



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPION TO BE CROWNED

Top **Magic: The Gathering** players to compete for \$200,000 in Prize Money at Pro Tour - New York

May 15, 1997 (Renton, Wash.)--Wizards of the Coast, Inc., makers of the internationally best-selling game **Magic: The Gathering**®, has announced it will bring its popular **Magic** Pro Tour™ circuit back to New York for the second annual Pro Tour - New York. The event will take place from May 30 through June 1, 1997, and will offer \$200,000 in prize money and scholarships.

Pro Tour - New York will feature the 1997 Junior World Championships, as well as intense Masters (18 and up) competition. The weekend activities will include amateur **Magic** tournaments for teams and mixed doubles; foreign language competitions using Chinese and Korean **Magic** cards; artist appearances and card signings; gunslinging with top **Magic** players; and much more. Pro Tour - New York will take place at the Rye Town Hilton in Rye Brook, New York, and is open to the public from 8 a.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday, May 30 - 31, and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 1. Admission is \$5.

Magic is an imaginative trading card game that requires strategy, mathematics and critical thinking. The strategy card game has become the intellectual sport of the '90s. Developed by a math professor, **Magic** contains elements similar to bridge or chess and is often played in a tournament setting, with amateur and professional **Magic** players competing throughout the year to earn rankings and win prizes totalling \$1,000,000. To help players track their rankings, Wizards of the Coast created the DCI™, the governing authority for all officially sanctioned **Magic** tournaments and events. DCI membership has grown to over 100,000 players since its inception.

The 1996 - 97 Pro Tour season will culminate in Seattle with the World Championships, from August 13 - 17, when the **Magic** World Champion will be crowned and Master players will compete for \$250,000 in prize money.

In addition to the Pro Tours, Wizards of the Coast recently launched the international Grand Prix circuit, a series of international tournaments that gives **Magic** players from around the world an additional opportunity to win cash, prizes and invitations to compete in professional **Magic** tournaments worldwide. This year Wizards will bring Grand Prix tournaments to Tokyo, Barcelona, London, Toronto, Copenhagen, Rio de Janeiro and Milan, as well as domestically to Washington, D.C. and San Francisco. Wizards of the Coast recently hosted the Hong Kong Tournament of Champions, an all-star **Magic** event that featured top players from Europe, North America, Australia and the Asia Pacific region.

Wizards of the Coast is a leading developer and publisher of entertainment products, including **Magic: The Gathering**. Since the game was released in 1993, over two billion cards have been sold, and the game is available in nine languages. Other products published by the company include the trading card game **BattleTech**® and the soon-to-be-released card game **Corporate Shuffle**™, based on the popular comic character DILBERT. Wizards of the Coast is headquartered just outside of Seattle, Washington, in the city of Renton, with international offices in the United Kingdom, Belgium and France. For more information on Wizards of the Coast, visit the company's website at <<http://www.wizards.com>> or their CompuServe forum at (GO WIZCOAST).

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