

## Proofing Test: Mark For Corrections Page

When it came to the U.S in 1998, the Pokémon Trading <sup>Card</sup> Game quickly became the game of choice for ~~for~~ thousands of young people. Characters like Blastoise, Charzard, and, of course, Pikachu became household names.

Now, seven years later, the phenomenon continues in over 30 counties. <sup>Through</sup> ~~Though~~ its Organized Play (OP) Division, The Pokémon Company International maintains the highest-possible standards of <sup>one word</sup> game play and social interaction. Players in Great Britain, France, Austria, Germany, and all over the world collect, trade and play with the cards that were once considered “childish,” before the game took on a new competetive level through the various premiere events like City and State Championships, Gym Challenges, and the biggest of them all, the World Championship. <sup>us</sup>

“I’ve been playing for a long time,” says Teresa Banks, a thirteen-year-old player from Austen, <sup>whose</sup> ~~who’s~~ brother <sup>first</sup> introduced her to the game ~~first~~. “It’s wierd, but the game’s like an old friend with all its cool Pokemon and <sup>trainers</sup> ~~trainers~~. When I go to the tournaments, its like I know everyone <sup>they’re</sup> ~~their~~ all my old friends, too.”

Players not only know their Pokémon—they also know ~~if~~ their cards. From Special Conditions to Evolution cards, players familiarize themselves with every aspect of gameplay, <sup>ensuring</sup> ~~insuring~~ that when they arrive at a tournament, they feel right at home. In events like Prerelease <sup>+</sup> ~~Tournaments~~, players are just as engaged by the competitive nature of the tournament as they are by the ~~ohing and ahing~~ <sup>aching aching</sup> over every new Pokémon card they get to see for the first time.

“This is what I live for,” says Brett Farland, <sup>fourteen</sup> ~~forteen~~, of Jackson, Mississippi. <sup>you’re</sup> ~~Your~~ always excited to play the latest and greatest Pokemon.”

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<sup>5 min</sup>  
Brett’s not the only one who feels that way. As Theresa Bank might say, “They’re old friends.”