



Ji Dong Hyun's big dream

The KBL has two Lee Jung-hyun players. One is Lee Jung-hyun from Seoul Samsung, and the other is Lee Jung-hyun from Goyang Sono. Lee Jung-hyun from Samsung, born in 1987, is called Keun Jung-hyun, and Sono Lee Jung-hyun from 1999 is called Jak Jeong-hyun.

There was also a time when Dae Jung-hyun dominated the KBL. However, the current trend is determined to be the most valuable player. He was even nominated for MVP in both the first and second rounds of 2023-2024. Although Lee left the team due to a shoulder injury, Lee has a big dream. His dream is to become a "player who wins the team."

Lee Jung-hyun joined the Orion professional basketball team (the predecessor of Goyang Sono) as the third pick in the 2021 KBL domestic rookie draft. During his debut season (2021-2022), he played 23 minutes and 26 seconds on average in the regular season, recording 9.7 points, 2.7 assists and 2.3 rebounds per game and 1.0 steals.

Was stronger in the playoffs. In 25 minutes and 43 seconds per game, averaged 15.0 points, 2.0 rebounds, 2.0 steals and 1.8 assists. Was a rookie, but proved to be a stronger player on the big stage. Something was definitely a different player.

And during the 2022-2023 season, the team has been reborn as a treasure that will shake up the league under Kim Seung-ki's training. In particular, in the playoffs, in 34 minutes and 31 seconds per game, 1.8 steals with 20.1 points and 3.9 assists and 2.8 rebounds. It has been reborn as the future and present of the team.

Such growth has honored Lee. Being named in both the Universiade and the adult national team. In particular, joining the adult national team was meaningful. Lee, who was included in the adult national team, experienced the Asian Games for the first time in his basketball career.

After the end of the 2022-2023 season, he was elected to the Universiade national team. The team consisted of players who were younger than the professional team and players from college. College players were in good condition during the season, so they trained, but the professional players were on vacation then. There were some players who lacked exercise

capacity. So the team did a physical workout at the beginning of the call-up. After that, we got together. Then, we did sparring with a professional team or an adult team.

In the Universiade national team, he had to play as a main resource.

Director Jung Jae-hoon (currently Hanyang University coach) has given me the role of "solver." He will lead the team with the captain, (Kim) Kyung-won (currently Anyang General Manager). He wanted me to solve the big moment.

After experiencing the Universiade, I was included in the senior national team. The senior team was already working together, and I joined after finishing the Universiade. I started training much later than the other guys. So I personally lacked both preparation and time to work together.

Also, he played a different role than he did for the Universiade. No matter what position he played, he blocked his opponent's ball handler. He mainly played 3-pointers. Also, there were many good older guys, so I tried to focus on the assistant role.

I experienced the Asian Games for the first time. How was it different from other international competitions?

The weight was different from the national team by age. However, it was my first time living in Jincheon Training Center and it was amazing. Most of all, it was an honor and a good memory because it was my dream. However, my performance was not good... That's a shame and regrettable.

Basket Korea met Lee Jung-hyun back in the May 2023 issue. But back then, Lee's position was shaky. Lee's team, Day One Sports, was expelled from the KBL due to financial difficulties.

However, the savior of Day One Sports including Lee Jung-hyun appeared. It was Sono International. Sono International, which was approved for its foundation, was reborn as the "Goyang Sono Sky Gunners" in July 2023. Players who visited the team could laugh. It is because a new sanctuary has been created.

The same was true for Lee. He smiled broadly at the inaugural ceremony. He created an unforgettable scene. He gave laughter to many people by carrying his teacher, Kim Seung-ki, on his back.

Sono International has submitted a letter of intent for its establishment.

"I heard the news (from the start) during the Universiade national team's training. I was so happy." (laughs) Furthermore, it was all the more gratifying to be able to attend the event together with the coaching staff and players. I was very grateful.

Goyang Sono Sky Gunners was officially founded.

Thank you and novelty coexisted. The inaugural ceremony was also held in Sonokam Goyang, so my mindset was different from before. I think I felt more of a sense of belonging. The team name has changed every season. It's a rare experience.

It's hard to change once, but I've experienced three changes in three years. I hope it doesn't change anymore. (laughs) But as the new team was founded during a difficult time, I was grateful.

As a side note, I carried director Kim Seung-ki on my back at the inauguration ceremony. The players were then expressing their determination. At that time, the MC (Gagman Kim Yong-man) recommended, "How about Lee Jung-hyun carry Kim Seung-ki on his back?" It didn't happen in the plan

Actually, I thought to myself, 'If I win, I'll give you a piggyback ride.' I told the host that. But he said, "The founding ceremony is a very good place. Why don't you give me a piggyback ride now?" After hearing that, I also thought, 'If not now, when should I give you a piggyback ride?' So I gave him a piggyback ride, and if I win, I'd like to give him a piggyback ride again.

Apart from his joy, Lee was away from the team throughout the offseason. Although he knows Kim's style, four months Lee Jung-hyun has been away from the team has been quite a long time. Lee was able to forget the colors of Sono and Kim Seung-ki.

He showed signs of nervousness in the opening game. Lee had only seven points, four assists and three rebounds (attack 2) in the opening game of 2023-2024. In particular, his field pitching success rate was only about 18.2 percent (two points: 2/8, and three points: 0/3). "Lee Jung-hyun is playing basketball differently from a year ago. I don't know how he came to be like that... We need to get him back to normal quickly," manager Kim Seung-ki said after the opening game.

However, his worries about Lee were all groundless. Lee's performance was upgraded. He has become a center resource of the league, not just a center of the team. He played in the first round (average of 37 minutes 23 seconds, 20.9 points, 7.2 assists, and 3.4 rebounds) and

the second round (average of 36 minutes and 04 seconds, 21.0 points, 5.1 assists and 3.3 rebounds), all as MVP-level players in the first and second rounds. The poor performance in the opening game was a setback for the team's upgrade.

The 2023-2024 season has come. However, the opening game performance was not good. As I mentioned earlier, I was called up to the Asian Games with the Universiade team. I had little training with my teammates. But I had full confidence.

However, my physical strength has not been good since the pre-season practice game. So, my strength didn't come out at all, and Kim Seung-ki was worried, "If you do this, you'll get caught."

However, I believed in my overflowing confidence more than my lack of physical strength in the game. But when I played the opening game, my lack of physical strength was immediately apparent. It was definitely a different matter from my confidence. Because I had low physical strength, everything was offbeat.

What did you have in mind after the opening game?

I didn't have much to think about. I knew what to do and when to do it. But, as I said before, my body just didn't play along. (laughs) I thought, "If you play a few games, your physical strength will improve." The coach paid a lot of attention to my physical strength. I played MVP in both the first and second rounds. What things have changed?

In the end, I think it's the physical strength of the game. My physical strength improved faster than I thought, so I try to fill in what I lacked. For that reason, I think the performance came out better than I thought. However, I missed both round MVPs. That's a little disappointing. (laughs)

As you said, both rounds have been awarded the 'Round MVP'.

(The first round MVP was Dedrick Lawson, and the second round MVP was Asem Maray's.)

"Lawson and Maray did a great job." (laughs) I think the player who deserves it received it.

Actually, I was nominated because of my teammates. They all showed good performance, so I think I was also nominated for round MVP.

As mentioned above, Lee Jung-hyun has grown into a player who will determine the league. He has been reborn as a player who can represent the league. Evidence suggests that he was nominated for MVP in both the first and second rounds of 2023-2024. Furthermore, he was also mentioned as a candidate for MVP of the season.

However, team performance should be supported. In addition, Lee Jung-hyun should maintain the momentum of the first and second rounds until the final match. If that happens, Lee Jung-hyun can seek the 2023-2024 MVP.

Of course, it is difficult. In addition, Lee Jung-hyun injured his right shoulder in the match against Korea Gas Corporation in Daegu on Dec. 10, 2023. There may be aftermath of the injury. This is why Lee Jung-hyun's future moves are also unknown.

However, Lee's spirit of competition did not diminish. Winning the team. That is the goal Lee set. For that reason, Lee was eager to return.

December 10, 2023. I hurt my shoulder in a game against Daegu Korea Gas Corporation. I had a good week off after my injury, and I went to the gym yesterday (18th). I'm not shooting and running, but I'm carrying out the exercises that basketball needs. I think it's my job to be ready to play steadily.

After you return, you need to improve your team's performance a little more. My team is in playoff contention. I don't think things will change after I come back. Also, all the team members are doing their best. I want to come back healthy and help my team advance to the round of six.

What are your goals for this season?

My team's goal is to make it to the round of six. And as you mentioned "season MVP" around you (laughs), I just want to maintain a good performance after recovery. That's my personal goal.

Even if you say that, I think I'll dream of becoming the MVP of the season.

I thought, "Can I get a round MVP?" (laughs) But season MVP is another matter. I think team performance, individual skill and luck are necessary. (Season MVP) I think it's after recovery and it's after victory.

Anyway, I think recovery will come first. [토토사이트](#)

That's right. Even though I missed a few games, I will focus on my recovery first. After I recover, I will do my best to win my team. I will cheer up my teammates, who are still sweating. I will run hard.