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Here we should buy this five inch LCD PVM replica for a cool six hundred and thirty dollars It's actually like really neat looking like it's cute.

How big is it five inches?

Why would you buy such a thing?

Cuz it's cute That's it.

No, I mean it's a tiny monitor.

There are PVMs that are that small This you're just not getting that screen quality.

You're purely buying this for the aesthetic It's a vibe it's a vibe piece But if you're doing that just get a bigger one.

Are they like insane?

A real PVM?

They're pretty expensive.

They're stupid.

I miss the the PVM boom I don't know anything about old TVs and you know, so I'm kind of glad that I don't Well, you know what you should if you know you're out at these sales See estate sales college sales, whatever.

I know like I know some older TV Yeah, for sure if I would just to see an old one out and about like I'd snatch it up So there there are three tiers of old tube TVs There's the consumer CRT, which is what you and I have had.

It's what I have now and There's so whatever you grew up with then there's PVMs and BVMs.

I think Broadcast video monitor and production video monitor and those just have higher resolution inputs Better screens and all that stuff.

So they were used in studios and security monitors They're the squares the deep big squares kind of TVs so and so retro game enthusiasts really love those because they have native RGB hookups and higher quality component video and you know, they just they look better there they were designed for making movies and TV and games and stuff so but then obviously that stuff gets phased out and new stations close their doors sell off all the equipment colleges

same stuff and then people pick them up and turn around and realize that they're worth something to a niche community, so They're very expensive Everything seems to be worth something to someone somewhere My selling things now.

Mm-hmm.

My CRT's got some like banding around the edges I think the tubes kind of out of alignment after being moved so many times But I can't find anyone local that would has the knowledge to repair it.

I look every few months Mm-hmm, and I'm not Brave enough to open the back of this thing Because you know, these things can kill you right Old TVs.

Yeah, so the tube in the back.

There's like this cathode electrical Thing on the top and there's a rubber cover over it and if you touch that while it has charge in it it can kill you Yeah, so these things are actually you know, it wouldn't be the worst way to die He died as we knew him messing around with old tech junkie technology cables, so You know, there's a proper way to let it discharge basically leave it unplugged for 48 hours 24 hours Even longer just let the electricity discharge and then it's it's an and then have proper safety equipment and there's no risk Like I've watched videos I've thought about it like to clean it out at least in the back there.

I'm sure it's so dusty inside that But I've never been I've never been brave enough Yeah, so Yeah, I just don't have the chops and I can't find anyone local I'm sure there is someone I just have not found a resource that would list that person because I would pay I'd pay someone to come out and calibrate it and You know tune it up I've been touched and what are you gonna play on it though?

Well, I play all my retro consoles or have hookups to it.

Yes in my mind.

I don't know Yeah, I guess it would just depend on what I'm collecting because there's some like old PlayStation I'm getting to the point where there's really nothing from older gens that I feel like I need to Go back and play on older platforms like og platforms, especially since I have a bat combat ps3 Which is yeah.

Well all ps3s are compact with ps1 all of them Play all of them all ps3s can play ps1 disc Every single one is true.

It's ps2 that you have compatibility with so the very first wave of ps3s had hardware level ps2 compatibility basically had a ps2 built inside it and Then they revised that to be a software Backwards compatibility that might be what I have actually because you have the Metal Gear one, right?

I'm so inviting the software version Yeah, I've tried some games on it in the past.

I've tried some games on it previously and they get a little wonky For sure could be I haven't I haven't studied up on my ps3 like or ps2 emulation I suppose on ps3 in a while, but that's my understanding of it It was hardware first software and then none of it, but every single ps3 is ps1 compatible, which is so I mean it's simpler I suppose and you actually get it's funny if you have the physical version of Metal Gear Solid And then you also own it digitally on ps3.

It looks sharper When you play it off the disc then it's softer On the digital version weird.

Yeah, it's it's very the ps3 is just a very weird machine.

I'm curious to see what the This ps4 ps5 version is gonna look like oh I Mean one because they've never done like a proper touch-up on that one even like in regards to the controls and stuff like that I don't think they have Like the all versions of the game.

I think still have like circle is like inner and stuff like that even so I do You're right.

I believe that is true the Closest I'm aware of this might be possible on ps3.

I know it's possible on PSP which is where I first Oh, you can re-map it.

So that but that's not in the game.

That's the software or the hardware And then obviously twin snakes complete remake of the game.

That's different too, but that's all this is.

Yeah So I'm curious to see what they do that one specifically I'm a little nervous and I shouldn't be because they've done really well with the Castlevania.

They've done really good in the collections like they something about Metal Gear 1 though just seems like they have Never been willing to touch that.

I don't know they have done good job though Like they even did like the turtle stuff.

That was them too That well among a collection was them That wasn't in-house.

They that digital clips did yeah Yeah, I guess I'm saying that's still that's still under their banner though is yeah, so I'm but I'm still a little nervous cuz I am too.

I'm I'm very I'm worried that Metal Gear Solid 2 and 3 are going to be different because remember that the reason they took them down was Those copyrights like trademarks or whatever lapsed for the historical footage So I'm wondering if they've like just cut things that they didn't want to spend the money to renew I'm curious how they run what kind of features what kind of behind the scenes it might have or if it is just a Here's the game which I mean is Sucks but also is good because there is no way to play that game on modern console hardware You can still buy it on GOG, but you can't play it anywhere else.

It's not yeah Well, you could buy it on ps3 still I suppose if you really wanted to they talk about this on Secret symbols pretty often Which I actually caught up on I know you're always like just abandon the previous episodes on my recent road trip I was able to catch up on it fine.

Okay.

Well that makes sense.

I have so much time So I like burn through like three or four episodes of it.

I'm I think I'm caught No, I think I have the latest episode of sacred but I did listen to the Garvin and Mumbauer, you know, I have not listened to that.

I don't really care to listen to those guys I haven't listened to the previous one and I was kind of curious how their web3 ashfall slash now trace war game is going it's I think mum, but or is interesting, but I don't think I think Garvin's a little bit too up his own butt With our God, I did get that vibe on Garvin a smidge and mum Bauer feels very much like a Like a West Coast tech, bro it's very interested in the latest and greatest and Leading edge of yes commerce and stuff and night That doesn't always drive with at least my stance on video games but they do have some interesting philosophical discussion the back half of the podcast is actually all about These AI tools and how they are impacting Creative work.

So it was interesting because Garvin apparently is very pro and uses them regularly which I Know he couldn't have used them on days gone, but it's somewhat I think that stuff honestly like I'm pretty pro AI when it comes to like Basic coding functions of games and stuff like that.

I know a lot of people have mentioned it like that seems pretty cool It's time.

I used it in my writing like work time That goes into games like that's probably because then now a lot of this allows the teams to focus more on the creative side of things I think um, I agree a lot of times I think it takes forever in game development to You know come up with an idea, but then it takes forever to see that idea in action and get a night and get it get some sort of notion of whether or not it's Good or good.

They yeah, they should continue to expand on or not And it sounds like AI can at least speed up that process to where you have some stuff in playable states a little bit more quickly so Yeah, I am anyhow, I've used it to get out of some writing block jams like, you know, I'll have like Three sentences four or five sentences like I want to say something like this, but I don't know how to condense it I've used that to like wordsmith my way down and then polish that up And then obviously we use the art which is a very helpful tool So I think in the context of tools, they're great But when you just try to use it To like replace the actual Human side of creativity any I was gonna say anything actually creative is where it's like what we like the whole secret invasion Opening it's like dude you are like I understood the point of why they did that but also Look horrible and it was just like you're you're Disney you're Marvel just pay People to come up with a cool intro sequence like again.

I am no but see I watched that show And I actually said when I first thought I didn't know it was AI like it had the the toner vibe of it But I just you know, it was cool I do think it fits with the the theme of the show though of having these creatures kind of like Take, you know the shape and form of things in weird ways I know it's not strictly about AI but I did think it kind of fit at least the cool idea of Secret invasion now is the show good?

No But I heard it's like truly truly terrible.

It's I talked about that.

Yeah, it's rough, man I I just finished it to finish it because I was like whatever I needed something But I hadn't laughed as hard as I had at the fin at the finale of anything in a while.

So that was pretty good I'll have to start watching.

I just realized Guardians 3 is on Disney Plus.

I somehow didn't even know that so I'll probably watch that at some point I need to watch Creed 3 at some point.

I'd like to watch Avatar 2 at some point You need a lot of stuff X September 15th on peacock, sir.

Oh my god, you're gonna make us wait another month Hello everybody and welcome to chapter select a seasonal retrospective podcast where we bounce back and forth between a series exploring its evolution Design and legacy for this season.

We are covering the Pokemon Franchise.

My name is max Roberts and I'm joined as always by Logan Moore.

Hi Logan This game is a brilliant turd a shining mess I have you besmirch the good name of Diamond and pearl I will not stand for this slander I'm coming right out the gate making it clear where I stand with this game Which I don't think is much of a surprise because I'm pretty sure in past episodes.

I've already yes said like I don't really like Diamond and Pearl that much Diamond and Pearl is a very good game, but you know, what else is good Logan What's that our members who support us over a super chapter select we can get longer episodes?

More discussion as well exclusive episodes we may we were just talking about we might be doing one here for Pokemon If Logan will ever play legends Arceus, which ties directly into Diamond and Pearl so there's all that it does.

Yeah our Extra bonus video content like for season six here.

We have our Pokemon battles this Diamond and Pearl this will be our seventh battle So you can check those out and see where we stand in this season long grudge Which may go past black and white too as we've talked about maybe Bringing everything forward to scarlet and violet for one last hurrah or maybe playing the stadium games as well So if all that sounds cool, and you just like to support the show you could do so over at listening with superpower Com for just \$20 a year so head on over to listening with superpower calm and thank you to all our members who do so already Good URL.

Thank one.

I'll have to actually continue to remember exists.

Yeah Yeah, remember exists.

Oh, I know it exists.

I just yeah you do but I If I recall you filled me in late that that was a thing like hey, I bought this domain and I was like what?

Yeah, domains are so cheap, man.

They are they are nowadays Max let's not waste any time this episode.

Let's get right into our rundown and then Because there's a lot I want to say and there's a lot you want to say and I think this is gonna be one of our more interesting Sort of back and forth episodes because of where we're both Coming from coming coming from with this game Again, Pokemon Diamond and Pearl was developed by game freak Max and I did play the remakes this time around and those were developed by is it Ilka or Elsa?

I think I'll CA I think it's nice.

I love computer art is what I was Reading up on as sure it stands for let's do that The games originally released on April 22nd 2007 for the Nintendo DS the remakes launched back in 2021 on Nintendo switch The original game director was Junichi Masuda the producers of the originals were Hiro Hiro Yuki, Jenai get Gakujiri, no Moto Hitoshi Yamagami and Hiroaki Subaru and then the music was done by go Ichinose Junichi Masuda and Hitomi Sato The metacritic scores on the original games were an 85 out of 100 you noted that platinum had a lower score, which is correct because What is that Pokemon's name?

I don't even know Palkia is worse than Dialga No, I'm sorry it well, yes, that is true.

Oh, I'm sorry.

That's that's for platinum.

That's not I'm not pearl I'm sorry.

No, that's interesting the same score okay, interesting interesting and then the I'll just throw this out there the remakes were panned largely 73 out of 100 now panned I said that's still passing grade.

That's a C I I do want to just say I'm not defending the games here.

I'm just talking numbers here Seven out of ten is not a bad game There's one.

Yeah.

No, I think mindset is bad Okay, it would be like five or four now.

It is a worse score It's hard because I have that same mindset as you and that's a mindset I have when I am personally reviewing games like if I give a game a three or a three and a half or something I'm like, that's a good score.

I think I like I enjoyed Portions of this game.

I just know That most other gaming outlets, especially those on metacritic Anything below a seven is where you start to get into like this game sucks territory a lot of outlets only use seven and above and why not just do a one out of three scale I guess I Numbers are dumb in review scores it to begin.

I think numbers are good The problem is that people don't use the full scale like that's that's the issue I think I think if we could break up I'll say this the problem actually for us in America is our grade system because I think we are We are bred to think that anything below 70 is failing because that's what it is in school So that's probably where that derives from I have always believed It's darn education system.

But yeah max I'll start with you and your history on this one because I know this is the one that you have an extensive I've saved this is all you have.

I've seen you have seven episodes of You have no histories with anything else moving forward.

So I have a little bit with X But yeah, you're right this um, this is my great return to Pokemon as a as a kid so listeners may remember back at the beginning of this season I was I had Pokemon blue and I was and the Pokemon cards the whole Deal and my parents thought I was too obsessed with it and made me get rid of it all in a pretty Horrific way I had to shred all my Pokemon cards and get rid of the games You Logan you just found all your old Pokemon cards and I was seeing the cards that I had it and it caused me great Pain like actually seeing the cards themselves because I really haven't seen them In two parents should be forced to pay you in damages Because those cards are so expensive now I send them articles when like a Charizard goes for hundreds of thousands of dollars and like yeah, did you have a Charizard?

Yeah.

Oh That's insane.

Like one of the og holographic Charizards.

I Remember having a Charizard I cannot speak to if it was og or holographic.

I remember having a Charizard I remember one of the original sets like at a minimum.

Those are about one Eighty to two hundred dollars now like thing crazy I remember missing my bus stop in Kindergarten because I was trading Pokemon cards with other kids in the back of the bus and the bus driver was furious with me.

So yeah, I so left Pokemon in some time in elementary school and then Come back here to the Nintendo DS in the release of diamond in 2007.

So I'm 13 years old it was going to be my 13th birthday actually that June and I kind of Read Nintendo Power went online was reading all about it and made this big Portfolio of all these articles to like prove to my parents that I was old enough and mature enough at the ripe young age of 13 To play Pokemon and this actually also coincided with Zelda and the Phantom hourglass I was like, I'm old enough to play these games again because they did the same thing with Zelda because it had a witch in it and so They said yes and that birthday a few months later was like the Pokemon blowout where I got not only Pokemon diamond, but also Pokemon Ranger I Specifically asked for because I wanted to get a manaphy That's the only way at the time to get a man if he was to play Ranger transfer the egg I remember this and I never bit on I never bit on Ranger personally.

I think I just rain I remember having fun with it the whole draw circles around it.

Yeah.

Yeah those I think the third Ranger game is actually quite expensive Yeah, one of them is really expensive.

The first one I know Isn't to my knowledge, but what I don't believe so I think the third one is pretty pricey So I only played the first one and then I would actually eventually go on to get mystery dungeon blue rescue team and then also explorers of time so You know this you're going way harder than I was in this era I like I was a Pokemon kid and I wasn't even I didn't play any of those spin-offs well, I was so starved at the time yeah, and I the DS was the thing and I It's probably the handheld I've played the most and I just was pouring everything into it now hindsight Probably should have been going to GameStop and buying those older games that I had missed because I would have Made a killing I would eventually get some of those cartridges later on but then I'd sell them.

It's a whole story filled with regret so I'm back and I'm playing diamond and I'm Obsessed with it, right?

I think the final clock was like 120 130 hours I Went all out in this game and once I beat it and you know had my fill with it Then I got an action replay.

So then I'm in there Hacking the game and having fun with that so that I'm using like pokasov to make Pokemon on the computer I even made YouTube tutorials like here's how you do this and I would give Pokemon the crazy moves and abilities So like I really just was living in In cinna did these Pokemon tutorials still exist on the internet somewhere?

Yeah.

Yeah, I'll throw one in the show notes I'll throw them in the show.

Okay, and Then platinum would come out a year or two Two years later really which is Wow But I remember following the news for that in Japan and I got platinum and I played that a ton too.

Giratina is cool I still have my Giratina figure that I got for pre-ordering the game.

I Really?

This was the generation I came back and then I didn't pick up black and white.

I didn't pick up black I don't know why I Did very strange actually.

Yeah I think I skipped gold and silver Because I was like I didn't play those games and it would have been the perfect time to play them, right?

I don't know.

My man is just like I didn't do it.

And so I wouldn't come back to Pokemon again till X and I kind of dropped off of that quickly.

I'm sure we'll discover that in the coming episodes probably maybe why that happened and then really I didn't come Arceus was the last game I played before we did this season of like yeah really digging into and Ironically, that's Sinnoh as well, right?

so I Have this is this is the game.

I'm most nostalgic for it.

This is the decks.

I'm most nostalgic for which I think is actually Really funny now having the context of six other games and kind of looking at where Sinnoh sits so But it's there is the nostalgia now coming into the episode.

I knew that would be so strong with me almost like Sapphire and Ruby were for you too.

Yeah.

Yeah, and so I did try to I wanted to separate that as much as possible because There there are some like Pokemon issues with this game Which is interesting to have but my nostalgia has softened that Reaction I think just personally but the critical eye sees it and acknowledges it for sure and I'm sure we'll talk about all of this but I'm really curious where you are because I Would think as a kid You know you were playing the Gameboy Advance games games the DS comes out the logical thing is Pokemon's coming to the DS and it does The Diamond and Pearl where were you back in 2007?

What were you doing?

So I bought these games on day one.

I was there I had pre-ordered them.

I was like both I got diamond my brother got pearl we pre-ordered them That's what happened to me and my brother and we got them at GameStop and they gave us the special edition Styluses and I still have my Diogo ones somewhere you can look this up If you would like they had like they had like a special edition stylus that came with it That just had like Diogo at the top of it like a little oh my gosh figure of Diogo there at the top So I got that and I was playing it.

Yeah, I was hyped as can be for this and I played through it I got to the end So this is this is the weird thing about diamond for me.

So like in the moment I didn't like the first playthrough.

I didn't really dislike the game and I think I played through it maybe a couple times actually Did you just send me this?

Oh, yeah, there it is.

That's it.

Yeah, that's it.

That's awesome Then there's a pokie one too.

So anyway, I played through the game.

I liked it may have played through it a time or two and Then because I had been playing everything up to this point, you know I had all my old Pokemon on my GBA games and they allowed you to transfer them via the power park Which you unlocked at the end of diamond which was a whole which is not really a thing in the remakes here that we played Can I just say something really quick?

Yeah, how cool is it that the Nintendo DS would let you put in a Game Boy Advance game and you could link it between The DS cart like you you didn't need two systems anymore like that blew my mind as a kid Not that I use that feature because I didn't have those games but I do remember like mystery dungeon if you had fire red or um Red rescue team and blue rescue team the two could talk to each other.

Yeah, I was so neat.

I It was really cool and I liked having I liked being able to get all my Pokemon that meant something to me from my Leaf green and resaffire runs and my emerald runs and bring them over I wish it wouldn't have limited it to six a day I wish you could have just done a mass import like I don't know if you knew how that function but you would have to Go to the park You would have to have the cartridge in that you wanted to import them from you would have to select Six and then you would have to go catch them And then it would say like that's it for today and then you couldn't go back until 24 hours later And then you have to do it again.

So if you want to like mass you had to catch them Yes like Basically, you would just run around in the grass and then they would show up and there was only the option to throw ball And it would can you just it would just catch you.

Okay the way Yeah, so but you would have to like catch them and so it was like a long Import process and I wish you could have done it more quickly Anyway, so I did all of that and I played like I said, I played the game a couple times I don't know.

Here's the weird thing about diamond for me and I wasn't really I Don't know what my thought process was here And this is by far the worst thing I have ever done this still haunts me to this day at some point I just was like, you know, I had this diamond cart that had Dozens and hundreds of Pokemon on it that I had trained up across Different games different platforms different everything.

I was just sick, you know I'll sell it to GameStop and I traded it in for some reason.

I don't know why I know why you did it It's the same because I wanted in my Pokemon games because it was worth 30 40 bucks Okay.

Yeah, cuz I'm a kid and I don't have a job and I want that whatever the hot new game is That's about to come in.

So yeah, that's why I did it But something like I told myself like I'm not really into Pokemon and I'm not really into this anymore and that's true I did think the post game of diamond was not great.

I didn't think there was like much to do compared to Ruby and Sapphire which just felt so I mean, maybe this wasn't true at the time But it just felt like there was so much more to kind of explore and uncover in those games Like we when we played those like there was the whole you know underground areas and the different that like like the different Walls and stuff you could read that are all made out of like there's a lot of like secret stuff in those games that you could Just straight-up never see But there's a lot of that in These games too, I guess I don't know There's stuff in here.

There's totally can skip there's a lot of legendaries is Reggie Giygas in this game or Reggie Giygas I believe so.

Yes.

I remember I think getting them I think so Darkrai, Shaymin, Rotom, well Darkrai and Shaymin, Darkrai and Shaymin.

They were event.

Yeah, they were event stuff, but it was like Giratina Heatran Reggie Giygas, Reggie Giygas, whatever you say it.

Arceus, I think Arceus was another event.

Yeah, so yeah, like there was like legendaries and stuff like that You could catch postgame, but then there really just didn't seem to be a whole lot else Anyway, long story short I sold it At some point and I'm not really sure Why um, oh wait.

No.

Oh, yeah, Reggie Giygas was Gen 4, there it is So yeah, I just sold it and I Mean that weird thing is I don't know what my thought process was at the time Again, it probably was just as simple as I would like money and I'm not playing this game anymore Because then moving forward it wasn't like I then didn't get you know Heart gold and soul silver and black and black and white black and white too like I was still buying every it wasn't really until Because then I bought X and Y right away and I bought Sun and Moon right away.

It wasn't until, right?

Yeah, no, I bought Sun and Moon right away at launch.

I just didn't play it.

I bounced off and Then Omega and Ruby I didn't buy at launch, but I got a little later and then I bounced off of that too it wasn't until I Guess yeah, Ultra's Sun and Moon.

I I never grabbed like cuz then when we get to the shield we get to yeah Sword and shield I've had since launch, but I didn't I just never played until we did it for this show So I've still like had and purchased all the Pokemon games like at or around launch.

So anyway, I don't know why I Abandoned shipped on diamond and sold my cart that had everything on it cuz like that that haunts me now cuz like we're doing this season like and if I still had that cart with like 20 year old Pokemon on it.

That would just be so cool to me.

Yeah Like even though it's I mean at the end of the day, it's just Whatever, you know ones and zeros.

Yeah.

Oh, yeah.

It's just a Freaking a Rayquaza is a Rayquaza, but it's like it would be way cooler if it's the Rayquaza that I was Fighting to capture in Pokemon sapphire when I lived in Cordova Drive back in Indiana Indianapolis, so Yeah, I don't know.

There's like a there's there's that sort of element to it Anyway, no, I totally I totally get that that it's your Pokemon, right?

And then yeah, they're gone because you It's like having a dog getting rid of the dog and then you're like, oh man, I wish I didn't get rid of that dog Yeah it in a weird way it's There is a nostalgia to it.

And I think The cool thing is is I don't think from here on out Really?

I'd say I guess the DS era 3ds era more concretely with the Pokemon Bank But nothing will never lose Pokemon again if you can't we should subscriptions.

Yeah You like I will never lose This batch of this Torterra this Garchomp like I'll never I'll never sell like sell the game.

I don't lose the Pokemon the Pokemon are with me now, which I think is a really good thing For this franchise to maintain what's funny though is I say all that I like kind of reminisce and I'm nostalgic about this game but Once again, as I said at the top this game is not good and I don't know Mmm, let me set this up before we get into kind of your counters like I want to broadly Pay me the picture.

I was gonna say I want to broadly explain why I think this game is bad.

Give me it is just simply This is Pokemon by the numbers to me this game like there is nothing Unique or original that I feel like this game tries to do whatsoever It very much comes across as the first Pokemon game like like its main selling point was just we're on DS now And there's new Pokemon and that's like kind of it It is crazy to me how?

Little of interest this game like there is just Especially because we played the remakes too and I think on the DS game You know like the poke at your pokey at your whatever about the pokey why I've always called with a different attack But I heard someone call it a poke poke at in a video.

I'm like, oh maybe yeah, I said it wrong my whole Well, it's supposed to be a watch so it can't be tech And it's etch.

So I think it's pokey at okay.

Okay, okay So, um, oh that is like all the D better on the DS where you can actually touch it and it's out of the way Yeah on the DS it like serves an actual function for that to be there And again, none of those apps in it are like anything revolutionary But still like that comes across as a little bit more novel and unique and the remakes you can just like you and I both Hit it.

It's like nope get this out of here.

I hit it until the end game Yeah, there's some useful stuff so like but yeah, I just think the There is nothing Interesting about these games whatsoever.

I think the story is super bland on all fronts I think that in the end, I think team galactic is one of the most boring Factions that doesn't really have a clear Goal, then it doesn't feel like interesting.

I think the through line of becoming a champion is so boring It's just typical.

Oh get a Pokemon and go out and you have a rival It's just they don't do anything interesting and with that compared to previous games, you know Like we mentioned a lot like silver and gold where it's like your rival is a criminal Like like different things like rival in this game just has a TD Yeah, basically Which is a change of pace from one of your rivals in the last game being like a sickly boy Definitely a huge difference, but just it seems like On all fronts there is nothing remarkable about this game whatsoever and That is in tandem with the fact that we could talk about this too in a bit I think the decks in this game is straight-up terrible It's very bad and I

and you kind of talked about that with me earlier about how there are some like Glaring holes in this pokey decks, which are very bizarre Yeah, it's a weird decks.

Um Okay, let's Bring it back.

I was gonna say where do you want to start?

like I started I kind of want to start with the broad brushstrokes right just the lack of Uniqueness, I suppose one of my first notes I wrote down This is low-key a remake of Gen 1 Certainly a template for the beginning here.

So yeah it really is they just try to play the hits once again, and so as An adult a nearly 30 year old man who's playing all the Pokemon games in very close proximity For most of these for the first time.

This is so obvious to me.

It's like oh But as that 13 year old who hadn't played Pokemon and you know Yeah, it was ripped out of his hands.

This is I didn't know what I had missed in the Intervening years.

This was like the great comeback.

So I'm very aware of that dichotomy within myself of just These different perspectives but it is The it's not just the skeleton of one It's it's got some of the meat on it still and they kind of just patch some new things there.

So that is It makes me wonder why they would have done it and three Sapphire and Ruby were so I Don't want to say starkly different Because similar I guess the most unique part of it was The geography and yeah, you'll the dual villain thing Yeah, well the I was gonna say the geography of that That was what was so jarring coming back to this for me is like a lot of people I you know Bash on sapphire and Ruby for the oh too much water and stuff like that And it's like a problem where that is like a legitimate gripe to have with the game But it does stand out as greatly unique within the context of the larger Pokemon series that like the whole lightning Eastern side of that map is dedicated to some sort of water exploration this game by comparison has Nothing that is unique in that regard.

No, I'm I'm gonna I want to push a little bit I'm gonna bring up like the swamps and stuff like that.

No, no, I think having the region divided by Mount Coronet is Pretty cool in the way that there are there are differences on each side of the mountain For types at shellos is probably the most like obvious example like which which side of the mountain are you on yeah different shallows and I I Really?

I love snow point city.

I love that that verdict I love the verticality kind of stretch here in it and that is a vision That is one of the best parts of the game is getting to that area and making your way towards snow point city it's really great and I think the I do think probably the most unique and interesting bit about Sinnoh is It's heavily emphasized as like the origin point of the world and they lean into that with Dialga being time and Palkia being space and all this stuff But there's like the origin of Pokemon in the mystery of that and that's even more prevalent now with legends Arceus being

out and you know it being essentially the the centuries prequel to Sinnoh there is This world is surrounded in a lore.

What's that town called Coronet town?

With the yes, the grandmother.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah this I think that I find that more interesting it's more of a a Global lore instead of just a legendary lore of Here's a cave painting of Kyogre and Groudon fighting it's more like here's how our world came together and how the Pokemon came to be and Everyone is talking about it at some point of like I disagree on that front Like I think that I think this game's storytelling in terms of its world and how it ties into the legends is very very sparse I think previous talking like specifically about Dialga and Palkia.

I'm talking to just the I think the lakes and just It feels like there's history here and I was and I was looking asking myself You know is this history because I'm nostalgic for this game is there or because I played RCS earlier Whenever that came out And that's really cool.

Actually, you know when you play RCS you see these callbacks To certain characters and places like the town the main town in RCS is Jubilife, you know, and that's where it builds up from So that that you know, that's just cool on the front, but I really do think like there's this Everyone just seems to be asking questions about Where things came from and how they came to be and was it always like this and how to Pokemon interact with the world and?

like why why is the world the way it is and In in that way of Pokemon, it's not like this deep Profound storytelling people are asking like I did the the heat ran stuff in the postgame this time around and like is it Brock or Whatever the kid takes the stone is like causing earthquakes and stuff and they put it back and there's just this lore surrounding the volcano And how it it doesn't erupt and they keep the peace with the environment and the Pokemon and stuff.

I It's cool that they were tackling the origin and I'm a sucker for prequel storytelling as anyone who knows me knows so I'm certainly more biased toward that than Something else where you know Here's a giant fish who made it rain.

I Think I like the giant fish that makes it rain.

I Think that's my problem with this game though Is that I do agree that a lot of those themes and ideas are cool, and I just don't think they are taken To their furthest extent and I don't think they are leaned into as much as they could be in fact I think a lot of it is sort of back loaded to the final Town or two that you get to and then leading up to the eventual confrontation on top of the mountain with Dialga and Team plasma Like a lot of it is very heavily funneled into the final moments of the sort of overarching That arc within the game's story.

I noticed that this time around Galact team galactic is is like not Really present in most of the game and they don't really clearly state their vision beyond just sort of being like We're here in a new world.

Yeah, we just were here to make a new world and what does that look like?

I don't know.

We're in this Valley Windworks though, and we're gonna scare away the balloon out front like they don't really like every other groups goals were kind of Stated more clearly from the outset.

I felt like With team magma and team aqua.

I felt like it was a little bit more clearly defined team rockets Just bad guys kidnapping Pokemon, which is much more straight Magma was like we're gonna make more land and that'll be good for Pokemon and then team aquas We're gonna make more water and it's good for Pokemon I'm not saying it's ingenious But I'm just saying this guy was I make a new world and it'll be better for people which I thought that is a day actually Distinction he wasn't doing it for the poke That's the thing he takes a bit to even show up like you start running across the galactic people early and you're like who the heck Even are these people like they don't really they just kind of like appear out of nowhere and it's like who are what's going on here like they they there's really no sort of introduction to them and who they are and No one in the world really contextualizes like oh, yeah, there's this group that's been run running around and this is their aim they just kind of Show up and you're fighting them And I think that I think those that's what I'm saying Like this the ideas of this story I think could have been much better than what was actually put into the game I think they could have just been Flush fleshed out better.

I think there's a really interesting core here And I think the the team galactic like arc whatever however you would describe that Well, there's always like that are saying the earth.

There's always like two or three arcs in Pokemon game or there's a there's a legendary arc there's the the little group arc and then there's the champion arc.

Yeah, and so With this I really think the galactic arc pick the only pickup and it is when they start terrorizing the three lakes and you got to go to each of them and When they blow up like they actually blow up the lake they have an actual act of terrorism.

They succeed in some way I think that's actually pretty neat it's it's a glimpse of the potential that could have been there and You know, what is the seam What's the leader's name?

Do you even Cyrus?

I literally just look this up I was like, I'm not gonna think of his name here.

So Cyrus, you know He's like he took the three the lake legends and like made it tortured them made it up Like there's a really kind of evil team rocket bad to Pokemon kind of energy, but with a more destructive team magma aqua kind of angle to it But it's all rushed and condensed into that Do three lakes and then go to the top of the mountain.

I think that part's really good, but the rest of team galactic is kind of Which yes is a bummer because I remember them being really dope and clearly That was just 13 year old max thinking it was dope But I wish they could have maybe had a bit more of a build-up a bit more of an active role.

Yeah, I like them actually Impacting the environment wish there was a little bit more of that.

So this is a potential but I will say you know, we just did ultra Sun ultra moon and that team rainbow rocket stuff Having Cyrus show up there and be like I succeeded is this my new world like that was kind of that's a great moment And yeah, that's really cool to see that come to fruition.

I do remember in platinum They like go into a portal into like this dark realm with Giratina and stuff so there are maybe it's a bit more it maybe it's a bit better in platinum and It's interesting what they did and didn't include from platinum in these remakes Which is a bit It's interesting.

I never played platinum.

I'll give these games Like yeah, I do like that they incorporate Uxy, Mespier and Zelf three the three like Pokemon I like that they're kind of incorporated into the III like those interconnecting elements that like there's the three Lake Where they called Guardians or whatever the heck?

Yeah, it's the dogs The birds.

Well, I was just gonna say I like that They're incorporated they're tied in with the larger legends which are the Olga and Palkia and they have like there's like a sort of Interconnectivity but every all of them all of them feel like they have even heat training through heat ran or dark rye or Celestia Shaymin and Arceus, there's also Celia Chris Elliott.

Thank you.

There's all some sort of like guardian Ancient angle to them right dark rye with nightmares Shaymin with grass fields Bringing people together Arceus is literally the god Pokemon.

I was gonna say they get they go kind of crazy in this game They're like a space one that controls space and time one that controls the ground and Stuff they definitely kind of primal Origin.

Yes of earth which all feeds into Sinnoh being the start of Yes, my world things those are types of storytelling elements that I love but I do get that it's Well, I mean, yeah to kind of maybe well I don't know if there's anything else we want to say about story we can come back to it in a second But I did want to mention the pokey decks and how we talked about it wasn't that good that is the one thing that I think this pokey decks does very well is the legends Legends in this game are expansive.

There is a lot of cool ones a lot of very different unique ones Cool typings to some of them to like Giratina being a ghost dragon is awesome.

I really like that I wish like it sucks with the remakes again.

We talked about the remakes and we'll talk more specifically about what I do want to do It sucks that you cannot get dark ray and Shaymin to my knowledge in these or did they do events for them?

So just they did do an event last year So, okay, but no no, no No, that was the big thing when I saw that direct and was like we have this event But and I looked it up, but you had to beat the game and I was like, well, I'm not gonna beat it In time for ya fence sucks.

I missed getting you know, the special card and doing the shaman thing And so while I can't do the events in the game, you still can get those Pokemon Okay in our CS So if you have a brilliant diamond or shining pearl save data In the end game in the post game of our CS you can do missions that let you catch both of them Which I did do because I've always wanted legitimate dark right and shame it.

Yeah, I was able to do that.

So totally still accessible You just have to play another game, which is fine.

I'll probably do that You'll play it eventually so you can still get them good and I caught them fairly easy.

They're level 70 each of them.

So It was I actually it was very important to me It felt like to make sure I did that it felt like a rite of passage for my 13 year old self to at least interact with them and in the game in some way instead of Hacking through I was just saying well if you're like me you used to like look that stuff up on the internet and like see People like capture themselves doing it and you're like, is this real?

Can I do this in my game?

Like I would watch people and how they would catch our CS and I'm like, that's Wait, where do you get this flute?

And then I'm like trying to figure out like this hotel card like there's that one locked hotel in The the port town off to yeah, and it's like how do you get in there?

Yes, so that's so cool as a kid The lore is good to just yeah, I mean to kind of tie off some of the story stuff we talked about Again, that's my main complaint is I just sort of like more out of this.

I think there is Missed opportunity everything that is in this game regarding its story.

I will say I do not think is like outright bad by any means it is just very kind of It's straightforward in the sense that you know There's an evil group.

They want the Legendary Pokemon, what do they want to do with it?

They want to get it for themselves so they can create a new world and like there's really no deviation from past games in that sense Specifically, you know like Sapphire Ruby there's a lot of commonality between the goals of team galactic and team Magma and aqua just as far as we want the legendary so we can control things the world.

Yeah change Yeah in some way so like in that sense I I think just their motives and goals are very uninteresting and boring and I think galactic fails to stand out But like you said like some of the deeper Themes and ideas of space and time and origin points that stuff I think is cool, and I just would have liked to have seen it included a little bit More like even like I think about like kind of the beginnings of the game like why wasn't like Like like just sprinkling it in a little bit more because I don't remember these things being sprinkled in throughout the game like when Rowan Gives you the pokey decks you could say something like you're about to explore Senna, which is The origin point for our one I want to know about the mysteries of evolution Yeah, yeah like that's like the Yes, I don't know.

Can we just that's what X&Y does oh gosh That's what X&Y is I thought you were referring to that that's a little professor Rowan is the professor of evolution He wants to know the step the impetus in X&Y is to we need to figure out what mega evolutions are So So like that's I think they could have like tied it in a little bit more to like the Rowan stuff and the stuff with Dawn or what is the character so you played as dawn?

They're the girl character actually what is the male characters name if you because I've never done that honestly Look Lucas Okay, I think it's Lucas.

Okay um Yeah, like I feel like they could have tied that in a little bit more Rowan in this game is just sort of like there You really had Lucas.

Yeah, it's dawn and Lucas I don't know there was there's a way to interconnect these different Story beats a little bit more than I think they did it feels very sort of incoherent as a result Segmented for sure yeah, I don't know how you felt about like The gym and champion three-line stuff in that front again.

I don't feel like it's anything Super unique Like I don't know like Cynthia's obviously a character people love at the end of the game is considered one of the best champions ever Great music.

She's I think she's one of the best that we've I certainly like her more than Steven certainly from a battle perspective You know her showing up.

She's kind of specifically she kind of shows up throughout your adventure like most champions It's like oh go check this out for me here here.

Go do this or give side.

There's some medicine I hear some medicine for some side X go visit my grandma you know so it's It's but you know it's a little interesting.

She's not as engaged I think narratively as I personally would like a champion to be yes, but I Think her design is cool.

You know the all-black the hair loop ease the whole deal I think she's she's visually pretty cool, and she you know it's pretty obvious.

It's like oh I'm the champion just walking around helping out.

It's cool there, but you know wish she could have maybe Done more it feels more like that segmenting I think please I Was just gonna say these older Pokemon games always felt like they tried to surprise you at the end like with who the champion was like surprise Surprise, I'm Steven and I was the champion all along and I never told you and then they do the same thing here in this game With Cynthia, I think they could just kind of like Come out with that a little bit earlier in the story like there's like more things We really loved about sword and shield was we knew who the champion was the end then you're kind of like a champion You're kind of like building to that over the course of the game they even do it in a cool way with like I think of back to Silver and gold like you Lance is like pretty present throughout that game and so when you get to fight him towards the end It's this is a you've seen Lance in battle, and you know he's very strong except He's kind of easy to beat because he's only cut track.

I just ice them all to death I size baby But like you get to see His power like on full display, and you like there's a couple different games where they do that and otherwise Like with Steven and simply Cynthia They're just these kind of like Shadowy characters that you don't really know about and then they sort of surprise you at the end where it's like I'm actually mega powerful.

I got a car chop like me She could have been in a little bit more, and I think they could have had some better scenes with her in it for sure But that doesn't take away from her final fight or anything like that necessarily.

Yeah, that's the interesting thing about the champion is like They could have very little presence in the game, but if the battle is good, then it's a you know Yeah, they get like a pass which is interesting.

I do The rival I want to kind of touch on the rival a little bit She is better than oh my gosh.

What's the kids name with?

Wally Wally, I was gonna say will one of the last game what he's better than Wally Wally and may features the boy character.

Yes in the previous game, but He's not like he's terrible dude.

He's pretty rough.

He's really rough.

He he's the typical like I'm going to be the best How do you keep eating me he's so one note?

Yeah, it's a it's a real bummer There's like no character development.

That's interesting like throughout the course of the game with him whatsoever.

I do like Like like in the wall you I would even say I know you hated Wally, but I would even say there's like Wally has an arc.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Well, he has an arc and like actual character development.

Oh, yeah Your rival in this game, which I named ugly max.

Thank you for that by the way.

Yeah I do like the physical comedy of him, which I think is kind of hard to do in a 2d game and pseudo 3d He he is very comedic always running and bumping into people and always shouting that you owe him a million fine He's gonna find you a million dollars.

Oh, I thought I was cringe I think it's cute in a in a like a goofy kid way, right?

He's like a kid.

Yeah.

Yeah, like I think that's fun I also really Maybe it's just because of where we've been we just came off ultra Sun, but I really respect them not Making him the final fight like after so Yo, he just won doing the red and blue thing of like he just won.

So now he's the champion I really respect that they make you fight right before you go to the elite four You can heal up and then you just do the elite four in Cynthia like that actually Feels really good and the right way to handle that and then in the post game you run into him around

the battle tower and on mount stark, so It's cool that they at least know his place, you know, they don't elevate him to utmost importance Yes, I think Just don't him.

I just don't have much else to say about him to be honest like he's very The version of that character that you see in the opening minutes of the game is kind of the same version that you're seeing by The conclusion and he also has a really soft team.

I have to say one of the yeah He's and it takes him a long time to bring them like fully up Yes, like fully all of them.

It's like he keeps going like how do I keep losing him?

Like maybe cuz your team sucks Like Wally actually had some kind of like interesting Pokemon on his team that I remember Gary or whatever blue always had like pretty cool unique team in those games I felt like Yeah, that's not that is not true here in this game with your rifle.

What is his name?

It's just whatever you name him, I guess.

Yeah, I called him.

Not sure I'm not sure if there's a cannon name for there's probably a cannon name from the show.

It surely is Barry his name is Barry.

Cue the jazz music.

I'm not sure if he wanted to talk any further About the Pokedex itself.

I figured we can maybe do that since we've already kind of touched on it a bit.

Yeah, so This is part of my Pokedex troubles.

I think cuz when I came to this game at 13 I had no idea what was new or what was oh Well, you know gen 2 or gen 3 it was all new to me So this Dex in my brain is is warped where certain ones of these Pokemon's really were from Ruby and sapphire or I mean you probably saw stuff like a crow bat and steelix and you're like, whoa What's that like I knew what a steelix was but like you hadn't even been exposed to those things technically.

Yeah, so So my brain really struggles with like separating them because to me they're they're all if they weren't Red and blue Pokemon, which I did know They were all diamond pearl Pokemon.

So I do but looking at this list building the team the 151 like not like a strong group here and We've talked about this huge lack of fire.

Like where's the fire?

This is not cool there's literally if you do not choose infernape as your starter, then your options are rapid ash or ponyta and Then what I did for this game if I if I cuz I wanted a fire type But I didn't want to choose infernape because I usually choose infernape and if using a scum tank

Because it learns flamethrower like there is just like there are huge just glaring holes in this Pokedex Once again, like there are no electric types outside of like there's luxray That's it.

And then there's like peak and then there's Pikachu and that's it.

So So that's the the core 151 but then They do the thing To get the national decks.

You have to see all 151 now.

I don't know if that was a thing in Ruby and sapphire.

I don't like the originals because I think it was That I'm assuming that was the case and if so credit where it's due and that's cool, but since I was doing postgame stuff here in brilliant diamond to build my team I Had to run around and see everything and this kind of sparked this really I Thought this was really cool actually Just you you probably felt the same way I felt with sun and moon because I did a lot of postgame stuff in those games and I was like I'm feeling like very compelled to capture things in this game that I haven't so the previous games we played Yeah, and so the fire under me was I wanted a Skarmory which is on route 227 and I Do you need the national decks to get there?

And so I went through and looked at everything I was missing Compiled a list and then I loaded up Arceus wouldn't caught them because it's easier to just go catch them in that game.

How sad is that?

Well, it's like someone's just like hidden or yeah, you can just you can see what you're catching.

Yes That's the easy Yeah, and so then I imported them all over through Pokemon home filled my decks up even brought like Palkia over from Arceus so like I saw everything so I could get the whole decks and but then unlocking it and then having I feel like at least this is where my brain taps out to like How the 490 Pokemon like there we go.

That's all the Pokemon I need.

I don't need a thousand that seems like too much but it's cool to have It felt cool to me in this moment to have like the national decks and it actually be everyone From so you did fill like full complete national decks in this game.

Not a national X That's the the regional one the cinodex to get the national decks Mm-hmm, so I haven't checked the numbers, but I'm okay in the two between two and three hundred I'd have to imagine cuz I'm okay to catch a lot and do a lot so yeah, but I was really having fun like seeing everything in the game and When you get into the post game Everything on that island in that big circle with Mount Stark and stuff You start seeing the diversity goes way up and I also noticed it in the grand underground as well the diversity spikes and you're seeing Pokemon From all over and I think that was that was really cool to me this time around Considering that we've played all the other games up to this point.

So like I really was recognizing Every I felt actually like I had some Pokemon knowledge For the first time really this season and and that was cool.

So I do think This is probably just a more broad Pokemon thing but when When you know the decks and when they bring back the old Pokemon in the right way it is very satisfying to see them and interact with them and catch them and battle them and While the cinodex is pretty

weak pretty weak, I think the payoff of having to fill that see that weak decks to get everyone and that's where all the cool legend air, you know, the extra legend errors were talking about are hiding and just you can get everyone and they Even bring in so, you know, if you have a deoxys there's those stones and and is it fella stone You can do know you could do anything with the deoxys in this game.

There are four stones Over on the right.

Oh, it changes like it changes your fence.

Yes, okay form in the animal So I remember thinking that was really cool as a kid.

Yeah, you know, there's I never had So you can change well, I've hacked a deoxys in so I was like do all that stuff So there's the world kind of flushes out once you get the national decks and I think that was a way they made it feel Bigger and that was pretty cool But yeah, main decks week main decks is I mean the thing I want to say about the main decks is just there is a huge lack of You mentioned variety, but just some of the typings are straight-up terrible to like so you and I did our Pokemon battle earlier And I was talking to you about like how Empoleon has got to be The worst starter Pokemon in the history of Pokemon because it's literally weak to both of the other starter types in this game like Infernape can it define it because it's a fight Yeah Infernape can because it has that steel typing and then becomes weak against an infernape because it's a fighting type and then it's by default weak to Torterra or Turtwig or whatever So like Empoleon is such a wash in this game Which meant then means there aren't any other water types to be honest in this game either Like there's the Shellos Which is evolved into Gastrodon and then you have There's one other I'm trying to think of I'm scanning the decks here Well, they add like they had a couple like new baby forms in this game to like Azurill, Mime Junior Stuff like that.

Finneon was the one I was thinking of that they add as well They also add Mantyke is another baby type they add which they kind of got that baby kick again because they did it a little Bit in Johto with Gold and Silver.

There's a baby kick there and there's a baby kick in this game Yeah, Munchlax was introduced in this game as well I think was I think Clefelo was introduced in this game, but I honestly can't.

I think so and Happiny?

Happiny was as well Fossils was as well for Sudoludo So there's a lot of babies in this game.

Big baby energy.

And well the other thing I want to say too is that they then Go back and expand This is the one like saving grace of this decks.

I think is the expansions on Pokemon that never evolved previously.

I think all of the ones that they choose to evolve are very cool Like Aipom evolving into Ambipom is cool But not saying that the evolve for I don't think Ambipom is that great of a design Pokemon It just goes from one monkey with a hand tail to a monkey with two hand tails, but still that's one They've got Mismagius.

They've got Honchkrow and then I think about the ones later on for Like Magmortar and Electri- Electrofire Yes, I remember thinking they were really really cool.

Rhyperion I think or Rhyperior.

Oh, yeah the big beefy boy Yeah, so all the ones from the previous games that end up getting forms are Weavile, Magnezone, Lickalicky Rhyperior, Tangrowth Electrovire, Magmortar, Togakiss was introduced in this Pokedex as well Yanmega, which is the evolved form of Yanma and then There is also They added the new Eevees evolutions in this too with Leafeon and Glaceon Oh, and then they added Mamoswine.

They added Glysaur, which is the evolved form of Gligar They then have Porygon-Z Provopask, Dusknair, like there's a lot of cool ones that they give new evolved forms of from previous games And I really like their new forms and see that you're saying all of this and it's all coming to me But all of those are post game.

Yep, which is so I'm hesitant to just say outright bad, but it does add it does add like a post game incentive of Like all the new Pokemon are almost locked behind the end game which is not normal.

Are all of them like like most of them?

Leafeon and Glaceon even locked?

No, because you have to go to like a stone in Snowpoint and I want to say the forest to like transform them like in Porygon, I don't think or no Well a lot of these here's the thing with a lot of these is they're all tied to the Nashelepax Well, I was gonna say they're all tied to specific items that you have to obtain Yeah, like Hyperior Yeah, like the the Hyperior, I know you need like the it's like some like armor Item, I know for Electrovire.

You need the Electra Magmortar you need a specific item?

The Pokemon themselves items aside Are all based off previous designs that would have been in the national decks.

Yeah, so it's it's weird that Interesting at the very least that it's all postgame which kind of adds Decks chasing excitement, I guess to that postgame, but it does make the front half of the game the core not as thrilling from a team building perspective like I was dragging this Luxray around the whole game because I didn't Did not want it, but I needed someone on my team and it was just I love Luxray personally It's what am I I just didn't favor it cuz I've used it previously Yeah, and I didn't want it on my team like if I if I could have got like yeah That's what I guess is strange to me like Something cool like Electrovire is awesome I would have absolutely had an Electrovire this game if I could have you know Caught an Elekid or an Electrobuzz like earlier in the game and like evolved like that's it or even Magnezone Like these things are just you can't really get them early on in the game and it stinks Yeah, the core decks itself that like you're able to get as you are doing the gym runs Pretty weak for the most part.

There is some like I don't want to I don't want to totally Discount the entire decks I think for me this time So because I have played this game two or three times in the past I have used a lot of the Pokemon that I have liked Previously like for instance I mentioned like that I didn't choose Infernape this time.

It's because I normally choose him I've done runs with Torterra as well.

I chose Empoleon just because I normally don't choose Empoleon There's still a lot of good Pokemon in this decks.

I really like Hippodon.

I really like Drapion I think that's a really cool Pokemon.

I like the two poison types they have in this game Drapion and Toxicroak I think are both pretty cool.

Yeah, Toxicroak is cool.

Lucario is great.

Garchomp is obviously Awesome.

Sorry.

I know you're gonna say something about Lucario.

No, I was just Lucario was kind of the The face of this game to it especially in the anime and Super Smash Bros.

Brawl replacing Mewtwo like Lucario has become I mean he was then and it has remained like an icon within the The series actually it just hit me Lucario mega evolution is kind of a beat in X&Y right like getting the Lucario a mega evolving it I think that's a beat in the game.

I can't remember to be honest with you Lucario is big and it came from here.

Yeah, and yes, and that's a part of the game I totally skipped I never went to the Iron Island this time around.

I just didn't hop on Yeah, you can totally pass it up.

Yeah, and there's the Haunted Mansion you can skip and So there are like there are more things like there's like I know I mentioned in Solus Solis ion town or something With a bunch of unknowns in it.

There's like a whole mystery there.

So yeah, there's definitely more to it I didn't give this game enough credit like the more we talk here the more we think about there is a lot more to do Off the beaten path.

I know I've said earlier in the episode There wasn't a whole lot to the post game or a whole lot to do It probably just doesn't seem like a whole lot in my mind because I played these games for countless hours.

So they seem Mm-hmm, almost like smaller my head if that makes any sense Yeah Because I would just pour massive chunks of time But yeah, the core decks like I think even like the fossil types are pretty cool in this decks as well even though they are Incredibly incredibly weak types.

I think Just I don't know.

I I struggle with rock type sometimes because they're so Susceptible Vess McQueen we both had our teams this time.

I think that's a cool Pokemon.

Yeah, she's dope Drift loon was another one That is a very unique.

I You thought I you probably thought I was gonna use that I thought you I thought you had one of those and an infernape So so I and I figured you'd have a Gartrop just because you're a dragon lover So that's kind of what I thought those three I did have a drift blimp for a large chunk of this game, but I did not end up carrying it through to the end I just kind of like fell out of love with it the more I played And also I imported it from sword and shield Because you can just go catch one that when I was like, oh the power of Pokemon home Let's go do this instead and then I don't know if I mentioned it before but like Spiritomb is really awesome Like that's that's a really cool Pokemon just because it straight-up doesn't have weaknesses until they freaking ruin it later with fairy typing fairy typing I I Struggle with it in this game Because it's a remake right?

It's not designed with fairy type in mind sort of yes And if that really frustrated me at a couple of encounters and just yes, I was like this isn't This Dex wasn't designed but but they are also trying to maintain compatibility forward So like I get the struggle, but I was a little bit perturbed that fairy was in this game and I if you had if you brought a fairy type on your team would have been I was Actually, you have been you have a little worried Yeah, like he's good You were very cracked Honestly, so especially when fighting Cynthia like yeah It's just so I was I was a bit bummed that it was there.

It felt imbalanced.

I While we're talking about this like this games merits as a remake and we were going to bring this up as well.

I Don't think this is a I don't think this is a great remake I just think there's it's Well, here's the other thing Let me let me start here like we talked about how like fairy typing being included is just kind of ruins things to a large degree You know, what else wasn't included in the original games was like the full team exp share Which I feel like throws off this game has weird I like to me difficulties Well, sure.

I know I'm sure you like it and stuff like that, but it has strange like difficulty swings as a result, like I feel like the game's balance was hard for like in some sense I I Think the game was very easy But then like you get to the end game with the elite four and all sudden Like the difficulty kind of ratchets up out of nowhere, which is fine.

Like I want it to be a challenge Maybe you didn't have as much of a challenge as I did because my team was Incredibly weak to certain things like I didn't really struggle through the elite four or with Cynthia Yeah, I think you probably had a better design team for again my team.

Yeah glaring holes so maybe that was just a me thing but I Mean, yeah, I don't know.

I felt like the full team exp Didn't really keep things Completely balanced because there was like gym leaders I would get to where I felt like all my Pokemon were eight to ten levels ahead of their own and then I'm getting Later in the game and Cynthia has Pokemon that are higher level than mine.

I don't know It was just kind of felt like I was all over the place, but I don't know if that's attributed to How I built my team It which stages in the game I got my team how I imported my Pokemon because obviously if I'm importing I'm getting like exp boosts on certain Pokemon and things like That, you know, so I don't know like I don't know if you felt that as well No, I felt

fairly As far as difficulty in that sort of pacing Felt fine to me and obviously being an adult and just having all my Pokemon share experience just tremendously helps the pace of the game and my ability to Stay engaged on a higher level instead of like having to grind out You know got to bring this one Pokemon up so it's close to everyone else So that's just a modern convenience.

I will say this might be a good segue, but I thought the encounter rate for the wild Pokemon Was a bit steep you take like a step File yeah, then another step and you'd fight again The wild I like I was I was getting pretty sick of it and then repels are your friend You're not if there's the ever said repels are your friend if you're going through patches of grass that you know You don't want to catch any Pokemon that are in those patches Repel away.

Well, I was repelling quite a bit toward the answer that's how I've been playing all of these games, but I think the other thing is is the modern era of Pokemon has Ruined me from sword and shield wild areas to just scarlet and violet and Arceus just being the Pokemon are out like Seeing the encounter and engaging willingly or being caught off guard a little bit and getting you know, one charges you and you're stuck is Just the way Pokemon should be yeah, and in the upper half of Diamond and pearl that is not the case.

It's old school and the random encounters are too high But the grand underground Has those types of encounters in this game?

and I think that was way more fun from a hunt Pokemon and catch them perspective and I really That I thought maybe the segue to the grand underground.

I remember as a kid The underground was really cool having the secret base.

I'm aware that was in scarlet and Ruby right building a base so While it was new to me, I realized it wasn't necessarily new to the franchise But I do think this grand underground here in brilliant diamond and shining pearl With these zones where you can see the Pokemon and catch them And it basically be this Kind of dreamy world where just all these generations are mishmashed together, especially in the endgame like if I was like if I was 13 year old max playing diamond and pearl today, I Totally would see myself getting lost down there Running and catching and trying to you know Get certain Pokemon and building up my base like because I got hooked on the base building and you add all this Seeing the Pokemon in an environment.

I think is really neat and so I think the grand underground was actually pretty cool in this game I Did not spend a lot of time with it.

I definitely did back in the original not enough to ever get a Spiritomb But I did definitely commit some time to it back in the day And I think the new expansive areas where there are actual Pokemon running around that you can catch is a really cool Addition to this game that I appreciated It's it's like the biggest deviation from the original yeah, and I I appreciated it because it circumvented some of the odd ways that you have to get certain Pokemon like I mentioned you asked me if I we both had vespa queens on our team and you mentioned if I If I got my combi by slathering honey on a tree, and I was like no I went to the underground and I caught one down there, which is great I'm glad I had that option because Lord knows I did not want to wait For the honey to activate on the trees after the time passed or whatever that I did do it I did do it on the tree, but I just saved before just saved and waited until I got the one I wanted So that's the way to do it, but that would also take a hot minute.

I would imagine ten minutes Okay, that's not too bad then yeah, wasn't it wasn't bad at all But yeah, I think the grand underground was really cool, but the rest of the game pretty Rigid in

adhering to the originals yes, which is you know that's always the thing between remake remaster and That sort of discussion there to me.

I Liked it for the most part.

I think I Maybe you have stuff to say about this as well, but I'm I have some beef with the visual design of this game Yes, I was about to bring this up like that is where Pokemon does not Have a like chibi sort of art style to it like it just I Would I'd push back on that a little bit there are certain games that do have that aesthetic Maybe but I don't know like this So here's my thing with it.

There's there's a large.

There's a there's a lot we could talk about here.

Yeah, go ahead chibi Specifically I think in the like in the overworld When you adhere to that style across the game, I think it would have been fine I It looks like a top-down DS game in that way to a degree I Had a real issue with Everyone's talking in their little chibi characters, and then you'd get in a battle, and they're correctly portioned human yep, yep, yep That's what I that drove me nuts.

That's like.

This is as well No, no, no thank you.

It was very giant.

I mean that's how the older Pokemon games, I guess Were like short little stubby character models that you're sure world, and then they look like normal people But it's that was more limitation of hardware exactly this is Yep, these are like little It's very much feels like they tried to do links awakening remake on switch sort of the plan But then it's not congruent like mm-hmm and on all fronts like that.

That's totally the problem.

Yes.

Yes My other big issue with this game.

I'm wondering if you share it visually speaking I guess there to They took that blur that bokeh cranked it all the way up and Basically your character is in like one plane of focus, and then everything below and behind is just like got Smearly blur all over it yep I think that just looks really nice man I noticed that in the very like I got accustomed to it as I played but the brain shuts it off Yeah, the opening like hour two was very very Jar, right yeah, it's so it's so soft and it made me that's probably the part that made me want wish it we could have played the original DS versions more just because they would have looked crisp and clean and Really good.

I think the DS games are the best looking stretch of Pokemon I think Because they took that GBA style beefed it up a little bit and then added some 3d stuff especially yeah These are having a little later.

This is having me excited to play black and white I'm I'll actually and I think the sprites in that game looks so good like playing Yeah, playing this game made me really excited for black and

white and black and white too Well, not only that but like as we've been recording I've been like looking over at some of the sprites for some of the Pokemon in this gen 2 and they have sleek designs and just this transition to Pokemon in 3d has I don't know if we've talked about this over the course of the Season very much, but it's just not the same appealing Yeah, it is not have the same sort of charm to it anymore, which is fine I've accepted it like I'm not stuck in the past and I am I kind like I've accepted that we've shifted in this direction and I know why we have but they just I Feel like a lot of the Pokemon have like muted They they just look like Desaturated now like like these old sprites pop so hard on some of these Pokemon and that's just the same Colors are not there now with some of them.

There's a lot of examples of this that you can pull up and See, yeah, like side by sides and stuff like that the other the last thing Yeah, you described properly my issue with the chibi stuff though in this remake is just that Whole Pokemon games.

Yes, they look like that because of hardware limitations not because That was what the developers wanted them to be.

So I think just creating actual like Character models that look like, you know Normal people like they do in the actual battle sequences would have been the the path forward in this instance see I I imagine it's a bit of a struggle because Maybe not I alpha sapphire felt this way where it was a little like a weird ish Not straight chibi, but a little weird I think yeah, I think X and Y ultra Sun and ultra moon for sure bit more correctly portioned for this.

Yes Yeah, X and Y you'll find it to be to answer our qualms here with what we're saying, so I think this game though it either should have stuck chibi all the way through or I Think that cute little chibi Pokemon would have been in at least an interesting art direction.

I don't think that could have worked I think it would have only extended to the Human character models and they use those in the a lot of the like promotional materials for this game too is the chibi designed character models for the player characters or the NPCs and stuff my other issue visually speaking Is Tied to gameplay in a way because just like links awakening remake.

This game is stuck in a eight Octagonal grid of movement you snap everywhere.

It's snap snap snap snap but the world is Visually just open 3d space But there's just little walls and corners everywhere and I was just getting Constantly stuck in colliding like trying to walk down a path or around I'd accidentally hop over ledges all the time because if you get just a little too close you automatically will hop I just felt really sloppy.

There's just like a level of slop kind of just thrown over The movement in the world corridors were too tight But they didn't look tight because of the visual 3d world.

It's just it.

It's a this is a game that was previously played on a You only had four directions to move in up down left and right and now you have an actual d-pad Instead of an analog stick now you have an analog stick so you can move in eight directions and it does not Always work.

I felt like you can move in How you can move in directions?

Yeah, but On the DS with the d-pad you could move in eight directions and you can move in eight You can move in diagonally in on the DS version.

I believe so.

Okay.

Well, maybe you could do that.

Anyway, yes The previous game was designed on a grid and now it hasn't but all the environments are the same Yes, it feels it's it was very frustrating many many times.

The bike did not feel good in this game I ran most of the time.

Yeah, I was a bit is a bit bummed So the last thing I want to say about this game's merits is a remake Like we talked about the underground and how they added some new stuff there other than that though.

There is just really Like when you remake a game you want it to keep in Intact like the sort of core of what the game previously was.

I understand that to a degree But I feel like Pokemon games are a bit different in this regard with their remakes where you want them to also add Newer elements and I feel like they have done that with you know Leaf green and fire red whether they're having adding a whole new areas the Sevii Islands and stuff like that Mm-hmm and heart gold and soul silver.

They're adding I Can't think off the top of my head of some of the stuff they added they always add like the fact that your Pokemon can Trail you behind in that game like it's a small like thing that there's something unique to those remakes Like there's always new little things that they have added in their previous remakes and this is the most by the numbers Pokemon remake that they have ever done.

There is really nothing new in this game whatsoever Besides the grand underground.

Yes, besides some like small stuff with the underground.

This is really the most straightforward Pokemon remake I think they have ever made and I think some of that is because they outsourced it to ILCA I would imagine that the team that remade this game or did the work on this game felt like they weren't at liberty to you know Overhaul too many things too much or change a whole lot.

They and that's probably what not to yeah Or that's why they were hired.

You know, that's why they were brought in to do this.

Hey, don't change too much We just want to keep this what it was.

But at the same time that's also to me like It this game needed a couple other newer elements to latch on to yeah and make it stand out because I really did get to the end of this and feel like there was really no sort of reason for us to have like when we did our Ruby and Sapphire episode we had Kim Hawkins on that episode with us and he played through one of the GBA games I believe he played through emerald and that made for an interesting discussion because there was a lot of differences between The remakes that you and I played and the version that he played on GBA and we talked about some of those things on that episode This episode I feel like somebody could have played this congruent like with us and kind of first played the original BS games and there's Really no changes whatsoever.

Mm-hmm, and I think that's just Uninteresting I guess would be yeah, it's a bit lack luster especially in In a franchise that as you pointed out in their remakes generally add something there's something besides just a visual flare change of different graphics and new hardware but also you know up until I Guess up until sword and shield Yeah up until sword and shield there'd be a new iteration of the game out, you know a year or two later.

Yeah yellow crystal Emerald platinum right here.

I guess black and white didn't do that.

They did straight sequel and then X and Y didn't have one infamously.

They see they did skip.

Well, she was in the works, but it They stopped it's a whole thing We'll talk we might talk about that in the next episode But and then Sun and Ultra Sun and then from here on out I think we're just getting DLC which is the logical thing in the modern era.

So it's They always have added stuff right?

They've always enhanced refined game of the year edition defied their games and then the remakes do a similar thing and this one is like you said so by the numbers and A part of me that 13 year old that wants to look back through rose-tinted glasses like this is nice One of the notes I wrote was just like I'm home like I'm back but from a engaging in modern gameplay perspective, it's just We could have done a little bit more here and not adding fairy type like adding fairy type was not the thing to do So It's a bit of a bummer in that regard and it makes me slightly nervous Because the next one on the slate is Black and white and presumably black and white too will would follow after that Well unless they do like a let's go Johto which they could do that's always kind of been floating since Pikachu and Eevee Well, I'll say this like I know I mentioned up earlier that like these games were quote-unquote panned but to be honest like these games were very They were not well received not only by critics But fans have kind of pushed back on these games as well fans have been pushing on Pokemon since X&Y They had they have been but but fan the Pokemon community has kind of made it known a lot of the things we've been saying Here like if we're gonna keep getting remakes in this series moving forward.

This is not What we want or what we're expecting and I think those expectations have only been placed on fans Because once again as we've mentioned they're all the other previous remakes.

They've done have largely been great.

I mean Omega Omega and Alpha the Ruby and Sapphire remakes were maybe not as great either But I thought those games even as somebody who had nostalgic like we're talking about adding new things to games You're already nostalgic for I thought those games did great with that like yeah the Delta episode Yeah, I thought those games did did some did some good things in that regard It's and it's really not true here so moving forward with black and white if they do end up remaking those they have to put more energy in because it We're in a time right now like when we're recording this and I guess this will be true throughout the entire time that this You know season is releasing, but like you talked about how the Pokemon fan base has been pushing back a lot well like Game freak and the Pokemon company have like kind of brought this upon themselves like they think of the past couple years of Pokemon They have released the most straightforward bland remake that they've ever done They followed that up with releasing new gens which were completely like broken at launch and Honestly still kind of

are to some degrees like like yeah Like they're not they're not busted obviously you can play them, but they do not run well.

They are not high quality video games with scarlet and violet and so They just seem to be cutting a lot of corners and more so than ever before it seems like they are trying to cash in on Pokemon Purely to make money above all else and there just needs to be a little bit more Love put into this series moving forward with this continual cadence of remaking old games and creating new entries and No, hopefully like the scarlet and violet DLC Is good here in the next couple months.

I know that's kind of off topic with this episode, but anyway like like they're just You got to do better in the future, and I would prefer if they didn't outsource their remakes moving forward here like I'll see you ILCA did fine on this one, but they're just Keep it in house in the future.

I think would be best Yeah, so a couple of tidbits just as far as reception goes Brilliant diamond and shining pearl as of September of last year of 22 have sold just shy of 15 million units so 14.

92 million Put that in a little bit of context scarlet and violet as of August 23 have sold 22 point 66 million Arceus has sold 14.

83 million and sword and shield it sold just shy of 26 million so It's in line with sales and then the Pokemon company, I don't know if you saw this I think you were off that That week or you weren't work you were somewhere else working, but uh a little website called comic book calm As the Pokemon see I are I did I did I yeah, I did see this actually They addressed you know the quality and the release pacing as well there, so they're aware I Mean they're astutely aware after scarlet and violet and Nintendo actually issued a public apology Which I don't believe has ever happened in the history of Pokemon Well, I I wanted to go ahead and throw this out too like I know I mentioned that some fans weren't like thrilled about oh This is not the greatest barometer of all time I realized that but like even Metacritic if you look at user scores on Metacritic Omega Ruby sits at Omega Ruby sits at a 7.

5 user score by comparison brilliant diamond is at a 5.

3 and they are at about similar user scores across the board so Yeah, I sound like your scores are I don't it's stupid.

I know but like What's the last of us part twos review score?

Yeah?

It's dumb.

I get it, but it does kind of it does kind of back up the point I was making that like these are considered the worst remakes of the four remakes.

They've sure sure sure so Yeah, and I only mentioned slightly what was diamond and pearl user score 5.

3.

I think Last was part 2 5.

8.

I Got that went up People that fighting in the battlefields on that one I think they deleted a lot of the zeros on that one like a lot of the review bill I mean, I think they got under control.

That's the good.

They should get it doing control in general There's one thing though that I do think the remake has done pretty well The music yeah, baby It's pretty good.

Yeah, dude This music is amazing This is not this is my favorite and this is probably the most nostalgic.

I'm gonna get Yeah, I was gonna say cuz this is absolutely not my favorite Pokemon soundtrack, okay, let's let's get something clear first of all Forever indebted to you for introducing me to none other than Carlos Ayn aka insane in the rain music In the year that he was doing Sinovation his complete jazz arrangement of the entire diamond and pearl soundtrack so there's gonna be a link to that in the show notes as well alongside the official music both for the DS and these remakes but this game has Banger battle music.

I think that bouncing piano It just gets me moving man.

I'm grooving.

I'm going back and forth.

I'm ready to fight I think it's so I think every battle theme is a banger in this game.

Cynthia is one of the all-time greats I know you didn't really go in the postgame all that much but that whole collection of route 225 through 228 it's the same theme for those that little loop back there is Awesome.

It's so so good There's a mystical quality which I think ties to the whole lore thing the way the game opens up with that kind of like You know the little chime that chime sound kind of coming through.

I I love everything in this game.

This is like I I know this soundtrack so so well, and I love it so so much and having real instruments this time around is Awesome snow snow point city.

Oh My gosh one of the all-time great snow levels This is not so this is not my favorite Pokemon soundtrack But what I will say about the soundtrack is that the songs that are good are Among the best in the entire series Across the board.

I don't Across the board.

I don't think it has My favorites But again, yeah, Cynthia's theme song there at the end is is great some of the route themes the lake themes phenomenal fantastic snow point Fantastic, like those are those are some of the best I think snow snow point is one of my favorites The but the lake themes actually probably one of my favorites and it is probably my favorite the entire Yeah, I think the core battle song like you were talking about how you love it so much not my favorite It's actually much lower on like the battle themes of all the Pokemon games.

I don't care for it that much Give me the piano over the trumpet, baby No the trumpet, baby It's a trumpet let's go Yeah, I think this soundtrack is very good and then and like you said I think

this game's merits is a remake did do pretty well when it comes to the Touched up the the touched up score this time around.

I didn't I didn't feel like they lost any of the Charm that the original game had and a lot of instances.

I feel like the newer recordings only made these Made these songs better.

Yeah for the most part There's something about Cynthia's theme though that I think that's Jam way harder on the original I think those harder songs.

It's like When all you've got is kind of that, you know chiptune sound library like they can really just Yeah, the atmospheric stuff man the atmospheric songs.

I think translate really well to the remakes, but it's something Yeah, those hard like battle themes things sound better on the on the sort of chiptune side With the original BS, but yeah largely that that is one of the best aspects Of these games as remakes and of these games as a whole like again I'm not saying Pokemon across the board has fantastic music so if I say I'm not a huge fan of a soundtrack like Diamond and Pearl's music is still better than a Lot of other video game music it is just not it is not my favorite in the same way that I know it is like with yours There is a generation of kids that kind of grew up with these games that are I mean you're in a unique situation Obviously because you didn't play them for a couple years, but this is like zoomers first Pokemon.

I feel like in some way I'll be with the zoomers and I feel like a lot of people from that age group are really harp on these these games Soundtracks, I think it's the most powerful Nostalgic like anchor point in any of these games is the music because music in General just has a unique ability to take you back somewhere right just like us the smell of something and That's kind of like when I wrote like I'm home, it's you know it's that opening video the chimes and the Like the whole yeah And it's just totally forgot about that because I hadn't watched that in so long and I was like oh, yeah This is how this opens cuz I was so used to You watch it the first time you boot it up, and then you skip past it every single other time you play it and so you just That truly was the most powerful part I think I'm bringing me back, so I was just so excited every time I'm you know and then you know it's also fairly recent in my brain because I was listening to cinnovation pretty hardcore After you had introduced me to it so like it's not like I hadn't heard these songs and over I did you know 15 years or I guess Yeah, 15 years geez so It's all fairly fresh, so it's good stuff man.

I love spear pillar.

Oh my gosh It takes me back to the brawl days to remember when that was a level of brawl Yes, it's how Kia would flip the stage There was a ton of like spin-offs now that I think about this too like they had the I was a Pokemon revolution on the Wii Yeah, that was like the the Coliseum or yeah There was a lot of spin-offs this era like all the other games all the rescue team games all the troze dash I think There's a lot going on with Pokemon right around here.

Yeah, I really went for it Let's talk about this game's Legacy close out this episode.

I don't think there's anything else that we've not touched on let me say this upfront So as we've talked about this over the course of this episode.

I have softened a bit on my stance at this game I do not think this game is all I wanted It's not If I was going to rank everything we've played so far this season Would this be last?

Yeah, probably But I don't think it's not horrible I just think there is not enough unique in this game to have it stand out within the larger series and then that combined with the like Disappointments with the pokey decks I think is what are the big letdowns for me with this game it's just that it kind of plays the greatest hits of Pokemon of there's a there's a legendary unit and you got to fight the gyms, and there's an evil team and then yeah, so it just this game could have been much better than it is and I feel like as the Pokemon franchises first jump to the DS there is More they could have done From like a mechanic side of things like it really just they didn't really take great advantage of the hardware and I don't feel like they really I feel like black and white is where things kind of start to get I Don't know.

I just I like black and white a lot more but anyway As far as this game's legacy This is one that's hard for me to kind of like Pin a legacy on within the larger scope of this series because I don't really know These games compared to a lot of others are just kind of there I mean obviously its legacy is that it was the first on the DS which went on to be a long string of releases across I mean if you if you're counting the whole DS system of families like this up until Ultra Sun like that's a string of Like so many games in there like 10 15 games if you're counting all the versions of each So this is a big deal in that regard And so yeah, I don't know but but I don't think the series itself really grew until Some of the later entries that they came out with so it's hard for me to say that this feels like a turning point for Pokemon overall it really just does kind of feel like The franchise's first pivot to new hardware whereas I felt like for example with Ruby and Sapphire Not only did it go to new hardware But they did some new things with the hardware and stuff like that There were a little bit more integral to the game rather than just Hey, what if you chiseled fossils in this wall with your DS pin?

You know like yeah It was all kind of more novelty stuff that they did rather than being more tied to gameplay Yeah, I you know Legacy from a personal angle is just you know, this is like this is my generation that I identify with but in the grand scheme of Pokemon Outside of that DS run that you just talked about really kicking off The longest running stretch and platform for Pokemon to be on there is a The lower of Pokemon I think really branches out from here not just because Sinnoh's the start or whatever but This is like the middle of the decks, you know this kind of upper 400s now, we're in the back half of this thousands and You know, we got the first this is stretching a little bit But we got kind of the first new Idea of what Pokemon could be like with legends RCS and it's built off of the the decks of this game and the the world and the environment and it's kind of leaning into that lore and it I Played RCS before we really sunk our teeth into this season.

Maybe I was playing leaf green around the same time.

I don't exactly remember but I don't I hadn't been that excited about a Pokemon game in I Guess probably since X and Y just because I was excited to come back to the series again because I took a self-imposed break for some unknown reason and it and but RCS is actually good and I Think that's kind of cool that it extends out of this Generation and I as you were talking I was looking at the sales figures of kind of the core games Over time and um diamond and pearl are the fifth Best-selling Pokemon games.

Yeah, and then if you take if you take brilliant diamond and shining pearl they They're up there with red green and blue But I guess I'd have to throw in let's go Pikachu and stuff with that But a lot of people have played yeah particular generation everybody back in the day like had these games Absolutely, like yeah everybody I knew who had a DS had one of these games either pearl diamond or platinum.

Yeah, it's It was a strong generation and a but I think it it just got the games got better later on on the DS in particular like that core DS and I'll say this Having come back and played I've enjoyed that But I am truly Amped for black and White and black and white too.

I hope you enjoy it, dude I'll say this though and I want to this segues well a Lot of my you can see where I would have been at at this point time because I never really liked this decks back in The day I always thought this decks had problems so going from this gen 4 into gen 5 where they were like Everything is new.

We're creating a whole decks that is new top to bottom.

No returning Pokemon I thought that was so freaking cool at the time and I still do it's cool I think that's still awesome.

Like I wish they would do that more often.

I think they lean too heavily on past generations Whereas black and white have always shown me that like if they just go into full creative mode and again people give those games crap I know cuz not every pokemons design knocks it out of the park But like conceptually I think they should do that more because this diamond pearl does have problems with its decks as we've talked about in this episode, but I Just yeah their creativity was way cooler and I just think the vibe that that black and white have is Way more unique as a result like I like those games a lot and I'm very much looking forward to playing them I'm as well.

Oh, man One more quick quick thing about legacy and it's not something we really would have brought up our thought to have brought up But it just hit me.

These are also the first Pokemon games to go online Trade with friends battle with friends all over the world.

Yeah, and And really The ability to keep your Pokemon all the way back from the GBA to today Wireless trading wireless trading without possible because of the DS Yeah The hard the hardware definitely unlocked Pokemon in ways like that like that you could you finally didn't have to you know Buy leaf green and fire red and get a trade a wireless trading the thing dongle thing.

Yeah Yeah, it's yeah a lot of the a lot of the barriers of Pokemon were broken down with these games But that's by proxy of what the DS allowed for Yeah, that's that's a cool thing in that regard for sure.

Yeah, and I just I really think it's so flippin neat that Someone like Logan if you hadn't sold it you could have still you could have brought those Pokemon up into scarlet and violet like it's Technic and at the end of the season you've talked about it and I want to do it to Migrating the Pokemon over do we have a great Pokemon home import and bringing everything up that you can bring up and Even with the 3ds and the virtual console there Rest in PC shop, you know, there's poke a bank integration in those virtual console versions of gold silver red blue yellow and crystal so Truly this all unlocked with the DS and you know diamond and pearl play a factor in that Yeah, I'm looking forward to doing my mass Export once we get to the end of the season.

Maybe I should start doing it as we approach otherwise That's maybe should start it's a little slow.

You can only get one game at a time Yes, once I get them over to switch it'll be a faster process But actually you know what that you know what the problem is is like black and white are kind of the linchpin to get them Ported to black and white to right you have to have that to get to the 3ds I don't think it's black and white too.

I think it's I think it's the first black and white games work, too But those are the linchpins To get everything to 3ds I believe yeah, you've got to go through black so it's gonna be a We can do it together buddy.

I guess I could do that though because I did buy Both I did buy Oliver.

I have all versions of black and white black and white too and I'm going to play the ones I Bought or whatever that I spent copious amounts of money on for the season good good for you Which is it which segues into our membership sponsorship or our membership plug here at the end?

Please subscribe to our membership program so that I can afford these insanely expensive video games.

Thank you Yes, you can Sure, we'll take it from there because I think that does do it for Pokemon brilliant diamond shining pearl and platinum platinum a bone So thank you to our members who support us directly and help finance keeping the show keeping the lights on and Helping Logan buy these games he had now has a complete DS set so good for him Castlevania is looming as well.

Just kind of on the horizon So a thank you to our members you can get access to longer episodes exclusive bonus videos like our Pokemon battles for this season and Exclusive episodes we may do one for legends Arceus Here so that could be an exciting episode for members as well, so thank you all for supporting us you can learn more about heading over to listening with superpower calm as for the show you can follow it on Twitter at chapter select and Go over to chapter select calm and see all of our past seasons there in future seasons as well For Logan do you follow him at Mormon 12 in his writing over at comic book calm?

And myself at max Roberts one four three and all my writing over at max frequency Net as well as my other show the max frequency podcast so you can check all of that out Thank you all so much and until next time adios Chapter select is a max frequency production Chapter select is supported by you You can gain access to longer episodes and bonus content by going to chapter select comm forward slash join This episode was research produced and edited by me max Roberts season 6 is hosted by Logan more and myself Season 6 is all about Pokemon for more on the season go to chapter select comm forward slash season 6 You can follow the show at chapter select and check out previous seasons at chapter select calm Yeah, it's just hold on do you hear that yeah, that's late He's having a bad dream.

Oh, he's asleep.

He's asleep Assume he was barking at someone no no no he's yelping and asleep