I think CGA's story is very interesting with a lot of ups and potential to grow further. I think there is a lot to learn from their success and mistakes as a team. I hope their story will inspire others to strive for success.

The Stepping Stones of Success: CGA

Crest Gaming Act (CGA) has ended the 2020 LJL Summer Season in 3rd place in the regular season. This has been a remarkable feat considering where they started and how they got here. A lot of players have come and gone but CGA has been able to stay near the top.

Started From the Bottom （2016~2017）

At the end of 2016 Crest Gaming formed their League of Legends roster. The only memorable player is Hachamecha. He will be their consistent player through a lot of their victories and defeats. After winning the 2016 Logicool G Cup the team set out to qualify for the LJL. The roster would see some changes but they would finish 2nd in the regular season but fail to qualify in the promotion matches. This would be a consistent trend for some time.

A Star in the Making （2017）

After struggling to find success the team really started to shine once Nap joined the roster. Nap is a consistently strong top laner. Famous for his Cho'Gath top lane pick. After moving their top laner Qoo to support, then to coach. This would make way for big changes to the Crest Gaming organization. The duo of Hachamecha and Nap would work hard together to make great plays and lead the team to wins. Unfortunately having 2 good players is not enough and they would struggle through 2017. In the history of the LJL a team with no imports would never beat a team with imports. Crest would realize this too and they would have to spend money to bring over Korean talent to the Japanese roster.

The Change Needed to Win （2018）

When looking at the all Japanese roster obvious changes were to be made. Keeping the star Top and Jungler made sense but they would need more firepower in the mid lane and guidance in the support lane. Lavie was the former Mid for Rascal Jester and was just recently benched. Needing a team he went with Crest along with KR Support Shield. Shield was having

trouble finding success in Challengers Korea and was looking for a change. Nap, Hachamecha, Lavie, Alps, Shield and coach Qoo would be the roster needed to push Crest Gaming from a challenger team to a LJL team.

They competed in the 2018 LJL Summer Promotion match and defeated legacy team, 7th Heaven, qualifying them for the 2018 Summer Season. Their first split did not go great. As is tradition in the LJL, the newly promoted CGA would fall to 6th place and have to defend their spot in the LJL against BQB. This was no issue and they would sweep the challenger team 3-0.

Rebuild and Reload （2019）

In traditional sports there are 2 concepts. Rebuilding a team and reloading a team. Rebuilding involves tearing down a team and starting from 0. Reloading involves having a strong secondary squad that can replace some of the starting members in case they retire or get traded away. Like most LJL teams, CGA would have to rebuild. Keeping their star Top and Jungle was a no-brainer. They would also change up their Korean imports and get Art as their bot laner and Luna (now known as Aria) as their Mid. They would also do something that is very common in the LJL and get a player and role swap him. The former top laner, Grendle, will finish up the roster as their support. This would be the start of something great.

In 2019 CGA finished 2nd in the regular season twice but finished 3rd twice in the playoffs. This was back when only 3 out of 8 teams would make the playoffs. They had roster issues during summer with some weird role swapping and player movement but overall this was

a good year for CGA. Only player 2 Bo5s and losing both wasn't that bad a result. Considering they were a bottom tier team in the previous year.

From Past to Present （2020）

In the past, people would not fear CGA. They had a Japanese Jungler (which is very uncommon) and their success was lackluster. During 2019 they gained respect and hopeful fans that one day CGA can raise the LJL trophy. 2020 would be the year of mixed feelings. After losing such a key player in Hachamecha and Art they would have trouble finding their replacements. They would go with Japanese rookie Jungler, Yoshi, and for summer a different Japanese rookie Jungler, Yunika. Both would be mediocre and struggle to adapt to the stage. They finished the 2020 Spring towards the bottom of the standings. Finishing 6th in the regular season and 4th in the playoffs.

Where to now? （2020~2021/Future）

Their 2020 Summer performance was a slight improvement. They were once 2nd in the regular standing but after some poor performances towards the end they would finish 3rd. CGA overall is a strong team. They are currently being held back by certain players on their team with lack of experience. Finding good Japanese players is hard and rare. There are very few Japanese players that can compete with the best in the world. They are having trouble deciding on a Japanese Jungler that can compete against their Korean counterpart. CGA would benefit greatly from having an academy team. This would allow them to build up new Japanese players, give them experience, and find replacements when needed.

I am very hopeful for the future. Their current team might not win the LJL but with a few adjustments I would not be surprised if we see them winning in 2021. Roster building is very hard and CGA has found success scouting and building a competitive team with the resources they have. I look forward to the development of Yunika and Yoshi. My rule for rookies is to give them 1 year to perform. Most of the top players from around the world can step up and perform after a year. Jungling is a very hard position to transition from SoloQ to Pro. Give them time and CGA will be able to reap the benefits of having young talented players.