

Super Smash Brothers Club Creates a New Gaming Environment

By: Juliet Quebatay November 25, 2014

Chase “Xtreme” Harrel, created the University of Tennessee’s Super Smash Brothers Club and is currently the president of it. The club meets in the Apartment Resident Hall, otherwise known as Andy Holt, on Thursday nights at 7pm.

Chase, known as Xtreme in the Super Smash Brothers community, previously participated in a Super Smash Brothers tournament in Hess Hall. He had never met anyone who could beat him at the game until that night. This is what pushed him to create the club. Chase said, “I wanted to get better, so I started the club. There was already a big following around UT that like to play, so it’s already been pretty successful.”



Students gather around to play a game of Super Smash Brothers Melee.

October 23, 2014 was the club’s first meeting where there were about 50 attendees. This exceeded Chase’s expectations. Because of this he began searching for authoritative players willing to take official roles within the club. Dustin “Bo” Peek said, “[Chase] had already started it before I became VP, but he was looking for more authoritative people and I was the only one who offered to take that role.” Together they hope that the club gets bigger and better and that they, as a club, can become some of the best players in Tennessee. During the meetings, students play against each other practicing and learning new skills. There are multiple TVs set up in the room hooked up to consoles. Player can then switch places and roam to see how other players are doing. There is also an area for those who play Super Smash Brothers on the portable 3DS.

Students of all skill levels are welcome to attend, from beginners to experienced whether playing recreationally or competitively. Kanyata “Kman” Mwenya attends the club meetings regularly. He has competed in about 10 to 15 tournaments, including out-of-state tournaments, since he began competing in 2012. He said, “Everyone wants to be the best, but that’s not what it’s about. Everybody coming together and playing a game that they love and just having a good time, when you go to a tournament that should be the ultimate goal. Just to go and have fun and make new friends and play the game and get better at it. Just like you would at any social event.” Kanyata attended the Apex 2014 tournament Series in New Jersey, which was the biggest event he had ever been to, and placed 64th out of about 400. That was the best he performed in any tournament. However, he has won other smaller local tournaments where competition was not as intense.

Super Smash Brothers is a Nintendo video game franchise. It consists of four games so far: Super Smash Brothers 64, Super Smash Brothers Melee, Super Smash Brothers Brawl, and Super Smash Brothers for the 3DS and Wii U. It is a four player Nintendo character themed battle royal, but in the Wii U version you are able to play with up to eight players. The goal is to knock the opposing players off of the stage. This is done by increasing the opponents' damage percentage with every hit. The higher the damage percentage of the player, the farther they fly when hit. Project M is a modification of Super Smash Brothers Brawl making it faster and adding more advanced techniques that are seen in Super Smash Brothers Melee. "{Project M] has a big competitive following so that's what we play a lot here. That and the #DS right now, and little bit of Melee too," said Chase.

The club will not be meeting this week due to Thanksgiving break, but will continue the week after on December 4, 2014. They plan on having the most recent edition of Super Smash Brothers, Super Smash Brothers for the Wii U, which was released on November 21, 2014 at the next meeting. Chase said, "The week after [Thanksgiving] we will be going full force with Smash for Wii U."