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## America's Top *Magic*: The Gathering Pros Battle The World's Best For Over \$250,000 At Seventh Annual World Championships In Brussels

July 26, 2000 (RENTON, Wash.)--The world's best professional *Magic: The Gathering*® players will compete for a share of more than \$250,000 in cash prizes at the 2000 *Magic*® World Championships, to be held August 2 - 6 in Brussels, Belgium. The fierce competition will feature both individual matches and an international team tournament that will showcase teams from more than 40 countries. This year's U.S. team is one of the strongest in Pro Tour™ history.

Over 250 of the top *Magic* professional players from all around the globe are building their decks, hoping to claim the coveted \$34,000 individual cash prize and the title of World Champion for one of the world's most popular trading card games. The World Championship is the highly anticipated grand finale of the 1999 - 2000 tournament season, featuring winners from tournaments around the globe. Four-player national teams from around the world will be competing for \$22,000 first-place prize money as part of the total \$250,000 prize purse.

Among those competing in the six-day event are reigning World Champion Kai Budde of Germany; 2000 U.S. National Champion and All-Time Money Winner Jon Finkel of Fanwood, New Jersey; Rookie of the Year Dirk Baberowski of Germany; top finishers from professional tournaments in Chicago, London, Los Angeles and New York; and more than 40 four-person national teams. In addition, the event will feature a wide variety of side activities, including a number of a Pro Tour Qualifier tournaments and appearances and signings by well-known *Magic* artists, including Jeff Miracola, Randy Gallegos and Paolo Parente.

Select side events will be open to the public on August 2 - 6.

The World Championship and all side events will be held at the Brussels Exhibition Center Heysel, in Brussels, Belgium. For additional information, please contact Wizards of the Coast Inc. at (800) 324-6496.

The *Magic: The Gathering* trading card game was developed by award-winning game designer and mathematician Richard Garfield. In this intense game of strategy, players battle to reduce each other's score from 20 to 0 through a series of attack and defense moves. These illustrated cards depict fantastic monsters and imaginative worlds. With an estimated fan base of more than six million players, the *Magic* game is played in social and competitive settings, including the prestigious \$1 million *Magic: The Gathering* Pro Tour circuit. Played in more than 52 countries worldwide, the *Magic* game is supported by the DCI™ players' organization, the governing authority for all officially sanctioned *Magic* tournaments. Helping both amateur and professional *Magic* players track their rankings, the DCI players' organization currently sanctions more than 60,000 *Magic* tournaments around the world per year.

Wizards of the Coast, a subsidiary of Hasbro Inc. (NYSE:HAS), is the worldwide market share leader in the trading card game and tabletop roleplaying game categories. A leading developer and publisher of game-based entertainment products, as well as the owner and operator of one of the nation's largest specialty game retail chains, the company holds an exclusive patent on the play mechanic of trading card games (TCGs) and produces the world's best-selling *Pokémon*<sup>TM\*</sup> and *Magic: The Gathering* TCGs. Headquartered near Seattle, Washington, Wizards of the Coast has international offices in Antwerp, Paris, Milan, London and Beijing. For more information on Wizards of the Coast, visit the company's website and electronic retail store at [www.wizards.com](http://www.wizards.com).



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