



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Finland Native Tommi Hovi Crowned Champion**

### **At Magic: The Gathering Pro Tour In Long Beach**

#### **Wizards of the Coast, Inc. Awards \$180,000 in Prize Money and Scholarships**

March 10, 1997 (Renton, Wash.)--Finland native Tommi Hovi and Junior hotshot Jess Means claimed first prize at the **Magic: The Gathering®** Pro Tour™ in Long Beach last weekend, taking home \$26,000 in cash and \$8,400 in scholarship funds, respectively. Hovi, 17, won the Master's competition by beating David Mills, 23, of Charlottesville, Virginia. Mills won \$16,000 for his second place finish. Hovi was declared the winner when tournament judges intervened and terminated the match after warning Mills several times for playing his cards out of sequence (specifically, placing a card in play without first tapping mana). Junior Champion Jess Means, age 15 from Columbus, Ohio, defeated 18-year-old Zvi Mowshowitz, who took home \$5,000 in scholarship funds.

"Traveling all the way from Kaarina, Finland to compete in and win the **Magic** Pro Tour in Long Beach is truly the most exciting event in my life so far," said Hovi. "David was an excellent competitor, and I would like the opportunity to play him again."

Complete results for the Master and Junior championship finals are as follows:

#### **Master Championship Finals**

|  |                |                           |
|--|----------------|---------------------------|
| Champion   | Tommi Hovi     | Kaarina, Finland          |
| 2nd Place  | David Mills    | Charlottesville, Virginia |
| 3rd-4th Place  | John Yoo       | Buena Park, California    |
| (\$9,000 each)                                       | Alan Comer     | San Marcos, California    |
| 5th-8th Place (winners listed in alphabetical order) |                |                           |
| (\$5,500 each)                                       | Truc Bui       | Los Angeles, California   |
|  | John Immordino | Carmichael, California    |
|  | Ben Possemiers | Antwerp, Belgium          |
|  | Brian Weissman | Santa Barbara, California |

#### **Junior Championship Finals** (winnings represent scholarship money)

|  |                   |                          |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Champion   | Jess Means        | Columbus, Ohio           |
| 2nd Place  | Zvi Mowshowitz    | New York, New York       |
| 3rd-4th Place  | Brian Harding     | Fairfield, Connecticut   |
| (\$2,900 each)                                       | Aaron Kline       | East Windsor, New Jersey |
| 5th-8th Place (winners listed in alphabetical order) |                   |                          |
| (\$1,700 each)                                       | Jason Gordon      | Fairfield, Connecticut   |
|  | Elijah Pollock    | Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
|  | Scott Valleroy    | Davenport, Iowa          |
|  | Raphael Zimmerman | Albany, New York         |

The Long Beach event was the second stop in the second season of the **Magic: The Gathering** Pro Tour, which kicked off in Dallas in November 1996. Remaining dates for this season include:

| <b>Location</b>     | <b>Date</b> | <b>Purse</b> |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Paris, France       | April 1997  | \$150,000    |
| New York, New York  | June 1997   | \$180,000    |
| Seattle, Washington | August 1997 | \$250,000    |

**Magic** is the acclaimed trading card game that has become the intellectual sport of the '90s. Developed by a math professor, **Magic** contains elements similar to bridge and chess. The strategic card game is often played in a tournament setting, with amateur and professional **Magic** players competing throughout the year to receive rankings and win prizes.

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 offices in Glasgow, Scotland; Antwerp, Belgium; and Paris, France. 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](mailto:custserv@wizards.com)>

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