

Legends 601

Chapter 601: Juventus vs Dortmund(Round 1) I

{A fine evening it is here in Turin, Italy}

{We are here at the Allianz Stadium on this fine Tuesday evening which can only mean one thing!}

{Champions League football!}

{Uventus welcomes Borussia Dortmund for the first leg of the quarter-final match between these two sides}

{One match here in Turin and one in Dortmund. Whoever ends up on top after these encounters gets to take another step forward}

{The two teams have all to play for here} The commentator began his opening remarks as the opening scenes of the match began to be displayed live on millions of screens around the globe.

In the tunnels, the players of the two teams began arranging themselves in single files as they awaited their cue to walk out of the tunnels.

Jason arrived with Mckennie, the two of them talking in low tones about something that had nothing to do with the match they were about to play.

As they ended their conversation, Jason bent a little and put his hand up for a high five to the little guy who would walk out of the tunnel with him, not noticing that some of the Dortmund players were staring at him.

Soon enough, it was time for the players to march out of the tunnel and they began to move out orderly, having done this more than enough times to have no issues with calmly walking out of a tunnel into a stadium filled with cheering fans.

{Here's how the two teams are arranging themselves for this match}

{Uventus seem to have changed their formation from their usual 4-4-2 for this match and are going to be in a 4-3-3 attacking formation in this match}

{Starting in goal is Gigi Buffon and directly in front of him are defense partners Chiellini and De Ligt}

{On the right and left flanks respectively are Danilo and Alex Sandro}

{The midfield three are McKennie, Bentancur, and Ramsey with Ramsey taking an attacking midfielder position in front of the other two}

{Dybala will be starting this match on the right flank, he scored a hat-trick in his last game}

{Jason will be on the left, playing as a winger, and in the center, we have five-time Champions League winner, Cristiano Ronaldo. He's the only one on that field apart from Danilo who has laid hands on the famous trophy and he's done it five times!}

The commentator's words left a sting on almost everyone else on the field, but he wasn't checking to know whether his commentary was well received or not and had already moved on to the Dortmund team.

{Standing between the sticks for Dortmund is Roman Bürki}

{There is a back four that consists of Nico Schulz, Mats Hummels, Akanji, and Thomas Meunier}

{In front of them are two defensive midfielders, Bellingham and Witsel. Despite their position, they are also very instrumental on the attack and know how to control possession}

{Julian Brandt plays as an attacking midfielder. On his left is Marco Reus and on his right is Jadon Sancho}

{Up front is the lone striker, Erling Haaland, ever since his arrival to this team, he has been tearing up the field this season with goal after goal. Uventus needs to be wary of this man}

When the commentator was done giving the introductory commentary, the players were already arranged across the field and waiting for the referee's whistle.

Fweeeeeeeee!!!

The referee did not keep the players and the fans waiting and blew loudly on his whistle, prompting the match to kick off in good time.

The Dortmund team was the one who kicked off the game and they quickly sent the ball opting to keep possession first instead of directly launching an attack.

'Safety first' seemed to be their watchwords for the match, and the Uventus fans didn't disagree with that line of thought.

They also watched their backs while the forwards went forward to press, followed by the midfielders who put themselves in adequate spots to interrupt any passes in behind.

#13th minute...

Despite the seemingly patient start, the match didn't take too much time to heat up and the ball soon started flying across the field at a high pace.

While the Uventus midfielders were passing the ball around in the Dortmund half of the field, Jason began moving, looking to receive an inside pass.

Moving as if to make a run out to the wing, Thomas tried to follow him, but Jason suddenly changed direction after the space between the Dortmund right back and the nearest center back widened enough.

Suddenly changing direction and darting into the space between the two defenders, Jason called for a pass and Ramsey who was with the ball didn't disappoint.

Quickly dodging his marker, Ramsey tried to find space to send the ball to Jason, but the Dortmund players had moved in to block his path and he chose to chip the ball forward instead.

The ball soared through the air, and reached Jason as he got into the penalty box and Jason caught it on his chest and let it bounce to the floor, but Meunier was right behind him, not giving him much time to fully control the ball.

Touching the ball one more time to ensure it didn't fly high and wide, Jason then hit the ball powerfully at the bottom left of the goal.

Burki immediately went down to try to catch the ball, but the ball was already past him by the time gravity brought him to the ball's level.

{It's in, Uventus take the lead!!!}

{Very early in the game and... Oh, the offside flag is up!}

{Celebrations come to a halt! The assistant referee seems to think Jason was offside when the ball came in from Ramsey!}

While the commentator was addressing the crowd, the referee had put his hand to his ear and was receiving word from the VAR section, but after a few seconds of listening, he began to head off the field.

The VAR section had checked and they weren't able to make a decision because it was very tight so the referee was going to check it himself.

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While the referee had gone off the field, the Uventus players were waiting eagerly and hopefully for a decision in their favor while they conversed among themselves whether the goal was offside or not.

The Dortmund players were also discussing while hoping for the decision to be in their favor.

“And you said he couldn’t get past you,” Akanji scoffed at Thomas, a little frustration in his voice.

“He didn’t get past me like that, I just slipped and then I let him stay in front so that he would play himself offside,” Thomas didn’t accept the blame and stayed headstrong.

Before Akanji could say anything to retort, the referee came back on to the field blowing his whistle, his final decision made.

The goal would not stand as the referee had determined Jason to be offside and Dortmund would have a free-kick.

The replay began on the screens of the viewers in their homes, as well as on the screens at the stadium, and showed the replay of the goal, pausing when Ramsey hit the ball.

If Jason was offside, the Uventus fans were not seeing it.

When the VAR replay showed Jason’s position and the fans saw that that Jason had barely crossed the so-called offside line, they burst into an outrage in their seats.

Jason’s knee was barely offside, and to them that didn’t count, but rules were rules and the goal would not stand.

The Uventus fans could only rue the disallowed goal but didn’t dwell on it too much as they had the belief that their team would be able to still win the game.

The Uventus players began heading to their positions to wait for the match to resume.

As Jason once again took his position on the left flank, Thomas said to him, “You’re not getting past me again,” his English shaky.

“Barely a quarter of an hour has even passed cuh, but okay, whatever floats your boat,” Jason replied, shrugging.

#27th minute...

Jason received the ball and began moving infield, leaving the left flank, but Meunier wasn’t leaving him alone and followed after him.

Once he was near enough, Meunier jumped into a tackle, trying to retrieve the ball, but Jason evaded the tackle, and continued, using Meunier’s tackle attempt to suddenly burst past another Dortmund player before crossing the ball over to the right flank where Dybala was waiting.

Dybala caught the ball perfectly on the right side of the penalty and turned towards the penalty box, wanting to run into the box, but the space was rapidly being closed down and he chose to cross the ball in to Ronaldo instead.

{Ronaldo in the middle!}

{Header!!!} the commentator screamed as Ronaldo put his head to the ball sending it at the goal, but Burki unleashed a stupendous save, somehow managing to reach the ball before it flew past the goal line, and punch it over.

{What a save from Roman Burki! The scores remain 0-0 thanks to such impressive goalkeeping}

{Uventus have a corner. Dortmund need to up their game or they will find themselves behind before long}

#35th minute...

Bellingham moved with the ball up the field, crossing the midway line and sending a pass to Sancho who had come short asking for the ball.

On receiving the ball from Bellingham, Sancho faked a turn to the right, drawing Alex Sandro along before suddenly changing direction and turning towards his left, escaping Alex Sandro and running down the right flank.

Alex Sandro immediately gave chase after Sancho who despite having escaped to the flank was now cutting back in.

As Sancho once again ran into his path, Alex Sandro tried to tackle him from the side, but Sancho skillfully kept the ball away from the Uventus man until he was on the side of the penalty box and tried to cross the ball into the box.

Seeing another chance, Alex Sandro threw himself into the path of the ball, but to his dismay, Sancho had merely faked the cross.

Before he could recover from the tackle, Sancho had sent a pass into the penalty box at Haaland.

{Haaland!} the commentator shouted as Haaland hit the ball at goal, but Buffon's instinct was alert and his experience told him where to go, allowing him to get to the ball and punch it to the left.

{Saved! Oh, Reus is there and he hits it again!} the commentator screamed, but Buffon was already off his a** and had once again dived into the path of the ball.

{Buffon with another save!} The commentator screamed again as Buffon once again got a hand to the ball, stopping it before De Ligt cleared the ball away.

{Instinct and experience came to his aid and he's pulled off a stupendous double save!}

{I can see the groaning faces of the Dortmund fans from here and they can't believe that the ball isn't in the back of the net!}

#39th minute...

Jason received the ball from Mckennie on the left flank and did a couple of stepovers as he came face to face with Meunier, making the man think, he wanted to get past him on the flank.

Menuier impatiently lunged at Jason, wanting to retrieve the ball, but Jason dogged his tackle and cut infield once again.

Seeing this, Bellingham who was nearby immediately lunged at Jason, but once he got close, Jason flicked the ball past Bellingham's left while he lunged past Bellingham's right, leaving the guy confused for a split second.

By the time Bellingham finally reacted and went after the ball, Jason had already made it behind him after dodging past his right side and was now approaching the ball just about 25 yards away from the goal.

Looking at Jason's motions as he approached the ball, alarm bells rang in Bellingham's head and he shouted at his teammates, he's going to shoot, but it was too late and Jason was already swinging his foot at the ball.

Thwack!

The ball blitzed into a powerful curl, flying at the top right corner of the Dortmund goal.

Burki jumped at the ball, but from the onset, it was clear that he wasn't going to reach the ball, and then...

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Clang!

The ball rifled against the bar and bounced back into play towards the right side of penalty box where Dybala was approaching the ball with righteous fury.

{Off the bar and toward Dybala!!!} the commentator shouted as Dybala lunged at the ball with his head, aiming to send the ball into the back of the net.

Dybala finally reached the ball, but Burki had recovered from his earlier dive and jumped at the ball again, punching it up and over the goal.

{Fantastic save from Roman Burki!}

{We've seen strong efforts from both sides to get a goal in this game, but so far, the goalkeepers of both teams have been at the top of their game, getting their hand to the ball anytime it looks like it'll get past them}

{What a beautiful display of football from both sides!} The commentator spoke excitedly and the fans and the viewers shared his excitement.

The fans of the two teams were of course not pleased that their team wasn't in the lead yet, but they could not deny that it was a very exciting match and they wished to see more.

As for the players who were delivering prime entertainment to their fans, they were frustrated that they had not gotten a goal, but they were readying themselves to go even harder in search of a goal.

Fweeeeeeeee!

The referee blew his whistle to end the first half and the players of the two teams trudged off the field tired and a bit frustrated.

Both sets of eleven players had given their all out there and the chances had come but neither of them had been able to make the scoreboard operator work and after the kinds of close calls that the half was filled with, it was definitely a little frustrating, but that only served to heat them up.

They had every plan of coming back out in the second half and continuing right from where they stopped.

{The fans are still reeling from that fast half, absolutely peak entertainment from the two sides}

{Everyone played their part to make the game exciting and though neither of the two teams has managed to score yet, the fans have no doubt that if the players can keep up their excitement in the second half, then things might be changing soon.

In the Uventus locker room, Pirlo was already talking to his players.

“We had a bit of bad luck in that half, we should already be in the lead. I can’t fault your performance, just keep working hard and don’t get complacent,”

“That’s all I ask for. Can you do that?” Pirlo asked his players who responded positively.

After that was over, they moved to the tactical adjustment part of the meeting.

In the Dortmund locker room, the manager was talking to the players as well.

“That first half wasn’t too bad, but we need to take more shots at their goal. Right now, we’re giving them too much time on the ball and if that keeps up, they will punish you for it,”

“They’ve not done it so far only because of luck and Burki here. But he’s not invincible, you guys need to help him out,” Edin said, remembering that Uventus had scored a goal already, but luckily for his players, it had been disallowed.

That only served to remind him that Burki was not exactly in the form of his life at the moment.

If the ball had gotten past him once already, then there was nothing to suggest that it couldn't happen again, so the least his players could do was try to get a goal in first... or maybe more than one, and hopefully, they could hold out against their opponents.

After telling the players that, they also dived into the tactics they would be employing for the second half.

Fweeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee

With the referee's whistle blowing loudly, the second half began with the Uventus team kicking off the game and unlike their opponents in the first half, the attacking players immediately lunged forward as soon as the pass was made.

The Dortmund forward players surged into the Uventus half, leaving the Uventus forwards to their midfielders and defenders. They wanted to try and retrieve the ball before the Uventus created something dangerous.

The Uventus midfielders weren't going to wait for the Dortmund forwards to reach them and soon Bentacur sent a chipped pass into Jason's path on the left flank.

Perhaps, he had miscalculated the distance, but as the ball flew into Jason's path, it was about two meters in the air and could hardly be reached by anyone.

Even worse was that Meunier was just a few meters ahead of Jason.

Everyone thought the ball would end up with Meunier but Jason suddenly rose into the air, his leg outstretched and caught the ball with the tip of his foot just about the two meter mark in the air.

The crowd gasped in shock as Jason caught the ball perfectly and landed with the ball bouncing right in front of him.

While the crowd was still in shock, Jason was already moving again, feinting as if he wanted to go to the left, drawing Meunier along before swiftly changing directions with a reverse elastic and darting past the Dortmund man.

After escaping Meunier, Jason resumed his race down the left flank and crossed the ball into the center, catching a glimpse of Ronaldo in the center.

The ball took air and soared over into the center of the box where Ronaldo and the Dortmund defenders were waiting.

Ronaldo tried to push away from his markers and take to the air, but Hummels and Akanji coordinated perfectly and managed to somehow keep him grounded.

With Ronaldo unable to take flight, the ball soared over the center and everyone thought it was the end of the attack when Dybala who had also stepped into the penalty box, caught the ball on his leg, but he struggled to bring it under control before because it was a powerful..

When he finally brought it under control, he angled himself and shot the ball, but it only brushed past the side netting, not even making the goalkeeper work.

{The ball's gone out of play}

{That's not a good end to that attack, it deserved a better ending}

{Uventus will have to try again}

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#64th minute...

{Dortmund has a free kick on the right flank} the commentator said calmly while they waited for the players to arrange themselves for the freekick.

Sancho had tried to get past Alex Sandro on the left flank a few seconds earlier, and Alex Sandro, remembering the humiliation from the first half did not take it lightly and was a bit too rough in his tackle.

In the end, he had managed to stop Sancho, but his rough tackle had earned him a yellow card from the referee and Dortmund now had a free kick.

{It's the captain behind the ball and it's clear that he will try to cross it in, but the question now is...}

{Whose head will he aim for and can they reach the ball when it comes their way?} the commentator said into the mic.

{Well, the Dortmund team has a lot of strength in the air and this freekick is a potential goal-scoring chance for them} The pundit in the commentary box with the commentator began, but he was interrupted by the whistle.

Fweeeeeeeeeee

Reus ran at the ball and swung at it, sending it flying into the penalty box with a beautiful curl.

{It's a ball in!?!}

The players of the two teams ran at the ball's path, but Witsel somehow managed to snake past the strong presences in the white and black stripes and rose to the air, catching the ball on his head and sending it at the goal.

{Header!} the commentator screamed while Buffon lunged at the incoming ball and just barely managed to reach it, but he wasn't able to hold it and the ball slipped away from his grasp, only for Bellingham who had been running at the goal to poke it with his foot and send it back at goal.

Buffon had lunged at the ball, hoping to make another save, but he was soon reminded that he wasn't superhuman as the ball flew past him and the net was sent bulging.

{It's in!}

{In a surprising turn of events, it's Dortmund who score first}

{We said this was a goal-scoring chance and they didn't disappoint!}

{It was a fantastic save from Buffon the first time, but there was nothing he could do about the second attempt and Uventus have the stars to thank for that!}

While the commentator was going crazy on the microphone, Bellingham had run to the sidelines, jumping and pumping his fists in excitement.

The Uventus fans just watched him mutely as he celebrated his goal, not even bothering to get angry at him, rather they decided to encourage their players who looked like they needed it.

Shouts of "FORZA UVE," began to slowly fill the stadium even while the Dortmund team celebrated their goal.

With the fans' encouragement, the Uventus players jogged back to their positions, reminded that the game wasn't over until it was over.

It was a hard blow for sure, especially since they were the ones who had been dominating the game up till then, but now they had to turn their dominance into goals.

#72nd minute...

After conceding the earlier goal, the Uventus players tried to take themselves to the next gear, whatever that was, and try to find an equalizer, but against the Dortmund team that now had the momentum from their goal, it was proving to be a bit difficult.

Especially now that the Dortmund team seemed to have gotten a handle on how to perfectly switch from defense to attack against them.

They could be attacking one second but the moment the Uventus team retrieved the ball and tried to begin a counter attack, Dortmund could somehow find a way to delay them enough till they regrouped behind the ball.

Jason had been watching the situation and had come to the conclusion that the best way to fight against this tactic was if they could somehow begin the counter before the Dortmund defenders could regroup at the back.

In the end, everything bottled down to speed.

{It's Dortmund with the corner. Can they prove their superiority in the air one more time?} the commentator said while Jason watched from outside the penalty box, his breathing heavy.

He had been told to wait outside the penalty box for a chance on the counter and he watched the situation, all sorts of simulations running in his head.

Fweeeeeeeeeee

At the referee's whistle, Reus sent the ball curling beautifully into the penalty box.

{It's looking dangerous?} the commentator said as the ball flew into the penalty box.

{Cleared!} the commentator shouted as De Ligt out-jumped Hummels and got a head to the ball, sending it out of the box.

The ball flew outside of the box to the right while Jason was on the left, but Jason didn't run for the ball as he saw that the ball was near Dybala who was on that side of the field.

Not hesitating for a second, he turned around and ran.

As he ran at the opposition goal, he kept glancing at the ball while keeping his hand up so that Dybala could see him.

He did not call out as that would call too much attention to him.

Finally Dybala reached the ball and luckily, he had seen Jason running since earlier, so he swung the ball over the midfield and into Jason's path as he ran towards the middle..

{Beautiful pass and he's found Jason in front who's all alone!}

As the ball reached him, Jason caught it on his chest, pushing it forward as he ran and he chased after it.

While catching the ball on his chest, he glanced at the assistant referee on the sidelines as he wasn't sure that he was onside as it looked like very tight, but the flag stayed down.

That was all the motivation he needed to keep running, but even if the flag had gone up, he would have still ensured he put the ball past the goalkeeper before stopping as one could never tell in this current world of football.

Running with the ball at the Dortmund goalkeeper who ran out of his goal line, Jason waited until he was near enough and chipped the ball over the goalkeeper, but added enough curl to make sure the ball was out of the reach of the goalkeeper.

{Cheeky chip over the goalkeeper and into the back of the net!} the commentator shouted as the crowd erupted into joyful cheers and Jason began running down the sidelines with a huge smile on his face, but before he could do his celebration, he saw the assistant referee's flag go up.

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'What is this guy playing at!' Jason raged internally, but externally he stopped his run and waited for the referee's verdict.

In truth, he wasn't sure whether he was onside, so he didn't see the need to rage about it, but it was annoying that the flag only went up after he had already put the ball in the back of the net.

Annoyingly enough, he didn't think he would feel differently if the flag had gone up before he had scored.

At this point, he didn't know how to feel and just stayed quiet while the referee ran over to the sidelines to check the goal with the aid of the VAR.

{For the second time in this game, celebrations have been put to a halt just seconds after it began and the Uventus fans are not pleased}

{However, the referee's decision has the power to change that so they are waiting eagerly and expectantly, hopeful that this goal will stand}

{Do you think it was a good offside call?} the commentator asked his commentary partner.

{Well, I haven't been trained as a referee. It looked tight, but I think it was onside. Jason looked like he was right beside Akanji when the ball was sent over} the commentator's partner replied.

{Well, I guess we'll see what the referee says} the commentator said as the referee began to jog back onto the field.

Blowing his whistle, he pointed to the spot where Jason was when he received the pass.

{Free kick to Dortmund, that means the goal will not stand!}

{Let's see the replay}

On the stadium's screens and on the other screens around the world, the replay began and paused exactly where Dybala hit the ball.

On the screen, it showed Jason bringing his hand down, but because of that, his hand was outstretched past Akanji and so was a little bit of his body.

It was an undeniable offside call and the goal was disallowed as a result.

Frustrated, Jason walked back to his position with his teammates who had come to join him in celebrating the goal.

As they headed back to their half of the field, Ronaldo patted him on the back to comfort and encourage him.

“You’ll get it next time, it happens, the game is not over and even if we lose today, we still have the second leg,” Ronaldo said to him.

“Come on guys, it’s not over!” he repeated, motivating the others and they were all uplifted a little bit thanks to his actions.

The game resumed with the Uventus players a bit more upbeat than before and the game resumed with a free-kick from the Dortmund team.

The free kick was played short and the game resumed.

The Uventus players immediately went on the press, wanting to retrieve the ball, but the Dortmund team who had the upper hand did not have any qualms passing the ball back constantly to try and reduce the pace of the game.

It was annoying for the Uventus players to chase after the ball and they began to stretch themselves out to try and mark as many players as possible, but as soon as space opened up, Bellingham made a run from the center of the park into the final third before finding Reus on the left flank.

On receiving the ball, Reus faced off against Cuadrado who had been subbed on for Danilo.

Reus tried a few feints to bait the defender, but the energy-filled Cuadrado wasn't biting, prompting Reus to change his approach.

Suddenly moving at the defender and then passing the ball to Bellingham at the last moments, Reus skipped past the confused Cuadrado to get a return pass from Bellingham who had smoothly returned the ball to his captain after he had gotten past his marker.

Stretching his leg out to catch the ball, Reus bent his body and sent a cross into Uventus's penalty box and into the path of a charging Haaland.

Haaland charged at the ball like a bull that couldn't be deterred and he leaped at it with his leg outstretched, catching it mid-air and poking it past a stunned Buffon.

The ball bounced into the back of the Uventus goal without suspense and the atmosphere in the stadium visibly depressed even further.

{He took to the air and put it in!}

{Haaland, once again leading from the front. Powerful effort, decisive strike! Dortmund are two up!}

{Wonderful team effort, the whole team pulled their weight there. From the pass to begin the attack all the way to the final pass and then the goal! Dortmund prove themselves superior!}

{We expected this match to be tight, maybe even with Uventus being the slight favorites! Yet no one expected this surprising turn of events!}

{Here in their own home ground with just ten minutes left of the ninety, Uventus are two behind their opponents!}

The Uventus crowd were silent as they watched the Dortmund team celebrate their goal with Haaland doing his signature meditation pose celebration.

Some of the fans cursed their bad luck but, no one among them was feeling good about the current situation.

It was a game in which their team had dominated right from the start, yet so far they had nothing to show for it other than disallowed goals and a two goal loss.

However, the Uventus didn't lose hope yet... they couldn't.

There was still time left in the game and they believed in their players.

Even if they lost the game two to nil, they still wouldn't be too scared. It was the kind of confidence that only fans of a champion level team would have and they soon started cheering encouragingly for their players.

{The Uventus fans are still behind their players. They don't believe it's over yet!}

{Now the question is whether the players also believe?} the commentator spoke into the mic, his voice filled with enthusiasm as the Uventus team kicked off the game once again.

The commentator's question was left hanging as the game resumed once again, but with only a few minutes left, it would soon become clear whether the Uventus players still believed or not.

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#85th minute...

Arthur sent a through pass down the left flank and Jason chased after the ball, advancing into the final third of the Dortmund team from the left flank but just before he reached the ball, Meunier who had been chasing him from the side came flying in, tackling the ball, but sweeping Jason off the ground in the process.

As Jason's body hit the ground, he rolled over immediately and jumped back to his feet, breathing heavily.

Needless to say, after playing almost the full ninety minutes, he was tired, which was why Meunier was able to catch up to him before he reached the ball.

Despite his tiredness and frustration, he kept his mouth shut and walked over to receive the ball for the throwing.

“Told you you weren’t getting past me,” Meunier snickered as Jason walked past him, trying to unsettle and annoy Jason, but Jason just gritted his teeth and ignored the annoying chatterbox.

If this guy was annoying Jason for any reason, it was because he kept talking, but that didn’t mean the guy wasn’t also doing well defensively.

Despite him not being able to keep Jason completely locked up, he was doing a good job of slowing down attacks and making the occasional interception.

His efforts along with the other Dortmund defenders made things difficult for Ronaldo who was in the center.

Unlike the usual formation where Ronaldo had support from another striker to take away some of the pressure, currently he was alone and the Dortmund were doing their best to ensure that hardly any passes reached him.

Unfortunately, Dybala, who was on the other flank did not have enough of a physical presence to help out in relieving some of the pressure.

The manager had noticed that and was finally making a substitution to take off Dybala.

Jason was instructed to wait while Dybala jogged off the field and Chiesa ran on.

{The fans are applauding this man for his efforts as he comes off}

{They're not allowing their less-than-favorable situation to stop them from giving this man his plaudits}

{He's done his best, even giving the final pass for the earlier goal that was disallowed. One can not say that he did not play his part despite the current situation}

Jason did not wait for the commentator to finish talking before throwing the ball to Arthur and rushing back onto the pitch.

As he received the ball, Arthur trapped it and looked to find a passing option to the center, but the Dortmund players began advancing towards him.

Not wasting any time, he quickly returned the ball to Jason who was back on the field.

Jason stopped the ball and then in a smooth sweeping motion, he moved the ball smoothly across the green and pushed it between Meunier's legs, leaving the Dortmund right back surprised at the sudden event.

{Ball between his legs and Jason is away!}

While Meunier was still narrowing his legs in instinct after the ball had passed through, Jason had already begun moving, running past him on the outside of the field and then chasing after the ball.

As he reached the ball and drove it forward, he could hear footsteps quickly approaching him from behind, letting him know that Meunier was once again on his tail.

Jason raced into the left side of the penalty box, but Meunier finally caught up to him just as he passed the line.

Jason suddenly made as if to stop, causing the speeding Meunier to try to stop as well, slipping a bit in the process, but while Meunier was still trying to stop, Jason once again pulled the ball along, stunning Meunier and prompting to try to keep up, but the inertia of his movements sent him into a tangled mess of movements and he fell to the ground on his back as he tried to follow Jason.

{Jason escapes once again. Meunier just can't keep him locked up!}

Jason on the other hand had already moved forward and then sent a pass towards Ronaldo in the center.

{He finds Ronaldo! Christano Ronaldo!!!} the commentator screamed as Ronaldo hit the ball immediately at the goal, but Akanji jumped into the ball's path and deflected it wide.

{Blocked by the defender, but the Uventus players are calling for a handball!!} the commentator said enthusiastically.

{It seems the ball deflected off the defender's arm and not his body!}

Fweeeeeeeeeee!!!

{It seems the referee agrees with the Uventus players, he's pointing to the penalty spot!}

{The Dortmund players rush up to the man in yellow, probably looking to dissuade his decision, but it seems the referee's mind is made up. He's not even asking for help from the video assistant referee!} the commentator said, but while he was still talking, the replay was shown on the screens and it clearly showed that the ball had bounced off Akanji's forearm.

{it's Ronaldo to take the penalty, as usual}

{Uventus has a chance to get one back here} the commentator said while Ronaldo placed the ball on the spot and stepped back, waiting for the referee's whistle.

The referee first busied himself with player arrangements and only after making sure that everything and everyone was in place did he put the whistle to his mouth.

Fweeeeeeeee

Fwuuuu... whuuussh

After taking a deep breath, Ronaldo ran at the ball and hit it at the center while Burki had dived at the right, jumping out of the way of the ball.

{Right down the middle! A brazen and confident decision from Ronaldo and it's gone in!}

{Uventus have one back!}

{For anyone else, shooting the ball down the center would be a reckless decision that more often than not is a wrong one, but not this man!}

{He's the very picture of calm as he slots it right into the center!}

{Now that Uventus have one back, could this be the beginning of a comeback?} the commentator asked no one in particular.

{There's not much time left, but football is a game of surprises and this match has been full of them!}

{What's one more surprise?}

Chapter 607: A First Leg Loss

Fweeeeeeeee!

{There it is, the final whistle}

{It is over, and Borussia Dortmund make it through the first leg of this tie with a one-goal advantage over Uventus!}

{Uventus tried and tried, but the equalizer just wouldn't come, and now they have to wait till the next leg to take another chance at their champions league dream!}

{One thing is for sure, this is far from over} the commentator remarked as play stopped after the referee's whistle.

Jason sat down on the pitch right where he was after the referee's whistle, breathing hard and trying to remember when he had ever been this tired.

This was probably the most intense match he had ever played and he had played every single second of it.

Annoyingly enough, his team had still lost despite him giving it all out on the field.

'I'm way out of my element,' he sighed and pulled out the band holding his hair together.

As he sat there, he tried to re-run the match in his head and try to figure out the reason behind his team's loss apart from their bad luck.

It was clear that they had outplayed their opponents and deserved a win, but they had still lost.

Before he could delve farther into his thoughts, he was interrupted by a voice.

"You were good out there, man," Bellingham, who had walked up to Jason, said.

"... Yeah, you too," Jason nodded.

'You were a pain in the a** to say the least,' he thought as well as Bellingham had been one of the more annoying players who kept him in line.

Bellingham didn't play like a professional defender, but he had an annoying knack for tracking Jason's movements and being there to steal the ball whenever Jason tried to dribble past any other player.

It was the reason why Jason continuously dribbled out wide, always avoiding cutting in too early because he was sure Bellingham would be there.

"You really made him look like a lost puppy," Bellingham muttered.

"What?" Jason asked, having not clearly heard what Bellingham said.

"Noghing, don't worry about it," Bellingham waved it off.

"Hmmm..." Jason raised an eye at him.

"Anyway, wanna swap shirts?" Bellingham quickly changed the topic and held out his hand to Jason.

"Oh, uh, yeah," Jason replied and took his outstretched hand, Bellingham pulling him up.

With Jason back on his feet, they both took off their shirts and exchanged it for the other's.

"Next game will be different though," Jason said to Bellingham after receiving his shirt.

"What, you'll cry next time?" Bellingham smirked confidently.

"You wish," Jason chuckled, but he didn't say more.

His words weren't meant for Bellingham, but rather for himself.

He was making a declaration to himself, and he had said it out loud so that it felt real. Bellingham was the one who had confused the situation and thought Jason was speaking to him.

Jason didn't plan to correct him though.

Bellingham soon ran off to join his teammates, while Jason went to join his own teammates as well.

The Uventus fans did not leave immediately and stayed behind for a few minutes to encourage their players, but after a little while, the fans began to leave.

The players were also already in their locker room.

"Well guys, it's not the result we wanted, but I can't fault your performance. If we can just brush up a little, we still have every chance of winning the second leg,"

"For now, we'll rest, and we'll go into the details at the next training session," Pirlo addressed his players and then left quickly as he had things to do.

The players on the other hand, quickly began to clean up, preparing to leave the stadium.

9th April 2021

After a day off to recover from their exhaustion, the Uventus players were back at the Continassa for team training session, but before the training began, the manager had called the players to a meeting room.

"Good morning everyone," Pirlo greeted the players as he walked into the wide meeting room and headed straight to the front of the players, all business.

"In our last match, we lost against Dortmund. Can anyone tell me why?" Pirlo asked, getting down to business immediately.

"Fede?" Pirlo asked Chiesa, seeing that no one spoke up.

"Hmmm?Uh, bad luck?"Chiesa replied, scratching his head.

"That's part of it, but we can't always blame our luck for losing games, so anyone else?"

"Christiano?" Pirlo asked Ronaldo next.

"We didn't give our best out there. We should have played better," Ronaldo replied.

"Well, that much is obvious, but it's not the answer I'm looking for. After all, we dominated the game but still didn't win," Pirlo retorted.

"With how we played that night, we could have won the game, however, we didn't,"

"So, anyone else has anything to say, perhaps you have the answer I'm looking for?"

"Huh? Kennie? Juan? Aaron?" Pirlo asked the players, still not satisfied.

"... Maybe we should have put the game to bed earlier?" De Ligt said unsurely.

"Yes! That's it! That's the one!" Pirlo agreed enthusiastically with a nod.

"But we did score earlier though, but it was offside... twice," Chiesa said.

"And that's why I said bad luck was part of our problems, but it's not the only problem we have,"

“Look back at our last few games. Almost every match we’ve won lately has started with us scoring in the first half,”

“We’re Uventus, we dominate,”

“We always begin every match with dominance, and normally, we get at least one goal in the first half. This allows us to switch from a high intensity game play in the first half to a more relaxed pace in the second half where we focus on keeping control of the game and playing on our own terms,”

“This way we can conserve energy and keep pressuring our opponents enough to unsettle them and prevent them from settling into their game and then striving to equalize this game,”

“Often times, we score more and end with a win, but in the last game, that didn’t happen,” Pirlo had delved into explanation at this point and the players and other staff were listening attentively.

“When the match against Dortmund began, we scored first, but it was offside...” he paused.

“It didn’t count...”

Chapter 608: Clear Stance

“It didn’t count... but it created a problem for us that we didn’t notice until too late,”

“It gave us a sense of security that we were only supposed to have after we scored a goal, which we did,”

“But it didn’t count,” Pirlo said, a little smile at the corner of his lips.

“With that sense of security, we subconsciously thought we had the game in the bag because coupled with our dominance and the goal that was unfortunately disallowed, what else were we supposed to think,”

“Because of that, you guys let up a little,”

“Not in your efforts, but in your concentration. We started missing shots. We had the chances, but we kept missing because we weren’t striving to be as accurate and as perfect as possible,”

“And then the first half ended, then the second half began,”

“Then our opponents scored first. With that happening, your concentration shot up again, and we scored again, but once again, bad luck, it was offside,” Pirlo said, waving his hands a little for a dramatic effect.

“Before you got comfortable back on the attack, the opponent somehow managed to use our desperation against us. We got careless and conceded another goal,”

“Bam! Just like that, we’re two down,”

“We got even more anxious, but we also learnt that we needed to stay tight at the back, and luckily, we managed to get one back, but that was actually a lucky break for us,”

“One thing about always having the ball is that you’re always trying to score and that simply means more energy expended on our side,”

“We were more tired than our opponents, so if they had focused on just defending, they would have probably managed to keep us down by two. Luckily, our bad luck let up, and we got the penalty, which brings us to now,”

“We still lost the game and now will have to work on beating Dortmund in the next game while already being a goal behind. They also have the away goal rule on their side for now, and we’ll be playing in their home ground next,”

“The odds are stacked against us...”

“So, what should we do in the second leg that would help us to win the game?” Pirlo asked the players with a burning look in his eyes.

“Uhhhhhh, we try to score first and score early to ensure we can play on our own terms?” Dybala asked, unsure.

“Well obviously...”

“... But that’s not the correct answer,” Pirlo replied.

“... So what are we supposed to do in the next match?” Mckennie asked.

“What Paulo said...” Pirlo said.

“Huh?” Some of the players muttered, confused.

“... That, and one other thing,” Pirlo continued.

“Play like your life depends on it. Despite all we’ve said and all we’ll do till that day, anything could happen. They could score first, but that is when we should play even fiercer,”

“The game is never truly over till it’s over, so no matter what happens. Keep going,”

“It’s been fourteen years since I last held that silver trophy. I want to refresh my memory this year,”

“Don’t let me down,”

After the team meeting, the players were herded back to the fields to begin their training and they went hard at it all fired up to face Dortmund in the second leg of their quarter final.

However, before that game, they would have to face Genoa first in two days and they wanted nothing more than to quickly get it behind them and move on to the second leg match against Dortmund, but things didn't work that way.

They could only do their best on the training grounds, keeping their morale high while they waited for time to pass them by.

In these kind of moments, time usually ran slower, but soon enough, the days went by and Uventus soon faced off against Genoa in the next match day.

Despite their heavy interest and anticipation for the upcoming second leg match against Dortmund, the Uventus players didn't lose their minds and risk jeopardizing their title run.

****11th April 2021****

*** Allianz Arena...***

The match between Uventus had been raging on for twenty minutes with both teams looking to one up the other and soon enough, Bernadeshi found Correia, a youth player who was getting a run out due to the injury problems Uventus was having.

Correia playing as a striker received the ball and let it fly at the goal but the Genoa goalkeeper wasn't interested in being part of the young strikers story as the first goalkeeper he ever scored against.

Expertly, he made a powerful leap and punched the ball to the side, aiming to punch it out of play, but he didn't punch it powerfully enough and the ball bounced onto the pitch, allowing Ronaldo to run forward and hit it back at goal despite it being a tight angle.

The goalkeeper couldn't keep up with the second effort, and the ball smashed past him and sent the net flying.

{Ronaldo again!}

{He gives Uventus the lead!} the commentator shouted as Ronaldo ran to the sidelines to celebrate.

The fans joined in Ronaldo's celebration by shouting "SIUUUUU!!!" as the Portuguese striker hit his iconic celebration.

The players on the bench and the club staff on the sidelines weren't left out of the celebrations and celebrated along with the team from where they were.

Jason who was sitting on the bench also joined in on the celebrations, not allowing the fact that he was on the bench stop him from being happy that his team took the lead.

The match soon continued after the celebrations, but while everyone was still basking in the waves of excitement that the goal had brought with it, Genoa scored an equalizer from a corner.

A Genoa player somehow managed to get away with a powerful leap to connect with a perfect ball in and sent the ball past Szczesny, who was slow to react.

{Oh they've gone and scored an equalizer, what do we have here!?!}

{Could Genoa be making a comeback!?!} the commentator screamed excitedly. He was one of the people who loved a comeback that could topple a giant.

A dreamer, some would say, but he awoke from his dream a few moments later when Uventus scored a corner of their own just five minutes after Genoa's equalizer.

Chiellini had gotten a head to Cuadrado's cross and sent the Genoa goalkeeper gasping for straws for the second time in the game.

{Uventus make their stance clear for the second time in this game!}

{They're here for the three points and don't plan to take no for an answer!}

{Can Genoa still refuse them regardless? We would like to know!} The commentator did his job while the Uventus team and their fans celebrated their second goal.

The fans felt like they had been to the moon and back, but were suddenly thrust on the moon again and with greater force than the first time.

They excitedly cheered with excitement as the players celebrated and even after the game resumed, they continued cheering and chanting excitedly until the whistle to end the first half blew.

Till the first half ended, there was no other goal, but the match was exciting enough that the fans weren't bored for a single second.

The second half soon began with Uventus continuing to play exciting football, looking to pick up from where they left in the first half but the Genoa fans were doing their best to stop them, all while trying to get the equalizer that would bring them back into contention for a win.

The match raged on and in the 67th minute, Jason came on for Bernadeschi on the right flank.

The sudden injection of fresh legs brought life back to the Uventus attacking attempts that seemed to be gradually slowing down moments prior.

Jason made runs, sent passes, dribbled past his markers and tried to create goals for the team by either setting it up or taking the attempt himself but the Genoa team held strong.

For a while...

In the 83rd minute, Jason received a pass from Arthur on the right flank in the middle parts of the pitch.

Swiftly slotting the ball between his marker's legs as he rushed at him, Jason dodged the player's attempt to hold him back and raced after the ball.

Catching up to it, he swiftly darted down the right flank, slowly cutting in and then crossing the ball into Chiesa's path in the center.

The ball flew in towards the approaching Chiesa, but a Genoa player came flying in trying to block the pass to Chiesa, but he miscalculated his attempts to block the shot and ended up deflecting the ball into the back of his own net.

{Oh he's put it into the back of his own net!}

{What a disaster!}

{Just when Genoa were rallying themselves to equalize, he's gone ahead and killed his own team's dreams!} the commentator shouted, his voice holding no form of pity for the Genoa player.

{I've seen many things in life, but a person hammering down the last nail of his own coffin comes as a surprise to me and to anyone!} the commentator's partner added as the Uventus fans celebrated a third goal despite it being an own goal.

Jason Assist!

Jason Assist! they chanted with mirth while the Genoa players walked back to their positions disappointedly, their face completely clear of any intention to find a way back.

With just about five minutes left of the ninety minutes, it was going to be very difficult to get two goals against Uventus and seeing that they had not managed to get one back since the first half, it looked even more like an impossible task.

Normally they wouldn't think like that, but they were under a lot of pressure before the own goal and the own goal was the straw that broke the camel's back.

Now they only had the will to resist conceding any further.

The game ended seven minutes later with the scores: Uventus 3:1 Genoa.

Chapter 609: Power, Precision, Perfection!

****14th April 2021****

The Uventus had arrived in North Rhine, Westphalia, Germany early that morning and they had quickly begun the day's agenda which began with a rest and lunch.

Jason felt a little melancholic as he looked around the airport they had landed in.

His debut for Oporto, as well as his senior team debut was at the Bay04Arena in Germany and this was the airport he had landed in back then before they went to the stadium.

As he remembered, he could not help but feel a little melancholic as just over a year later, he was back there, representing a new club and playing in the Champions League as opposed to the Europa League Oporto was contesting in back then.

That aside, he wasn't affected by his melancholy for too long, especially as he began remembering why he was in a different jersey.

Following the rest of his teammates, he made his way onto the bus that was waiting for the players, and they departed.

"Remember what we discussed... Play like your life depends on it... because it does," Pirlo said to his players before leaving the team locker room.

The pre-match tactical meeting was over, and the manager had left the room.

The players followed after him less than a minute later and began lining up in the tunnel.

{The players come out of the tunnel, their faces a picture of various expressions, but complacency is not one of them!} The commentator took over the stadium with his commentary as the players marched out of the tunnel and began the pre-match formalities.

{It's the second leg of this quarter-final tie and what happens in the ninety minutes to come decides who gets to go to the semi-finals}

{Borussia Dortmund go into this tie with a one-goal lead, but against a team like Uventus, it wouldn't mean much if they get complacent. Still, it's a lead they are grateful to have, and it could prove to be very important to get the result they want}

{Looking at the starting line-ups of the two teams, there is not much of a difference from their line-up in the first leg of this tie}

{Uventus use the same 4-3-3 attacking formation they used in the previous game, but this time, Arthur replaces Mckennie in the center and Cuadrado is the right back who was selected for today's game instead of Danilo who started in the first leg}

{For Dortmund, there are a few changes in their formation as well}

{Guereiro replaces Nico Schulz in the left-back position, Emre Can takes a defensive midfielder position alongside Bellingham, who was the man of the match in the previous game}

{Reus takes the attacking midfield position in place of Julian Brandt, and Thorgan Hazard will be playing as the left midfielder}

{It's Dortmund who kick off the game. Can they capitalize on their home advantage and send Uventus reeling in defeat yet again, or does Uventus have a surprise comeback in store for us?}

{I guess we'll find out soon!} the commentator said excitedly as the game kicked off.

The Dortmund players sent the ball back into their half and began passing the ball around among themselves, not in a hurry to go on the attack, after all, they were the ones with the lead.

The Uventus players were however not going to allow them the space or freedom to play as they wished and their players surged forward into Dortmund's half of the pitch, bringing with them heavy pressure that they directed at the Dortmund players.

The Dortmund players fought back and increased their passing efforts, somehow managing to escape the heavy press and get the ball behind the pressing Uventus players.

Bellingham tried to find Thorgan Hazard on the left flank, but his pass was interrupted by Cuadrado who then sent a lobbed pass over the players and into the final third where he had seen Jason running to.

The ball flew over Dortmund's back line, coming down behind them into Jason's path.

Jason held off Meunier as he ran and managed to get his leg to the ball and pushed it forward, darting towards the penalty box.

A few quick strides later, Jason faced off against Burki, but the Dortmund goalkeeper was quick off his line and was already less than two meters away from Jason.

Jason faked a shot with his right foot, causing the goalkeeper to dive into the his path, but he changed directions quickly and dashed the goalkeeper who was now stumbling after him.

{Around the goalkeeper!}

After darting past the goalkeeper, Jason was at a tight angle, but it wasn't so tight an angle that he couldn't take a shot directly, and he hit the ball at the goal, but didn't use too much power to avoid his shot being off.

The goalkeeper would not be able to reach it anyway, he figured.

The ball rolled at a quick enough pace that the goalkeeper couldn't reach it, but just before it crossed the line, Matt Hummels appeared out of the corner of Jason's vision, diving into a sliding tackle at the ball and stopping it right on the goal line.

Burki jumped onto the ball that had stopped, recovering the ball and Jason could only watch with his hands on his head, shocked beyond belief that the ball hadn't made it past the goal line.

{Saved on the line!}

{Uventus thought they had the beginning of a comeback in their hands, but Hummels begged to differ!}

{Nevertheless, this shows the danger Uventus pose to their opponents and to us, it shows that this match will be far from boring!}

#23rd minute...

The match had raged on for one-third of an hour and like the commentator had said after the first attempt of the game, the game had been far from boring with there having been quite a few attempts on goal at both ends of the field.

However, the Uventus team was a bit ahead in terms of attacking attempts, especially since they were chasing the game.

Once again, they were on the attack and Arthur had just given the ball to Jason on the left flank and Jason had begun cutting in toward the penalty box.

Meunier squared off against Jason, intent on doing whatever it took to stop him from getting past and after a second, Jason suddenly changed his direction and flicked the ball further down the flank, seemingly aiming to try to use a burst of speed to either get past Meunier on the flank, or to cross the ball in.

Meunier quickly gave chase, and when he saw Jason swinging at the ball, he thought Jason was going to cross the ball and flew in with a slide tackle, but Jason cut back with a back chop, sending Meunier sliding into absolute nothingness.

{Cut back from Jason, he's escaped the tackle!}

Meunier quickly got up and chased after Jason and once he saw Jason trying to cross the ball into the penalty box once again, he jumped into the ball's path with another sliding tackle, but once again, Jason cut back with a back chop.

Once again, Meunier, slid to the floor, catching nothing but grass and could only watch in dismay as Jason once again turned back to the flank.

{Once again, he cuts back, leaving Meunier grasping straws!}

Still not willing to give up, the Dortmund right back scrambled back to his feet and chased after Jason.

Once he was near enough, he dived into a sliding tackle once more, but this time he targeted the ball at Jason's leg, not waiting for him to try to send the ball into the penalty box.

Yet, as if Jason was seeing things from an omniscient point of view, Jason put his leg on the ball and pulled it back, leaving Menuier sliding out of his path, grabbing at the grass to stop himself.

{Splendid display of trickery from Jason, sordid embarrassment for the Dortmund defender!} the commentator said excitedly while Menuier slowly stood up, having given up on tackling Jason.

No longer paying attention to Menuier, Jason passed the ball back to Arthur when he saw Bellingham dashing toward him.

Receiving the ball near the throwing line, Arthur quickly found Ronaldo, who was waiting nearby at the left corner of the box.

As Ronaldo received the ball, he faced the goal, looking for space to take a shot, but Akanji was already rushing at him.

Doing a couple of stepovers before skipping to the right and dodging Akanji's tackle, Ronaldo unleashed a shot at the top right corner from the left corner of the box.

{We've seen this before, and it usually ends in the back of the neetttt ... GOAL!!!} the commentator screamed in between his sentence as the ball flew past Burki into the top right corner of the goal.

{It's gone in!!!}

{Ronaldo!!!} the commentator shouted with excitement while Ronaldo ran to the sidelines in excitement.

{He does it again! Just like he always does!}

{Power! Precision! Perfection! The goalkeeper had no chance!}

Chapter 610: Lifeline

#39th minute...

Dortmund had increased the intensity of their efforts after Uventus scored their first goal, trying to take back their lead.

Currently, the scores were 2-2, and if the game was to end with this scoreline, the Dortmund team would win thanks to the away-goal rule, but Dortmund players did not want to put their trust in the away goal rule.

It was still early in the game and their opponents could score anytime and take the lead.

Thus they were once again on the attack , exchanging the ball among themselves and keeping the ball moving as they looked for a way past the Uventus back line.

Reus passed the ball to Thorgan on the left flank and Thorgan squared off against Cuadrado, but seeing no way past, he turned back and passed the ball back to Guereiro who then squared the ball off to Akanji in the center.

Ronaldo ran at Akanji, but Akanji sent the ball down the middle to Emre Can who did a one touch pass to Bellingham.

On receiving the ball, Bellingham dodged Bentacur's tackle and pushed the forward a bit before sending a through pass between the Uventus defenders toward the right flank and into the path of a forward darting Sancho.

Edging ahead of Alex Sandro who was hard on his tail, Sancho darted into the penalty box from the right before sending a ball across towards the edge of the penalty box.

Reus arrived behind the ball from just outside the box and hit it at goal with a powerful thump.

{Hit's it first time!}

{It's in!}

{Dortmund have their equalizer and make the scores 3:2 on aggregate!}

{With the end of the first half approaching, they've once again put a foot forward. They have no intention to have Uventust have it easy!} the commentator spoke excitedly while the fans in the stadium who mostly comprised of Dortmund fans, filled the stadium with loud cheers of excitement, passion and joy.

Reus ran down to the sidelines, jumping into the air and pumping a fist up. On landing, he was surrounded by his teammates who joined him in celebration while the Uventus players slowly treaded back to their positions, their confidence having taken a slight hit.

However, keeping in mind that they only needed one goal to get back on equal terms with their opponents, the Uventus players didn't feel too let down, after all, it was an achievable goal as far as they were concerned.

The Dortmund players knew that they weren't out of danger yet either, and they didn't spend too much time celebrating.

As soon as the match kicked off again, the Uventus team immediately took off with the ball, calmly exchanging the ball among themselves as they moved the ball up the field.

The Dortmund players fought back with an intense defensive effort to keep the Uventus team away from their goal and though they weren't able to stop the Uventus team from taking shots, they were able to harass them enough to ensure that the ball didn't end up at the back of their net.

The Dortmund players held out till the whistle that ended the first half was blown and the players of the two teams walked off the field tiredly for their much-needed fifteen minutes break.

In the Uventus locker room...

"It's not over yet guys, you've done well to score one goal, but we're still a bit short,"

"If we can get one more, we can survive till penalties, but if we can get two more, then we win,"

"I know that we are capable of at least that much, so don't lose your composure, play as well as you can, stay tight at the back and we can win,"

"We owe that much to the fans who are watching from the edge of their seats, whispering 'forza Uve'."

"Don't let them down,"

"Don't let me down,"

" And..."

" Don't let yourselves down,"

The Uventus players body movements visibly improved after the manager's improv speech.

It was clear that they were very motivated as they headed back out to the pitch, ready to do their all to win.

{We're back for the second half and currently Dortmund lead on aggregate scores, 3 : 2}

{If Uventus can get a goal, they can push for extra time and maybe penalties. However, Dortmund will be looking for the goal that ends Uventus's Champions League dream}

Fweeeeeeeeeee!!!

{Will Uventus make a comeback or will Dortmund cruise to victory? We'll find out soon, the second half is underway} the commentator said as the Uventus team kicked off the second half.

Despite their desperation to score a goal and get themselves on level terms with their opponents, the Uventus team calmly passed the ball around.

Losing their composure at this point would not bode well, thanks to the away goal rule, so they had to ensure that they did not concede any goals at this point.

The Dortmund players however did not care much for the Uventus team's and aggressively charged at them, wanting to steal the ball.

Trying to build off their first half momentum, they rushed at the Uventus players, not afraid to be aggressive at tackling.

#68th minute...

{It's like a war out there and the fans are loving it}

{Uventus are doing everything they can to find the goal that can sustain them and Dortmund are not afraid to play security}

{They're shutting down every attempt from the Uventus team and they're not afraid to play dirty}

{The reward for that is three yellow in the last fifteen minutes}

{The manager needs to get the players to rein in or who knows what could happen}

{It's Uventus on the attack again!}

{Chiesa in the middle, meters away from the edge of the box, is he looking for the final pass?}

{Brandt trying to push him off, oh, he's gone down!} The commentator said, describing the events ongoing on the pitch.

The referee ran up to the scene of the foul and warned the assailant, not pulling out a yellow card as the foul wasn't too rough.

{Uventus have a freekick in a dangerous area and this could be a goal scoring chance} the commentator said as he watched the Dortmund players arrange themselves as a wall.

{They do have quite a few deadball specialists on their side and it will not be too far-fetched to see them going for goal} the co-commentator said.

{Yeah, they do and right now, three of them stand behind the ball}

{All of them are right footed and this freekick is on the right edge of the box. It seems they may send the ball in as a cross} the commentator said into the mic and right at that moment, Ronaldo who was listening to Jason saying something in his ear, nodded and went to join the rest of the players, leaving only Jason and Danilo behind the ball.

Jason stood directly behind the ball while Danilo stood on his right.

Looking at the goal, Jason took in a deep breath and focused.

Contrary to the commentators beliefs, he didn't plan to cross the ball in, but planned to hit it directly at goal despite the weird angle.

Looking at his position and the position of the goal, he could either try to curl the ball outside the wall and send it towards the right corner, or he could go for power and hope that the ball stayed on target.

As for which way he would hit the ball, well...

Fweeeeeeeeeee!!!

"Well, here goes nothing," He muttered to himself and ran at the ball.

{A short run up... And he hits it!} The commentator shouted as Jason hit the ball.

The ball flew powerfully into the air, curling outwardly as if Jason intended to cross the ball, but another glance at the ball's direction immediately showed that it was flying at goal instead of at the players in the center.

Burki watched as the ball flew, watching it curl outwardly, before suddenly dipping and curling back inwardly.

Alarm bells rang in Burki's head as he watched the ball dip and he rushed at the right side of his goal and jumped at the ball, but the ball smashed past his hand before he could reach it.

{Oh it's gone in!!!}

{What devilish curl!!}

{There was no way the keeper could reach!}

{Uventus have their lifeline! There back in this game!} The commentator shouted as Jason took off down the sidelines and jumped into a knee slide, his face a picture of excitement.

'Sh*t, can't believe that worked,' the thought flew across his mind, but before he could think more, he was surrounded by his teammates in a group hug.

{Dortmund are stunned, their fans are silent, but the traveling Uventus fans are showing their full support of their team!}

{This changes everything!}

{With the two teams on equal grounds with not much time left, the next goal could be the decider!}