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If you've owned a Nintendo console at some point in the past two decades, there is a good chance that you've had some exposure to Super Smash Bros., Nintendo's flagship fighting game series featuring characters related to their history such as Mario, Link, and Pikachu. But most people haven't had much exposure to Smash's competitive esports scene until recently. Within the context of this scene growing in popularity nationwide, KU Smash has put on a large regional tournament on KU's campus with a combined prize pool of almost \$7,000.

Hosted in the Kansas Union on March 4-5 with over 350 registered attendees, Sweet Spot 7 made history as the largest Smash tournament in Kansas up to this point. The event boasted brackets for Super Smash Bros. Melee for the Nintendo GameCube, Super Smash Bros. Brawl for the Nintendo Wii, and Super Smash Bros. Ultimate for the Nintendo Switch.

The tournament took place in the ballroom on the fifth floor of the union. Most of the space was taken up by a variety of setups, most of which were constantly used for both tournament and friendly matches. There were also art booths which sold prints featuring popular characters, energy drinks and refreshments provided by sponsors, and a large stage where the commentators and players who made it onto the livestream were situated.

“Our events are very grassroots,” said Natus Rappel, president of KU Smash and head tournament organizer for Sweet Spot 7. “But in terms of the actual tournament in-person, it ran super smoothly. Way ahead of schedule.”

“Overall, I had very pleasant interactions with my fellow competitors and really enjoyed seeing the more diverse crowd compared to my local scene,” said Edgar Becerril, a Melee entrant from Wichita.

Highly ranked figures from both the Melee and Ultimate competitive communities were in attendance such as Sasha “Magi” Sullivan, Shepherd “Fiction” Lima, and Angel “Onin” Mireles. Sullivan is globally ranked 25<sup>th</sup>, and Lima 14<sup>th</sup>, in Melee. Mireles is globally ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in Ultimate. Despite tough competition from local players, Sullivan won the Melee Singles bracket and Mireles won the Ultimate Singles bracket.

“It was awesome to see just the many people coming together for Smash related events,” said Emmett Rech, another entrant from Wichita who participated in both Melee and Ultimate events. “It was exciting to see all of that happening specifically in Kansas, which isn’t as well known for its esports scene, but I think we’re growing.”