

LCS 2022 Summer Offseason Ratings

MSI is now behind us, and the road towards Worlds is what is on the mind of every top-flight team. The 2022 LCS Spring Split was filled with new blood and old rivalries, and the Summer Split promises to be just as entertaining. Some teams are looking to build on their solid spring, while others are looking to recover from what was an absolute dumpster fire start to the year, but every team has one destination in mind. 2022 Worlds.



Evil Geniuses

After an excellent performance during the Spring Playoffs, and another good performance during the Mid Season Invitational in Busan, EG have had a quiet offseason. Then again, who wouldn't? Evil Geniuses have shown nothing but improvement throughout the Spring Split, and after an MSI they were able to test their metal against the best in the world, North American fans can only hope this group continues to grow.

Excellent team-fighting and skirmishing in the mid/late game is the foundation of the defending LCS champions evil masterplan. The only questions surround their plot for a repeat is their laning woes. Danny and Vulcan have consistently had rough early games, especially during the Spring Playoffs. Despite their issues during the early game, Danny and Vulcan are consistently excellent team-fighters, and if they level-up their laning, they will be near unstoppable.

I look forward to seeing EG in actions again, perhaps after the traditional post-MSI slump.

Ranking: Title Contenders – 1st to 2nd



100 Thieves

Coming into the Spring Split as the reigning LCS champions, 100 Thieves had made no changes, other than the inclusion of Tenacity, after a solid performance in a tough group at Worlds 2021. 100T had their fair share of troubles during both Spring and Lock-Ins, with Ssumday being the only thief to consistently perform throughout the split, being the rock that he has been for years. 100 Thieves as a team are almost entirely dependent on Closer having success during the early game. Throughout the Spring Playoffs, of the 6 wins 100T accumulated, 5 of those were games where Closer was able to have a great impact on the map during the early and mid game. Looking back at their finals against EG, Closer was near invisible, ending the series with a KDA of 3/9/6. This is compared to Inspired's KDA of 6/1/33.

Coming into the Summer split, I want to see more consistency from the Thieves, and the first step towards this is becoming less reliant on Closer or Ssumday to pop-off. The Thieves need Abbedagge to consistently be a threat on the map, otherwise I can't see them beating the other top teams come playoffs.

Ranking: Road To Worlds – 3rd to 4th



Team Liquid

One of the most hyped-up teams coming into the 2022 season, Team Liquid started off the season with a bang, winning the LCS Lock-in tournament. Coming into the Spring regular season, TL were expected have a strong showing and despite an unstable roster to start the split, TL finished first in the regular season with a record of 14-4. Which is the expectation with a roster with this level of talent and experience.

These expectations were met during their first 7 games during playoffs, starting their campaign with a well-fought 3-2 victory over the eventual champions EG and winning their first 2 games against 100T in the Winners Finals. Drafting to scale and team-fight botlane, countering top, and grabbing a strong skirmishing mid-jungle duo was working wonders during the first half of the playoffs. The second half was not as good though, as they went 0-6 on their way to an early vacation.

TL seemingly fell apart right before our eyes. Uncharacteristically bad decision making, and what seemed like a complete communication breakdown resulted in 6 of the most painful games to watch.

Coming into the Summer Split, TL needs to get back to what was working for them. If they can find their form from regular season and Lock-In, they will definitely be looking to dethrone the young genius'.

Ranking: Title Contenders – 1st to 2nd



Cloud9

To say that Cloud9 had a tumultuous Spring Split would be an understatement. From the hiring and firing of LS, to going 11-2 for the first 6 week and finishing with a 2-3 record in the last 2 weeks, to flopping out of playoffs, it was a one hell of an emotional rollercoaster.

Cloud9 played around their Spring MVP toplaner Summit, with botlaner Berserker filling a primarily weakside role. Summit would be drafted to carry, favouring champions like Gnar (5-2), Tryndamere (1-2), Camille (2-1) and Jayce (1-1). This playstyle collapsed towards playoffs, as the meta shifted and Ornn (90% PB%, 12W-8L) became the king of the toplane. When it came to competing against the other top teams, Summit couldn't create the same advantages he did in the regular season, and C9 wasn't able to adjust quick enough.

Coming into Summer, Cloud9 has completely changed gears. Fudge is returning to the Toplane, Jensen is back in the Midlane for C9 and Zven is making his return as the squads new Support. While Cloud9 hasn't made any major upgrades, they also haven't really downgraded either. Fudge was one of the best Toplaners in the LCS last year, Jensen has consistently been a top 3 Mid for years, and if Zven can transition smoothly into Support, I can see him complimenting the rest of the team quite nicely.

The changed roster will not result in any major changes stylistically, but it should allow for the team to be more flexible. While Fudge performed decently in Mid last split, he didn't seem as comfortable creating advantages and carrying games as he was in Toplane. Having an experienced Midlaner should enable C9 to control the map more comfortably, giving them more avenues to play out the game. The only questions mark will be Zven. Berserker had a fantastic rookie split, competing with both Danny and Hans sama, and with a subpar support, but if Zven doesn't transition smoothly, the system might falter again.

Ranking: Road To Worlds – 3rd to 4th



TSM

There is no question, TSM had an absolute dumpster fire of a Spring Split. They brought in LDL prospects Shenyi and Keaidou, as well as form Team Liquid

Botlaner Tactical and Head Coach Chawy. This roster never really got it footing, with frequent substitutes with TSMA Mid Takeover and Support Yursan hopping in and out of the line-up. This resulted in TSM going 1W-8L through the first 4 weeks, before they eventually decided on Takeover and Shenyi as the Mid and Support. This roster secured a 4W-5L record during the back half of the split, finishing at 5W-13L tied for last.

TSM made some changes in the offseason, picking up legendary Midlaner Maple, and picking up ESTRAL eSports support Mia. I'm hesitant to be excited for this roster though, for a few reasons. Firstly, Maple's results during the 2022 LPL Spring Split on Anyone's Legends was subpar, ending with a record of 2W-8L (20%) in the games he played compared to 11-21 (35%) without him. Secondly, TSM was completely disjointed throughout most of the spring split, but they looked to be improving towards the end of the split.

TSM has the individual pieces to contend for the opportunity to represent North America on their own soil at the 2022 World Championship. The question is whether they can pull the individual pieces together and compete against the best the LCS has to offer. Until then, they are in my mind a solid mid-table team in the same tier as FlyQuest.

Ranking: Playoffs Bound – 5th to 6th



FlyQuest

Now that the TSM fans have picked up their pitchforks, it is time to move onto FlyQuest. FlyQuest were the biggest surprise of the Spring Split, starting the split strongly with a 5-1 record. They ended the split tied with EG and GG with a 9-9 record and were knocked out of the playoffs by Evil Geniuses in a gentlemen's sweep.

FlyQuest is far from a star-studded roster, boasting only 2 players to have featured in a major regions All-Pro team, one of which only received the honour last split. What they lack in star power though, they make up for in how well they function as a team. They are the inverse of TSM, as the team as a whole is stronger than the sum of its parts. While aphromoo is undoubtedly still an absolute beast, and Josedeodo and toucouille are coming into their own, none of them are truly top tier in their role. The Mid lane was very weak last split, and though toucouille looked great, I don't see him performing better than any of; Bjergsen, Jojopyun, Jensen or even Abbedagge if he can return to form, this summer.

That being said, FlyQuest' solid Mid-Jungle-Support trio is enough to put them into playoffs. Adding in a passable ADC boosted by aphromoo, and a new rookie toplaner in Phillip, FlyQuest should have a successful summer campaign.

Ranking: Playoffs Bound – 5th to 6th



Immortals had the reversed season of TSM, starting decently with a 4W-5L record that had them in the playoff race, but collapsed during the back half of the split ending 5W-13L.

Coming into the summer, it is not surprising that IMT has changed up their roster. Their botlane was unstable, switching between veterans Arrow and WildTurtle, neither of which could find their footing. Their jungler Xerxe was struggling as well, having the lowest KP% of all junglers, the second lowest KDA of players with more than 1 game, and second highest DTH% of a all jungler with multiple games. It wasn't all doom and gloom for Immortals though, their solo lanes were quite solid, with Revenge and PowerOfEvil being consistent carries, despite issues with the rest of their team.

Bringing in a strong academy jungler in Kenvi, an experienced weakside ADC in Lost, and one of, in my opinion, the most underrated supports in the west in Ignar, Immortals have given themselves a solid foundation to play around their solo lanes. I expect Lost to fill the weakside role that he is known for, similar to his role on the 2021 TSM roster, and Ignar to be connecting with Kenvi to influence the topside map. The question is though, can Revenge grow further into his role as the centerpiece of this roster, or were the glimpses we saw last split just that, glimpses.

Overall, I like the changes Immortals have made, and am excited to see whether this roster can take steps forward towards the middle of the table.

Ranking: The Race For Playoffs – 7th to 9th



Golden Guardians

The Golden Guardians had an overall excellent spring, qualifying for the playoffs with a 9W-9L record. They were booted out by Cloud9 in a convincing sweep, but that is far from unexpected. Cloud9 were not a good matchup for GG, as they were a topside focused team, and that played perfectly into C9 plan, as they played as similar style, which they were simply less proficient at.

The only change made by the organization was to replace their ADC Lost, with LCS veteran Stixxay joining the roster after a split playing in Academy and coaching. This should allow for GG to be more flexible in their playstyle, as while Lost is a good weakside ADC, he is considerably worse when utilized as a strongside botlaner. Add in a stronger mid-jungle duo in Pridestalker and Ablazeolive, and solid veteran Top and Supports, GG has the chance to push into playoff, but only if they can find consistency in the mid and late game.

Ranking: The Race For Playoffs – 7th to 9th



DIGNITAS

Dignitas

While they did not manage to make playoffs, Dignitas had a relatively good first half of the year. The team found success playing through their bot lane, being the only team to frequently pick Caitlyn/Lux, and a strong early jungler like J4, to smash botlane. This worked well for Dig and allowed for Blue to pick stronger scaling champions to carry mid/late game team fights.

Dignitas had a major flaw though, which came in the form of their top laner, FakeGod. FakeGod was regularly exposed by the best of the top lane, and while he was permanently on the weakside, he consistently made mistakes that resulted in advantages for the opposing team. While I am not the most familiar with Gamsu's playstyle, from what I have seen he is a stable top laner, which I think will better fit Dignitas playstyle.

Ranking: The Race For Playoffs – 7th to 9th



Counter Logic Gaming

While CLG took steps forwards during the Spring Split, much of their success was based around their strong bot side of Luger and Poome, bring about the title of "Counter Luger Gaming". CLG's issues were entirely around the rest of the map, and more accurately, the lack of consistent help that the duo got. None of Contractz, Jenkins or Palafox could find consistency in their play, and it showed.

The only change the organisation made was to swap Jenkins for their academy top laner Dhokla, who has more experience than Jenkins on the LCS stage and could provide a more solid anchor in the top lane. While this change makes sense, the problem is the other teams around CLG have gotten better. TSM and Immortals have added strong veterans or promising new blood to their rosters, so while I think Luger and Poome will have an excellent split, the rest of their roster is simply way too inconsistent for them to be considered a true threat.

Ranking: Bud Light Aced – 10th



All information from this article is sourced from either <https://oracleselixir.com/> or <https://lol.fandom.com/wiki/>.