



The Bickle Breakdown: Preseason Overview

Well, you guys seemed to like this last year, and I've been getting spammed by people for it, so welcome to Season 2 of the Bickle Breakdown, where over this coming IBS split, I'll be doing my best to preview and review the games and teams of BOL IBS every week. First off, let me introduce myself to those who don't know me, as you'll be hearing quite a bit from me this IBS Split. My name is Bickle, and I've been privileged enough to play in the IBS scene over the past year or so, all with the team known as Coachless Tyranny, where I played with and against quite a few of you, and I'm also one of the casters here at BOL for IBS.

With the team document just now dropping, I figure what better time to make power rankings and show how little I know about all the teams than right now, before any games are played, so that everyone can flame me when all my rankings fall apart after week 1. What could possibly go wrong? As a note, I know more about some teams than others, so this will be my best guess at the moment, but there will be quite a bit of movement as I get to learn more about each team. To keep it simple, I'll be ranking teams in their own divisions for now, with a league wide ranking coming later. Overall, I'd say Piltover looks like the stronger division once again, with a lot of depth, while Zaun is a bit top heavy. For anyone living under a rock that hasn't seen the groups, they are as follows:



Now with that out of the way, let's start things off with the Piltover Division!

Rank 1: TD Syndicate

Top: ZaxeGaming
Jungle: Varinda
Mid: Lemon Sap
ADC: VampiricNarwhal
Support: Heliumbamboo



The champs have returned, and they're here looking to defend their title. With ZaxeGaming and Lemon Sap as the returning members, the solo lanes want to prove they're still on top and the ones to beat. A new bot duo joins them in VampiricNarwhal, who's always willing to pull out the late game carry picks like Kog and Jinx, and Heliumbamboo, who looks to finally be the constant support that Syndicate was missing last year with their support carousel. However, the big change will be in the Jungle:

Player to Watch: Varinda

Varinda is filling a massive hole here, as former TD Syndicate SuperSquare has ranked out and put on the coaching hat. However, they come in looking to pick up exactly where Square left off, and fill the hole at the top of jungle power rankings. SuperSquare was a beast, and I named him as the best jungler in BOL IBS last season, as well as the finals MVP, and something tells me Varinda is looking to not miss a beat.

Rank 2: TE Aeon

Top: Glizzy Gobbler
Jungle: TE Rennik
Mid: Junk Sleep
ADC: Jigbean
Support: KarmaLegend



Next up to bat, we have another turning squad in TE Aeon, a team that started off relatively unknown last season before making a name for themselves as one of the best teams in Zaun, finishing 3rd in their division. They come in with some familiar names, such as Junk Sleep, Rennik, and Glizzy Gobbler, as well as some new names such as Jigbean and KarmaLegend. When this team was at their best, they were winning though their bot side with jungle intervention. The question is, will the new duo be able to live up to previous expectations?

Player to Watch: Junk Sleep

Last time, Junk Sleep was put into a division with an insane mid pool, with the likes of LemonSap, SG Jak, Puffin, and more as his opponents. Despite this, he was able to hold his own and be a part of his team's success with picks like Lillia and Cassiopeia. With Jak moving on, Junk may be looking to make his mark on Zaun this season.

Rank 3: SG Tau

Top: Eman4realz
Jungle: Rocky
Mid: Uncoolsquash
ADC: CT Seulgi
Support: Star



The first of two Subatomic teams, Tau comes in with a lot of familiar names, many of whom have found success in IBS before. Now, fair warning, I will admit I have a positive view of Rocky and CT Seulgi from my time playing and winning leagues with them, but I try to keep my personal bias out of this. That being said, with Star and Uncoolsquash adding more veteran presence to the team, and Eman serving as the new talent, I think this is a team that can punch above their expected weight class and could be called a dark horse. We know Rocky and Seulgi have synergy already, but the question is, with the late addition of squash, will the team be ready to mesh?

Player to Watch: Rocky

In the past, Rocky has been overlooked due to the strength of his teammates, with him playing a more supportive role. However, I feel this could be the type of roster that allows Rocky to step into his own as a carry player, and if that's the case, I'll be interested to see how things play out for the team. We've seen him on things like the Amumu plenty, getting his team ahead, the question is will that again be his task, or will he take the ball and grab carries like Veigo to lead the team?

Rank 4: Tectonic Esports

Top: Solarbear12
Jungle: Rednick953
Mid: Ph0enix
ADC: MaximusXCIII
Support: Hiccup



Next up, we've got Tectonic Esports, or as I like to call them, The Nameless in all but name. Made up of some of the founding members and managers of The Nameless, Tectonic comes in with a wealth of experience as individuals, and some pre-existing synergies, going back to their days with Arcanists. Though I personally haven't seen them in action before, I have large expectations for this group of vets.

Player to Watch: Hiccup

My player to watch for Tectonic is the CEO of Nameless himself, Mr. Hiccup at Support. He's not only the highest ranked player with plenty of Gold ranked experience, he also plays Blitzcrank, and I love to watch some proactive Blitzcranks. On play making champs like Blitz/Thresh, it only takes one hook to turn the lane or even game around, so Tectonic may be a team you can never count out.

Rank 5: CB Forsaken

Top: Ratearls Yuumi
Jungle: LapinouYeet
Mid: Blue Atlas 007
ADC: steFrankin
Support: Sapsweet



This is a team built around the top laner, as he was the first man on the team, and theoretically got to help scout and develop his teammates. A lot of new players, I wouldn't be surprised if they come out with some crazy picks or lane counters out of the gate. Creativity feels like the name of the game for Forsaken. I expect them to be a fun team to watch, and think this team could climb or fall the rankings pretty easily.

Player to Watch: Ratearls Yuumi

Ratearls Yuumi, or as I'll be calling him for here on out, Sanders, is the man this team was build around in a sense. He helped scout and build the team and make a style that works well. Expect him to get late picks for winning matchups, or to possibly pull out some new dark tech.

Rank 6: CB Syndicate

Top: CB K3rmit
Jungle: Bardo Jr
Mid: Magikarp
ADC: thescout666
Support: EnderFridge



The easiest way to describe this team is a combination of veterans with a lot of knowledge, such as the scout666, and younger new players, who have some impressive mechanics, such as Bardo Jr. Look for the veterans to try and direct the young rookies looking to prove themselves. This is a team with a lot of variance, as a big portion comes down to how the rookie pan out when the pressure is on.

Player to Watch: thescout666

thescout is a veteran of the scene, having played across multiple teams, including GSG this past split. It'll be interesting to see how he functions as one of the main voices for the squad, and in a carry role.

Rank 7: SG Neutron

Top: SG Manny
Jungle: UsingQforYou
Mid: GrantedEX
ADC: Warning Shots
Support: Jake Verde



While the first Subatomic team is based around veterans, Neutron went a different route, bringing in a lot of younger talent with high upside. Though they haven't been together for long, they show strong potential, with UsingQ and Jake Verde being the standout points to help amplify the carries such as Warning Shots. I'm looking at this to be one of our Jungle focused teams, with UsingQ trying to fill in the gap that was left by the departure of SuperSquare and Itami.

Player To Watch: Jake Verde

When you have an 84% WR and above a 5 KDA over 25 games of Renata, you better bet the support in me is calling you the player to watch. Looking across the pool, it seems like Jake is capable of playing just about every style, be it enchanter, poke, or engage, and that is such a valuable trait to have as an IBS support that often gets overlooked. The question is will he be able to put his carries in a position to finish what he starts?

Rank 8: ATS Renegades

Top: Floridaman82
Jungle: Squeeze
Mid: SuicideTurtle
ADC: Chowder377
Support: IllegalyObtained



Last, but not least, we have ATS Renegades rounding out Piltover. This is a team I know very little about, and believe has very little comp experience except for the Floridaman up top. This is a team that's here to have fun and enjoys playing with each other, and a team with nothing to lose is always dangerous. Plus, last time I did BOL power rankings, I ranked SNC Sunset Ravens at the bottom of their division, and they ended up taking 1st place in their division, so maybe this is me giving them a buff?

Player To Watch: Floridaman82

The veteran of the squad, Floridaman looks to be the leader of the team, and as such, I expect him to be the playmaker. I'm hoping we see some exciting carries or split pushers top, like his Camille or Yorick top, but we'll have to wait and see about that. If he can pilot this team of rookies up the ranks with little expectations, he'll certainly be making a name for himself.

Week 1 Piltover Game Predictions:

SG Tau vs SG Neutron: SG Tau 2-0

First week, and we've already got sister teams facing off, first with SG Squads Tau and Neutron facing off. The edge, to me, goes to Tau, as they've got some veteran IBS presence in the likes of Star, Rocky, and CT Selugi, all of whom have found previous success in the scene. However, keep an eye on Jake Verde and UsingQforYou to see if they can throw a curveball out that surprises the vets.

Matchup to Watch - Rocky vs UsingQforYou

CB Forsaken vs CB Syndicate: CB Forsaken 2-1

Another game, another civil war, this time between the CB Piltover squads, and this one I feel could truly go either way. In the end though, I'm going to give the edge to Rat and his team's creativity, but this is a matchup I'm excited to see the result of.

Matchup to Watch - Ratearls Yuumi vs CB K3rmit

TE Aeon vs Tectonic: TE Aeon 2-1

To me, this is the closest series in Piltover for week one, as we have two teams with pre-existing synergy going head to head, and this could break either way. I do have to give the edge to the team I have more knowledge and experience with in TE Aeon thanks to Rennik, but I can very much see the duo of Maximus and Hiccup taking a game or two over.

Matchup to Watch - KarmaLegend vs Hiccup

ATS Renegades vs TD Syndicate: TD Syndicate 2-0

The defending champs vs the team I ranked 8th. I don't think much explanation is needed. However, if Renegades is going to find success, they'll need to neutralize the dominant solo lanes of Syndicate, and I think that would all start with FloridaMan. However, I expect LemonSap and co to take a relatively easy 2-0.

Matchup to Watch - ZaxeGaming vs FloridaMan

Piltover Initial Top 3 per Role:

NOTE - NOT IN ANY PARTICULAR ORDER, and I don't know all of you

TOP - **Zaxe** (TD Syndicate), **Floridaman** (Renegades), and **RATÈARLS YUUMI** (Forsaken)
JNG - **Rocky** (Tau), **Varinda** (TD Syndicate), and **Rennik** (Aeon)
MID - **Junk Sleep** (Aeon), **Uncoolsquash** (Tau), and **Lemon Sap** (TD Syndicate)
ADC - **thescout666** (CB Syndicate), **VampiricNarwhal** (TD Syndicate), and **CT Seulgi** (Tau)
SUP - **Jake Verde** (Neutron), **Hiccup** (Tectonic), and **Heliumbamboo** (TD Syndicate)

Now with Piltover finished, let's head over to the dark side of the Zaun Division!

Rank 1: TD Dusk

Top: Clukerduk
Jungle: SG Vesuvius
Mid: CB Pandorum
ADC: Jrend
Sup: Rex



Toxin asked himself after winning BOL IBS last season "What's better than having the best BOL IBS Team"? The answer, of course, is having the two best BOL IBS teams, and that's what he's attempting to do, as TD Dusk appears to be a juggernaut. Headed up by a duo with a lot of experience together, Vesuvius and Pandorum make up the core of the squad. Clukerduk, a breakout star from last split, will be joining in the top lane, with new and old meshing in the bot lane, as Rex, who has just about won everything there is to win in IBS, joins forces with Jrend. This is a team that comes in not just as a favorite in Zaun, but as one of the early favorites to take the whole league.

Player to Watch: CB Pandorum

Pandorum comes into this BOL split with a wealth of experience, not just in other leagues, but in champions. This is a man who will pull out the craziest things mid, but it tanks like Ornn and Sion or Marksmen like Twitch and Draven, but that's not even the half of it. He's the type of player to sacrifice his own lane to get his teammates ahead, but also has the ability to put on the carry pants when it's asked of him. All in all, Pando is a Swiss Army Knife that usually has whatever tool Dusk is looking for.

Rank 2: CB Clowns

Top: 1hand
Jungle: TD Cream Cheese
Mid: CB Kils
ADC: CB Accel
Support: CBeez Nuts



Send in the Clowns! We've already met two of the CB Squads in IBS, but Zaun holds the 3rd and final one, and in my opinion, the strongest of the trio. 1Hand returns top lane to be the rock he has been in the past after taking a vacation to visit bot lane recently. He's joined by Cream Cheese, who after his stint winning the LCS on Fugitive, comes to the Jungle. Kils, a man with experience in Gold already, brings his talents to the mid lane for this squad to be a major cornerstone. CBeez Nuts, better known as PBF, brings up the support of the squad, alongside a familiar ADC.

Player to Watch: CB Accel

Wanting to finally complete his org's BOL trophy case, The CB Boss and Owner himself CB Accel steps onto the rift as the starting ADC for the Clowns. He's been there to see his Gold, Plat, and Diamond teams succeed and win titles, even having a team find success in the NACL Spring Qualifiers. However, Accel now wants to bring his org home the final BOL trophy they need to complete the set.

Rank 3: EH Kaizen

Top: BuddhasDragonTTV
Jungle: Ziggifyy
Mid: Spat
ADC: Gam1ngN3rd
Support: MooseyKitten



A new org to BOL, but not the IBS scene, Event Horizon Kaizen is making their BOL debut, and if their current run in ASL is any indicator, they're a team to watch. GamingNerd and MooseyKitten have been a dominant force when playing together, with Kitten tending to grab an enchanter to benefit the team. Add in some solid mages from Spat while Bud and Ziggifyy split tank duty, and you've got a dangerous five stack that feels like they can do some damage.

Player to Watch: Ziggifyy

We can expect Ziggifyy to bring an aggressive jungle style back that have the potential to make him a standout jungler here in IBS. Look for Invades and early ganks as he looks to set the tempo.

Rank 4: SNC Sunset Ravens

Top: SNC WildStar
Jungle: SNC LostHavok
Mid: OnlyMagicalGirls
ADC: Xandradraeda
Support: SNC Nebulous



The Sunset Ravens return, but with an almost entirely new roster, as Xandradraeda being the one returning starter, with WildStar and Nebulous having both subbed in for the team last season. LostHavok is joining from last year's Best Team Name, Wooper Academy, and OnlyMagicalGirls is bringing plenty of IBS knowledge to the team, making them a well rounded squad that just needs to work on putting the pieces together. The question becomes how will Havok adjust to the jungle after his stint mid last season, and where will the resources be sent, as WildStar and Xandradraeda both enjoy being the focus.

Player to Watch: Xandradraeda

Xandradraeda was the stand out player of the Ravens last season, and was a big part in them finishing first place in the division. If they want to compete with the big dogs of Zaun, they'll have to replicate that impact and then some. We've seen some high execution champs like the Kalista come out, so time will tell how they handle the carry pants if the ball is given to them.

Rank 5: REV Per Minute



Top: spencmat
Jungle: Whaels
Mid: Lurca
ADC: General Danobi
Support: yaBoyTrevDean

After playoff runs by both Anarchy and X last season, Revolution brought out a new squad, who take the best name of the split, with Revolutions Per Minute. I love the name. Spencmat is the returning member from Anarchy, being a solid weak-side top laner who can pull out the carry Fiora if he feels it's needed. Meanwhile, in the bot lane, we've got the return of an IBS oldie, as General Danobi is stepping back onto the rift for Rev. ALong with this, Whaels we have another mid to jungle swap, with Whaels of last split's Hyperion Galaxy heading into the woods, with the team being joined by Lurca and Trev. This is a team that feels like it could be just about anywhere in the power rankings, and I'm curious if they will come out swinging.

Player to Watch: Whaels

With Hyperion Galaxy last season, Whaels helped the team make a late season run, including taking down Rev X in a big upset, with his play mid being a large part of that. However, he now wanders into the Jungle, and is the one responsible for helping his lanes get ahead. It's certainly a change from the champs he played last time, but I expect Whaels to excel in this new role, and to potentially be the difference maker in the likes of Danobi rolling.

Rank 6: AH Danger Bunnies



Top: Yetti87
Jungle: TES Phortwenty
Mid: APE Major
ADC: Braer
Support: Emperor Berith

A squad of mostly new blood coached by a notable veteran in Downfall, the Danger Bunnies take 2nd in the best name department, and are a team that feels really hard to judge. We know Major has the potential to make things happen and be the focal point of the map, the more important question is how the rest of the map will flow with him. My eyes will be on Braer and Emperor Berith to see how they manage in a division with some pretty strong bot lanes. This could be a team that upset expectations, but I need to see them in action first.

Player to Watch: APE Major

Major appears to be the one veteran of the squad, so look to him as the likely leader and the potential point the map decides to play around. I'm curious if he decides to play it safe with the likes of Malzahar/Azir, or if we get some spice and excitement mid lane like Irelia, Akali, or even Sylas.

Rank 7: Mystic Cats Red

Top: Strcha
Jungle: Seismic Bean
Mid: OGregBoi
ADC: Pedestrian1379
Support: T0bexlol



Mystic Cats is a team and org new to the scene, and they bring with them a roster of players I personally have no experience with, as such, I don't have a real way to rank them in terms of expectations. However, hearing from them, the squad has competitive experience in PMALCS, and as such, have some built in synergy together. As such, I'm looking for this team to really build towards and exceed in team fights, as working together is key in that department. With that, you'll really have to rely on your carries, so we'll see how OGregBoi and Pedestrian do when push comes to shove. This is a team that absolutely has the potential to demolish my rankings and prove me wrong.

Player to Watch: T0bexlol

With a lineup of players that I know nothing about, it's hard to pick a player to watch, but I've gone for T0bexlol for 3 reasons. First off, I'm a support player and always want to give them more attention. Second, he's the highest ranked of the squad. However, the third is what sticks out to me - he's a Singed Main. Were they all top lane? Yes, but that's not the point. If there's even a chance we see a crazy Singed support pick, I'm all for it.

Rank 8: Glacial Omen

Top: TheFrostyLegend
Jungle: Mortiss
Mid: ISmurfonZed
ADC: Cola123
Support: LswordIV



Similar story as Mystic Cats Red, Glacial is running a roster of a lot of players I'm not all too familiar with. However, by no fault of the players themselves, I'm ranking Glacial down here at the bottom due to past experience with Glacial IBS Squads, who just last season withdrew, as they had across many previous leagues. However, all hope is not lost, as the ASL Glacial team has been staying together and competing, something I hope to see out of this squad too.

Player to Watch: Mortiss

Again a team of players I don't know all that well, but this time, my eyes are instantly drawn to Mortiss in the jungle. Again, the highest ranked player on the squad, but a very aggressive champ pool it looks like, with Viego, Lee Sin, and Graves all being near the top, as well as having the likes of Sejuani available to play for the team when it's necessary. Overall though, look for Mortiss to try and take over a game.

Week 1 Zaun Game Predictions:

Glacial Omen vs Revolutions Per Minute: Revolution 2-1

We start off with two teams near the bottom of my rankings trying to make a name for themselves, and I'm running with Revolution here, partly because I'm more familiar with what they're capable of. I could very much see Glacial showing up and taking the series with a vengeance however thanks to Mortiss and co.

Matchup to Watch - Mortiss vs Whaels

SNC Sunset Ravens vs TD Dusk: TD Dusk 2-0

Our streamed match of the week sees TD and SNC face off is what has the potential to be a fun matchup. Bot feels as though it could be a close affair between the two squads, but I feel as though the strength of the top trio from Dusk will be too much for the Ravens to handle.

Matchup to Watch - OnlyMagicalGirls vs Pandorum

EH Kaizen vs Mystic Cats Red: EH Kaizen 2-0

Kaizen is coming in off a hot start in ASL, and they're looking to keep that going here as well. They'll have to do it against the relatively unknown Mystic Cats, who will be looking to establish themselves and show everyone exactly what they're about. I could see the Cats pulling something out to catch Kaizen off guard, but I think Kaizen will prove too much for the cats to handle this week.

Matchup to Watch - MooseyKitten vs T0bexlol

CBDE Clowns vs AH Danger Bunnies: CBDE Clowns 2-1

Lastly, we've got the battle of the Clowns and the Bunnies, and I favor the Clowns here, as their team depth feels as though it may be too much for the Bunnies to handle. If the Bunnies do make headway, look for TES Phortwenty to get his lanes ahead and potentially snowball. However, I expect Kils to take control and lead his team to victory.

Matchup to Watch - CB Kils vs APE Major

Zaun Initial Top 3 per Role:

NOTE - NOT IN ANY PARTICULAR ORDER, and I don't know all of you

TOP - **1Hand** (Clowns), **Clukurduk** (Dusk), and **BuddhasDragon** (Kaizen)

JNG - **Ziggifyy** (Kaizen), **Cream Cheese** (Clowns), and **Vesuvius** (Dusk)

MID - **Pandorum** (Dusk), **OnlyMagicalGirls** (Ravens), and **Kils** (Clowns)

ADC - **Xandradraeda** (Ravens), **GamingNerd** (Kaizen), and **General Danobi** (Rev)

SUP - **MooseyKitten** (Kaizen), **CBeez Nuts** (Clowns), and **Rex** (Dusk)