GOU VS CAL - INDIGO LEAGUE TOP 16

Location: Grass Field, Indigo Plateau
Tuesday, August 25th 2020, 8PM

It was already nightfall, as Gou once again entered the battlefield for his last 3v3 in this league run. He felt nervous… the time and ranking were hopefully not omens of what he feared the most, yet he was ready to face Cal the Rocker in the grassy arena. Dusk embedded the stadium as lights went on to illuminate the battle for spectators to watch it carefully.

Koharu was there in the audience, always ready to cheer him on, as Raboot, Douya and Sobble were with her as well. His final match in the Qualifying Rounds. He was about to give everything he got against the Ampharos's Trainer, as that Pokémon soloed his run in this League. The referee whistled as both of Trainer's Pokémon were called out - Venomoth and Meganium.

"Venomoth, let's start out with Toxic!" Gou instructed very carefully as the Poison Type successfully landed the move on the Grass Type as Cal instructed his Pokémon to use Double Team around the arena. Gou was surprised to say the least. Maybe he knew that using Ampharos would be a bad call here, a predictable one, for sure. "Infestation on the floor!"

The young Ferrumese boy commanded his Bug Type as he used the move on the grass as little critters began to scatter the field to locate the real Meganium as they were hiding in the tall grass spots, as the Pokémon was now inflicted with both Poison and Infestation draining their health.

"Passive damage, huh? I'll handle it, use Dragon Tail!" Cal ordered Meganium as the original and the remaining clones were to strike Venomoth and send him back to his Poké Ball. "As if I'll let you do that…" Gou remarked. "Use Protect, Venomoth!" Gou ordered him, shielding his insect from the low priority move, as Meganium continued to suffer, their bulky body couldn't keep up to the Bug's speed. Gou knew that keeping his distance was the best course of action, he learned that from Ash's Frosmoth, he never knew what the enemy could have at their disposal.

"Let's finish this. Venomoth, use Venoshock." Gou ordered as the Poison move inflicted Meganium for an aggressive STAB damage, doing more damage than usual thanks to Toxic. As the Johto Pokémon couldn't keep up, fainting on the grassy grounds unable to battle. There was nothing Meganium could've done, not even show off their Grass Moves to begin with. Gou was playing smart, thankfully his knowledge of the Chikorita line enhanced with Tokio's notes

"Something's not right here… Cal isn't acting like normally!" Gou thought to himself.

“Nice going, you were able to destroy my Double Team… Wonder Skin, I suppose?” Cal asked Gou, wanting to know if his Pokémon had the Hidden Ability that prevent the other’s accuracy setup. “Tinted Lens…” Gou remarked. “... I guess I’m just full of surprises… just like you!” he said recalling Venomoth. “Not Ampharos this time?” Gou asked the Viridian native.

“No need to…” Cal said nervously. “...he already showed those two over there what he was capable of.” Cal said, pointing out to Raboot and Douya, recalling the Ferrum Battle tournament and how he placed 3rd after defeating Gou. “It’s time for my other Pokémon to shine tonight, go Feraligatr!” the Rocker called out for another Johto Starter, the ferocious Water Type one.

“So no Megas, I suppose… figures… but don’t worry, you’re not the only one who's making his teammates shine tonight, let’s go Parasect!” Gou called out his other Bug Type Pokémon, as he recalled how this one had once faced Aqua - Deliah’s Shiny Croconaw. Yet history wasn’t to repeat itself, Parasect had trained hard since then, recalling her tie with Forrester’s Alolan Graveler in Pewter City back in May. There was always one move that Gou could rely on!

“USE SPORE!” he shouted, as the Grass Type did as instructed, landing out a status effect on the giant alligator, making them fall asleep. “Perfect, now use Seed Bomb!” Gou commanded his insect as a flurry of attacks damaged super-effectively the Water Type. “It’s not over yet…” Cal smirked. “... use Sleep Talk!” the Trainer commanded his Pokémon as the air began to cold.

Surpassing Parasect’s speed, the Feraligatr went for a powerful Ice Punch. “PARASECT!” Gou shouted his heart out in fear. “USE GIGA DRAIN!” the young trainer instructed, she couldn’t lose another battle, she needed a win against at least one Pokémon. She cured herself up.

“Sleep Talk again!” Cal instructed as the wind surrounded the drowsing Feraligatr’s claws as they glew in a celestial white, hitted Parasect with a 4X damage Aerial Ace . “NO!” Gou screamed in fear “USE LEECH LIFE ON THE FLOOR!” he spoke, as Parasect’s pincers clawed the arena, giving her more ground to withstand the powerful attack. Her defenses weren’t the best, but her endurance due to sheer determination weren’t going to disappoint Gerald now.

“SLEEP TALK AGAIN!” Cal said in a desperate and nervous tone, even more than Gou’s as they went for Aqua Tail, the move that Gou’s Sandile learned from the tutoring of Deliah’s Shiny Croconaw. Yet the move didn’t do anything… in fact, it even healed Parasect, Gou wasn’t surprised at all by this as his RotomPhone floated to state: “Dry Skin Ability activated!” as Gou went for the final blow on the Water Starter from Johto. “Thanks for the healing, Cal… USE GIGA DRAIN!” he commanded more confidently as Parasect took down the sleeping Feraligatr.

“You did great… your first win, Parasect, I’m so proud of you!” Gou spoke recalling her to her Poké Ball. Her mushroom was unharmed unlike the last time. The Grass Field sure blessed Gou!

“ENOUGH OF THIS! GO TYPHLOSION!” Cal shouted, sending out his 3rd and last Pokémon. Gou was surprised, so he did have all of the Johto Starters, but why not send out Typhlosion first to begin with? Many people knew that Gou had a lot of Bug Types, he could’ve easily taken down his first 2 Pokémon if so… even Gou knew that… was Cal… passively giving up?

“Let’s do this, Darmanitan!” Gou send out his other Fire Type, a little bit to Raboot’s dismay but Gou wanted for the rabbit to rest after yesterday’s race. Both Fire Type’s flames burned and scorched in the Grass Field. “Use Stone Edge NOW!” Gou commanded his squat-like ape, as he used the same technique as in the Unity Tower tournament back in Unova. The Rock move landed as Typhlosion didn’t even tried to dodge or melt the boulders. The strength of the attack had increased after some training with Onix… Gou was worried about Cal’s sudden “quitting”.

“TYPHLOSION…” Cal shouted out to his iconic megaphone, dropping it as he was performing a dance, a ritual of some sorts as Typhlosion’s aura glowed with a heart of gold, as his Thunder Punch embedded his entire being. “... GIGAVOLT HAVOC!” so that was his plan… a Z-Move! No crystal needed, he must’ve done the trial in Alola. It reminded Darmanitan of Hau’s Alolan Raichu and their Stoked Sparksurfer… indeed a dual of espers like no other.

“FIRE PUNCH!” Gou ordered as the fiery ape collided his fist with the mighty move, causing him a lot of damage as the debris of jolts and cinders scattered on the Grass Field, mowing it in the process as the moonlight began to shine. And with that, so did Darmanitan’s hidden potential - Zen Mode - converting him into a daruma doll as Gou went for the final order “PSYCHIC!”

Now the STAB move made Darmanitan control Typhlosion like a puppet, using his mind power and mental fortitude to outsmart him. Meganium... Feraligatr... and now Typhlosion... it was like Gou was facing Erika, Lana and Lara again. Gou remembered how Molly Hale’s Typhlosion with Sacred Fire won her the Silver Conference, as Cal’s couldn’t even perform a Blast Burn!

“Typhlosion is unable to battle! Darmanitan wins, which means that the victory goes to contestant Gerald from Neos City! And so, he’ll advance to the Kanto Region’s Indigo League quarter-finals!” the referee stated as Gou went to his Fire Type, giving him a Berry to eat as he healed back and reverted from Zen Mode. He approached Cal to give him a handshake.

“BACK OFF!” the Rocker shouted. “I don’t need your pity, Vigilante… I owe you nothing!”

“Hey dude, come on, just calm down, it was only a match… but I expected more from you, Cal!”

“You and everyone… sorry, I’m just… not in myself today... I overworked Ampharos out to the point of exhaustion, I thought I could solo the League with him, but I was delusional. I had to use rentals… and then you defeated Kanako and Asao before I could’ve. Guess I’ll all bark, no bite!”