

Legends 701

Chapter 701: Road to Porto 2021 III

After the interview, some of the players took part in the mini game set up in one of the sponsor booths, but Jason didn't join them and contented himself with just watching the guys playing.

After a few more minutes, it was time for the players to head to training and as a part of the media day's activities, the media would get to film the first fifteen minutes of the players' training.

Not wanting their tactics to leak, Pirlo had the players first warm up and then begin doing physical drills, making sure no part of their tactical arrangements were leaked.

The training soon transitioned to a passing and defense drill with two defenders surrounded by five midfielders and attackers.

The defenders ran around trying to intercept the passes while it was the passers' duty to ensure the ball stayed in motion and out of the reach of the defenders.

The media's time was soon up and they were shooed away by the security, heading out to pack up while the players continued their training session.

Not long after, Pirlo had the staff set things up for another scrimmage between the two teams he had selected the prior day. Their attack and tactical formation was coming together, but Pirlo wanted the wingers to get more used to helping the wing-backs in defense for the upcoming match.

After a hard day of training, the players headed to their homes.

****27th May 2021****

The players arrived at the continassa for training again, but this time, they arrived with travelling bags that they handed over to the staff to begin packing onto the bus that would be taking them to the airport.

The players would be leaving for Portugal later that day, but Pirlo wanted them to still get some training in before the flight so they had a training session that morning.

It was a light training session to avoid the risks of any unexpected occurrences and luckily the training went by without incident and about two hours later, the manager ended the session and told the players to go freshen up and meet at the bus.

The bus soon left the continassa, carrying the players and other members of staff who would be leaving with them to Porto.

Arriving at the airport, the players were greeted with a crowd of Uventus fans who had gathered at the airport to see them off.

Some of the fans would later go to Porto to watch the game live, but the crowd at the airport was mostly fans who wouldn't be able to travel to Porto and they had arrived to cheer for the players as they left.

Waving at the fans, the players alighted the bus and boarded the plane. Pirlo didn't allow for any physical interaction with the fans so as to keep the players focused, hence the fans had to be content with just waves from the players.

Thanks to the extensive preparations, things continued without incident and the plane soon took off, heading to Portugal with the players safely belted into their seats.

The flight could take anywhere from two to five hours depending on many factors, so the players contented themselves to relax with some of them resetting their seats to have a nap.

Jason had chosen to stare into the crowds while listening to soft music, but he didn't notice when he nodded off and only woke up when the pilot said to buckle up, which meant they had arrived at Porto and were about to land.

A little while later, the plane touched down and came to a gradual stop.

Their arrival was not to go unnoticed as various media were waiting with cameras to capture the arrival of the players.

Apart from the club's media team, Uventus TV, the official socials, and the photographers, quite a few other media houses were there waiting for the player's arrival.

The UEFA media team, independent broadcasters like Sky Sports and ESPN, and even local Portuguese media were all over the event, their cameras trained on the plane's door as they waited for the players to arrive.

They didn't have to wait for long as the door soon opened and the players began to alight, their faces a picture of many things. Some still looked sleepy, some stared a bit wide-eyed, some moved with nonchalance and some were too busy doing other things to pay attention to the cameras.

Jason was one of the last players to get off the plane as he was enjoying the comfort of his chair and didn't want to get up until he realized that everyone else was getting off.

Yawning, he walked down the steps, hardly paying any attention to the cameras as he expected them, but to his surprise, the tempo of flashes and clicks increased rapidly as the cameras fell on him.

Considering the fact that a team like Uventus was alighting the plane, this much difference in attention was a bit strange.

What he didn't know was that many reporters were having a field day with news about him.

It was well known that the relationship between him and Oporto, the home team of this city, was in shambles... especially considering that he was still an Oporto player.

He had gone on loan to Uventus after issues with the club management and a teammate, but he had quickly stabilized on foreign grounds and broke into the starting lineup of the Uventus team.

With them, he had gone on to win the Serie A trophy, the Coppa Italia, the Super Coppa, and was now in the finals of the Champions League.

Oporto on the other hand had had a particularly terrible season for a club of their stature. Apart from the Candido de Oliveira trophy that they had won before Jason left the club, they had fallen short of every other trophy.

Despite being the league's defending champions, they had only come fourth this season and now the prodigal son who had been pushed out was going to play the Champions League final, the highest point of club football, at their stadium.

The reporters were already salivating at the possibility of Jason lifting the famous trophy with Uventus on his home team's stadium.

Nobody knew what sort of coincidence that had led to this situation, but the reporters didn't care and were having a mind orgasm at the thought of writing such a story.

Chapter 702: Road to Porto 2021 IV

The bus that was to carry the Uventus players drove to the entrance of the airport and there waiting, cheering and waving were football fans from all around the world.

Not only Uventus fans from Turin, but others from all around the world, as well as football fans who wanted to witness the finals live had arrived at Porto for the finals game that was to be held in a few days and this was definitely one of the ways they wanted to spend their time.

After all, no real football fan would reject the chance to see famous footballers live.

The fans had gathered at the airport to see the players as they arrived at the airport and waved and cheered as the players began to arrive.

The players could have gotten on the bus right at the tarmac as the bus could have been let into the airport to pick them up, but considering the fans who had gathered to wait for their arrival, Pirlo had the players walk to the entrance instead and allowed them to have a little interaction with the fans.

The players only had two minutes to do that and quickly signed autographs, took selfies and quickly went up the bus.

Jason also did his part, but while he was taking a selfie with a female fan who was being a bit handsy, he had a funny thought that maybe some Oporto fans were among the crowd as well.

Looking at the crowd of players, he knew that they could not all be Uventus supporters, but their disposition didn't matter to him anyway and he swiftly headed to the bus before another fan tried to give him a kiss.

The bus soon began moving towards the hotel and the reporters began moving as well as the arrival wasn't the only thing that would be covered.

The hotel check-in would also be broadcasted as well.

The bigger broadcasters had shown the player's arrivals live and would show a recap later in the day, but the smaller broadcasters would only show the arrival later.

The editors had already begun working on the clips and the broadcasts were being prepared with all sorts of titles.

Local portuguese media were already putting the title, "Porto welcomes European giants Uventus for Champions League Final."

While all this was happening, the Uventus bus had already arrived at the hotel they would be staying and began checking, all of it being recorded by the media.

The day quickly pass by with the players being allowed to rest for a bit before they had a little recovery session. Mostly massages and ice baths, but a few players did some light aerobic work on the treadmills and a stationary bike.

Jason for once wanted to do only a massage and an ice bath, avoiding any stressful work, but McKennie, all competitive, chose the wrong moment to rile Ronaldo and Cuadrado up with comments about their age.

In the end, Jason was dragged into a competition about who could last longer in an ice bath. The competition would have included a running competition, but the staff quickly put a stop to it as they didn't want the players straining themselves too much.

Without surprise, Ronaldo outlasted everyone in the ice bath and even though Jason tried as much as he could to keep up, he was soon forced to remember that Africans didn't really like the cold.

Laughing off the matter, the players were soon left alone to rest as the players were tired from their training earlier in the day and the flight.

****28th May 2021****

****11:00 am****

At the Estadio do Dragao, the Uventus players did warm up drills on the field, jogging around and doing stretches while cameramen and videographers zeroed in on them, recording their movements.

It was the official UEFA training session which was a one-hour guaranteed period for players of each team to feel the ground where they would be playing the finals.

The Uventus team didn't spend much time looking around or feeling the stadium as they had been there earlier in the season.

Jason especially didn't need it and got right to training. He had played at this stadium many times and there was no way he had forgotten how it felt like to be at this stadium. It hadn't even been that long since he was away.

After the media men had recorded the first fifteen minutes of the player's training, they began packing away, no longer allowed to record as that would be leaking the Uventus team's tactical preparations.

After their one hour of guaranteed training at the Estadio do Dragao, they changed their training venue to the Oporto team's training center and the training continued, but it was mostly light training to stay sharp and some drills that mimicked situations that could happen in the match.

It was mostly arranged to give the players more experience in dealing with specific situations.

By 3 pm, the manager put an end to the training session as the time for the final press conference was coming up.

The players headed back to their hotel while Ronaldo and Chiellini stayed behind as they would be going with Pirlo to the press conference.

Usually, only the captain and the manager would be present at such press conferences, but that was only when the team didn't have standout names like Ronaldo, Messi, or Neymar who were huge names on the world stage.

Of course even then, it wasn't all the time those famous players followed the managers to those press conferences and most times those players were the captains of their teams.

This time was different though and Ronaldo didn't mind going to the press conference while the others got to get an early rest, hence while Pirlo, Chiellini and Ronaldo were slanging words and battling with the reporters, the other players were enjoying their time chilling and relaxing at the luxury hotel.

Some of the players got massages, some went to play console games and some called their loved ones.

Jason had called Adele and they were conversing on the phone when Mckennie arrived to drag him into a FIFA game tournament.

Mckennie had been playing against Dybala and Dybala who had improved his gaming skills a lot had whooped him 5 to nil in just the first half of the game.

Mckennie had instantly rage quit the game and gone to call for back up and unfortunately for Jason, he was Mckennie's backup.

Chapter 703: Road to Porto 2021 V

29th May 2021

After a light stretch in the hotel gym, the Uventus players sat together in the conference room as the manager unfurled a board with all sorts of things drawn and written on it.

"Alright boys, today is the day. You have trained hard and are prepared for the game, but there are some things we still need to discuss," Pirlo began, pointing at the board.

"As you already know, our opponents play a formation that looks like the 4-2-3-1 formation that is widely used these days, but is actually a 4-2-2-1-1 formation,"

"Four defenders, two central midfielders, two wingers, and two strikers, with one playing as a support to the main striker,"

"Of course, their dynamic formation can revert back to a 4-2-3-1 formation with wide two holding and wide midfielders, along with an attacking midfielder whenever they are playing defensively, but that doesn't happen very often," Pirlo said and the players nodded, agreeing with his words.

They had been paying attention to the other tactical meetings, it seemed.

"I have here the most likely lineup I think they would field against us today,"

"Neur will definitely be their starting goalkeeper, I don't think they'd risk playing anyone else against us," Pirlo said and everyone smiled, easing up the tensions a bit.

The manager's words reminded them that they were a force to be reckoned with and that the Bayern team was probably making just as many preparations as they were making so that they wouldn't be swept away.

"Upamecano and Sule are very likely to start as centerbacks. It's a good combination of experience and youthful energy in the backline so it'll be a challenge, but it's nothing we've never gone against before,"

"Hansi could go for a more experienced lineup by using Martinez or Boateng instead, but either way, you know how best to handle them considering their features," Pirlo said, turning to Ronaldo and Morata, who would be forwards in the starting eleven.

"They're all the same type of defenders. Strong physical and in the air, but not very fast... most of the time," Ronaldo said, thoughtfully.

"Exactly. They welcome physical battles so try to get past them before they can engage..." Pirlo paused to let his words sink in.

"Now for their wing backs, Alphonse Davies will most probably be playing as the left back since their main left back, Alaba, is injured. He's er... I'll talk about him when I'm done with the lineups," Pirlo stopped midway what he was about to add.

"For the right back, it would either be Pavard or Kimmich, depending on what Hansi has planned for us,"

"In the center midfield, we'll probably get Kimmich and someone else if Kimmich is not playing as the right back, but if he is, then they'll most likely have Goretzka and Musiala in center midfield,"

"We should expect both Lewandowski and Muller in the forward positions as they are both fit to play and unless Hansi is on something, then that two will be on the field and for the wingers, every single one of them can play on either flank so all you need to know is that they are all fast and have good technical skill,"

"If you ease up for a second, they will hit us hard so the most important thing in this match is concentration, right, concentration!"

"Our own lineup is Ronaldo and Morata in front,"

"Mckennie and Chiesa as wide midfielders and Bentacur and Kulusevski in the center midfield positions,"

"Cuadrado and Alex Sandro are the wingbacks, Chiellini and De Ligt are the centerbacks and Buffon will be guarding us today for the last time in his illustrious career," Pirlo said and everyone began applauding immediately.

Smiling amiably, Buffon silently basked in the appreciation, the words of his manager and former teammate hitting home.

Initially, he had been intending to continue his career at another club since the middle of the season when the club had begun showing signs that they wouldn't be offering him a new contract, but as the team went farther and farther in the champions league, he began to change his mind and thought to make this season his last shout.

After chasing and chasing this famous trophy for most of his career, he was finally getting what was most likely his last chance at lifting the trophy and it could not have come at a better time.

If he won the trophy, then it was the perfect time to hang his boots, but if he didn't, he probably wouldn't be able to win the trophy elsewhere as no big team that could contend for the champions league trophy would want to sign him to their team at this time as anything other than a backup goalkeeper.

Might as well just go for broke and retire after... There was nothing to lose anyway.

Even if he wanted to still play, he could just go to the MLS or those rich Asian clubs and begin receiving exorbitant amounts of money as wages.

"That's just another reason why we need to win this trophy. Give the old man an unforgettable retirement gift," Pirlo grinned and the players cheered with the older players patting Buffon on the back.

"Anyways, back to the matter at hand..." Pirlo began after the noise had subsided and circled the left side of the Bayern formation outline he had on the board.

"This... is our ticket," he said, his hand pressed on the left back on the board.

"The left side of their team is the most dangerous after the center, but it's also their weakest side when they are defending,"

"The left back, Davies, was originally a winger at academy level... well, more wide midfielder than winger, but his finishing skills were not up to par and since he was not too bad defensively, he converted to the wing back position,"

"Since he is naturally a winger, he always moves up the field to help on the attack. It works for them so Hansi allows him to do what he likes. Since he's also very fast and can quickly track back, this weakness seems covered, but it's the best chance we have,"

"Chiesa, I want you always ready to run down his flank whenever he has gone up the field to join the attack. All our counterattack chance must come from this flank," Pirlo emphasized continuously, tapping the right side of the field on the board.

"If we steal possession in midfield, Chiesa, immediately start running forward, your teammates job is to get the ball to you as fast as possible and then you take it up the field down the flank,"

"This guy..." Pirl said, circling the left center back,

"... Would come off his line trying to stop you cutting into the penalty box while Davies will come at you from behind. What you have to do then is find the forwards with a good cross,"

"Over, under, behind, anywhere. I don't care how you do it, but we will have two center forwards in the box and they will only have one center back and one wing back who probably is too far away to do anything in time,"

"The ball comes in and Ronaldo or Morata finishes it fast. That's going to be our main tactic,"

"What this means is that we are going to be playing for control. Maintain a compact shape against our opponents and maintain possession. We don't want to leave any space in the middle for them to take advantage of and the center backs must keep their eyes on their two danger men, this guy and this guy," Pirlo said, pointing to Lewandowski and Muller.

"Now... let's go into more detail," Pirl continued, grabbing a bottle of water to moisturize his throat. There was still a lot that needed to be said.

Chapter 704: Road to Porto 2021 VI

****29th May 2021****

At 6:30 pm sharp, the Uventus players left their hotel in the official UEFA bus with a police escort to clear the roads and as the security detail.

Exactly twenty minutes later, the bus arrived at the Estadio do Dragao and the players got off the bus, smartly dressed in black suits and white shirts.

Most of the players had headphones on to shut out any noise and faces the picture of concentration and determination as they walked into the stadium, cameras flashing continuously as they walked by.

Every step all the way to the locker room is filmed, with the players only getting some privacy after the doors of the locker room had been shut behind them.

The players quickly got to work changing out of the sleek, tailored suits that felt more stuffy than ever before due to the pressure of the game that loomed ahead.

The team's physios quickly got to work helping some of the players to begin taping their ankles, strapping their knees, and even doing some massage work for some players who were feeling a bit tense.

The players quickly got into their training kits for warm-up while Pirlo constantly gave short tactical reminders to each and every player as they readied themselves, reminding them of everything they had discussed tactically in preparation for the match.

Once the players were in their training kits with some having a training jacket over their kits, the players began stepping out of the room and back down the tunnel, but this time they weren't going outside the stadium, but rather, into the heart of it, the green.

At 7:25, the players stepped out onto the pitch for the first time that day. The training staff quickly got to work setting things up for a quick warm-up session while the players tried to get a feel of the grass, test their boots on the grass and soak the atmosphere.

They weren't the only ones appearing on the pitch either as they finally saw their opponents for the first time, standing on the other side of the pitch.

Some fans had already arrived and were already screaming in the stands at the players, unable to keep their excitement within their chest.

With a training jacket over his kit, Jason chewed slowly on a gum, trying to calm his raging nerves that had been causing his body to go haywire. His heart thumped loudly, almost bursting out of his chest despite him not exerting any physical efforts.

Here he was, on the roster of one of the biggest clubs in the world and about to face the match that was the peak of club football, years after what a career twilight.

It felt like a lifetime ago and truly, it was another lifetime ago, but that did not mean he was as calm as his face suggested.

For a second, he was grateful that he wasn't in the starting lineup for this game. He felt so nervous that he thought his legs wouldn't work well at that moment.

Trying to gather his thoughts, he began to hear voices cheering, screaming not only his name, but those of his teammate and that of his team.

Taking a deep breath, he was about to go join in the keep-ball rondo that was about to begin when a voice within the harmonious cacophony of cheers reached him and he turned in the direction of the voice.

Catching a sight of Adele in the stands waving wildly and unashamedly at him, a smile broke out on his face and he waved back. There was seemingly less enthusiasm in his wave, but the nervousness wracking him seemed to have decreased ever so slightly.

Fwoooooosh

Taking a deep breath and slapping his face lightly with both hands, he whispered to himself.

"You can do this."

Running off to join his teammates, determined to do his best in the game, Jason went hard at the warm-up drills.

Two-touch rondos, stretching, sprint drills, and shooting practice all while the fans watched excitedly and the stadium filled up in anticipation of what was to come.

Cameras stayed on the players as they warmed up, broadcasting it live as a prequel to the most widely anticipated match in the world of football that year.

Twenty minutes to the set kickoff time, the players began returning to the locker rooms.

At this point, the confirmed starting lineups had already been released and people had quickly begun checking it on the internet.

The Bayern starting lineup was similar to what they had played like the whole season and the Uventus lineup wasn't strange to the Uventus fans either, but the Uventus fans felt uneasy after seeing the lineups.

The players in the starting lineup weren't strange to them. What was confusing to them was that this was the way the team usually arranged itself earlier in the season... before Jason joined in January.

It was a time when the Uventus team's results were quite erratic so despite the lineup not being a call for alarm yet, it still made the Uventus fans become a bit uneasy.

Some of the Jason fans were even a bit outraged as they had been looking forward to watching Jason try to dance circles around the Bayern players, but, calming themselves with the thought that the manager must have a plan, they calmly but excitedly waited for the match to begin.

In the locker room the players were changing out of their training kits into their match kits while Pirlo gave a final tactical talk to the player.

Few minutes later, with the players dressed up and his tactical talk over, Pirlo gestured to Chiellini,

"Let's have the captain say a few words,"

What followed were cheers, applause and whistles from the players as Chiellini was pushed out by the players to the front.

"..." First glancing around the room that rapidly quieted down as he stood in front of them.

"Two..."

"That's how many champions league finals I've played in... and as you know, I still don't have a trophy to show off,"

"Sometimes you run out of luck and at other times it feels like you don't have any luck at all, but I choose to believe that my hard work won't let me down,"

"Not this time, after all, as they say, third time's the charm," Chiellini grinned and everyone cheered.

"So let's go out there and give it everything we've got. Win or lose, we will not leave anything out there on the pitch, but today..."

"... Today... I choose to win," Chiellini said determinedly.

"Uraaaaaaaahhhhhhhh!!!" McKennie shouted a battle cry and as if it were a rapidly spreading infection, everyone else joined in the loud cry and for a while people thought they were shooting a viking movie in the Uventus locker room.

Chapter 705: Biggest Night in Club Football I

The Uventus players, the manager, and the coaching staff walked down the tunnel to the lineup spot and the starting lineup began lining up behind the referees alongside the Bayern players who had also just arrived.

While the players lined up, the fourth official quickly went around to check the players' shooting boots, shin guards, and their kits, to ensure that everything was in place and the kits were not illegal.

This was a normal thing done to ensure that the players were not endangered by wearing illegal studs, not using their shin guards, or wearing jewelry.

Both the starting lineup players and the others were checked and less than a minute later, the referees began marching forward, cameras on them as they began walking out to the field.

Walking behind with the substitutes, Jason glanced at the opposing team's players.

He already knew from the final tactical meeting that Pirlo had been mostly correct about the expected lineups.

Lewandowski was the starting striker, Muller was behind him, Gnabry was on the left flank, and Sane was playing on the right.

In midfield were Musiala and Kimmich, while the back four consisted of Davies, Upamecano, Sule, and Pavard, all in their appropriate positions.

In goal was no one other than Neuer.

Thanks to Pirlo being mostly right about the formation, the Uventus players could feel a bit more relaxed as they had spent quite a bit of time preparing to go up against this team, but they didn't for one second think that it would be an easy task.

Jason didn't think the same either and focused on keeping his nerves in check and how he would watch the match from the bench, preparing for when the manager would bring him on.

{Tonight is the night!}

{Eyes from all around the world are gathered here at the Estadio do Dragao in Porto, Portugal, for no other reason than the biggest night of club football for this season!}

{It is the Champions League final and Uventus go up against Bayern Munich}

{It has been quite the journey. Right from the group stages of this competition. There have been ups and downs, but these two teams showed hard work, determination and consistency to reach this stadium}

{The battle is not over and they have another 90 minutes to determine which one of them wants that silverware more}

{I am Trevor Bradley and in the box with me is my co-commentator Martin Druski} The commentator introduced the commentary team as the starting eleven of the two teams, along with the referees, lined up in front of the fans.

Once the players were lined up, the commentator stayed quiet so that the anthems could be sung, but as soon as the anthems were over, the lid over the commentator's mouth burst open

First, starting with the lineups of the two sides before getting into further discussion with his partner over how they expected the match to go and about any comments about the lineups.

While the captains of the two sides were going through the necessary pre-match formalities with the referee, the cameras zeroed in on the Uventus bench and stopped on Jason's face.

{Martin, what do you think about the Uventus's manager's decision to put this man on the bench?}
Trevor asked his partner.

{Frankly, I'm just as surprised as you are that he's not starting. He's been in good form and his good performances for this team cannot be denied, but like the manager said, he picked the lineup in the best way he thought would help the team}

{There must be a plan. Maybe more control than attack, or more defense, who knows? The manager might even be planning for a drawn-out game and bringing in this lad in the late minutes of the game would definitely sharpen the tired edges of the attack} Martin replied, trying to analyse the situation.

{Well, we may not be sure of the manager's plan, but I doubt this match would be lacking in excitement either way. These two sides have a lineup of fantastic players and I can say without a doubt that we are in for a treat} Trevor said, taking up the commentary again just in time as the team captains had headed over to their sides of the field and the referee was now checking his watch to determine the kick off time.

Fweeeeeeeeeeeee!!!

After crosschecking his watch and the time, the referee for the day, Menedo Perez blew his whistle to kickoff the game.

{And they're off! The end of this journey is in sight!} Martin said cheerfully as Ronaldo sent the ball back into the Uventus half of the field.

Receiving the ball calmly, Bentacur passed the ball to Kulusevski on his right while the Bayern players had already begun advancing into the Uventus team's half of the field, the nearest forwards rushing at the ball on the press.

Catching the ball comfortably, Kulusevski had already spotted Gnabry advancing rapidly, leaving space behind him that Chiesa had appeared at the end of on the right flank.

Quickly Kulusevski passed the ball to Chiesa on the flank and the Uventus man caught it smoothly, trying to push forward on the attack just moments after kickoff.

Advancing forward, the other Uventus players moved up the field to give him support, but facing the Bayern team that was still in position to guard their half, Chiesa tried to break in from the flank.

Getting near Davies, he attempted some tricks to confuse the man, but despite his young age, Davies didn't lose his composure and commit to the tackle, forcing Chiesa to try to knock the ball past him, but there was no way Chiesa could pull away from a player as fast as Davies.

Realizing that he wouldn't be able to get away, Chiesa opted to turn back, using the outside and blocking Davies with his body, but not only was the young back fast, he was also strong and Chiesa soon ended up falling over after Davies crashed into him from behind.

The referee's whistle followed immediately.

Fweeeeeeeeeeeeeee!

{It might be early in the game, but the referee isn't going to slack off and let any of the teams think they can get away with any unnecessary fouls} Trevor said.

{Yes. It really shows how the referee will officiate this game and that is something everyone watching would want. You know, fairness} Trevor added.

On the field, Cuadrado had run up the field to take charge of the free kick after Chiesa had decided not to take it quickly.

Most of the other Uventus players headed to the edge of the penalty box to await the cross in as the free kick was close enough for a cross directly into the box.

Glancing at his teammates and making a few hand signals, Cuadrado finally heard the referee's whistle. Running up to the ball, he whipped it powerfully, sending an inwardly curling ball into Bayern's penalty area.

The players of the two teams rushed up into the penalty box, trying to get to the ball's path but it was Ronaldo, who using a teammate as a shield, leaped to meet the ball first.

{Ronaldo in the air! Header!} Trevor screamed as Ronaldo put his head to the ball and sent it at goal.

Chapter 706: Biggest Night in Club Football II

{Ronaldo in the air! Header!} Trevor screamed as Ronaldo put his head to the ball and sent it at the goal.

Neuer's reaction was quick as he had been tracking the ball with his eyes right from when the cross came in. His legs weren't idle either and he was already in a good position to make a dive, but it still took all he had to reach the ball and try to punch it away from the face of the goal.

The ball bounced off Neuer's hand and smacked against the right post before bouncing back into play.

The players of the two teams rushed after the ball with Mckennie doing his best to reach it first, but a sliding kick from Pavard sent the ball out for a corner kick.

The Uventus players immediately rushed up to the referee, trying to call for a penalty as Pavard had taken Mckennie down while trying to clear the ball, forcing the referee to pause for a moment to listen to the video assistant referee's team.

It was soon concluded that Pavard reached the ball first and that Mckennie had only fallen over his legs so no penalty was given and the game continued with a corner kick to the Uventus team.

Alex Sandro took the corner and tried to bend the ball into the head of one of his teammates, but the German team was alert, and their players sent the ball flying out of the penalty box, where Bayern tried to start a counterattack immediately.

The Bayern team's counterattack made it all the way into the Uventus half of the field before Sane, who was darting with the ball down the field, began to be forced to the flank by the Uventus players who stayed back in case of a counter.

Trying to beat his marker with pace, Sane managed to do enough to get to the left side of the penalty before Bentacur, but he did not dare to cut in as Bentacur was not far behind him.

Opting to cross the ball to the center of the box where the other forwards were arriving, he sent the ball in high, but before the ball could find Lewandowski, Chiellini found it first and headed it clear of the penalty area where it was cleared up the pitch by an arriving McKennie, foiling the counterattack and any chances of recovery.

The game had been raging on for a few minutes and the two teams were slowly settling into their elements, getting more aware about the other side's playing style with each passing minute.

Both sides had already been prepared before the match, but actually playing against their opponents put a lot more things into perspective.

The Uventus team knew that the Bayern team pressed high up the pitch and played a high line and in response to that they had been prepared to play a game to control possession, evading the high press and if they lost the ball, to soak in the pressure and try to launch a counter attack when the Bayern team had come too far up the pitch.

But as they played, they had to change up their style a bit as their opponents proved to be very dangerous.

Passing the ball at the back seemed to be the safest method initially to hold onto the ball, but after they lost the ball twice when they tried to break out due to the high press, and almost conceded two goals, the Uventus team soon realized that this was a bomb waiting to blow up.

The two Bayern forwards were agile, strong and technical so they could match up to any of the center defenders while the wingers were not as strong, but were faster than the Uventus wingbacks.

Losing the ball in dangerous areas was not recommended at all so the Uventus players tried to change the location of their possession game to as far into the Uventus half of the field as possible.

The Bayern forwards could not always come back to press, but there was also the added danger of being surrounded, however, the Uventus team had enough quality to make it work.

Even if they lost the ball, there was enough time to get behind it and fight back against their opponents and that's what they tried to play like.

#17th minute...

After trying to break in from the flanks, Cuadrado tried to get away from Alphonse Davies by running down the flanks, but the left back was proving to be quite the annoying opponent.

Suddenly, Morata, Chiesa and Ronaldo surged up the field, each of them going in different directions and dragging their markers with them.

To Davies who was originally supposed to mark Chiesa, he was at a loss for what to do, but thankfully, Kimmich immediately began chasing after Chiesa, hoping to block any passes.

That was when Kulusevski who was waiting behind also decided to make his run as now the only person who could block him was Musiala who was a bit too far away.

Once again, Davies was at a loss, but while he was trying to decide on what to do, Cuadrado had already made his move and tried to send a cross into the penalty box to the awaiting head of Ronaldo.

Seeing that all his defenders were not in favorable positions, Neuer immediately rushed off his line towards the ball and jumped at it.

{Who's gonna get there first!?!} Trevor exclaimed, expectation filling his voice, but to the disappointment of the Uventus fans, Neuer reached the ball first and punched it powerfully out of the penalty box.

The ball flew right into the midfield where Musiala was and he caught it on his chest, controlling it deftly as Bentancur rushed at him.

Making as if to go to the right, he managed to trick Bentancur into stretching out a foot to block his path before swiftly pushing the ball between the man's legs and darting to the left, escaping the only midfielder left in his path.

The stadium was instantly filled with awed shouts and a loud hum of cheers that seemed to increase in volume by the second as the young player pushed the ball down the field.

Spotting Gnabry on the left flank who was free because Cuadrado had rushed forward to attack, he sent the ball over to him, not stopping his run.

Cuadrado was already on his way back, but De Ligt could clearly see that he couldn't get to Gnabry in time, so he disengaged from Lewandowski and rushed toward Gnabry on the flank, trying to stay between the wide man and the striker to prevent any passes from getting past him.

Gnabry continued down the flank, seemingly not trying to escape from the closing down as Cuadrado rapidly approached, blocking his way back, but just when the fans thought that the counterattack had been thwarted, Musiala suddenly moved nearer.

Feinting as if to knock the ball forward, Gnabry changed his movements at the last and passed the ball back infield to Musiala who with a one-touch pass unleashed another pass towards Lewandowski who made a darting run at that exact moment.

Just barely making it past Chiellini, Lewandowski arrived behind the ball and hit it at the goal.

{Lewandowski!}

Chapter 707: Biggest Night in Club Football III

Buffon dived powerfully at the ball, letting his experience and instincts guide him towards where he expected the Bayern striker to hit it to and luckily, his guess was correct as he managed to reach the low driven shot and deflect it out of play for a corner kick.

{Fantastic save!!!}

{How did he get to that!} Trevor squealed in excited disbelief.

Even the fans were surprised that the ball hadn't gone in and Lewandowski had his hands on his head in disbelief. What followed was excited cheers of the Uventus fans cheering for their goalkeeper.

{Uventus were caught by surprise then. Trying to attack and all of a sudden the ball was in front of their own goal}

{That beautiful counterattack really deserved a goal. The midfield play, the rapid decisions and quick thinking of the winger and the midfielder to unlock the striker and the strikers instinct to make the run. All of it was just perfect} Martin said, his voice filled with admiration.

{And what other than perfect goalkeeping to stop it, am I right?} Trevor cut in.

{I can't deny that. Gianlugi Buffon, one of the more famous names when it comes to legendary goalkeepers of the beautiful game, showing us that there is a reason why we know his name} Martin replied, nodding.

{They say De Gea can save the titanic but this man... could save the titanic twice} Trevor joined in, hyping Buffon to the high heavens more than his teammates on the pitch could.

On the field, Kimmich took the ball and jogged down to the corner flag to take the corner kick but the ball was hurriedly cleared by the Uventus players who had regrouped at the back and were very alert to the ball coming in.

While the players battled it out on the field, Pirlo focused his attention on the young Bayern midfielder, Musiala.

'That kid is very dangerous,' Pirlo could not help thinking to himself as he replayed the counter in his head and could once again confirm that it had both been created and orchestrated by the kid.

Pirlo already knew that Musiala was quite the talented kid but it was one thing to know it and another thing to see it live and direct.

Glancing at Jason who had gone to do some warm-ups on another side of the pitch, Pirlo sighed while beginning to think of countermeasures, as he knew more than anyone what young talented footballers like Jason and Musiala could do.

Because of their youth and still developing playing styles, they tended to have sudden outbursts of magical moments that could turn into dangerous moments for their opponents and this was especially so as they were young and did not like to play by the rules.

Musiala had already showed that he could be dangerous and Pirlo had to start making adjustments to the arrangements on how to have his players keep an extra watch over the kid.

#27th minute...

{We're approaching the first half hour of the ninety minutes and so far there has been no goals yet in this game}

{It's not been for the want of trying as both teams have been gotten a few good shots away but the goalkeepers have been at the top of their game}

{It's Uventus again. The ball goes to Ronaldo} Trevor was saying calmly as Ronaldo received the ball calmly with his back to goal.

As Ronaldo received the ball, Kimmich rushed at him from behind and tried to tackle, but as if he had eyes in the back of his head, Ronaldo suddenly flicked the ball with his heel, sending the ball between Kimmich's legs behind him and turning to chase.

His foot caught against Kimmich's leg and he almost stumbled, but he caught himself and dashed after the ball, catching up to it and speedily dribbling the ball toward the opposition penalty box.

He was instantly surrounded by four players on all sides who tried to box him in and steal the ball, but he somehow managed to keep the ball at his feet and away from all his markers.

As he got nearer to the penalty box, he suddenly kicked the ball to his right with the tip of his right foot, seemingly poking it as he tried to push it forward. Not expecting it, the ball flew past the player on his right and made it to Chiesa who was coming from behind on the right.

While Chiesa raced to catch the ball, Sule who had been unable to stop the ball from getting past him chased and tried to block Chiesa from getting to the ball and getting a cross into the penalty box but he was no match for Chiesa's pace and the Uventus man got to the ball first.

Slowing down with the ball, Chiesa faced off against Sule and tried a few fancy flicks to confuse the defender while still in motion, but Sule wasn't biting.

Seeing Ronaldo suddenly increase his pace and dash into the penalty box, Chiesa remembered the manager's words and pushed the ball forward a bit and instantly tried to send a cross in to Ronaldo, but the ball had barely flown a meter when it smashed into Sule's outstretched hand and bounced off its intended path.

Fweeeeeeeeeeeeeee!

The referee's whistle went off immediately and the referee came running over as Sule had just handled the ball in the penalty area.

The Bayern players instantly rushed to the referee trying to debate the issue, but the replay had already begun playing and it was clear to see that Sule's hands were out of a natural position as he had been running to block the ball so it was a clear handball foul and the referee's decision to give a penalty was justified.

{Penalty to Uventus!} Trevor shouted as Menedo pointed at the spot and the Uventus supporters at the stadium instantly burst into another round of joyous cheers as to them they already had a goal.

Even though one of the best goalkeepers was in goal, they didn't have a single ounce of doubt as Ronaldo put the ball down on the spot, after all, even this man had been unable to stop Ronaldo from scoring penalties against him in the past.

Taking a deep breath as he stared at the goal, Ronaldo's eyes zeroed on the goal as a whole and he barely looked at Neuer as he waited for the referee's whistle.

Fweeeeeeeeeeeeeee!!!

Chapter 708: Biggest Night in Club Football IV

The referee's whistle still ringing in his ear, Ronaldo began running up to the ball, no hint of trickery in his steps, yet Neuer couldn't for the life of him guess where the ball would end up.

Trying to stay upright long enough to determine the direction of the ball wouldn't help either, as with Ronaldo, if a goalkeeper hadn't moved by the time the ball left the ground, then there was no way any goalkeeper would reach it unless the ball came straight at them.

Committing and diving to the right, Neuer could only watch the ball as Ronaldo sent it down to the bottom left corner of the goal.

{And it's Ronaldo to give Uventus the lead!}

{We had to wait half an hour, but the deadlock has been broken and it's Uventus who break it!} Trevor shouted as the Uventus fans' cheers filled the stadium, following Ronaldo as he ran down to the sideline and did his signature celebration.

SIUUUUUUUUUU!!! The stadium sang as Ronaldo landed with his back to the fans.

{He picked his spot, didn't change his mind and like always, the goalkeeper has to pick the ball out the back of the net} Martin added as the Uventus players and their supporters continued their celebrations.

The Bayern players had already begun going back to their positions to prepare for the match's resumption and it had to be said that there wasn't a single change in their body movement as while no one could deny that it was a blow, the Bayern players still thought they had the situation very much under control.

They were one of the highest scoring teams in all of Europe anyway, so there was very little chance that they wouldn't be able to get one back, so it was just a matter of them continuing to play their game and ensuring they didn't make any other mistakes that would end with them conceding more goals.

The celebrations didn't go on for much longer and the game soon resumed with a Bayern kick-off.

With Lewandowski starting the game again by sending the ball back into his team's half, the Bayern team began passing the ball around to keep the ball away from the Uventus players who surged quickly into their half of the field, high off the momentum from their first goal.

The stretch of possession had started with the Bayern team opting to hold onto the ball, but that had barely continued for long.

When the ball was passed to Musiala, the Uventus players had quickly surrounded him, trying to scare him into mishandling the ball, but the kid stayed cool under the pressure, cleverly dribbled his way out of the encirclement and unleashed a splitting pass down the right flank of the pitch into Sane's path.

The Uventus players marking Musiala instantly darted back as they had moved out of possession to try and surround the Bayern man and they seemed to be about to pay for it.

Luckily for the Uventus players, the center backs did enough to throw Sane off and he ended up hitting the ball wrongly at a tight angle and the ball was sent into the stands for the fans to fight over.

On the sidelines, Pirlo almost started pulling out his hair as Musiala was rapidly proving to become more of a problem with every passing minute and he feared that his team would have to pay for it before long.

Unfortunately, there wasn't much he could do about it, as he knew that this wasn't the time to get too physical with the kid.

The kid was already good at dribbling and he knew to stay clear of the clean but dangerous tacklers like Chilellini. If Pirlo made the other players get more aggressive with the kid, it could lead to certain unsavoury situations that Pirlo hoped would not happen.

#38th minute...

The game raged on with both teams doing their best to make an impact at the opposing ends of the pitch and if there was any difference from after Uventus scored, it was that Bayern was now playing with more urgency to get a goal.

It seemed they wanted the equalizing goal before the end of the first half of the game.

{Muller with a one-touch pass back to Kimmich} Trevor said, describing what was happening on the pitch.

Kimmich had tried to find Muller with a pass as he ran in behind, but Chiellini stuck to the man like glue, preventing him from getting past and forcing Muller to turn back to receive the ball.

On turning back, he realized that he was quickly being surrounded and would lose the ball if he held on to it for too long so he instantly returned the ball to Kimmich.

Instantly, the Uventus players' target changed and Kimmich passed the ball back to Upamecano behind him and ran to the left, trying to get into the space so he could receive the return pass.

Musiala didn't hesitate to switch places with him, but the Uventus forwards didn't stay idle on seeing Upamecano receive the ball.

With Morata blocking Upamecano's path to the left and Ronaldo rapidly closing in, the Bayern defender turned back and sent the ball to Pavard on the right, who just as quickly laid the ball off to Musiala in front of him.

Having noted Mckennie who was behind him on his right shoulder, Musiala received the ball in a smooth turning motion and rolled the ball between Mckennie's legs as the man moved in to tackle.

While dodging Mckennie to go meet the ball behind him, Musiala's eyes scanned the field and seeing that his forwards were pretty high up the pitch, he made a hand gesture to them, signalling for them to push forward into the box.

The forwards did not need a second invitation to begin hauling ass and pushing past the Uventus defenders while Musiala caught up to the ball and pushing the ball a bit to the left first, he whipped an early cross into the center.

The ball flew high, curling inward into the penalty box where Muller and De Ligt raced to reach it. Even Buffon had come off his line a bit, trying to track the ball with his eyes and see if he could reach it first, but before long, he determined that De Ligt would just barely reach it first, which was exactly what happened.

Unable to get his forehead to the ball due to the height at which it was flying through the air, he tried to get enough of his head on it to keep it high until it flew out of the pitch, but he miscalculated slightly due to not knowing that Buffon was near enough that he could direct the ball toward him to catch it.

In the end, he had ended up pushing the ball out of Buffon's path and it was flying wide, but he didn't get enough power on it to make it stay in the air.

Lewandowski who had been prowling around the area didn't miss a beat, racing after the ball.

Catching a glimpse of Lewandowski racing after the ball, Buffon doubled down and also began giving chase, but he was too late as Lewandowski jumped at the ball with his leg outstretched, catching it with the side of his left leg and kicking it back toward the goal.

{Lewandowskiiiiii!!!}

Chapter 709: Biggest Night in Club Football V

{Lewandowskiiiiii!!!}

Jumping at the ball, the tips of Buffon's fingers reached it and he tried to push it away, but he couldn't get enough on it and only ended up pushing the ball into the back of the net.

The cheers of Bayern's supporters at the stadium announced to the commentators before the commentators could announce that the ball had gone in.

{It's in! Bayern get their equalizer and what a goal it was!}

{Minutes before the halftime whistle and the team from Germany is making their claim. It's not over yet!}

Lewandowski had already scrambled onto his feet and was running to the sidelines with his hands held out wide. The climax of his celebration was him jumping into a knee slide and slapping the corner flag as he slid past it. The next moment, he was surrounded by his teammates who had come bearing down on him in celebration.

{Lewandowski, what a lovely player, doing what he always does. Scoring with flair seems so easy when you watch this man}

{We might say that it was an error in judgment from De Ligt that led to that goal, but to capitalize off that error and score like that? That's just the peak of a striker's instinct}

{Looking at the replay, you can see that while the two of them began a run into the penalty box on signal from Musiala, he had not only caught on that he couldn't reach the ball, he had continued his run all the way as if he expected the ball to come his way} Martin gave expert analysis while watching the replay of the goal from a monitor in the commentary room.

{It's almost like he knew that De Ligt would send the ball that way} Trevor interjected, also watching the replay of the goal on the monitor.

{Perhaps he did Trevor, perhaps he did} Martin replied, turning back to watch the Bayern players who were already returning to their half of the field, their body language a little more upbeat.

The Uventus team quickly resumed the game with another kickoff and immediately they sent the ball all the way back to the goalkeeper as the Bayern team went on the press instantly, their morale hyped up by their goal.

Waiting until Lewandowski was near enough, Buffon laid the ball off to De Ligt who just as swiftly sent the ball to Bentacur in the center.

As the ball rolled toward Bentacur, Musiala who was behind the Uventus man and Muller who was on his left immediately rushed at him, trying to tackle the man as soon as he received the ball, but cleverly holding off Musiala with his arm, Bentacur made a one-touch pass to Kulusevski who quickly took off up the field with the ball.

{Uventus on the attack quickly}

Seeing Kimkich running up to him, Kulusevski quickly sent the ball toward Morata on the right and continued his run forward, expecting the ball back.

That was exactly what the other Bayern defenders thought as well and they instantly moved to block Kulusevski, not knowing that Morata was thinking of a totally different person.

Sending the ball into the space behind Davies where Chiesa was darting into, Chiesa caught up to the ball, cutting in with his first touch on the ball.

The Bayern defenders instantly moved to block this attack, but it was too little too late as Chiesa was already swinging his leg at the ball.

{Chiesa! One on one!} Trevor exclaimed as the ball left Chiesa's foot.

Neuer had rushed off his line to try and throw Chiesa off, but Chiesa still managed to get the shot away and the ball flew past Neuer.

The next moment, loud gasps of disbelief filled the stadium as the ball flew past the left post and out of play.

{No, no, no. How did he miss that?}

{He tried to curl it past the keeper, but he put too much curl around the ball and the chance went begging} Trevor commented in a disappointed voice, but his disappointment was no match for the Uventus fans', nor the players.

The game continued shortly after that and both teams tried to take the lead before the halftime whistle, but neither side was able to find that one strike on the ball that would make the difference and eight minutes later, the referee blew his whistle loudly to end the first half of the game.

{Well there we have it, the referee's whistle. The first half is over and both Uventus and Bayern have one goal}

{45 minutes wasn't enough to show which is the stronger side and with the energy and quality out on the field, I feel what we have here will not be the final score}

{We will have to wait for the second half to witness the excitement and see which side would lift the Champions League trophy tonight}

While the commentators did their thing, the players marched down the field and disappeared into the tunnels, leaving the spectators to entertain themselves for the next fifteen minutes.

In the Uventus locker room, water was quickly passed around and Pirlo quickly got into dissecting the game as he saw it, pointing out weak points in their shape as well as that of the opponents.

While explaining, Pirlo made sure to keep an eye on his players to see whether he would need to change his decision not to make any changes during the half time period.

He didn't need anyone looking confused or doubtful about the game plan.

Luckily, the players were as attentive and hopeful as possible so Pirlo only had to make the best of the break to make tactical adjustments.

At the end of the break, the players headed back out to the field, ready for the second half of what could be the biggest game of their lives.

Just before heading to the technical area, Pirlo suddenly remembered something and called Bentacur to come over.

"About that Musiala kid, I need you to keep your eye on him whenever you're not with the ball. Shadow mark him if you must, but make sure he doesn't have the space to make any dangerous play,"

"Hassle him, harrass him, foul him as cleanly as you can if he wants to start anything," Pirlo whispered to Bentacur who nodded, glancing from the corner of his eye at Musiala passing by.

Patting him on the back, Pirlo sent Bentacur off and continued to the technical area, not feeling the slightest bit of guilt for what he had told Bentacur to do.

Football was a competitive game and he had to do whatever he could to win, especially on a night like this.

He could do with any unexpected x-factors that could ruin the night for him and every other Uventus fan.

Glancing over at Hansi Flick, he thought to himself that the man would probably have made arrangements for the same thing had he put Jason in the starting lineup and it was one of the reasons why Pirlo had him on the bench.

Even coming off the bench, Jason would not be spared, but he would have a bit more energy than the already tired Bayern players and should be able to avoid any dangerous tackles.

Chapter 710: Biggest Night in Club Football VI

The second half began with the Bayern team kicking off quickly, eager to get back to the game. Quickly passing the ball around with pace and intent, they looked for a way past the Uventus players who were already sweeping into their half on the press.

In the stands, the fans cheered louder every time it looked like either team would break past the opposing defense, when the teams showed amazing passing and ball retaining ability, or whenever any player showed amazing individual displays with the ball.

Musiala, in particular, had been able to get the fans going quite a few times as his sudden but effective dribbling skills had been enough to torment the Uventus midfielders.

It seemed like he had been given free rein in the center of the pitch to dictate play and send the ball to whichever side of the field was free and he was making the most of it to make beautiful dribbling runs in the midfield before sending the ball to a teammate in a dangerous area.

For a while, he had gotten away with it, but soon the Uventus defenders began to get annoyed at his antics, with Bentacur leading the charge.

Yet, the Uventus players were only able to stop his annoying runs and reduce his effectiveness, but were hardly able to bring him down because he had amazing stability and balance on his feet.

Bentacur didn't mind either way as stopping him from causing problems came first and foremost.

#57th minute...

{Bayern again on the attack}

Kimmich passed the ball to Musiala who had his back to goal, a few meters away from the right corner of the Uventus penalty area.

With a one-touch pass, Musiala sent the ball to Sane on the right flank before turning away from Bentacur and trying to run past him into the penalty box to receive a return pass.

On receiving the ball, Sane swept the ball past Sandro, beating him with pace to go and catch the ball behind him.

Expecting Musiala to have broken away from Bentacur, Sane was surprised to find that Bentacur had managed to block Musiala's path into the box and Musiala was still struggling to get forward.

Unfortunately, Sane couldn't afford to wait for the kid as he was quickly being closed down by Sandro from his back, and De Ligt was also closing in from the penalty box, making it almost impossible to make a cutting-in run.

Not wanting to waste the chance, he decided to take a chance and whipped the ball into the center of the penalty box where Lewandowski and Muller were almost alone against Chiellini.

The ball came flying in and Chiellini tried to follow the ball with his eyes, ignoring the two players, but soon, it looked like the ball was coming toward Lewandowski, so he quickly got behind Lewandowski to clear the ball.

As the ball came flying in, they both jumped for the ball, but just before reaching the ball, Lewandowski hit Chiellini in the air with his shoulder, causing Chiellini to miss the ball, but since he was behind Lewandowski, the Bayern man had missed the ball as well.

However, before Chiellini's legs could touch the ground again, the commentator's words made his blood run cold.

{Caught on the chest by Muller!}

{Hits it at goal!} Trevor screamed as Muller hit the ball on the volley as it came down in front of him after controlling it with his chest.

Buffon jumped at the ball as it came at him, but he couldn't reach the ball in time, Muller was too close and the shot too powerful.

The ball smashed into the back of the net and the crowd went wild, with the Bayern fans screaming the loudest.

{Wondrous sights here at the Estadio do Dragao here in Porto, Portugal!}

{From behind, Bayern Munich have come back to take the lead in the Champions League final!}

{What control, what skill, what a volley! Are the Germans finally about to take over the football world again here!?!} The excited commentary served as a backdrop for Muller who was screaming passionately to the football crowd after jogging to the sidelines.

In the Uventus technical area, Pirlo sighed heavily, his hand on his forehead as he tried to fight away the depressing feeling that tried to consume him as he watched the opposing team celebrate.

Getting a grip, he began to shout out to his players from the sidelines. He gave little encouragement and pushed them to make more efforts at goal.

He had tried to avoid this, but in the end, it had become an affair of who could outscore the other and he wasn't going to allow his team to fall behind.

After shouting out orders to the players on the pitch he turned to the bench, "Paulo, Federico, Jason, go warm-up!"

The manager's words pulling them out of their thoughts, the three players called stood up quickly and a coach stood up as well, following along to help them with warming up.

Watching the players run along to train, Pirlo turned back to the pitch where his players had just kicked off once again to resume the game.

#65th minute...

{Ball to Bernadeschi} Trevor commented as Mckennie passed the ball to the Uventus man who had just come on for Kulusevski.

Subbing Kulusevski for Bernadeschi, he made Mckennie take position back in center midfield while Chiesa went over to the left flank, leaving the right flank open where Bernadeschi was to play.

On receiving the ball, Bernadeschi quickly began darting forward, outmuscling Gnabry who tried to push him away from the ball.

Dodging another tackle from Musiala, he tried to continue running after the ball, wanting to begin cutting in since he had made it into the final third, but just before he reached the ball, Kimmich came rushing in like a freight truck and hit him away from the ball, sending him crashing to the floor.

Fweeeeeeeeeeeee!!!

The referee's whistle followed instantly, but an angry Bentacur was already rushing up toward Kimmich, less than pleased at the rough tackle that had ended a goal-scoring chance that was slowly opening up.

Mckennie quickly got in his way and tried to hold him away, but that didn't stop Bentacur from shouting at Kimmich who just stared blankly at him as he didn't understand a word Bentacur was saying, however, he wasn't going to miss a chance to infuriate his opponents and smirked at Bentacur, incensing him even further.

Other players from the two sides had to quickly rush up to get in between the two of them as Bentacur lost his temper immediately.

{Tensions out there on the pitch! The Uventus players don't want to take that lying down} Trevor commented, keeping his eye on the pitch.

The referee also got in between the two players and quickly put out the flames of their argument by showing the two of them a yellow card.

"There, see, you've gotten a yellow card for nothing," Mckennie groaned as he stepped away from Bentacur's front, sure that unless the guy was an idiot, he wouldn't continue the argument.

Bentacur was not an idiot and the stabbing glare from the manager on the sidelines were already pricking into his back, so he stayed quiet despite his anger and stepped back.

In the end, Uventus had a free kick that Cuadrado stepped up to take after having a small discussion in hushed tones with Ronaldo.

Ronaldo headed to the edge of the penalty box and Cuadrado stepped back from the ball, waiting for the referee's whistle.

While the referee was checking the wall and the player's position to make sure everything was in play, Jason on the sidelines was being given tactical instructions by Pirlo, who planned to sub him on after the next dead ball.

"Like we discussed, go wild on the flank, advance quickly and send the ball into the penalty box as fast as you can,"

"We're running out of time and they're beginning to get defensive, so we must catch them quickly on the counter and we must do it quickly if we want to equalize," Pirlo said, showing him a mini tactical board and using it to give even more details.

Jason half-listened, keeping his eyes on the pitch, watching as the referee blew and Cuadrado ran up to the ball.

As Cuadrado ran up to the ball, the Uventus players began moving forward so that they could get to his cross in time, but suddenly, Ronaldo who was running forward, stopped and darted back just in time for Cuadrado to pass the ball to him.

Turning on the ball, Ronaldo suddenly raised his leg as if to shoot from distance and the Bayern players instantly jumped into the path between him and the goal.

To their surprise, Ronaldo passed the ball back to Cuadrado again, swinging his leg over the ball and flicking it back with his heel.

Receiving the ball once again, Cuadrado swiftly passed the ball across the field to Alex Sandro who was standing a few yards away from the edge of penalty area, staring directly at the goal from 25 yards away.

Before the Bayern players could catch onto the fact that they had been played and react appropriately, Alex Sandro caught the ball, pushed it forward and unleashed a thunderous shot at the goal.