

Nikke-ing It Up



So on the 15th I decided to attend Anime Impulse in Dallas, TX. For those who don't know, here is the how the event describes itself:

Beyond just a simple convention, ANIME Impulse is a weekend-long celebration of all things anime, manga, video games, and fandom with the likes of a massive Vendor Hall and Artist Alley for attendees to shop to their hearts' content, special appearances from voice actors, cosplayers, influencers, and streamers, nonstop live entertainment, and a near endless selection from food booths.

The goal for this event is to provide casual fans and otakus to have a venue to gather and indulge in fandom. To be yourself and motivate creativity within the community.

Basically it's an event where you can say [BLANK], JAPAN at most items for sale. However it mostly caters towards anime, games, and media like Pokemon.



With the context out of the way, let's rewind a bit to the night before the event. In classic unc fashion, I decided to take a nap after work and found myself awake 4 hours later. After getting a really late dinner and some video games, I found myself wide awake in the twilight hours debating on whether I actually wanted to go to the event. Finally at 3am I looked at my Nikke account and made the decision. After buying a ticket to Anime Impulse, I forced myself to sleep.

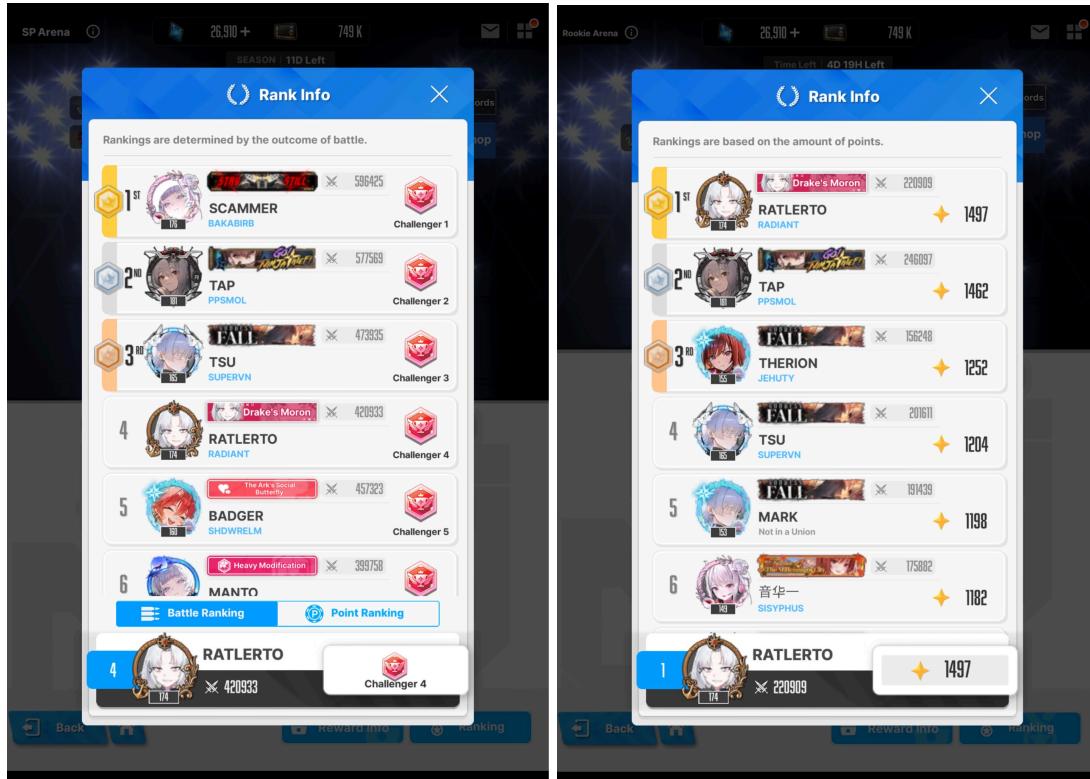
One set of eyeball openings later and it's 9:30am. With a Venti Starbucks cold brew in one hand and a Fairlife Core Power in the other, I'm on the road driving to the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center. Since it takes like 50 minutes to get there, let me go ahead and kill the time by explaining what Nikke is.



At its core, Nikke is a 3rd person FPS where you command a squad of 5 (usually) anime proportioned characters to either clear out robots or other people's parties.



Progression in the game comes from a few different areas but for the most part, if you push the main story then you get more resources which can snowball. With an intuitive positive feedback loop and anime booba, it's not THAT hard understanding my motives behind going to Anime Impulse. By the way I just gotta flex my PvP rank:



For context, Nikke's PvP system basically clumps you with ~50-150 other people who have similar creation time as your account and lets you slug it out. The left image uses a 3 team vs 3 team format while the right image is 1 team vs 1 team. While you can swipe, most of your resources are determined by how far you are in the story and combined with PvP specific units, I found this game mode to be surprisingly intricate. While I could talk more about Nikke, I'd like to continue my Anime Impulse blog.

So with that huge exposition, you'd expect me to start the day at the Nikke line and that is correct. I actually stood in the merch line for so long that the Venti Starbucks drink passed through my system and almost caused a code yellow. Luckily I was able to purchase the items I wanted and quickly dashed away to continue exploring the venue stress-free.



One \$16 Chickfila sandwich later and I continued exploring the event with little intention of spending anymore. Sadly Hoyoverse has a great merchandise department and I immediately knew that frugality was futile.



After I used their digital merch ordering system (where they had someone scan compiled QR codes), I found myself with yet another set of gacha merch.



Ok now that this point, I told myself I would just walk around the place, take pictures, and spend no more money. What actually happened was that I once again purchased way more items than I intended and found myself the proud owner of a lot of artist goods. While there are some random franchises here and there, my main focus was collecting Gigi Murin merch. If you don't know who that person is, then all you need to know is that Gigi is my spirit animal.



Surely after seeing every artist booth, company booth, and even TCG booth, it would be impossible to spend more money right? That is sadly correct. As I found myself approaching a corner of the venue I realized that tricked out VTuber cars might be the most Texas weeb thing. Below are Fauna, Biboo, Ina, Ayame, and Ina who are designs from Hololive. Fun fact, I saw some Saba and Nimi love in the form of cosplays and even a car (iykyk).



Overall I'm pretty happy I went to this event and it's always fun to see how people express their adoration for hobbies. The amount of cosplayers walking around combined with the general smooth logistics definitely helped elevate the event and spark the idea that I should attend other events like this one. In fact, Instagram has been blasting Anime Frontier in Fort Worth and Gigi Murin is supposed to be a VIP guest so I guess you can expect a blog on that one whenever its date rolls around.

Until then, I'll either keep playing Nikke one-handed or maybe I venture the open seas with Old School RuneScape's first original skill: Sailing.