



April 4, 2016

## **OpTic Gaming Wins Finals of North American Stage 1 of the Call of Duty World League (CWL), Presented by PlayStation®4**

***Australian/New Zealand and European Regional Winners Mindfreak and Millenium Also Earn Stage 1 Pro Division Titles***

SANTA MONICA, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- The **Call of Duty® World League, Presented by PlayStation®4** Finals of Stage 1 Pro Division concluded this weekend with the best Pro Division teams in North America earning their share of the more than \$3 million prize pool for 2016. In addition to the cash payout, OpTic Gaming moved closer to securing a qualifying spot at the 2016 Call of Duty® Championship, Presented by PlayStation®4 this fall. Eager fans in attendance at ESL Studios in Burbank, online via livestream, and tuning-in directly through an in-game (Black Ops III PS4) Live Event Viewer, witnessed the thrilling conclusion to months of rigorous competition of Stage 1, as the first step toward the year's grand competition and piece of the overall \$3 million in the year-long prize pool of the CWL.

"The First Stage of the CWL has featured some great gameplay, close matches, and some of the best competition that Call of Duty® has ever seen," said Rob Kostich, Executive Vice President and General Manager, Call of Duty. "Call of Duty eSports has a strong foundation dating back to Call of Duty XP back in 2011, but the CWL has already taken it to new heights and we can't wait to continue that growth during the Second Stage and the Call of Duty Championship this year."

The top eight North American teams battled over the weekend. After falling behind OpTic Gaming 3-0, Rise Nation fought back to force a winner take all game 7, and thousands of Call of Duty fans saw OpTic Gaming emerge victorious as they were crowned Stage 1 champions in the first major tournament on the road to the highly-anticipated Call of Duty Championship this fall.

"We know what we are capable of and that we are the best team in Call of Duty," said Seth "Scump" Abner, Captain of OpTic Gaming. "We haven't always shown what we can do, so having this win under our belt is good for the rest of our season."

Meanwhile, established players and aspiring amateurs alike competed as top teams from the CWL Challenge Division earned a chance at a spot in the Pro Division for Stage 2. As part of the Relegation tournament, the top four Challenge Division teams, Cloud 9, Team Liquid, Cloud 9 Eclipse and King Papey, faced off against the bottom four Pro Division teams. Dream Team and H2K Gaming held onto their Pro Division spots while Cloud 9 and King Papey won their matches and will participate in the CWL North American Pro Division Stage 2 and a chance to qualify for the Call of Duty Championship.

The North American Stage 1 Finals followed the Australia/New Zealand and European regional finals last week. All 30 CWL Pro Division teams competed in multiple week regional seasons prior to each set of finals. Mindfreak (ANZ) and Millenium (EU) took home the top spot in their regions and their share of CWL prize pools respectively.

The ANZ region featured a few different key match ups as perennial favorite Mindfreak beat Team Immunity and Tainted Minds on their way to being the CWL ANZ Pro Division Stage 1 Champions. New team, Incept, beat Exile.5 in Relegation for a spot in Stage 2 as Nv, Chiefs eSports Club, and Apotheon eSports all beat their challengers to remain in the Pro Division for Stage 2.

The EU region had multiple top teams vying for the Stage 1 prize pool. Millenium and Splyce met in the finals with Millenium winning the series handily 4 maps to 1. The road to the finals for each team was very different with Splyce fighting off top ranked Team Infused and excel eSports in back to back 4-3 series wins to make the finals. Millenium, who had earned the number two seed in the tournament because of their success during the 18 match season, only had to beat Epsilon eSports in a 4-1 series to reach the finals, thanks to a first round bye. Similar to the ANZ region, one team was replaced in Relegation. French team, PuLse Gaming was beaten by UK team Exertus 4 maps to 1. Vitality, Team LDLC, and Giants Gaming all beat their opponents to continue in Stage 2 of the CWL Pro Division.

Here are the final rankings for each CWL Stage 1 Pro Division region:

### North America

## 1<sup>st</sup> OpTic Gaming

- | Seth "Scump" Abner
- | Ian "Crimsix" Porter
- | Matthew "Formal" Piper
- | Damon "Karma" Barlow

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Rise Nation

## 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> FaZe Clan/Team Elevate

## 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> compLexity Gaming/Luminosity Gaming/Team EnVyUs/Team SoloMid

### Europe

## 1<sup>st</sup> Millenium

- | Callum "Swanny" Swan
- | Jordan "Jurd" Crowley
- | Thomas "Tommey" Trewen
- | Dylan "MadCat" Daly

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Splyce

## 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Epsilon eSports/Team Infused

## 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> exceL eSports/TCM Gaming

### Australia/New Zealand

## 1<sup>st</sup> Mindfreak

- | Mitchell "Buzzo" Mader
- | Denholm "Denz" Taylor
- | Lincoln "Fighta" Ferguson
- | Conrad "Shockz" Rymarek

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Tainted Minds

## 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Orbit/Team Immunity

As always, you can re-live the Stage 1 action on the Call of Duty YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/CALLOFDUTY/videos>.

Be sure to check out <https://www.callofduty.com/esports> and follow @CODWorldLeague on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitch](#) for the latest CWL updates.

### **About Activision Publishing, Inc.**

Headquartered in Santa Monica, California, Activision Publishing, Inc. is a leading global producer and publisher of interactive entertainment. Activision maintains operations throughout the world and is a division of Activision

Blizzard (NASDAQ: ATVI), an S&P 500 company. More information about Activision and its products can be found on the company's website, [www.activision.com](http://www.activision.com), or by following [@Activision](https://twitter.com/Activision).

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-looking Statements: Information in this press release that involves Activision Publishing's expectations, plans, intentions or strategies regarding the future, including statements about *Call of Duty: Black Ops III Awakening*, are forward-looking statements that are not facts and involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Factors that could cause Activision Publishing's actual future results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements set forth in this release include unanticipated product delays and other factors identified in the risk factors sections of Activision Blizzard's most recent annual report on Form 10-K and any subsequent quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. The forward-looking statements in this release are based upon information available to Activision Publishing and Activision Blizzard as of the date of this release, and neither Activision Publishing nor Activision Blizzard assumes any obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements believed to be true when made may ultimately prove to be incorrect. These statements are not guarantees of the future performance of Activision Publishing or Activision Blizzard and are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, some of which are beyond its control and may cause actual results to differ materially from current expectations.

ACTIVISION and CALL OF DUTY are trademarks of Activision Publishing, Inc. All other trademarks and trade names are the properties of their respective owners.

View source version on [businesswire.com](http://www.businesswire.com): <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20160404005902/en/>

Activision Publishing, Inc.  
Robert Taylor, 310-496-5206  
PR Manager  
[Robert.Taylor@activision.com](mailto:Robert.Taylor@activision.com)

Source: Activision Publishing, Inc.

News Provided by Acquire Media