

**@STAR1 JUL Issue. 2024 (NO.146)  
(ZEROBASEONE SEOK MATTHEW)**

**Q. It seems like you were a bit nervous today since you were alone without the other members.**

A. I was really nervous because it was my first time shooting without the other members. I thought I had to do well by myself, so I was tense, but thanks to everyone making me feel comfortable throughout the shoot, I was able to relax and enjoy it. The photos must have turned out well, right?

**Q. They were perfect (laughs). You recently finished your 'Feel the POP' activities. Have you been resting well?**

A. I've had a bit of rest, but we also have an Asia tour coming up, so I've been busy preparing for the tour and thinking about how to show new sides to ZEROSE (fandom name), as well as preparing for the next album.

**Q. With this Promotions, you achieved your first terrestrial broadcast win and won on various music shows. If you were to grade these results, what score would you give?**

A. I was really happy to show a new side with 'Feel the POP'. Honestly, I think the fans worked harder than us, so I'd give myself 70 points and give ZEROZE 100 points. We still have a lot to improve on, and we need to work harder to achieve 100 points, but thanks to ZEROZE, we won first place. I'd give the fans a perfect 100 points.

**Q. You were an ordinary student before debut. How did you come to dream of becoming an idol?**

A. Until university, I went to school like any other student. I chose a major that seemed stable for a job, but when I actually studied it, I felt it didn't suit me. I was really interested in dancing and thought about how I could turn something I loved into a career. During that time, I came across K-pop videos and thought, "What if I became an idol?" It was the pandemic period, and online auditions were being held, so I applied and got accepted. Believing in that possibility, I dropped out of university and came to Korea.

**Q. How were you able to take action so quickly? That's impressive.**

A. Once I made up my mind, I felt that if I continued studying, I would regret it for the rest of my life. So, I talked to my parents, and they said, "We would hate for you to regret it because of us. You're still young, so do what you want. If it doesn't work out, you can always come back to us. Don't worry." That gave me confidence and reassurance.

**Q. You came to Korea and eventually achieved your dream. What worries you the most these days?**

A. As it's almost been a year since debut, I worry about what I need to do next to keep improving. Of course, I think it's right to feel this kind of pressure. I'm very grateful for the opportunities given to me, so I work hard, but I always worry about the future.

**Q. From starting your trainee life in Korea alone to participating in <Boys Planet> and becoming part of ZEROBASEONE, there must have been many tough moments.**

A. When I came to Korea, I was confident and believed I could do it, but being here without family and friends was really hard. I couldn't speak Korean well back then. I called my parents crying every day, saying I wanted to give up. One time, I told my mom I really couldn't do it anymore, but strangely, unlike before when she said I could come back anytime, she firmly told me, "You quit university and came here for this. If you give up on this too, there will be nothing you can do in life." It was the first time she talked to me like that. Hearing that, I thought, "If I give up whenever it gets hard, it's not good for me either. Let's hold on."

**Q. And during that time, you appeared on <Boys Planet>?**

A. Yes. When I was thinking of going back to Canada, Hanbin hyung suggested that I join <Boys Planet> with him. Initially, I didn't want to do it because I thought my chances of debuting were small with 100 participants. But Hanbin hyung kept encouraging me, so I applied, and luckily, I made it into the debut group.

**Q. At first, it seemed you valued the experience more. As you got closer to debut, didn't you think, 'Am I really going to become a singer?'**

A. I never dreamed I would debut, so I thought I'd just show off that I was on TV to my friends in Canada if I got eliminated quickly (laughs). But as I got closer to the debut group, I started to have hope. Especially since Hanbin hyung was doing well, I thought we might debut together, which made me want to work harder. Seeing the possibility of achieving my dream, I couldn't just do things half-heartedly.

**Q. Your family must have been very happy about your debut.**

A. My mom still can't believe it (laughs). The last time I went to Canada was before <Boys Planet>. Now that I have some free time, I'm going to Canada for the first time since debut. I'm really excited and happy thinking about meeting my family and friends.

**Q. What did <Boys Planet> give you? It must feel different from just debuting as a trainee.**

A. Through the show, I experienced many challenges and learned how to relax on stage and perform well. Also, since all the members went through the same experience, it feels like we're a family. Our manager said that when you go through tough experiences in the military, you feel like your comrades are family. It's similar to that (laughs).

**Q. It's like 'comradeship' (laughs). Now, the members are the closest to you, so you must feel their importance more.**

A. We definitely support each other. We notice right away if someone is feeling down or having a hard time and try to help them. Before, it felt like we were just family, but now we understand each other's feelings just by looking at each other.

**Q. All the members are great, but who do you get along with the best these days?**

A. These days, I get along really well with Gunwook. We have the same sense of humor. Haha. I also get along well with Hanbin hyung, but Gunwook really gets my jokes and responds twice as much. Even though he's younger, he's really reliable and thoughtful, so we talk a lot.

**Q. You look quite 'chic' when not smiling, but when you smile brightly, it feels like everything is disarmed. What do you think? Is this kind of contrasting charm one of your appeals?**

A. I think so. Haha. But ZEROSE seem to like my cuteness more. Sometimes it's difficult because of my muscles (laughs).

**Q. Difficult, how? (laughs).**

A. It's hard to be cute because I have muscles (laughs). ZEROSE see me as cute, but they also seem to like it when I show a chic side.

**Q. Do you think to yourself, 'I'm cool'?**

A. I want to think that, but everyone around me says I'm cute.

**Q. Resting well is as important as working hard. What is your usual day like?**

A. At first, I tried to do everything during my rest time. For example, after debuting, I didn't have much free time, so I wanted to do everything during that time – go to amusement parks, meet friends. But lately, I've realized how important it is to rest well. If you don't rest enough and work, you get tired and feel down, which affects the mood of those around you. I used to think, 'I can just work harder during the shoot,' but knowing that my mood can influence others, I realized I need to manage my stamina and rest well. That responsibility is mine. These days, I rest a lot at home. So sometimes I feel lonely (laughs).

**Q. Do you feel lonely?**

A. When I spend a lot of time alone at home (laughs). Other members have many friends. I have friends who are singers, but they all have schedules, so it's hard to meet them comfortably. Most of my non-singer friends are in Canada, so I feel lonely sometimes.

**Q. You've been riding your bike often lately, right?**

A. I was looking for something I could do well alone, and biking is great exercise and allows me to get a lot of fresh air, which helps me a lot. Every time I ride, I feel relaxed and refreshed. I highly recommend it!

**Q. When was the last time you rode a long distance?**

A. Just yesterday! I went biking with Gyuvin, and we rode over 30km. But when we stopped, we didn't really know where we were, and my bike chain came off, so we ended up taking a taxi home. Haha.

**Q. You have an Asia tour coming up in September. You must be very excited. How do you feel?**

A. I'm really excited. We have stages prepared for the songs from this album, so I hope everyone looks forward to it.

**Q. What is your wish for this year?**

A. I hope ZEROSE stay healthy, and our members too. I want us to be together for a long time. I hope ZEROSE will look back on our photos and videos and think those times were great. The members and I already talk about the future a lot. It might sound silly, but thinking about being together in the far future makes me happy and excited.