

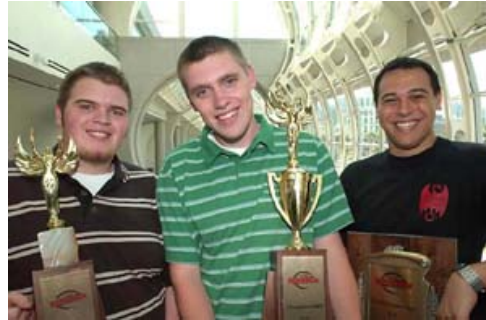
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U.S. Nationals

Magic Arcana
Monday, June 30, 2003

Josh Wagener is the 2003 U.S. National Champion! Though going into the finals of the event everyone in the building assumed he would come out second, Wagener showed them all with a definitive 3-0 win over Gabe Walls. A virtual unknown going into this event, Wagener had only been seen in the quarterfinals of Grand Prix - Boston earlier this year. Hemmed in by pros on all sides, his was the last name you expected to see in lights at Sunday's close.



In the quarters he faced Brian Kibler, and his Red-Green Beats made short work of the dragonmaster's mono-black aggro deck. Meanwhile Justin Gary pulled out the upset win over Jon Finkel in the battle of the former champions, and Wagener bashed him too. Walls was enjoying a similarly easy road, overcoming first Mike Turian and then Jordan Berkowitz (who had just dispatched his former mentor and Dark Jedi Master Neil Reeves) and making it look like child's play. So while Gary got to best Berkowitz for a spot on the team in the playoff, Wagener and Walls faced off for the title. Pundits gave Walls an easy win in three. It was not to be.

It should be noted that last year and the year before, the U.S. team has been composed of a veteran and two "randoms", only to win and finish second. It might be premature to write off the U.S. in the teams competition this year. Congratulations to Josh Wagener, Gabe Walls and Justin Gary, the 2003 U.S. National Team!



Round Three: The Angel of Wrath vs. the Minotaur Hero; the Clouded Mirror vs.

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Joshua Wagener
Red-Green Beats

Main Deck 60 cards	Sideboard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Karplusan Forest 4 Wooded Foothills 8 Mountain 7 Forest <hr/> <p>23 land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Grim Lavamancer 4 Basking Rootwalla 4 Llanowar Elves 4 Phantom Centaur 4 Wild Mongrel <hr/> <p>19 creatures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Reckless Charge 4 Firebolt 4 Volcanic Hammer 4 Call of the Herd 4 Violent Eruption <hr/> <p>18 other spells</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Compost 3 Moment's Peace 2 Flaring Pain 3 Naturalize 3 Static Orb <hr/> <p>15 sideboard cards</p>

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