

# Kyushu, Japan Hosts *Magic: The Gathering* Grand Prix

*Sideboard Staff*

November 10, 1999 (Renton, Wash.)-On October 30, more than 450 **Magic: The Gathering** aficionados descended upon the Fukuoka Fashion Building in Hakata City, Japan, to compete in a Grand Prix tournament, surrounded by both the ancient mystery and the modern thrill of Kyushu Island's ambiance.

The **Magic: The Gathering** Grand Prix - Kyushu tournament drew an international array of competitors from six different countries. Two days of intense competition ended when Tadayoshi Komiya defeated his final opponent, Eisaku Itadani, in a 2 - 0 sweep. Both young men worked hard to get to the top, competing against some of the best **Magic** trading card game players in the world. In the end, it was Komiya who triumphed and took the grand prize.

Komiya won the 1997 Japanese National Championship. He is a member of Team Muneo, based in Osaka, and prepares for tournaments by practicing with his teammates, including reigning Japanese National Champion Masayuki Higashino. His main concern at Grand Prix - Kyushu was the "Opposition" deck played by one of his opponents. This deck resembled the one Michael Pustilnik used to win Grand Prix - Memphis. It makes treacherous use of Opposition, a blue enchantment card from the *Urza's Destiny* expansion. In earlier rounds, Komiya watched this "Opposition" deck take down two other players, who were using blue decks like his own. Fortunately, Komiya had anticipated the situation and tweaked his "Big Blue" deck to defend against an "Opposition" deck. His strategy worked.

In addition to the cash prize, Komiya earned an invitation to Pro Tour - Chicago, scheduled for December 3 - 5. He said he has not had a chance to study the recent changes to the Extended format, but that he will start practicing soon to be ready for Chicago. Komiya is evidence that the Japanese players have begun to establish a strong presence in the Pro Tour. He predicts that within a year a Japanese player will place in the top eight at a Pro Tour stop.

Komiya's "Big Blue" deck looked like this:

## **Spells:**

- 4 Annul
- 4 Grim Monolith
- 3 Masticore
- 2 Morphling
- 2 Palinchron
- 4 Power Sink
- 1 Rescind

4 Rewind  
4 Stroke of Genius  
3 Thran Dynamo  
3 Treachery  
1 Turnabout

**Lands:**

4 Blasted Landscape  
4 Faerie Conclave  
13 Island  
4 Remote Isle

**Sideboard:**

2 Douse  
3 Hibernation  
2 Lilting Refrain  
2 Quash  
3 Snap  
2 Temporal Adept  
1 Thran Foundry