

eclipse Regular Season Mid-January Review

Our team was new to the Gold League this season after winning Silver League last season under the name Clueless. Coming in, we had pretty high expectations and had a lot of pressure on us to show that we were not going to be That Team that follows the recent trend of Silver League teams failing as soon as they get promoted to Gold.

We started off the season with a game against SIMP where we had all of the odds going against us, but in the end we pulled out a great 5-4 win for our first win in Gold League. The next game we had was against the reigning Gold League Champs Noble. We had a rough match against them, not really being able to get any momentum going and ended with a 5-1 loss. The following game we played the long time veterans Simple Tankers, now known as rival after their recent acquisition of a sponsorship. The set went back and forth until the score was 3-3 where we had 2 more battles on Mines. Once again as being that new team we were the clear underdogs, but we ended up pulling out two decisive wins on Mines to win the set 5-3. By now we were starting to feel confident, having taken 2 wins over long-time veteran teams.

Our next match was against Ping999 where we opened up the set on Prokhorovka. We started off the night with having an illegal line up which put us on tilt. Then we had a very poor attack and defense which put us down 0-3 in the set. During our last attack we had a player on our team yell at us and tell us to just calm down and play the game. That got us off tilt and we ended up picking up the win on attack and went into Himmelsdorf with a set at 1-3. When we got to Himmelsdorf we ended up winning all 4 rounds and won the series 5-3 after falling behind 0-3.

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We had one final match before the holiday break and we were looking to get another 3 points. Before that match we had a big problem with our former captain which eventually ended up leading to his dismissal from the team and the new Captaincy going to T1_Diabetic. Unfortunately we had another off night against DING_NA where the matches went back and forth into a tiebreaker, where we ended up winning decisively on Mines defense to take the set 5-4. Overall, we ended up going into the break with 4 wins and only 1 loss and we were starting to feel real good about our chances to getting into the playoffs and even making this season's Finals in Las Vegas, Nevada where four teams will be going.

Over the holiday break we had two emergencies: Romeburner ended up being in the hospital and was not going to be able to return anytime soon, and Dragons was not able to commit the necessary time whilst dealing with school and other responsibilities. So coming off the break with only 7 people being able to play on our roster. Our first post-break match was against HWC; we went in feeling confident, but the night ended up in a disappointing 5-2 loss for us in which our gameplay was just riddled with mistakes. The next match against GooglyBobbers was a bit more relaxing; we controlled the match from the beginning and ended up winning 5-1 including another illegal line up from us (ugh!).

Going into Week 6 we had two matches, one against a struggling o7 and the other against a very much improved AM60. We started off on Tuesday night against o7 where we once again had a lot of mistakes and ended up losing a close match in the tiebreaker 5-4 on Ghost Town where we tried a gimmicky fast cap that wasn't quite fast enough. So we brushed it off knowing we had a lot of mistakes and focused on AM60. The match against AM60 was a really

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good close match. Both teams played well and had some mistakes; the match went the distance to a 5-4 for win for us leaving us at a record with 6 wins and 3 losses and being in 4th place in standings going into our final two matches of the season.

We play only one match in each of the two weeks left in the regular season—January 21st against Caller Wanted, and January 26th against yo. So we are already locked into the playoffs and pretty much just playing out the rest of the season for seeding. Our match against Caller Wanted will be the biggest match of the season for us. If we can win that match and take all 3 points, we just need to win the following Tuesday and we will finish 4th place in the regular season going into the playoffs. Our team is feeling really good about our chances being able to go to Vegas in our first season in Gold League and we look forward to proving we can compete with the top teams.

Thank you for all the support from our fans this season; it really makes us confident and happy going into our matches.