

A fan invaded the pitch and attempted to stop Royal College's counterattack

By Chris Wong, Youth Post 2 May 2022

An unexpected incident happened yesterday afternoon in Mong Kok Stadium. A fan of St. George's School invaded the pitch and attempted to tackle Royal College's striker Paddy McTominay during Hong Kong Schools Football Tournament final.

In the second half, St. George's School was 1:0 down in the 93rd minute. All players from St. George's School were desperate to get a goal. This gave Royal College's striker Paddy McTominay a great opportunity of a counter-attack. He was through on goal in the very last minute of the stoppage time, but the run was brought to an abrupt halt. A supporter from St. George's School invaded the field and tackled the ball from the striker. The incident shocked everyone on the pitch, including the referee of the game, David Jones.

'I was totally shocked,' the referee said. 'It took me seconds to process what had just happened, it is not very common that a fan would rush onto the pitch in the middle of a game. It took us several minutes to expel him.'

The fan claimed the only reason why he ran onto the pitch is that he didn't want to see his team lose. He recalled there was no security guard near the field. He was willing to do anything to prevent his team from losing. However, he went too far this time. He admitted that his act shows a lack of sportsmanship but he will not regret. 'Everything, everything to make sure we can win,' the fan insisted.

Paddy McTominay was very upset, he told the reporter that this is absolute unjust and the fan deserves serious punishment. He believed their side had an open goal opportunity to score but it was ruined by the fan. 'Of course, I'm mad, why wouldn't I?' he said. 'How could they allow a random guy to interrupt the game? I am glad this time he is only trying to stop our attack, if next time someone carried a knife, what would happen?' he added.

Royal College still managed to defeat St. George's School 1-0 to win the Hong Kong Schools Football Tournament and won their the first title in history in the midst of this unusual incident.

It is clear that more stringent safety measures are needed to prevent fans from running onto the pitch during a football game since such irresponsible acts threaten the safety of players and dampen people's enjoyment of the game.