# e-Sports Biz in Korea

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Korea e-Sports Association
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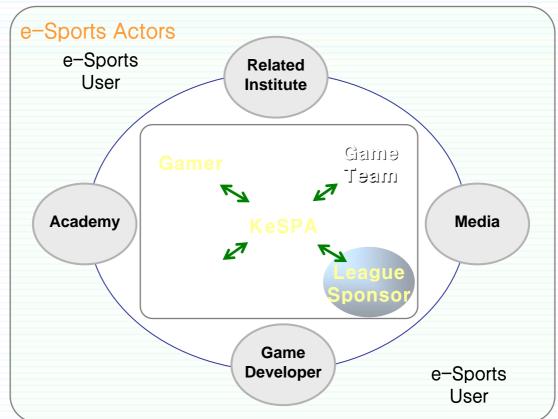
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# Current structure of KeSPA

- KeSPA established in 2002 with the approval of Ministry of Culture & Tourism.
- Leading Korean e-Sports as a sound leisure culture for youth life.
- Cooperating among e-Sports actors in Korea.
  - gamer, game team, government, league sponsor, academy, media, game developer, related institute, etc.





# **KeSPA History**

#### First KeSPA inauguration

- ✓ 21C Progamer Association established (Pre KeSPA)
- ✓ Hanbit Soft Co.,Ltd. took the Chief of KeSPA
- ✓ Ministry of Culture & Truism Korea approved 'progamer registration system'
- ✓ Selected 9 official e-Sports games

#### Second KeSPA inauguration

- ✓ SK Telecom took the new Chief of KeSPA
- ✓ United 'Pro-league'
- ✓ Launched Official referee system
- ✓ First KeSPA CUP 'KTF-Bigi Korea e-Sports 2006'
- ✓ Opened the first e-Sports Arena,'Yong-San e-Sports Stadium' in the world

1999 ~2001



2002 ~ 2004



2005



2006 ~ now



#### e-Sports restoration period

- ✓ "Korea e-Sports association" ('02, KeSPA) established
  : 21C Progamer Association (Pre KeSPA) changed
- ✓ Hosted "KPGA TOUR" with MBCgame
- ✓ 4 company pro game teams established: KTF MagicNsS. AMSUNG KHAN, Hanbit STA

: KTF MagicNsS, AMSUNG KHAN, Hanbit STARS SK Telecom T1('04)

#### Establish foundation & globalization

- ✓ Hosted Korea e-Sports Award
- ✓ Hosted International e-Sports Symposium
- √ 11 company and 1 military pro-game teams established
- ✓ Hosted 'Ministry of Culture & Tourism Korea Cup
  - 1st National Amateur e-Sports Games.'



# 1. 'Pro League' history

- KeSPA launched the integrated 'Pro League' in 2005 by combining 'Ongamenet Pro League' and 'MBC Game Team League'.
- SHIHAN Bank sponsored 6 mil \$ on Pro League for 3 years ('07 ~ '10).
- Media coverage enlarged from 1 CATV to <u>2 CATV and 6 new media channels</u>.
  - : CATV (Ongamenet, MBCgame), internet TV (GOM TV, Pandora TV), internet portal (Naver, Daum), IPTV(HANA TV), Satellite DMB(TU media)
- Now, 'Pro League' became the largest and most popular e-Sports league in Korea.





# 2. About 'Pro League'

### SHIHAN BANK Pro League 2007



- In 2007 season, 'SHIHAN Bank Pro League 2007' was newly launched. ('07. 4.14) (cf. SKY Pro League '04 ~'06)
- 'SHIHAN Bank Pro League 2007' changed the way of Pro League in contrast to before.
- Teams increased (12 teams entered), match-up number doubled (2 round full league), cash prize upgraded, new rules adopted, new 6 media channels entered.

Period	Apr. 14 in 2007 ~ Jan. 26 for 10 months
Composition	<ul> <li>✓ 1 Round (Apr. ~Aug.), 1 round Final (Aug. 4 in 2007)</li> <li>✓ All-Star Matches (Sep. 25 in 2007),</li> <li>✓ 2 Round (Sep. ~Jan. '08), 2 Round Final (Jan. in 2008)</li> <li>✓ Grand Final (Jan.)</li> </ul>
Wrap-up	<ul> <li>✓ 12 Teams entered (11 company teams and 1 Korea Air Force team)</li> <li>✓ Live broadcast relayed on 5 weekdays (Sat. Sun. Mon. Tue. Wed.)</li> <li>✓ Total 300,000 \$ cash prize</li> <li>✓ Total 264 match-up (22 match per team, 2 round) during 2007 season (doubled than '06)</li> <li>✓ Introduced official e-Sports PC on all match-up (SAMSUNG e-Sports PC)</li> <li>✓ Introduced new rules (5 minute PC setting time limitation, match-up entry open before 48 hours)</li> <li>✓ 2 CATV (Ongemenet, MBCgame), 2 internet TV (GOM TV, Pandora TV), 1 IPTV(HANA TV)</li> <li>2 internet portal (NAVER, Daum) and 1 satellite DMB (TU media) channel broadcasting</li> </ul>



# 3. 'Pro League' infra

#### Professional Game Teams

- <u>12 Pro-game teams</u> are participating in "SHINHAN Bank Pro League 2007" now. (11 Company teams and 1 Military team)
- Most pro-game teams are investing on average 1.5 mil \$ to operate their team per year.
  - 'company brand PR effect' is 7 times higher to the cost.

#### Professional Game Teams ('07)

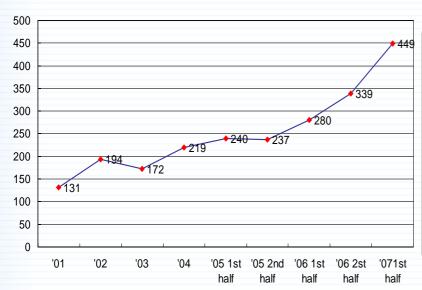




### 3. 'Pro League' infra

### Systematic pro-gamer management

- KeSPA runs 'progamer registration system', 'official pro-gamer draft system' and 'courage match' to pick up pro-gamers systematically.
- KeSPA open 'courage match' 10 times per year.
- Each pro-game teams have 15~20 pro-gamers and choose their team members through 'official draft system'
  - Started 'official pro-gamer draft system' in 2005 and do it 2 times per year.





**Change in umber of registered Pro Gamers** 

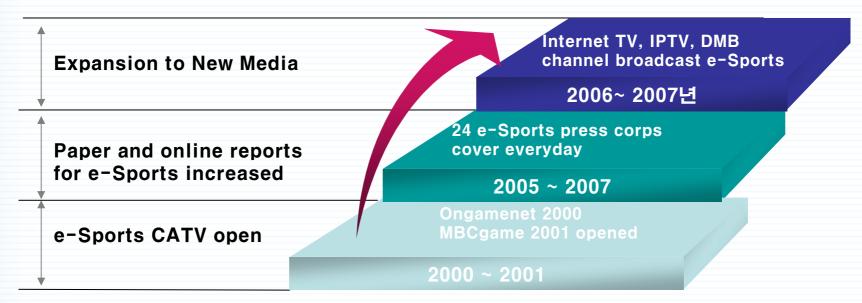
**Courage Match Spot at PC room** 



# 3. 'Pro League' infra

#### Media coverage

- 2 CATV (Ongamenet, MBCgame) cover 24 hours everyday.
- 24 'e-Sports press corps' cover everyday.
  - 6 major daily sports papers, 2 digital papers, 2 game magazine, 14 web magazine
- New media competitively joined to cover e-Sports
  - Internet TV (GOM TV '06.10, Pandora TV '07.6), Satellite DMB (TU media '07.4), IPTV (HANA TV, '07.4), online portal (DAUM '07.6, NAVER '07.6).
  - -28 mil people (live 17 mil, VOD 11mil) watched Pro-league during 3 months('07.4~7) with GOM TV.





# 3. 'Pro League' infra

#### e-Sports media coverage in the world

- Many major world media introduce and cover Korea e-Sports & Pro League.
- LA Times "Gamer is royalty in South Korea" (07.3)
- NY Times "The Glee of South Korea Game's Seguel is Announced" (07.4)
- Satellite broadcasting 'Deutsche Welle', Deutsche public radio 'Multikultl', Frankfrut Algemine Zeitung, San Francisco Chronicle, The Reuters covered Korea e-Sports and Pro League on the spot(07.5)
- Japan Yomiuri Newspaper and NHK BS1 reported Pro League(07.7)
- Online media
- gotfrag.com, ggl.com, amped.com etc.









# 3. 'Pro League' infra

#### e-Sports stadium

- In Dec, '05, the first e-Sports dedicated arena 'Yong-san e-Sports Stadium opened in the world.
- Pro League matches held five days per week at main stadium, and many other e-Sports leagues, amateur e-Sports tournaments held at second arena.
- Average 3,000 spectators every week.

Outline

Size | 1117.4m<sup>2</sup> Main arena – about 500 seats, 2nd arena – 64 seats

Use SHINHAN Bank Pro League Matches and Armature Match







SHIHAN Bank pro-league 2007 (Main Arena)

2<sup>nd</sup> Arena



### 4. New media combination

### e-Sports channel diversification

- I.E.G (International e-Sports Group) bought right to broadcast Pro League from KeSPA for 3 years.
- Now, 2 e-Sports CATV and 6 new media channels are broadcasting Pro League everyday.

CATV	✓2 CATV Ongamenet and MBCgame boardcast Pro League 5 days every week. and many other e-Sports games relay for 24 hours.
Internet TV	<ul> <li>✓GOM TV relayed e-Sports leagues from Sep, 2006</li> <li>Stated to relay SHINHAN Bank Pro League 2007 from Apr. 2007.</li> <li>Covering many kind of e-sports leagues in 2007.</li> <li>✓Pandora TV relayed Pro League from June, 2007.</li> </ul>
Internet Portal	√The best Korea internet portal NAVER and Daum participated as e-Sports channel in June, 2007.
IPTV	✓IPTV(HANA TV) serviced SHINHAN Bank Pro League 2007 in April, 2007.
DMB	✓Satellite DMB (TU media) serviced SHINHAN Bank Pro League 2007 in Apr, 2007.



### 4. New media combination

#### New media channel success case

#### SHINHAN Bank Pro League in internet TV, GOM TV

- ✓ In 2007, GOM TV began to broadcast SHIHAN Bank Pro League.
- ✓ During 14 weeks (April ~ July), about 28 mil people watched Pro League.
  - live 17 mil, VOD down 11 mil
  - On average 2 mil people watched SHIHAN Bank Pro League with GOM TV every week.
  - Instant web connection number sometimes more than 0.1 mil.
  - 'Sponsor's Brand PR effect' is more than 4 mil \$ estimate.



- The best 2007 Pro League VOD record
- Boxer (Air force) vs sAvior (CJ)
- 0.4 mil for 3 days at VOD downloading record



### 5. The big events

#### Big event gather big crowd

■ Pro League 1<sup>st</sup> Round Final matches gathered big crowd in 2004 ~ 2007.

- 2004 : 100,000 spectator record

- 2005 : <u>120,000 spectator</u> record

- 2006 : 40,000 spectator record

- 2007 : <u>70,000 spectator</u> record

■ Every summer, Pro League 1st Round Final match held on the beach. (Gwang-an-li, Busan)









# 6. Fan expansion

#### e-Sports fan culture

- e-Sports became the most popular typical culture of youth in Korea.
  - Many 10 ~ 20 youth generations come to e-Sports stadium with friends, sweetheart or alone.
  - 30~40 light old generations come to e-Sports stadium with children.
- After Pro League launch, cheering type is changing.
  - Team supporters enlarged and cheer their teams.







### 7. New Biz. field

#### Business field expansion

- Official e-Sports equipments: <u>e-Sports PC, e-Sports mouse pad, e-Sports mouse, etc</u>.
  - SAMSUNG DIGITAL MEDIA provided official e-Sports PC to KeSPA ('06)
- KeSPA trying to make new business field to use 'pro gamer & pro game team's characterizing right'.
  - 'Teddy Bear' made 'e-Sports pro gamer character bears' in July, 2007.
- Many sports wear, drink companies are joining e-Sports biz. field
  and sponsoring Pro Game teams. (sponsoring scale about 0.1 mi \$ ~ 0.2 mil \$ per year.)

#### Official e-Sports supplies



Character product 'Teddy Bear'



#### equipment sponsoring





### 2007 Korea e-Sports

#### Anytime, anywhere with e-Sports

- e-Sports infra, e-Sports channel diversification and new biz field are creating new 'sports marketing filed' in Korea.
- In Korea, e-Sports became 'wannasee, wannado, wannabe' sports.
- 18 mil youth & light old people watch and play e-Sports anytime, anywhere for 24 hours.
- Many companies pay attention to e-Sports.

