center.

The Lazio players once again changed their targets, but this was all Cuadrado's plan, and he immediately raced back down the flank.

Ramsey did not hesitate to send the ball back into his path, and by the time the Lazio players realized what was going on, Cuadrado was already behind the ball once again, swinging his leg at it.

Jason, who had kept his eye on the situation while expecting this, was able to move quickly and hurriedly shrugged away the Lazio defender who was trying to hold him from getting past him.

Once the ball left Cuadrado's leg, Jason burst past the last defender who had tried to track back, unintentionally playing Jason onside.

The ball curled beautifully into the penalty box, and Jason ran at it, having already checked the goalkeeper's position.

The ball curled perfectly, dipping right in front of Jason's running position. Jason didn't let the ball land; he caught it perfectly on the swing and sent a thunderous shot into the back of the net.

The goalkeeper, who had been poised to dive for the ball, didn't even see when the ball flew past him.

All he heard was a *Whoosh*, followed by an outburst of cheers from the Uventus fans while Jason took off towards the sidelines, his tongue out and his arms flying out beside him.

{A bolt from the blue that even the men in blue couldn't react to!}

{What a stunner from this lad!}

{We were just talking about him extending his record, and he's done so flamboyantly!}

{What a goal!}

{He's got everyone on their feet again, and it looks like he's going to be the man that all of Italy will be talking about after this game once again!}

Jason was too caught up in his joy to pay any attention to the commentator's words. He had already reached the sideline and made an aiming pose as if he was holding a sniper rifle, and he took his shot... imaginary shot, of course...

Then he blew a kiss at the crowd, but before he could display any excitement before the crowd, his teammates arrived beside him with excitement of their own and jumped on him in excitedly.

The crowd also displayed their own joy and excitement with their voices, and the Lazio fans felt like their ears would burst from the joint cheers of the Uventus fans that tore through the stadium and shook it.

While joy and excitement were spreading through the Allianz Arena in Uventus, a chaotic wave had started billowing elsewhere... Porto, to be precise.

To deal with the chaos that this wave was causing an emergency meeting had been called for at the Estadio do Dragao and all the top staff of the club as well as some of the executives had arrived for the meeting.

Everyone sat in the meeting room and the room slowly filled up as time passed.

Chapter 540: Let's Find Out I

The Oporto club meeting room was modern-looking, with ample space and a U-shaped table in the middle.

Sergio Conceicao was the last person to arrive at the meeting room as he had previously been at the training ground with the Oporto players and had only just received the message for an emergency meeting.

As he entered the room, he noticed that apart from a few conversations happening around the room in low tones, no one was saying anything, meaning the meeting hadn't started yet.

The Oporto manager wondered what kind of problem could have come up that would require almost everyone to be around and that the Chairman didn't even start the meeting without him being there.

He glanced over at the club's Chairman, sitting on the headrest, looking around the room with a calm face.

"Good that everyone is here. Without ado, let's get on with why we're gathered here today," the Chairman began speaking while Sergio Conceicao took his seat, his aged voice powerfully sweeping across the room.

'Why are we gathered here though?' most of the people in the room were wondering at that moment, but the Chairman didn't leave them in confusion for too long.

"First, I'll need you all to watch something with me," the Chairman spoke again, gesturing to the TV at the end of the room that everyone could see from their seats.

With a nod to one of the extra staff members, the TV's screen came to life, and a colorful design filled the screen as the words "Let's Find Out" filled up the screen along with a picture of a comical-looking guy holding a spyglass.

Some people's eyes in the room lit up as they recognized what was being shown on the screen.

It was a show about a former photographer and reporter who had taken up the chance to begin a show on YouTube during the lockdown period.

He had started by investigating many rumors that had no evidence and had literally faded away, and he had personally gone looking for confirmed news about those things.

He was smart enough to target some particularly famous people, and when he found out what he confirmed to be the truth, he turned it into a show and posted it online on YouTube.

With most people being bored out of their minds, a new show popping up out of nowhere had garnered their interest, and when they had watched how the guy searched for all sorts of info to confirm the rumor, the viewers were amused.

Originally, they were only amused for a little bit and soon began to lose interest, but the former reporter's next move shocked everyone.

He had directly contacted the celebrity involved in the rumor and asked them to confirm the truth of the situation, and crazily enough, he had done it live.

The celebrity was shocked at first at how the guy had found out, but seeing the number of viewers on the reporter's live show, he didn't hesitate to take advantage of the free promotion and went along with the reporter's impromptu show.

The "Let's Find Out" show kicked off after that and began to rapidly gain fans the more rumors and truths the host, Lee Jansen, uncovered.

The show became even bigger when the lockdown was called off as Lee Jansen did not hesitate to quit his original job and became his own boss.

With him now being able to leave his house, he took his show to the next level and began to uncover even more rumors and stories about famous people.

He also reported on interesting news and sometimes took on requests to investigate peculiar matters involving famous or even non-famous people.

Overall, Lee Jansen rose to fame quickly and had millions of social media subscribers and followers.

However, as interesting as all that was, the people in the board room couldn't understand why the club chairman had gathered everyone to watch the next episode of the "Let's Find Out" show.

It was guaranteed that they would soon find out, so they kept quiet and watched the screen come to life.

On the screen, Lee Dansen appeared in a chair, dressed in a professional suit, top hat, and old-fashioned pipe, looking every bit a private investigator from the 1990s.

“Welcome, oh ye curious cats, to our next mission briefing,” he spoke comically, playing the part of an investigator.

This was his usual character whenever he was looking for information. He always acted like a real investigator on an actual mission, and his seriousness and comical attitude with well-timed jokes usually kept his fans interested and even caused them to laugh from time to time.

“As we all know... I love my football, especially my home team, Oporto,” Lee Jansen began, drawing closer to the screen.

“Lately, they have had me over the moon as we won the League title back to back twice and also won quite a few domestic titles,”

“Our performances in the continental competitions have been a bit disappointing, but overall, things have been well,”

“But everything changed when the fire nation attacked-... Ahem, I mean when this season began,” Lee Jansen coughed.

“We didn’t start this season on a good note, and we have fallen behind on the league rankings, barely managing to hold on to fifth position, and we already lost a domestic cup!” Lee Jansen raged, and everyone’s eyes in the Oporto meeting turned to Sergio Conceicao, who immediately frowned at such a reaction but caught himself before any words left his mouth.

He considered it beneath him to flare up at the words of a fan who was unhappy with the situation. He wasn’t happy with the situation either and was doing his best, but things wouldn’t change so easily.

Everyone's attention soon returned to the TV once the show host continued speaking.

"I haven't just come here to rant about my pains to you curious kittens, but rather to shed light on an interesting situation that I'm sure has interested many of you if you know anything about football or are a fan of Oporto like me,"

"I'm sure most of you have heard about Oporto loaning out the greatest thing that happened to us in the last decade to Uventus on loan in the middle of the season,"

"If you don't know, pause this video and search for Jason Bolu's loan to Uventus before continuing,"

"... I'll wait," Lee Jansen said and smiled.

Two seconds later, he was speaking again,

"If you knew about the situation before, good,"

"If you didn't and just found out, then you see the absolutely idiotic decision made by the manager or whoever is calling the shots at Oporto,"

Once again everyone's eyes turned to Sergio Conceicao and it took all he had to not shout out "I didn't make that decision! You guys did!".

He reined himself in and stayed his mouth, only taking in a deep breath to calm his nerves while Lee Jansen continued.

"Not only did Oporto let go of a very good player right in the middle of the season, they let him go out on loan while still paying him and he's been at the peak of his prowess, already establishing himself in a team like Uventus and performing spectacularly, game after game,"

"Ironically enough, this same player played against his home team in Uventus's first leg round of 16, and he scored a hat-trick against Oporto..."

“That’s three whole goals!”

“All while still on Oporto’s payroll!”

“And he’s probably going to be there in the second leg to finish off our hopes for a Champions League run,”

“However, that is not why we are here today,” Lee Jansen paused and sat back into his chair and crossed his legs all while looking intently at the camera.

“Gentlemen and spectacular-looking ladies... we have a mission,” he said, finally dropping the bomb and getting on to the main objective of the show after playing around a bit.

“On a dark stormy night when the sky rumbled with all the momentum of a crouching tiger’s roar, I received a request!”

“A request that got me intrigued and had me asking questions,”

“Questions that arose in my mind previously but didn’t feel pressing at the time,”

“Without further ado, gents... and ladies, our mission for today is to find out what were the leading causes of Jason leaving Oporto on loan to Uventus in the middle of the season,” Jansen said with a smirk while biting on his pipe that was still not lit.

“Many things could cause a player to leave his club in the middle of the season,”

“It might be the greener pastures on the other team, or a disagreement within his own club, or other matters that we don’t know about,”

“But today!”

“We are going to find out!” the reporter pumped his hand into the air excitedly and stood up from the chair.

“Now, as investigating this matter will concern a lot of people with sensitive jobs, I will, as usual, once again tell you that some of my information will come from anonymous sources as some people will wish not to have their faces on the internet for all to see as it can affect their lives,”

“But you guys already know, here on Let’s find out, our source of information is...” he paused as he took the overcoat that was draped on the chair.

“Trust me bro,” Jansen laughed and walked off the screen, pulling the overcoat onto his shoulders.