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Triton Esports secures win in collegiate Super Smash scrimmage

The Super Smash Bros. Ultimate team of the University of Guam's Triton Esports program secured a victory in a March 14 collegiate scrimmage against Valparaiso University (Ind.), an NCAA Division I school. The scrimmage provided the inaugural UOG esports team with experience in preparation for their first intercollegiate tournaments later this year.

The match was played in crew battle style, in which one player from each team fought in a one-on-one duel. The winning player then went up against the next player on the enemy team with their remaining stock from the previous fight, until eventually one team's stock was reduced to zero.

Although the Tritons held a comfortable lead on paper, Valparaiso made sure that every victory was earned. Each match had the fans and Guam-based shoutcasters Andrew "Sheena" Youn and Kai "Aikuda" Rekdahl on the edge of their seats.

More than 70 viewers tuned in for the event, which was livestreamed on Twitch and can be watched on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhEv8moerwI>.

Led by Coach [Adrian Cabradilla](#), the Tritons started off strong with [Jonassey "Jokershiek" Dominguez](#) on the forefront, beating Ryan "Fitz" Fitzgerald with two stocks to spare for a strong lead that continued for most of the match.

Then Valparaiso's Shannon "Metia" Hollinrake bested UOG's [Christian "Sloth" Ballesta](#) with three stocks left untouched. "Metia" continued to play strong when [Bill "Pokedranzer" Lactaoen](#) of the Tritons took over but winning with only one stock available. Valparaiso's Joshua "Pizzaman" Mangnall was then in the perfect position to

finish “Pokedranzer” while preserving all three of his own stock, effectively equalizing the playing field.

The final match was decided after Tritons Team Captain [Ronee “Capstwo” Pangilinan](#) defeated “Pizzaman” with two stocks left for a clean win. Also playing for the Tritons was [Barron “Trix” Tranate](#).

“I’m pleasantly surprised, along with our coaches and athletes, at the level of competitive play that we’re able to not only engage in, but come out victorious in,” said Tritons Esports Interim Coordinator and Head Coach John Wiglesworth. “We look forward to joining our first Super Smash Bros. Ultimate intercollegiate tournaments this fall.”

Until then, the team will be playing friendly showcase matches against a collegiate team at 1 p.m. every Saturday, starting with:

- Saturday, March 20: Saipan Smash Community
- Saturday, March 27: Seattle University
- Saturday, April 3: Saint Francis University (Penn.)
- Saturday, April 10: University of California, Los Angeles

The Triton Esports program launched in February 2020 and formed its official teams for Super Smash Bros. Ultimate and League of Legends in the fall semester. The athletes train 20 hours per week, which includes not only practicing their gaming skills and strategies but also mental health check-ins and daily physical fitness with coaches.

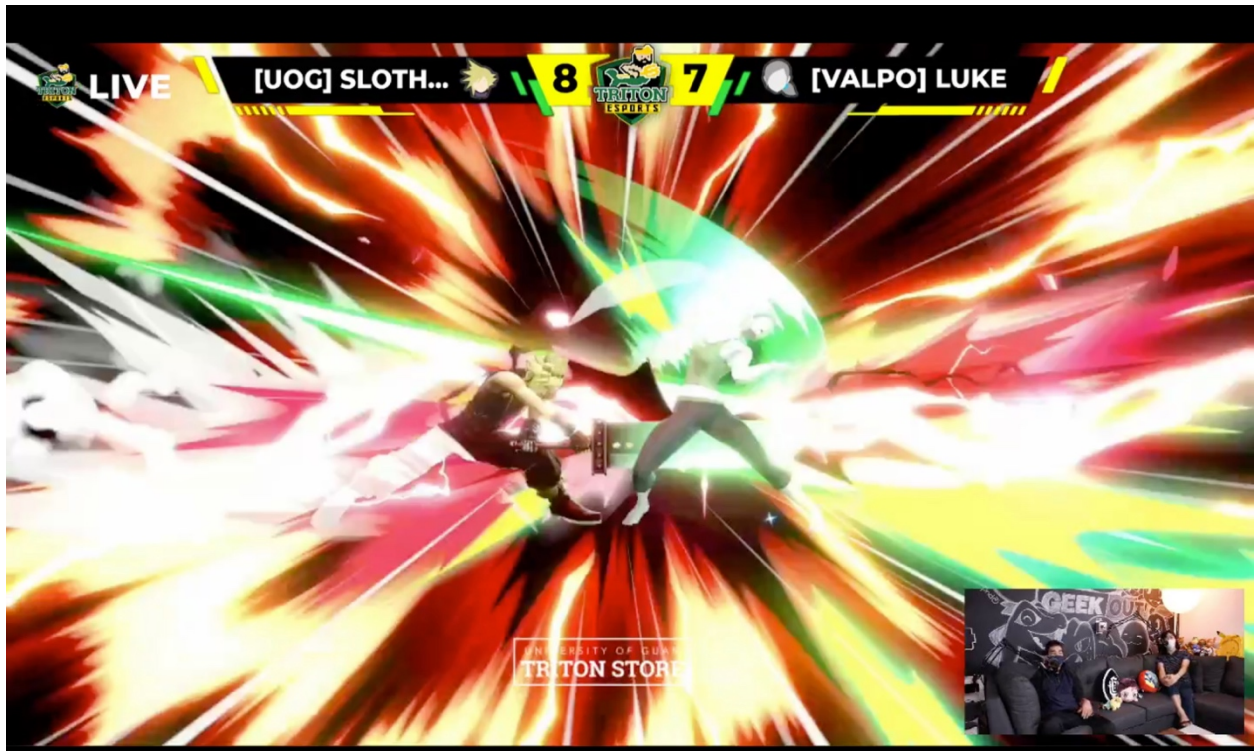
The Triton Esports program invites the community and prospective student esports athletes to follow its competitive teams at <https://esports.uog.edu> as well as on Instagram, Twitch, and Discord.

Esports fans can also tune into or participate in Triton Esports’ two island-wide events in celebration of University of Guam Charter Month:

- March 15 to March 20: Triton Esports GO! Scavenger Hunt featuring Pokémon GO
- March 22 to March 27: Valorant 2v2 Duels tournament.

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Photo captions:



2021-triton-esports-scrimmage

Christian "Sloth" Ballesta of Triton Esports defeats Luke Hittle of Valparaiso University (Ind.) in a Super Smash Bros. Ultimate friendly crew battle on March 14.



2021-triton-esports-fitness

(From left) Triton Esports athletes Bill Lactaen, Ronee Pangilinan, and Daniel Lee do pushups as part of the daily physical fitness component of their team training.

Photos courtesy of Triton Esports