



News Release

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WIZARDS OF THE COAST ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF FIRST TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

Winners Awarded Cash and Prizes at Hong Kong Event

February 24, 1997 (Renton, Wash.)--Wizards of the Coast, Inc., maker of the internationally bestselling trading card game **Magic: The Gathering®**, has announced the winners of the first-ever Tournament of Champions, held February 14 - 16 in Hong Kong. Over 500 players from around the world participated in this highly anticipated event, which marked the first time that a major **Magic** tournament has been held in Southeast Asia. Thousands watched as the players competed in three exciting **Magic** tournaments:

Duelist® Invitational

This all-star invitational tournament featured top players from Europe, North America and the Asia Pacific region.

Seventeen-year-old Swede Olle Råde, one of the top players on the Pro Tour circuit, took first place in the *Duelist* Invitational. Råde competed against a group of 16 top **Magic** players from around the world--including seven players from the United States--to win a special, unprecedented grand prize: the chance to work with members of the Wizards of the Coast® **Magic** Research ® Development team to design his very own **Magic** card. Råde will not only create the game characteristics of the card (casting cost and abilities), but also help with the name, flavor text and art description.

Results for the *Duelist* Invitational are as follows:

1. Olle Råde (Göteborg, Sweden)
2. Mike Long (Harrisonburg, VA)
3. Mark Chalice (Claremont, CA)
4. Matt Place (Kansas City, MO)
5. Scott Johns (Northridge, CA)
6. Andrea Redi (Cilavenna, Italy)
7. George Baxter (Dallas, TX)
8. Leon Lindbäck (Stockholm, Sweden)
9. Eric Tam (Toronto, Canada)
10. Tom Chanpheng (Brisbane, Australia)
11. Sean "Hammer" Regnier (Manchester, NH)
12. Bertrand Lestrée (Pantin, France)
13. Brian Weissman (Santa Barbara, CA)
14. Alexander Blumke (Thônex, Switzerland)
15. Thomas Andersson (Täby, Sweden)
16. Amiel Feldman (Geneva, Switzerland)

Asia Pacific (APAC) Championships

This regional tournament determined the best individual **Magic** player in the Asia Pacific area.

Australian Nathan Russell took top honors in the APAC Championships, taking home US \$4,000 in gold. Russell defeated top national players and champions from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand, among others. Results for the APAC Championships are as follows:

Champion: Nathan Russell (Australia)--US \$4,000 in gold

Finalist: Toshiki Tsukamoto (Japan)--US \$2,000 in gold

Semifinalists: Ohashi Ryuji (Japan) & Tom Chanpheng (Australia)--US \$1,000 each in gold

Quarterfinalists: Rafael Lirac (Philippines), Rod Ho (Australia), Kim Ju-Neon (Korea), Early Nguyen (Australia)--US \$500 each in gold

Hong Kong Open

This tournament was open to players of every skill level from all over the world.

Champion: Koichiro Maki (Japan)--Ford Festiva, Invitation to Pro Tour - Paris

Finalist: Harold Sy (Philippines)--Invitation to Pro Tour - Paris

Semifinalists: Gwang Sing Au (Hong Kong) & Chi Kuen Alex Chan (Hong Kong)

The Hong Kong Tournament of Champions was created by Wizards of the Coast's Asia Pacific Division to demonstrate the company's support for **Magic** play in China and to provide **Magic** players in the Asia Pacific region with an additional competitive forum. Sponsors for the Tournament of Champions included Ford, Mitsubishi, Gargoyle Sunglasses, Bio-Link Water and China Bookstores.

Wizards of the Coast created a whole new category of games when it released the first trading card game, **Magic: The Gathering**, in 1993. To date, more than two billion cards have sold worldwide. The game is currently available in nine languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Italian, Japanese, Chinese and Korean. Wizards of the Coast is headquartered in Renton, Washington, with other offices in Glasgow, Scotland; Antwerp, Belgium; and Paris, France, and a wholly owned subsidiary in Hong Kong. For more information on Wizards of the Coast, visit the company's website at <<http://www.wizards.com>>.

If you have any questions, contact Customer Service at <custserv@wizards.com>

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