Episode 437

For the Week of April 12th, 2026

Close, But Not Close Enough

Timestamps

- 0:00:00 - Intro
- 0:04:09 - Competitive Halo News
- 0:28:18 - Rostermania
- 0:39:35 - Upcoming Tournaments of the Week
- 0:43:29 - Scrim & Tournament & League Recaps
- 1:16:52 - Halo News
- 1:17:46 - Shoutouts/Community Creations/Ending

On This Episode…

- Rosters continue to take shape ahead of the DreamHack Atlanta Qualifier.
- The DreamHack Atlanta Open Series concludes.

News (Competitive)

- Scoob Provides His Point of View - by Scoobmeister
    - With all the talk about hoping there's international representation (ANZ, EU, MX) at HaloFest, I'm curious whether the fact that we're playing on a 200 ping disadvantage will be considered…
    - Hypothetically, if we're placing T8 in all the online cups, is that enough to qualify? We are never going to realistically be able to pay out of our own pockets to attend LAN and hope for a good enough placement to MAYBE get invited.
    - The criteria for invitation needs to be more specific, if there isn't any intent to consider the disadvantages that we have to face, then I would probably like to know before I spend all my weekends waking up at 2am to play on miserable connection.
- Small Talk #5 - The STR8 RIPPIN Experiment: Phase Two - by Small
    - We completed our first broadcast of the STR8 RIPPIN Cash Grab back in February. We viewed that event as a success based on the way the community showed up and how positively the show was received, while also confirming the obvious challenge of monetization.
    - Since then, we followed up with our Watch Party stream for DreamHack Birmingham and our first night of Pro Scrims featuring Shopify Rebellion and Luminon Gaming.
    - Each of these broadcasts has helped us learn, sharpen our production process, and get a better read on our social media analytics. We believe we are on the right track toward building something meaningful, but we also know we need to keep adjusting and improving if we want to move toward something sustainable.

    - That is why we put together what we are internally calling Phase Two of the STR8 RIPPIN Experiment: a focused 90-day sprint with clear goals and priorities.
    - Over the next three months, we are focusing on more frequent, simpler stream days to strengthen our operations, test our business plan, and prove that we can hit the metrics needed to support this model.
    - The sprint is built to answer a simple question:
        - Can STR8 RIPPIN consistently produce enough content, impressions, and sponsor-ready inventory to support our sponsorship pricing model and justify further investment?
    - A core benchmark for this sprint is proving that we can build toward 2,000,000 monthly impressions on X. Reaching that benchmark would go a long way toward validating our primary business strategy.
    - We recently onboarded a new social media manager and are already putting more emphasis on regular social activity, which has been a big win so far. We also onboarded a new producer to better manage our production team. Right now, we expect to be live around 25 days over the next 90.
    - At the same time, we are finishing our sponsorship sales deck and expect to begin pitching as soon as we have a little more confidence in our analytics forecasts. We are also working to revive the website and merchandise shop.
    - To keep the sprint focused and executable, we will center our broadcast pipeline around watch parties for major events and pro team scrims. We will also continue looking for opportunities to work with creators in the community on grassroots events and game nights.
    - At the end of the 90 days, we will evaluate the results of the sprint and decide whether the next phase should remain steady, scale up, or scale down. As always, we will be completely transparent with all of you about what that looks like.

Roster Mania!

- Dark Inside
    - Kidnastey, Lydoe, Morgan Beans, Magico
- KrakenSeas
    - Bubududu, Falcated, Druk, SoulSnipe
- Luminon Black
    - Descendant, Piggy, Breakingshot, Envore

Upcoming Tournaments of the Week - Presented By NoobCombo

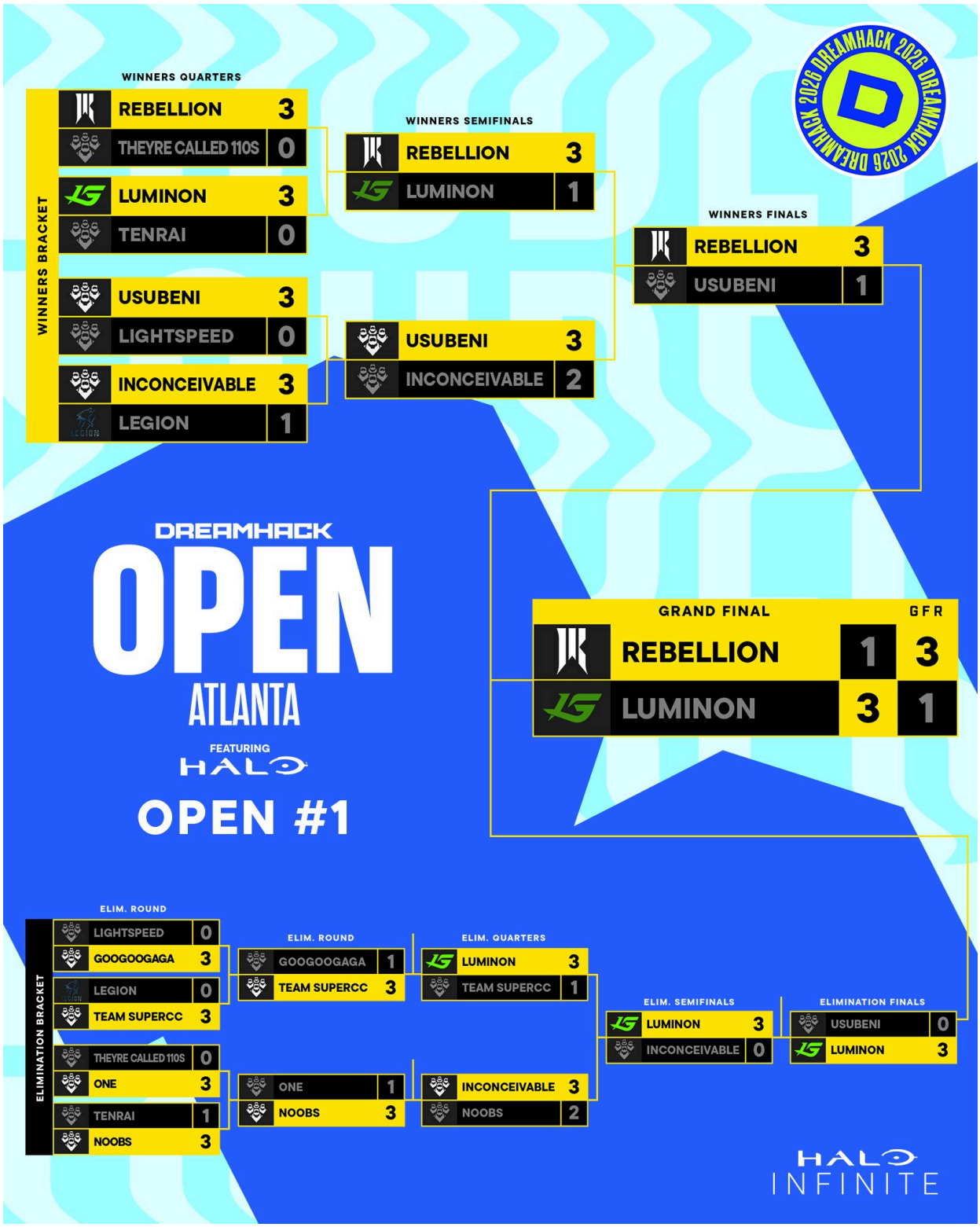
- Friday, April 17th
    - EHL Spring Swiss Open #2
- Saturday, April 18th
    - DreamHack Atlanta Online Qualifier

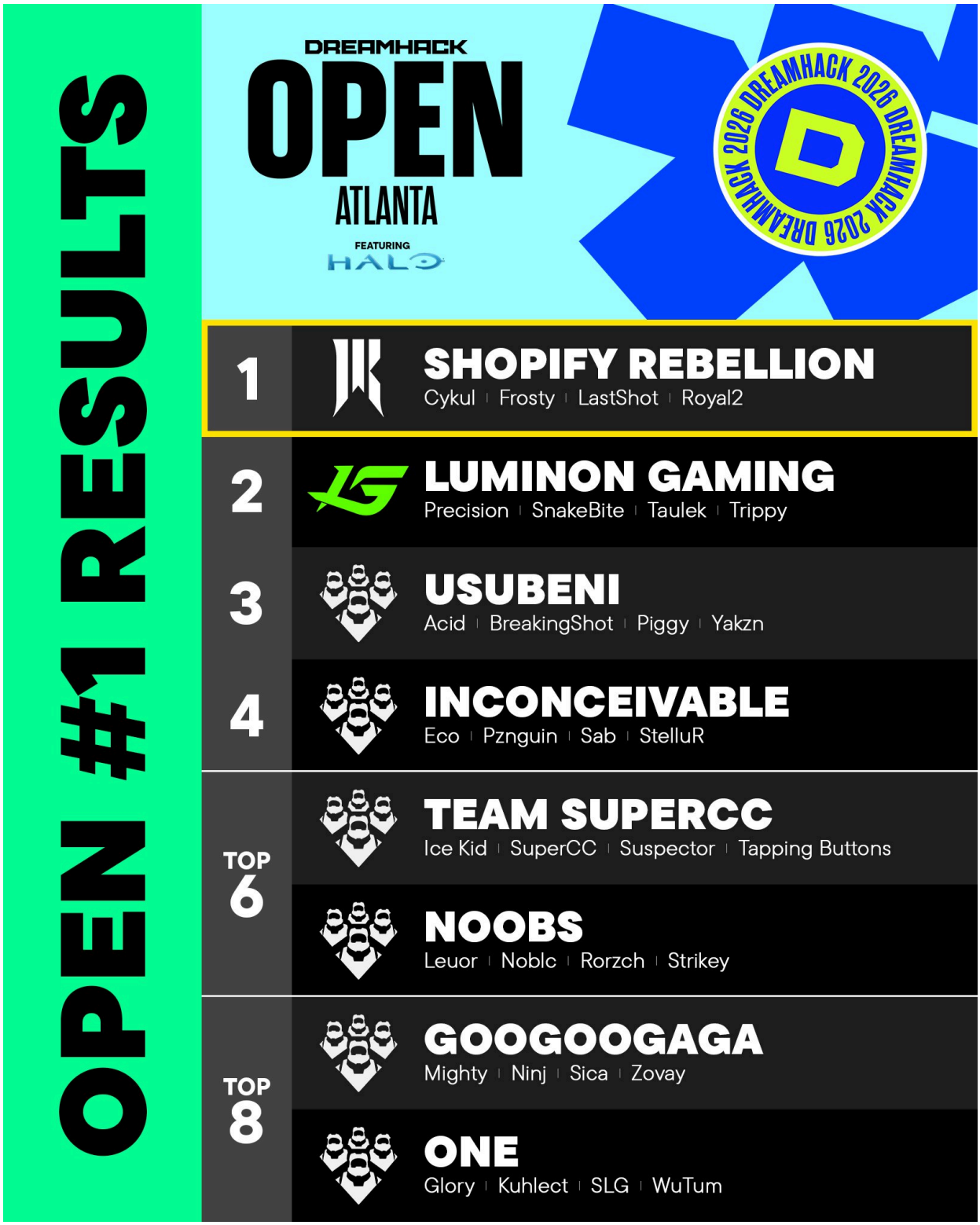
Scrim/Tournament/League Recaps

- Scrims Available For All Regions at HaloDataHive
- HRL FFA Series 16 Week 7 Standings
    - 8th
        - Wickadragon

    - 7th
        - Seany1016
    - 6th
        - Tydrip
    - 5th
        - NeoPrIme
    - 4th
        - Bane_117
    - 3rd
        - GarySnackz
    - 2nd
        - NursingDrluv
    - 1st
        - Coggnus
- SWAT Latam FFA Results
    - 8th
        - im4ndy
    - 7th
        - DCR1STO
    - 6th
        - Johan 0G
    - 5th
        - Makiia Rush
    - 4th
        - Anthrax JC
    - 3rd
        - iGhoStkiLLa
    - 2nd
        - migue951
    - 1st
        - Lone Judge
    - Bracket
- Gamers for Giving 2026 - Halo Infinite FFA Results
    - 8th
        - RootWizzy
    - 7th
        - Nightcrawl3r
    - 6th
        - binceyyy
    - 5th
        - GoldenGirl
    - 4th
        - wulfanite
    - 3rd
        - Mortykai
    - 2nd
        - HoLic
    - 1st
        - Bunnies Waddles

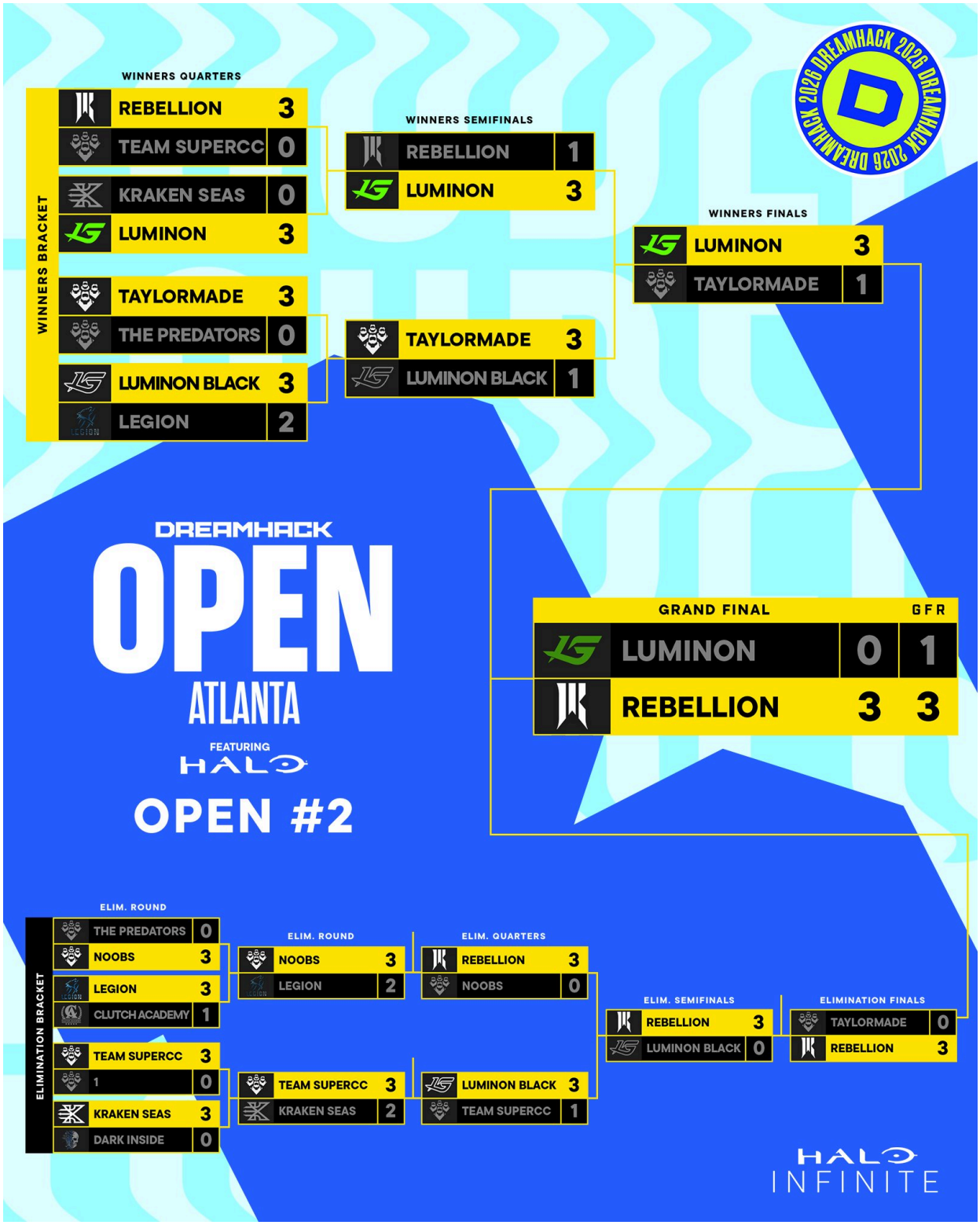
    - Bracket
- Road to DreamHack Atlanta - Open #1 - Day 2 Results

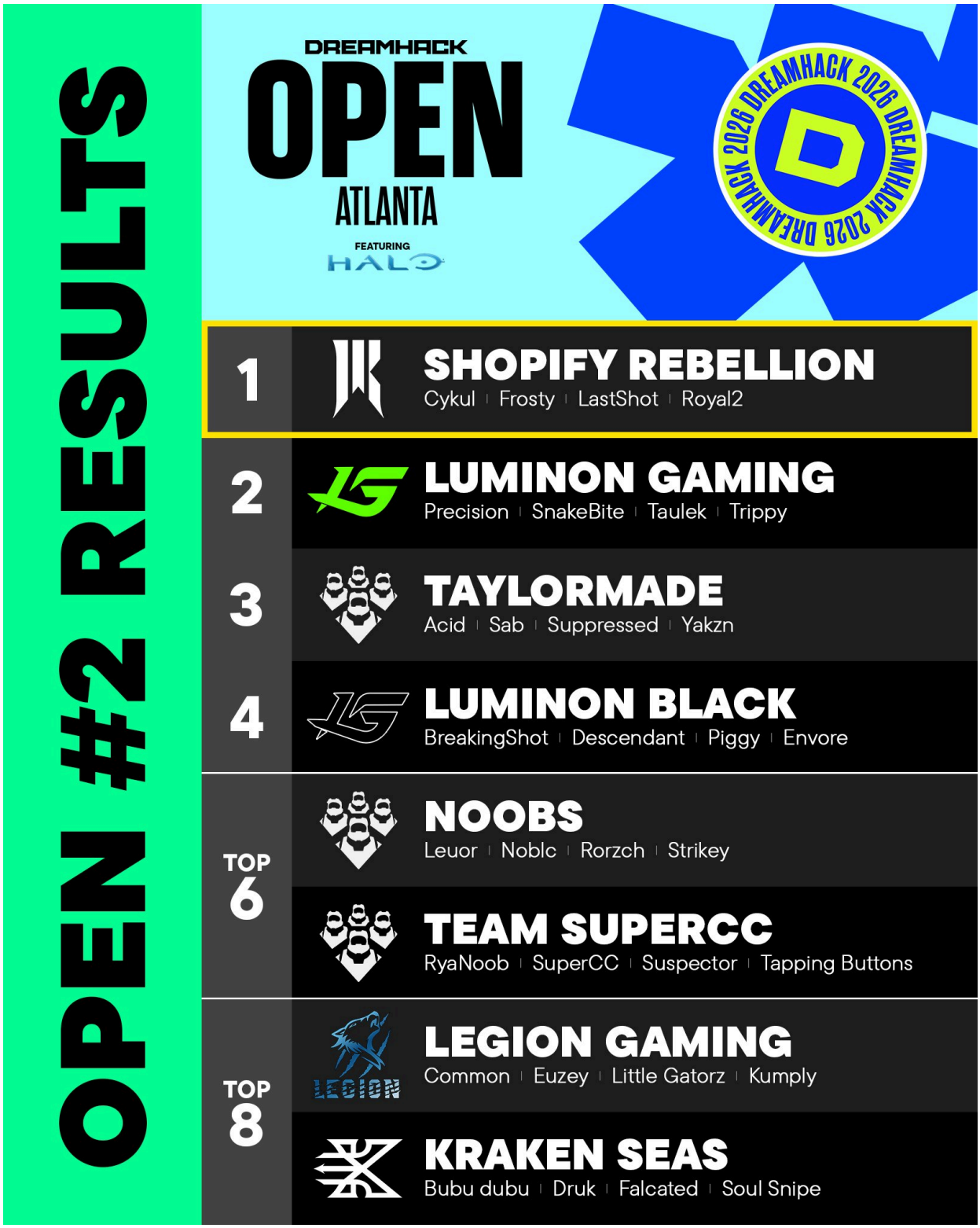




    - Bracket
    - VOD
- Road to DreamHack Atlanta - Open #2 Results
    - Notable Series

- Winners Round 3
  - Legion Gaming 3-2 “1”
- Winners Quarterfinals
  - Luminon Black 3-2 Legion Gaming
    - Stats
- Winners Semifinals
  - Taylormade 3-1 Luminon Black
    - It’s Descendant and Piggy vs Yakzn
  - Luminon Gaming 3-1 Shopify Rebellion
    - Could have, and probably should have been a 3-0…
    - Stats
- Losers Round 7
  - Noobs 3-2 Legion Gaming
    - Stats
  - Team SuperCC 3-2 KrakenSeas
    - Stats
- Grand Finals
  - Shopify Rebellion 3-0 Luminon Gaming
  - Shopify Rebellion 3-1 Luminon Gaming
    - Stats


DREAMHACK 2026 DREAMHACK 2026 DREAMHACK
WINNERS BRACKET
WINNERS QUARTERS
REBELLION 3
TEAM SUPERCC 0
KRAKEN SEAS 0
LUMINON 3
TAYLORMADE 3
THE PREDATORS 0
LUMINON BLACK 3
LEGION 2
WINNERS SEMIFINALS
REBELLION 1
LUMINON 3
TAYLORMADE 3
LUMINON BLACK 1
WINNERS FINALS
LUMINON 3
TAYLORMADE 1
DREAMHACK
OPEN
ATLANTA
FEATURING
HALO
OPEN #2
GRAND FINAL
GFR
LUMINON 0 1
REBELLION 3 3
ELIMINATION BRACKET
ELIM. ROUND
THE PREDATORS 0
NOOBS 3
LEGION 3
CLUTCH ACADEMY 1
TEAM SUPERCC 3
1 0
KRAKEN SEAS 3
DARK INSIDE 0
ELIM. ROUND
NOOBS 3
LEGION 2
TEAM SUPERCC 3
KRAKEN SEAS 2
ELIM. QUARTERS
REBELLION 3
NOOBS 0
LUMINON BLACK 3
TEAM SUPERCC 1
ELIM. SEMIFINALS
REBELLION 3
LUMINON BLACK 0
ELIMINATION FINALS
TAYLORMADE 0
REBELLION 3
HALO
INFINITE



- [Bracket]
- VODs
  - [Day 1]
  - [Day 2]

News - Regular

- Halo: Empty Throne | Spartan Chatter - by Halo Studios
- Halo MCC Security Update - by Halo Support
    - As part of our efforts to improve player safety and match integrity, an update to Easy Anti-Cheat efficiency in Halo MCC has been deployed, resulting in a significant ban wave.
    - No download is required.

Shoutouts

- Happy birthday today to Envore!
- Happy belated birthday to Rane Water & All In Juan!
- Congratulations to Gamers Outreach on raising over $1,800,000 during Gamers for Giving 2026!
- Shoutout to everyone who joined in the 8's!
- Shoutout to everyone who joined in the community playdate!
- Shoutout to everyone who followed/subbed during the live show!

Community Creations

- Halo memes every day!

Plugs

- Podcast Services (just search for HCS Pro Talk)
    - iTunes (https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/hcs-pro-talk/id1330849607?mt=2)
        - Leave us a review and let others know about the show!
    - Podbean (https://hcsprotalk.podbean.com/)
    - Spotify (https://open.spotify.com/show/26094AUbzsgR6iA0koz2Ta?si=uAJpjxTYTI-eZj15D-nwtw)
- Linktree (https://linktr.ee/hcsprotalk)
    - Discord (https://discord.gg/MbQ2yPmXaK)
    - Twitter (https://twitter.com/hcsprotalk)
    - Bluesky (https://bsky.app/profile/hcsprotalk.bsky.social)
    - Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/hcsprotalk/)
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    - Twitch (https://www.twitch.tv/hcsprotalk)
    - TikTok (https://www.tiktok.com/@hcsprotalk)
    - Merch (https://hcsprotalk-shop.fourthwall.com/)
- Website (https://www.hcsprotalk.com/)
    - Podcast Evolved Partnership
        - Make sure to check out HaloEvolved.co, your home for Halo!
            - Lore - Podcast Evolved - https://halopodcast.com/shows/podcast-evolved
            - Missions - Mission Debrief - https://halopodcast.com/shows/mission-debrief
            - Halo Paramount+ Show - Halo TV+ - https://evolvedhalo.com/shows/htv
            - Books - Book Club - https://halopodcast.com/shows/book-club

- Blocks - Builds with Blocks - https://halopodcast.com/shows/builds-with-blocks
- Top Halo News Stories - Halo Headlines - https://evolvedhalo.com/shows/halo-headlines
- Halo Gear Guide - https://evolvedhalo.com/shows/halo-gear-guide