

Go Champion Lee Se-dol Beats Korean AI in 1st Round

By Lee Hong-real

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Go or baduk champion Lee Se-dol speaks at a press conference after beating Korean AI program HanDol in Seoul on Wednesday. /Yonhap

Go or baduk champion Lee Se-dol beat a Korean-made computer program in the first game of a three-round match Wednesday.

Experts had bet on a victory for artificial intelligence-assisted HanDol developed by IT company NHN.

Lee, who ranked 14th among baduk players in Korea when he announced his retirement in November, has not played a professional match for about six months.

Lee Chang-ryul at NHN, said, "HanDol's learning period was just two months, but I was confident of victory as the program defeated several high-ranking professional baduk players." He said he is confident that HanDol will defeat Lee in the two games on Thursday and Saturday.

HanDol has been considered a formidable opponent after taking third place in a world baduk competition in August.

Lee gets W150 million in upfront payment just for competing and another W50 million for each game he wins (US\$