



L E A G U E O F L E G E N D S

FAKER

The Unkillable Demon King

Complete Career Analysis & Visual Infographic

2013 – 2025 | 12+ Years of Dominance

6

WORLD TITLES

10

LCK TITLES

1600+

GAMES PLAYED



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1. Introduction: The GOAT of Esports

In the annals of competitive gaming, no name resonates with the same reverence and awe as **Lee "Faker" Sang-hyeok**. Often referred to as the "Michael Jordan of esports" and the "Unkillable Demon King," Faker has transcended the boundaries of professional League of Legends to become a cultural phenomenon and the undisputed greatest player in the history of the game.

"Faker is truly the most iconic and influential figure in League of Legends and esports history. His name is synonymous with excellence in LoL Esports."

— John Needham, President of Esports at Riot Games

1.1 Player Profile

이상혁

KOREAN NAME

May 7,

1996

DATE OF BIRTH

Seoul

BIRTHPLACE

Mid Laner

POSITION

T1

TEAM (2013-PRESENT)

12+ Years

CAREER LENGTH

Born on May 7, 1996, in Seoul, South Korea, Faker joined SK Telecom T1 (now T1) in 2013 and has remained with the organization for his entire professional career—the longest tenure of any player with a single organization in esports history. This unprecedented loyalty has become a defining characteristic of his legacy.

1.2 Career Overview

Career Achievements at a Glance

6× World Champion

10× LCK Champion

2× MSI Champion

Hall of Legends Inductee

3× Best Esports Athlete (TGA)

2× Worlds Finals MVP

ESL Hall of Fame

PC Player of the Decade

Faker's career spans over a decade of competitive excellence, marked by numerous records that may never be broken. He is the only player to have won the World Championship six times, the only player to defend the title twice, and holds virtually every significant record in LCK history.

2. The Rise: 2013-2014

Era I: The Prodigy Emerges

From unknown talent to World Champion in under a year

2.1 Rookie Sensation

Faker's professional debut came on February 6, 2013, when SK Telecom T1 #2 faced CJ Entus Blaze in the OGN Champions Spring 2013. What made this debut legendary was not just his performance, but the statement it made. Facing Ambition, widely considered the best mid laner in Korea at the time, Faker dominated the lane and established himself as an immediate threat.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Feb 2013 | Professional Debut Debuts against CJ Entus Blaze, defeating Ambition in lane |
| Aug 2013 | OGN Summer Championship Defeats KT Rolster Bullets in finals; the famous "Faker vs Ryu" Zed play becomes the most iconic moment in LoL history |
| Oct 2013 | First World Championship SKT T1 sweeps Royal Club 3-0 in the finals at Staples Center, Los Angeles |

2.2 First World Championship

The Season 3 World Championship was Faker's coronation. At just 17 years old, he led SKT T1 to a dominant 15-3 record throughout the tournament. The finals against Royal Club were particularly one-sided, with SKT winning 3-0 in what remains one of the most lopsided World Championship finals in history.

2013 Worlds Performance Analysis

| Statistic | Value | Tournament Rank |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Kill Participation | 36%+ of team kills | Top 3 |
| Gold Per Minute | 492 GPM (vs Ahri game) | #1 |
| Tournament Record | 15W - 3L | Best in tournament |
| Finals Performance | 3-0 sweep | Most dominant final |

"He is the Lionel Messi of League of Legends."

— Maknoon, Professional Player

3. Dynasty Era: 2015-2017

Era II: The Dynasty

Three World Finals appearances, two more titles, and unprecedented dominance

3.1 Back-to-Back World Titles

After a rebuilding 2014, Faker returned with a vengeance in 2015. Despite sharing time with substitute mid laner Easyhoon, Faker's impact was undeniable. The team won LCK Spring, finished second at MSI (losing to EDG in a heartbreaking Game 5), and then captured both LCK Summer and the 2015 World Championship.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 2015 | ● Second World Championship SKT defeats Koo Tigers 3-1 in finals; Faker's Ryze becomes legendary |
| 2016 | ● Historic Three-Peat Begins Wins MSI, IEM World Championship, and Worlds 2016; named Finals MVP |
| Jul 2016 | ● 1,000 LCK Kills Becomes first player in LCK history to reach 1,000 career kills |

The 2016 World Championship cemented Faker's status as the greatest. In a thrilling finals against Samsung Galaxy, SKT prevailed 3-2, with Faker earning his first Finals MVP award. His performances on Viktor and Orianna were masterclasses in mid lane control.

3.2 The 2017 Heartbreak

2017 was a year of extremes. Faker carried a struggling SKT roster through MSI to victory, earning MVP honors. His Galio performances at MSI became the stuff of legend, showcasing his ability to adapt and lead. However, the World Championship finals against Samsung Galaxy brought heartbreak—a 3-0 defeat that saw Faker reduced to tears on stage.

2017 Worlds Finals - The Emotional Moment

The image of Faker crying after the 2017 Worlds finals defeat became one of the most powerful moments in esports history. Despite the loss, it humanized the "Unkillable Demon King" and showed his passion for competition. This moment is often cited as the emotional peak of professional League of Legends.

8

WORLD FINALS
APPEARANCES

2×

MSI CHAMPION

3

TITLES IN 2016 ALONE

4. The Dark Age: 2018-2022

Era III: The Struggle

Five years without international glory, but legends never fade

4.1 Rebuilding Years

Following the 2017 World Championship defeat, SKT (later rebranded to T1) entered a period of rebuilding. The roster went through numerous changes, with Faker often the only constant. Despite winning LCK titles in 2019 and 2020, international success remained elusive.

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| 2018 | Roster Struggles | SKT fails to qualify for Worlds for the first time in Faker's career |
| 2019 | Return to Form | Wins LCK Spring and Summer; reaches Worlds semifinals |
| Feb | Becomes Part Owner | |
| 2020 | | Signs three-year extension, becomes co-owner of T1 Entertainment |
| Mar | 2,000 LCK Kills | |
| 2020 | | First player to reach 2,000 career kills in LCK |

4.2 Near Misses

The 2022 season brought T1 tantalizingly close to glory. The team went 18-0 in the LCK Spring Split—the first perfect regular season in LCK history—and reached the World Championship finals. However, they fell to DRX in a dramatic five-game series, with Faker watching his former teammate Deft finally claim the Summoner's Cup.

Notable Milestones During the Dark Age

- ★ First player to reach 500 games in LCK (August 2019)
- ★ First player to reach 2,000 kills in LCK (March 2020)
- ★ First player to reach 100 international wins (October 2019)
- ★ Longest tenure with a single organization in esports history
- ★ Offered \$20 million/year by Chinese team, chose to stay with T1
- ★ First player to play 1,000 professional games (February 2022)

"I thought winning another world championship in SKT would be for the best."

— FAKER, on rejecting the \$20M offer

5. The Return of the King: 2023-2025

Era IV: Redemption

The unprecedented three-peat and immortal legacy

5.1 Fourth World Title

The 2023 season began with challenges—Faker suffered an arm injury in July that sidelined him for four weeks. During his absence, T1's record plummeted from 6-2 to 7-9. His return on August 2nd immediately turned the tide, and despite a rocky regular season, T1 fought through the playoffs to reach the World Championship.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Jan 2023 | Most Assists Record |
| | Surpasses Gorilla for most career assists in LCK history (4,137+) |
| Nov 2023 | Fourth World Championship |
| | Defeats Weibo Gaming 3-0 in finals; six years since last Worlds title |

The 2023 World Championship finals were held in Seoul, South Korea—Faker's home country. In front of a home crowd, he delivered a dominant 3-0 sweep against Weibo Gaming, ending six years of international drought and becoming the only player in history to win four World Championships.

5.2 Historic Three-Peat

What followed in 2024 and 2025 defied all expectations. Faker led T1 to back-to-back World Championships, completing the first-ever three-peat in League of Legends history with a core roster of younger players.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2024 5TH WORLD TITLE | 2025 6TH WORLD TITLE | 28 AGE AT 6TH TITLE |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Feb 2024 | 600 LCK Wins First player to reach 600 wins in a single region |
| Feb 2024 | 3,000 LCK Kills First player to reach 3,000 career kills in LCK |
| Apr 2024 | 5,000 LCK Assists First player to reach 5,000 career assists in LCK |
| Oct 2024 | 100 Worlds Wins First player to reach 100 wins at World Championships |
| Nov 2024 | Fifth World Championship Defeats Bilibili Gaming; named Finals MVP (second time) |
| Nov 2025 | Sixth World Championship Defeats KT Rolster in a dramatic 5-game finals; completes three-peat |

Hall of Legends Inductee

In May 2024, Riot Games announced Faker as the inaugural inductee into the LoL Esports Hall of Legends. The honor was bestowed during the LCK broadcast, with a special ceremony celebrating his unprecedented contributions to the game and esports as a whole.

6. Statistical Analysis

6.1 Career Statistics

Faker's career statistics paint the picture of sustained excellence unmatched in esports history. Across more than 1,600 professional games, he has maintained elite performance metrics while adapting to countless meta changes and teammate rotations.

1,629+

TOTAL GAMES PLAYED

984 - 493

CAREER RECORD (W-L)

66.6%

OVERALL WIN RATE

4.1

CAREER KDA

8.8

CS PER MINUTE

412

GOLD PER MINUTE

64.2%

KILL PARTICIPATION

340+

CAREER SOLO KILLS

89

UNIQUE CHAMPIONS
PLAYED

LCK Record Breakdown

| Record Category | Value | Status |
|-----------------|--------|-------------|
| Career Kills | 3,500+ | All-time #1 |
| Career Assists | 5,000+ | All-time #1 |
| Career Wins | 700+ | All-time #1 |
| Games Played | 1,000+ | All-time #1 |
| Titles Won | 10 | All-time #1 |

6.2 Champion Pool

Faker's champion pool is one of the most diverse in professional League of Legends history. He has played 89 unique champions professionally, demonstrating remarkable versatility across metas spanning over a decade.

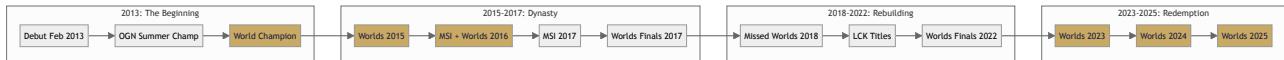
Signature Champions - Top 10 Most Played

| Rank | Champion | Games | Wins | Win Rate | KDA |
|------|-----------|-------|------|----------|-----|
| 1 | Azir | 204 | 143 | 70.1% | 3.9 |
| 2 | Orianna | 116 | 84 | 72.4% | 5.3 |
| 3 | Ryze | 102 | 65 | 63.7% | 4.0 |
| 4 | Corki | 83 | 55 | 66.3% | 4.3 |
| 5 | Ahri | 79 | 53 | 67.1% | 4.6 |
| 6 | Galio | 75 | 46 | 61.3% | 4.3 |
| 7 | Viktor | 73 | 52 | 71.2% | 4.2 |
| 8 | Taliyah | 69 | 48 | 69.6% | 4.6 |
| 9 | LeBlanc | 63 | 51 | 81.0% | 5.7 |
| 10 | Lissandra | 49 | 39 | 79.6% | 4.1 |

Perfect and Near-Perfect Champions

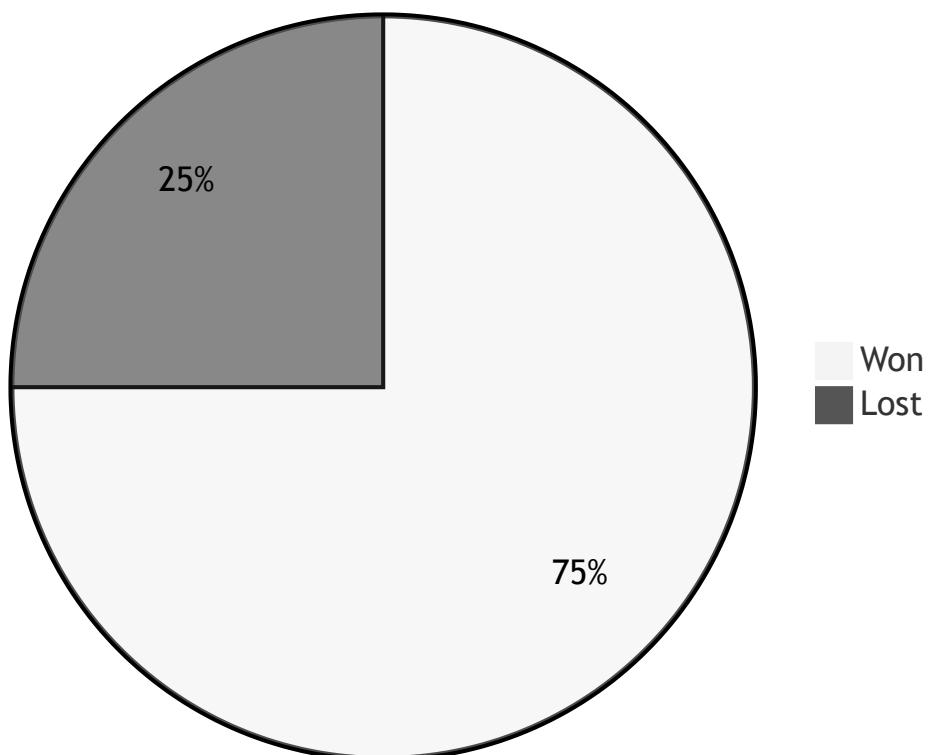
| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Zilean 10 Games 100% WR | Diana 4 Games 100% WR | Riven 3 Games 100% WR | Kha'Zix 2 Games 100% WR |
| Gragas 16 Games 87.5% WR | Fizz 10 Games 90% WR | Zed 7 Games 85.7% WR | LeBlanc 63 Games 81% WR |

Career Trajectory Visualization



World Championship Journey

Faker's 8 World Finals Appearances



International Milestones Timeline



Comparative Analysis: GOAT Status

Faker vs Other Mid Lane Legends

| Player | World Titles | LCK/LPL Titles | MSI Titles | Career Years |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------|--------------|
| Faker | 6 | 10 | 2 | 12+ |
| Rookie | 1 | 5 | 0 | 10+ |
| Scout | 1 | 3 | 1 | 8+ |
| Chovy | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6+ |
| ShowMaker | 1 | 4 | 1 | 5+ |

The Michael Jordan Comparison

"Faker is the Michael Jordan of League of Legends."

— Dustin Beck, Vice President of Riot Games

The comparison between Faker and Michael Jordan extends beyond mere superlatives. Both athletes:

Parallels Between Faker and Michael Jordan

| Attribute | Michael Jordan | Faker |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Championships | 6 NBA titles | 6 World titles |
| Team Loyalty | Spent prime with Bulls | Entire career with T1 |
| Cultural Impact | Transcended basketball | Transcended esports |
| Competitive Drive | Legendary "killer instinct" | "Unkillable Demon King" |
| Comeback Narratives | Second three-peat | 2023-2025 three-peat |
| Individual Awards | 5× MVP, 6× Finals MVP | Multiple LCK/Worlds MVPs |

Awards and Recognition

Major Tournament Victories

| Tournament | Year(s) | Count |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|
| World Championship | 2013, 2015, 2016, 2023, 2024, 2025 | 6× |
| LCK Championship | 2013-2017, 2019-2020, 2022-2024 | 10× |
| Mid-Season Invitational | 2016, 2017 | 2× |
| Esports World Cup | 2024 | 1× |
| IEM World Championship | 2016 | 1× |
| KeSPA Cup | 2025 | 1× |
| All-Star Invitational | 2014 | 1× |
| Rift Rivals | 2019 | 1× |

Individual Awards

3×

THE GAME AWARDS BEST
ESPORTS ATHLETE (2017,
2023, 2024)

2×

WORLDS FINALS MVP
(2016, 2024)

1×

MSI FINALS MVP (2016)

2×

LCK SEASON MVP

2×

LCK PLAYER OF THE
YEAR (2023, 2024)

1×

ESL HALL OF FAME
(2019)

Special Recognitions

- ★ **Hall of Legends Inaugural Inductee (2024)** - First player inducted into LoL Esports Hall of Legends
- ★ **Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia (2019)** - Entertainment & Sports category
- ★ **Forbes Korea Power Celebrity 40 (2025)** - Recognition as cultural icon
- ★ **PC Player of the Decade (2025)** - Esports Awards recognition
- ★ **PC Player of the Year (2023, 2024)** - Back-to-back Esports Awards
- ★ **Tower Named After Him** - Building in Seoul bears his name

7. Legacy & Impact

Cultural Significance

Faker's impact extends far beyond statistics and trophies. He has become a symbol of excellence, dedication, and longevity in an industry known for player burnout and short careers. His decision to remain with T1 despite offers reportedly worth \$20 million annually from Chinese organizations speaks to a loyalty that has endeared him to fans worldwide.

The Faker Effect on Esports

Faker's sustained success has helped legitimize esports as a viable career path. He has:

- Proven that longevity is possible in professional gaming
- Demonstrated that peak performance can be maintained into late twenties
- Elevated player compensation standards globally
- Become a global ambassador for Korean esports
- Inspired countless players to pursue professional gaming

Ownership and Business Acumen

In February 2020, as part of his contract renewal with T1, Faker became a co-owner of T1 Entertainment and Sports. This player-executive role was unprecedented in esports and signaled a new era of player empowerment. His shares in the organization reportedly make him one of the wealthiest esports players in history.

The "Faker Skins" Phenomenon

With six World Championship victories, Faker has more championship skins than many champions in the game have skins in total. His collection of Worlds skins (2013, 2015, 2016, 2023, 2024, 2025) represents an unmatched legacy—players can literally embody his championship moments in-game.

Influence on the Mid Lane Role

Faker's approach to the mid lane position has shaped how the role is played at the highest level:

| Faker's Mid Lane Philosophy | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Aspect | Faker's Contribution |
| Champion Diversity | Pioneered unconventional picks; 89 unique champions played |
| Lane Control | Perfected wave management and roam timings |
| Teamfight Positioning | Set standard for damage output while staying alive |
| Clutch Factor | Known for game-winning plays in crucial moments |
| Meta Adaptation | Successfully adapted through 12+ years of meta changes |

Most Iconic Moments

1. Faker vs Ryu - Zed Outplay (2013)

In the OGN Summer 2013 finals against KT Rolster Bullets, Faker executed what is widely considered the greatest play in League of Legends history. Caught in a 1v1 against Ryu's Zed, Faker perfectly timed his abilities, shadow swaps, and ignite to turn what seemed like certain death into a solo kill that propelled SKT to a reverse sweep victory.

2. The Tears at 2017 Worlds

After losing 0-3 to Samsung Galaxy in the 2017 World Championship finals, cameras captured Faker crying on stage. This moment humanized the "Unkillable Demon King" and became one of the most poignant images in esports history.

3. The LeBlanc Undefeated Streak

Faker remained undefeated on LeBlanc in professional play until the 2015 MSI finals, where he lost his first game on the champion against EDG's Morgana counter-pick. His 81% career win rate on LeBlanc remains among the highest for any player on a signature champion.

4. The 2023 Homecoming

Winning the 2023 World Championship in Seoul, South Korea, after six years without an international title, was a storybook moment. The home crowd's emotional celebration cemented Faker's return to the pinnacle of the sport.

5. The Three-Peat Completion (2025)

Defeating KT Rolster in a dramatic 5-game finals to complete the first-ever World Championship three-peat established Faker's legacy beyond any doubt. At 29 years old, he became the oldest player to win Worlds.

"For more than 12 years, Faker has shown incredible dedication to the game and sport. As the mid-laner for T1, Faker has long been known for his technical prowess and his ability to make game-changing plays earning him the moniker 'The Unkillable Demon King.'"

— LoL Esports, Hall of Legends Induction (2024)

8. Conclusion

The story of Faker is the story of esports itself. From a talented teenager making his debut in 2013 to a 29-year-old completing an unprecedented three-peat in 2025, Lee "Faker" Sang-hyeok has defined what it means to be a professional gamer.

His six World Championship titles stand alone in the record books. His 10 LCK titles represent domestic dominance unmatched in any major region. His 12+ years with a single organization demonstrate loyalty that transcends the transactional nature of modern sports. And his continued excellence at the highest level proves that age is not a barrier to greatness.

The Faker Legacy: By the Numbers

6

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

10

LCK CHAMPIONSHIPS

8

WORLD FINALS APPEARANCES

1,600+

GAMES PLAYED

66.6%

CAREER WIN RATE

12+

YEARS WITH T1

As the inaugural inductee into the LoL Esports Hall of Legends, Faker has already secured his place in history. Yet remarkably, his story continues. Whether he adds more titles to his collection or mentors the next generation of players, his impact on League of Legends and esports as a whole is immeasurable.

In a game where new talent emerges every year and careers often last less than five seasons, Faker has rewritten the rules. He has proven that with dedication, adaptability, and an unwavering competitive spirit, greatness can be sustained across eras.

"There is only one Faker. There will only ever be one Faker."

— League of Legends Community

The Unkillable Demon King.

The Greatest of All Time.

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