

## "Cease fire, this is friendly fire"...a few words from Waltzle Son Heung-min, and an international q

'Captain' Son Heung-min (Tottenham) has put fans' concerns to rest.

In the Hana Bank Invitational Soccer Team Friendly at Suwon World Cup Stadium in Suwon, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea, Son and his teammates recorded their third consecutive A-match win with a 6-0 victory over Vietnam. Kim Min-jae (Bayern Munich) and Hwang Hee-chan (Wolverhampton) scored a goal apiece to end the first half, and a second-half own goal and a "relay goal" involving Son Heung-min, Lee Kang-in (Paris Saint-Germain), and Jung Woo-young (Stuttgart) made it six goals.

Against the Vietnamese, who were considered a relative underdog, the Korean players gave their best and played with a sense of respect, especially Son Heung-min, who added to the meaning by playing the full game despite the risk of injury regardless of the opponent's strength.

As Son Heung-min is a 'world-class' player, his physical condition, injury status, and so on, attract attention both at home and abroad. However, while watching him play full-time in the first and second halves against Vietnam, most fans at home and abroad turned their attention to Coach Klinsmann throughout the game. If Son Heung-min fell, even the broadcaster expressed concern, saying, "He must be careful of injuries." 

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However, many of these concerns were put to rest with a few words from Son Heungmin. In an on-field interview after the game, he revealed that he had personally expressed his desire to play to Klinsmann.

He said, "As a soccer player, I think you have to play through injuries. "I was thinking a lot about whether or not to play today," he said, adding, "When I came to Korea, it was unacceptable to myself that I didn't play in front of the Korean fans. I talked to the coach and he said I would play," he said.

"I'm grateful to the coach for making this decision despite my lack of participation in training, and to the players for respecting it. The weather was colder than I expected at

this late hour, but thanks to the fans who came to the game, we were able to play well."

Fans overseas reacted to the comments by creating a hilarious "meme". One of the most popular is the "snap" of the singer Michael Jackson putting his hand to the muzzle of a soldier's gun to stop a war. It was part of a staged performance of Michael Jackson's "Earth Song" during his 1997 Copenhagen tour. A fan posted the meme on TikTok, and the original YouTube video went viral, with comments like "I saw this meme on TikTok" and "I came in for the original meme and stayed for this video."

Son Heung-min's remarks have made the fans' anger towards Klinsmann disappear.

Domestic fans also commented, "He's so cool," "You can just sit still and breathe, so don't try too hard," "Even though he seems to be injured a lot, he still has goal ambition and concedes well," "Heung-min," "He looked so tired all day," and "I'm more anxious to play." "It's so great," "How can you not love Sonny like this," "My country has Son Heung-min," "Don't overdo it and stay healthy," "You can just wave from the bench," "My heart is racing," "He's an adult," "I was really worried," and more.

"I think it's important for the players to respect the opponent as a game and not to disrespect the Vietnamese players," said Son Heung-min, "and I think we did that well from the beginning and led the game. We missed a lot of chances, which will remain a problem, but I think we played a good game and the players should be praised. As a player, I want to give a lot of credit to the players rather than myself." In the upcoming matches, the team hopes to continue the winning momentum and share the journey with the fans with good performances and results.