STARTING WITH REAL MADRID

Chapter 10: Suppressing the Brazilian Gang

In Real Madrid's 4-2-3-1 formation, the best position to be sure of is the goalkeeper, and Casillas is the best choice.

San Iker's reputation will hang in Real Madrid for at least a few years, showcasing his strength.

Judging from the statistics of this season, Casillas is undoubtedly one of the best players in Real Madrid right now.

Real Madrid's goalkeeper has the world's top reflexes and incredible saves. Unfortunately, he is limited by his height, which makes him unstable in handling high balls, but this does not damage Casillas' status as one of the world's top goalkeepers.

This state of Casillas will be maintained until he ages and his physical functions decline, leading to a decrease in his reflex abilities. Only at that time will more weaknesses and deficiencies begin to appear.

But that is ten or eight years in the future.

As for the right-back position, Real Madrid has a total of five players: Salgado, Cicinho, Diogo, Ramos, and Arbeloa, a teenager promoted from the second team.

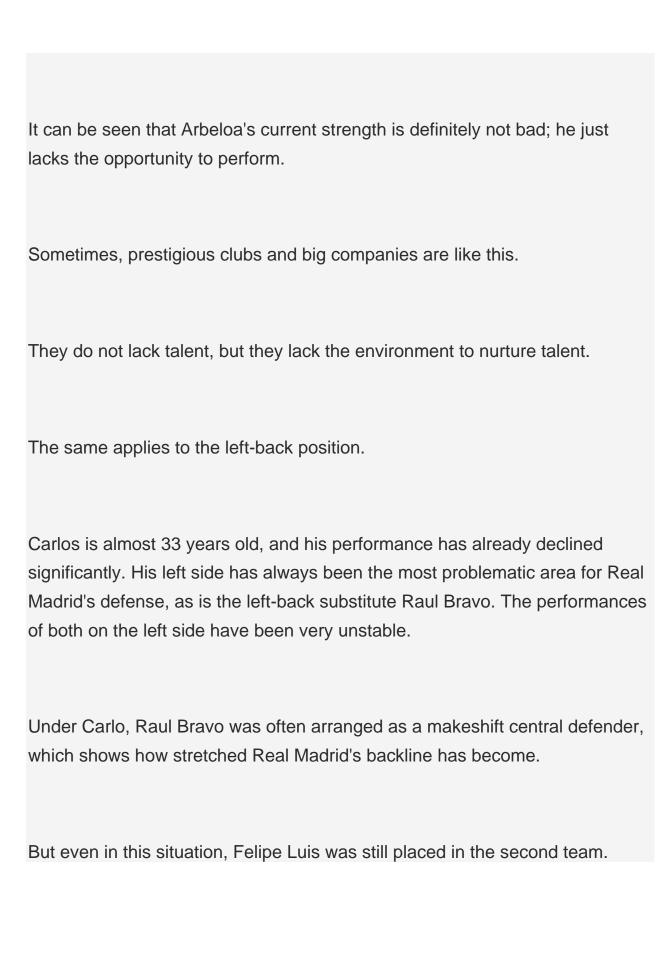
Ramos is a given; Gao Shen has positioned him as a central defender.

Among the remaining four, Salgado is a bit old, and Cicinho is slightly stronger than Salgado. Diogo, a member of the Brazilian gang, is the worst, with relatively low future achievements.

Gao Shen decided to utilize Arbeloa in this position.

Arbeloa, though not well-known now, has been in the second team. At 23, he is not welcomed by the first team, but he is not weak. He is not only the captain of Real Madrid's second team but also the captain of the Spanish national youth team.

If Gao Shen remembers correctly, Arbeloa moved from Real Madrid to Deportivo in the summer of 2006. After only half a season, he was bought by Liverpool for three times the price, where he famously froze Messi and gained renown.



This season, the Brazilian left-back has performed very well in the second team.

Gao Shen remembers that after leaving Real Madrid in 2006, Felipe Luis was loaned to Deportivo for two years. Initially, coach Caparros did not trust him and only used him as a substitute, but as the team's performance plummeted, Caparros was sacked. His replacement, Lotina, entrusted Felipe Luis at the end of the season, and he showed enough strength.

By the 2007-08 season, Felipe Luis had firmly secured the starting position on Deportivo's left side.

Like Arbeloa, the Brazilian left-back is not lacking in ability but in opportunity.

As for central defenders, Ramos will definitely occupy one of the positions.

He started as a right-back and occasionally makes cameo appearances on the left or as a central defender, but Gao Shen knows that Ramos's future lies in the center. Despite future controversies, no one can deny that Ramos is one of the world's top central defenders, especially in individual defensive ability. The key lies in the other central defender position. Woodgate is very strong, standing at 1.88 meters tall, with excellent strength in physical confrontations. These are Woodgate's advantages. From a technical perspective, he has almost no obvious weaknesses. But he is injury-prone. Currently, Woodgate is not injured and is in good shape, but the risk is significant; no one knows when he will get injured again. This is very fatal because the most important thing in the backline is stability. Gao Shen remembers that Woodgate left Real Madrid in the summer of 2006 and showed an impressive performance in Middlesbrough in the Premier League during the 2006-07 season, proving his strength again, but soon got injured.

It can be said that as long as he is not injured, Woodgate is a world-class central defender, but he has too many injuries.

Elgra is also a veteran of Real Madrid. He started as a defensive midfielder. In 2000, he was converted into a central defender by Del Bosque and served as the central defender in the middle of the five-man defense. He performed well in the Champions League that year.

Since then, Elgra has been oscillating between central defense and midfield, with varying performance.

Pavon, Ruben, and Mejia are all Real Madrid youth products. Among them, Pavon is the most familiar, being pushed to the forefront by Zidane's "Pavon policy," which initially showcased his potential.

But times have changed, and now Pavon, Ruben, and Mejia all lack the enthusiasm and have not met the expectations of the past.

Now, the really useful ones seem to be Woodgate and Elgra.

There are many midfielders in Real Madrid, and many are qualified for the defensive midfield position, but Gravesson was the first to be identified by Gao Shen.

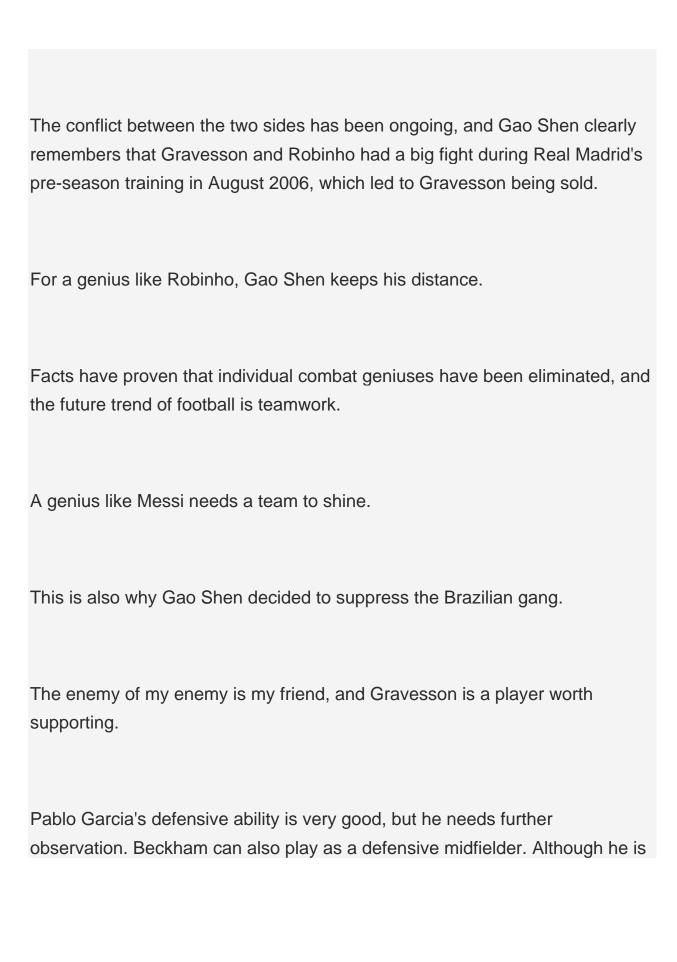
The Danish midfielder's ability is not bad. He performed very well at Everton, not only in defense but also in organization and attack, which earned him his move to Real Madrid.

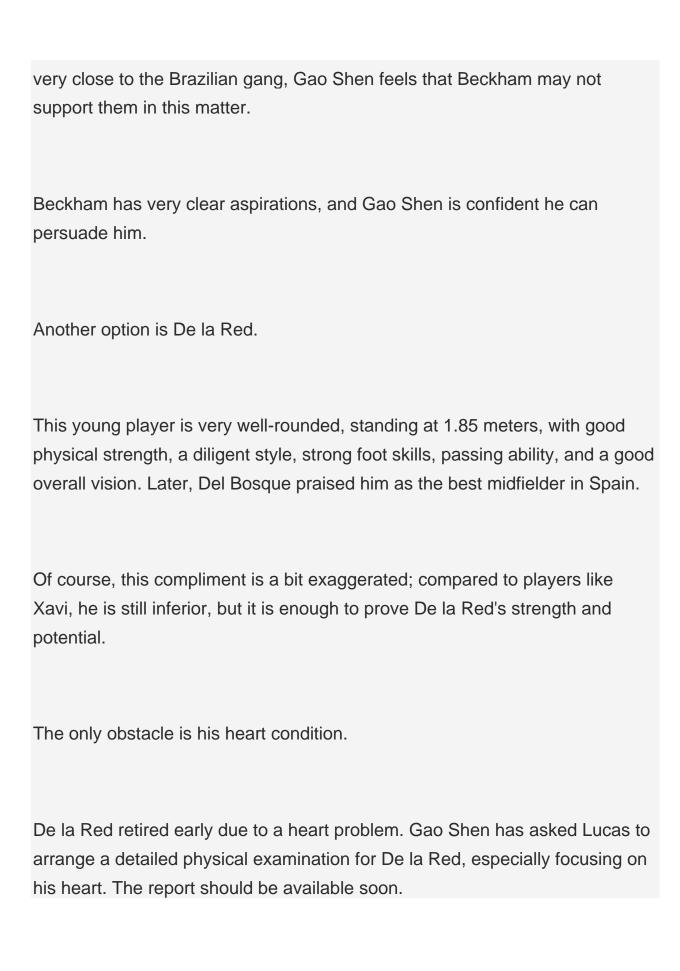
A very important reason for Gao Shen's interest in Gravesson is his conflict with the Brazilian gang, especially Robinho.

This is actually quite normal.

In Real Madrid, no defensive player in the midfield and backline would have a favorable impression of the superstars in the front line, except for Raul.

Robinho is a typical Brazilian genius—very egoistic. He basically does not participate in defense and holds onto the ball for too long. Just imagine, if he dribbles the ball to the front and loses it, without actively participating in the counter-attack, leading to a direct counterattack in front of Real Madrid's trailing midfielder—who can accept that?





For the attacking midfielder position, Zidane is undoubtedly Gao Shen's ideal candidate.

To be able to lead the French team to the World Cup final this summer, there is no doubt about the strength of the aging yet still formidable Zidane. More importantly, the French superstar understands the bigger picture and knows how to advance and retreat, which is very rare.

Among so many Real Madrid superstars, why did Florentino Pérez only bring Zidane with him when he re-entered the club? Later, he focused on nurturing Zidane, making him the head coach of Real Madrid. Is this just because of Zidane's football achievements?

Zidane has already announced his retirement after the World Cup this summer, and Gao Shen believes he is not willing to end his career in this manner.

As long as there is a request, there is an opportunity.

In the striker position, Ronaldo will not be considered for the time being. Raul, Negredo, and Soldado are all options for Gao Shen. There is also Cassano, a winger who can be unpredictable but very effective when used well.

The rest of the players, such as Adrian Martin, Jurado, Balboa, and Barral, although they performed well in the second team, have not achieved much in Gao Shen's memory, so they are not included in his plan.

When he woke up, Gao Shen found himself sleeping on the sofa all night.

He had been in the tactical library all night. When he woke up in the morning, he not only remembered everything that happened in the library but also felt energized, as if he had slept all night.

This is definitely a valuable tool!

Not to mention anything else, in the future, when others are sleeping, Gao Shen can continue to study.

Mom no longer has to worry about me not sleeping because I want to study.

After tidying up the house hastily, Gao Shen went out to buy breakfast and picked up two newspapers on the street.

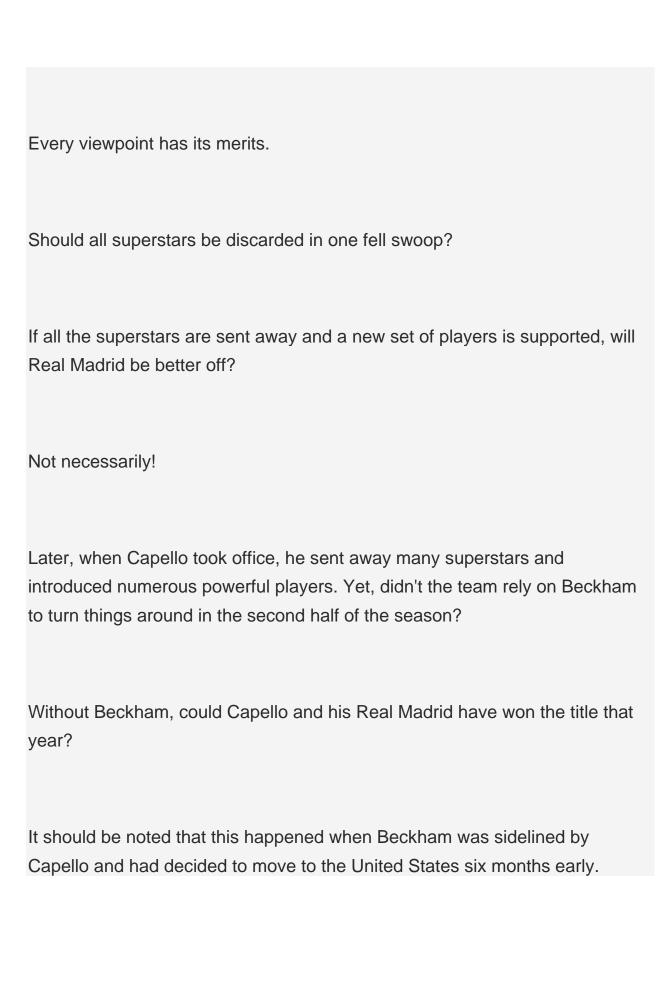
As usual, he got **As** and **Marca**.

Like yesterday's editions, today's **As** and **Marca** are still focusing on Real Madrid's coaching change, with a special emphasis on Gao Shen's remarks at yesterday's press conference, where he declared war on the superstars.

To Gao Shen's surprise, the reactions of the two major media outlets were divided.

The debate over whether Real Madrid should purge their superstars has been ongoing, and Gao Shen has now brought it to the forefront. This is the first time in years that the two major newspapers have written articles supporting the idea, although some reporters believe that even if the superstars are purged, a rookie fresh out of university should not be the one to do it.

However, most media reporters still believe that the issue with Real Madrid is not the presence of superstars, but how to utilize them effectively.



Despite this, he maintained his professionalism and helped Real Madrid eventually overturn Barcelona to win the championship.

How many fans completely changed their views on Beckham because of that season?

And Zidane, judging by his performance and the following years, is a very smart person who understands the big picture, knows how to advance and retreat, and can manage the overall situation.

Gao Shen felt that Zidane and Beckham could be valuable among the foreign superstar players.

Even if he can't get them to fully support him, he must ensure they do their best on the field and execute the team's tactics. Gao Shen knows how to convince these two superstars.

They both have strong desires and ambitions!