

= Matt Leto =

Matt Leto ( born December 1 , 1983 ) , gamertag Zyos , is a former American professional player of the first @-@ person shooter video games Halo : Combat Evolved and Halo 2 . Zyos spent a year in his late teens accumulating video game records , and for a while was the holder of the most records . After dropping out of DigiPen Institute of Technology , Leto pursued a career in professional gaming .

Leto won the 2003 and 2004 World Cyber Games , and was signed to become a professional game player that same year . He remained champion until he was defeated in 2005 , and was known for his quiet , patient style of play , and his skill in one @-@ on @-@ one matches . In 2006 he retired from professional gaming . He is currently working as a real estate agent in Texas .

= = Early life and career = =

Leto played his first video game at the age of five , playing Super Mario Bros. In his early teens he played and won local video game competitions . At the age of 17 , he broke the world record for points scored in the video game Crazy Taxi , and when Twin Galaxies , which records video game records , wanted more proof , he recorded a video of beating his own record . He then spent the next year focused on breaking video game records and eventually broke 742 of them . He had the highest number of records ever achieved until Tom Duncan surpassed him . Originally Zyos was interested in going to DigiPen Institute of Technology to learn how to create video games , but found it intense and that it was not his passion . Having dropped out of college , he later left his job at an ice cream shop at age 19 and began pursuing a career in professional gaming . In late 2002 Leto competed at AGP1 , his first video game tournament , and though his team placed fifth , he ranked second individually out of three hundred players .

= = Professional career = =

= = = 2003 = = =

In the fall of 2003 , Leto was recruited to play professionally for Major League Gaming ( MLG ) at the age of 19 . That year , he was part of the four man team " Dream Team " . He won the top prize at the World Cyber Games 2003 held in Seoul , South Korea , winning \$ 20 @,@ 000 . It was at that point that Zyos decided he could play video games as his career . That year , Zyos earned \$ 30 @,@ 000 from professional gaming . He also signed an endorsement deal with ActiVision that placed an endorsing quote on an Xbox shooter game titled Greg Hasting 's Tournament Paintball .

= = = 2004 = = =

In 2004 , GameSpot described Leto as the " number one Halo player in the United States " . Leto came in second at the 2004 Dallas Midwestern Regional Tournament in the " Halo Free For All " category , and first in the N @-@ Gage Competition playing Tony Hawk . As part of Team FFA competing in Major League Gaming tournaments , he helped defeat Shoot to Kill in an upset victory in Chicago , and then also Atlanta . Later in the MLG tournament series he was part of the Florida Jackalopes and were defeated in New York by Team Domination . At the MLG San Francisco tournament Zyos agreed to split the prize money with his final competitor " Mighty " before the final game , and claimed to do so in order to make his opponent less hungry for victory .

Leto participated in the World Cyber Games 2004 in San Francisco . In preparation for the World Cyber games , Zyos traveled for the two weeks prior to practice playing against his competitors . At the opening ceremony of the games , Leto was player representative , having been the previous year 's champion , and called on players to have good sportsmanship . In the final game , Leto led early 13 ? 5 , but his opponent rallied to 13 ? 10 before Zyos was able to also rally and defeat him .

Zyos thus won the Gold medal for the second year in a row , defeating Canadian Nelson Triana 2 ? 0 in the " best out of three " format . He said that his second victory was more important than his first , since he is now the third person to win two years in a row .

= = = 2005 = = =

At the Game Riot Conference in 2005 , amateur players had a chance to play against Zyos to win prizes ; Leto viewed the touring gaming exposition as a chance to build his reputation . In 2005 , Zyos did paid endorsements and had a managing team . He also came in third at the Major League Games Competition as part of team Str8 Rippin . That team went on to defeat rivals " Team3D " in Philadelphia . Later that summer , he joined Team " Trademark Gamers " , and later the " IGS Monglers " . On September 13 , 2005 Zyos was defeated by the Ogre twins in the third game of the World Cyber Games ' United States Finals . Leto attributed his loss to his weakness in two @-@ on @-@ two play , and stated his desire to continue playing one on one . In October 2005 , Zyos competed and won the DigitalLife Tournament Series Halo 2 tournament , defeating " PdgfProxa " in the final match .

= = = 2006 = = =

Leto competed professionally in Halo 2 and Project Gotham Racing 3 at the World Series of Video Games in July 2006 at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center . He was also invited to attend the Championship Gaming Series that year . Following his defeat , he considered playing another first @-@ person shooter or a future Halo game . In September of that year he visited the Cyber World Games and attendees had the opportunity to be taught how to play Halo 2 . He was a part of team XiT Woundz , thought to be one of the top four Major League Gaming teams in 2006 . The team was defeated by teams " eX " and MoBDeep , and ultimately placed seventh . Following the defeats , Zyos exited his hotel where he was staying for the tournament and has not returned to professional gaming . His retirement was called the ninth most important event in professional gaming that year by Major League Gaming .

= = Technique = =

Zyos studied his opponent 's style of play in order to find weaknesses . He also practiced four to five hours to day , and the week before a tournament for ten . He stated that most of the stress of competing is mental , though physical fitness helps in tournaments that can last 16 hours per day . Talents he has suggested players need include quick reflexes , concentration , and the ability to play under pressure . The transition from Halo to Halo 2 was a mixed bag for Zyos , since he called it an " easier game " , but tournaments started being more focused on two @-@ on @-@ two . Once Halo 2 was released , Leto began to focus almost exclusively on it and did not play the original at all .

While on Team Str8 Rippin in 2005 , Leto stated that their style was unique , since any team member might take on any role in their attack formation . They were also patient , content to wait their enemies out and force the opposing team to attack when Str8 Rippin is ahead . Zyos insisted upon his teammates being silent and not trash @-@ talking during matches in order to maintain focus .