Competitors at the World Cyber Games in San Francisco in October 2004. ("WCG 2004 Auditorium" by Peter Kaminski. Licensed under Creative Commons BY 2.0.)
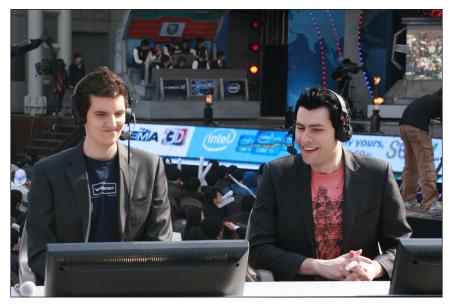

Bryce "Machine" Bates practices at the IGN ProLeague Season 3 tournament in Atlantic City in October 2011. (Photo by the author.)

Alex "HDStarcraft" Do and Taylor "PainUser" Parsons commentate at the IGN ProLeague Season 3. (Photo by the author.)

Starcraft II at DreamHack 2012 in Sweden. ("dreamhack-100" by Andrew Bell. Licensed under Creative Commons BY 2.0.)

Daniel "Artosis" Stemkoski and Nick "Tasteless" Plott commentate at a GSL StarCraft II tournament in South Korea. (Photo by Tara Stemkoski.)

Justin.tv founders Justin Kan, Kyle Vogt, Emmett Shear, and Michael Seibel. ("the justin.tv team" by Karen. Licensed under Creative Commons BY 2.0.)

Heather "sapphiRe" Garozzo competes at a Counter-Strike tournament. (Photo by HLTV.org.)

Players compete side by side at EVO 2009. ("Evo 2009 day 2" by Chris Ainsworth. Licensed under Creative Commons BY 2.0.)

SKT Telecom T1 celebrate with the Summoner's Cup after winning the League of Legends Season 3 World Championship in Los Angeles. Riot cofounders Marc Merrill and Brandon Beck are also on stage. (Photo © AP Images.)

The crowd is bathed in lights at the League of Legends All-Star tournament in Paris in May 2014. (Photo © AP Images.)

Confetti rains down at the International 2014 in Seattle. ("IMG_7682" by Jakob Wells. Licensed under Creative Commons BY 2.0.)

Team Secret compete at ESL One New York in November 2014. (Photo by the author.)

Kurtis "Aui_2000" Ling plays with Cloud 9 at the International 2014. ("Cloud 9 takes on Vici Gaming" by Dota 2 The International. Licensed under Creative Commons BY 2.0.)

Danil "Dendi" Ishutin prior to the main event at the International 2015 in Seattle. (Photo by the author.)

The crowd reacts after Evil Geniuses win the International 2015. (Photo by the author.)