



**JADEN
AMATUZZO**



SWIPE ➡

How did you first hear about MECC and what made you sign up?

I first heard about MECC from a classmate who was involved in my university's MECC club. I was honestly shocked to learn that not only did Excel Esports exist, but that the finals were held in a real Esports stadium in Las Vegas. As it happened, there was a livestreamed battle featuring a professor from my university the very next day. I tuned in out of curiosity and ended up watching the whole event. I was surprised by how entertaining I found it, and by the end of the stream I had resolved to give MECC a try.

What was your Excel experience like before joining MECC?

I had practically no experience with Excel before joining MECC. I had only used excel a handful of times before, and the extent of my function knowledge was =SUM.

How do you prepare for a MECC competition and what does your practice look like?

In the days leading up to a competition I usually intensify my practice. I'll work through both new and old cases, paying close attention to the areas where I struggle or lose the most time. At the same time, with input from my teammates, I'll develop custom lambda functions to automate repetitive tasks.

What was your first MECC competition like?

My first MECC competition took place only about a week after I first signed up. By then, I had already discovered that I genuinely enjoyed Excel Esports, and I had completed a few practice cases, so I went into the September Weekend Battle feeling cautiously optimistic. It suffices to say that things didn't quite go as planned. A combination of time pressure, reading comprehension mistakes, and my overall lack of experience led me to finish only a fraction of the case. When the results were released, I was amazed to discover that not only had the first-place competitor completed the entire case, but they had done so with thirteen minutes still remaining on the clock. It was humbling, but it also motivated me to keep practicing.

What has been your most memorable moment through MECC so far?

It's not my proudest moment, but my most memorable experience was during the April Team e-Invitational. My team had completed every part of the case except for the final bonus question.

Unfortunately, I had made a mistake in my model, so while I was trying to debug it, my teammates started guessing the possible answers. With less than ten seconds remaining, they guessed the correct answer and we managed to fully solve the case in time.

How has MECC changed the way you think about Excel and your own abilities?

MECC has completely changed the way I think about Excel. Before joining MECC, I assumed that Excel was a tool only for simple spreadsheets and routine office work. I had no idea how powerful it had become. Modern Excel includes features like dynamic arrays, lambda functions, and functional programming concepts that make it capable of solving complex problems. In many ways, Excel has evolved into a fully fledged programming language, just with a spreadsheet as the user interface.

What do you actually gain from MECC that you cannot get anywhere else as a student?

MECC has given me the unique opportunity to develop a genuinely useful technical skill through fun competition. At least as far as Esports go, I think Excel Esports are the most valuable in terms of the skills you gain.

If you had to pick one, what do you enjoy most about MECC, the competition, the community, or the learning experience?

If I had to choose one, I would say I enjoy the competition the most. Before joining MECC, I'd never had the opportunity to compete on a global scale in something I enjoy.

Every competition is exciting because I know I am going up against the best players in the world. It's equal parts exhilarating and intimidating, but the challenge is what keeps me coming back.

What would you say to a student who is hesitant about signing up?

I'd tell them to just sign up. It's free, it only takes a few minutes, and there's no obligation to compete if you decide it's not for you. If you're even slightly curious, there's really nothing to lose. If you're worried that you aren't good enough at Excel, don't be. You don't need to be an Excel expert before joining MECC. Rather, you become an expert by solving cases, learning from mistakes, and challenging yourself.