

The story of Zerost is an interesting one that I think many people can learn from. He was a good player. Not the best but did his job. His downfall was not realising his strengths and trying to become something he was not.

Realising Strengths and Weaknesses: Zerost

Zerost is an LJL champion. He has won many times but after his time on DFM he hasn't been able to find success. Many believe he is washed up or he was being carried by the other members on DFM. I believe that it is more that he didn't understand why DFM was winning and what made them good. He tried to be the star player, finding teams off the back of DFM's success. We will go into his past history on many different teams throughout 2014-2019.

There are 2 different kinds of ADCs in the world. There are the carry type (Uzi, Doublelift, Forg1ven) and there are the clean up/utility type (Rekkles, Codysun, Lwx). Zerost is a clean up/utility adc. He is not the type of player that will pop off and carry. He will sit back, deal damage, and play safe. If you had Uzi on your team, and he locked in Syndra. Wouldn't you feel bad? You have one of the best ADCs in the world and he locks in a mage. It is pretty disappointing. That's the feeling I get when I see Zerost lock in a hyper carry.

Back to the Past (2014-2015)

To understand Zerost we will have to go back to the past. Zerost started on Detonation Rabbit Five (DeT RF). They would have varying results from 2nd to 4th. Never a champion but still competitive. This is back when anyone could be a pro and the LJL was still in its infancy. His top laner was Yutorimoyashi (now on Sengoku Gaming) and the jungler was Awaker (now coach of Softbank Hawks Gaming). No one really understood the game to a deep level but Zerost was able to perform consistently well compared to his teammates. He was the rock of the team. You would rarely find a game where he inted it away. These are great qualities to have in an ADC. Someone that can deal damage but not feed. That is the role of the ADC.

Becoming a Champion (2016-2017)

He was able to land the dream job. He got an offer from DFM to join as their starting ADC. Back then, this was the goal for every player. DFM had everything. They have the success, the money, the structure, the players. Yutapon recently roleswapped to top and they needed someone to be a consistent player in the bot lane. Zerost would come in and fulfill that role well. Not dying, just dealing damage. They would still end of winning the season but the new team formation would constantly be changing. Zerost would find himself looking for another team after just 1 season. Analyzing this season would show the real difference between ADC. During game 1 of the LJL 2017 Spring Split Finals you will see Yutorimoyashi's ADC. There was a huge mismatch in ADCs.

<https://youtu.be/P4fzQvg5cpw?t=3619>

This play shows the skill difference and playstyle difference of the 2 ADCs. Yutorimoyashi is limit testing. Pushing his character and skills to the limit to win the fight for his team.

Despite winning the LJL, Zerost would be the player removed but he would quickly land another team. He would join Team Black Eye. The team had a lot of issues. Understanding player strength would be one of them. This is the first time Zerost's weakness was easily seen. There could be many reasons for his downfall but I would contribute it to not knowing his strengths. The team had no "Firepower". No one on the team could carry the game and just take over. Not having any firepower players is the death sentence for any team. They would be quickly relegated and that would be the end of TBE.

The Downfall of Zerost (2017-2018)

At the start of summer, he would get another chance to redeem himself on DFM. The team would finish 1st in the regular season but fail to win the finals against Rampage. DFM failed for a lot of reasons. One of the reasons being Zerost and the team not being able to play around his strengths.

After losing playoffs roster changes would be made to the DFM lineup. That meant Zerost would be out of the team again. This time he would join newly promoted Burning Core. As is tradition in the LJL the team would go 0-10 and play in the promotional series where they would lose 0-3. The weird thing is that Zerost would only play in the last game, there was nothing he could have done to help the team. He would do well but it wasn't enough to save the team.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MIBycWMOgA>

Caitlyn and Twitch play similar styles. Stay safe and do tons of damage. This is another small example of a carry adc and a clean up adc.

One Foot Out the Door (2018-2019)

This period would be a dark time for Zerost fans. He would find himself playing in the LJLCS. He started off on Sengoku Gaming Legends but the team would not find any success. Going 7-3 they would barely miss qualifications for the promotional matches. In summer he would go 5-5 on Smash it Down. SID was a mess of a team with too many players and no direction. Zerost wasn't performing great but he was still LJL level and I feel playing in the CS lowered his motivation. Losing in the CS can greatly demoralize players. He still would do well on his pocket pick champion, Kalista, but other champions he would either perform poorly or be fine.

2019 would not be any better. He would make his way back to the LJL on V3 Esports then Rascal Jester. It seemed like Zerost or the teams he would play for would not understand what made Zerost so good. He filled the 3rd carry role perfectly. Never getting caught, always dealing damage, but never taking over the game. Analyzing the rosters, who were the carry threat on V3 and RJ? If the answer is Zerost then that team is doomed to fail. At the end of 2019, Zerost announces that he is retiring from League of Legends.

Hope for the Future (2020-Present)

His league of legends career has ended in 2019 but he has found other things. He is currently a streamer/player for Sengoku's Valorant team. I am not an expert nor do I watch content from Zerost but I am happy he has found success entertaining people. He was always a popular player and had a lot of fans.

The lesson I hope we can learn is that it is always important to improve things you are not good at but it is also important to understand your own strengths and weaknesses. I feel Zerost could have found more success in LoL if he stuck to his strengths and improved upon them.

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