

Home > Games > Magic > Magicthegathering.com > Columns



Fifth Dawn at US Nationals

Brian David-Marshall
Swimming With Sharks
Wednesday, June 23, 2004



I am so tired.

US Nationals was a blast. I had a great time hanging out with friends, watching people I like do well, and working on the brand-spanking new coverage blog. For those of you who haven't looked at [the coverage](#) yet I definitely recommend doing so. In addition to the traditional coverage we normally do, the blog allowed us to cover other aspects of the event. This meant we could share funny stories, reintroduce photo journalism to the coverage, and even talk about significant side events and tournaments going on other than the main event.

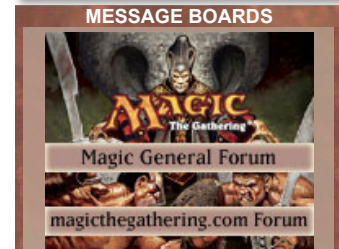
Like I said... I am tired. Fortunately for me I get to cruise a little bit on this week's column relying on decklists to get me through it. And do I have decklists. I have the top decks from the JSS, decks from the post *Fifth Dawn* Standard tournament, and the Top 8 decks from the Grand Prix Trial for GP New Jersey. Those last decks are going to be the most relevant decklists of the week since they are our first glimpse at what the metagame should look like for the upcoming PT: Columbus qualifier season.

JSS

Congratulations to Jeff Garza on winning the JSS Championships. Jeff won with a somewhat unorthodox Tooth and Nail build that he has been honing for months. I have always loved the idea of having a deck that is YOUR deck. Rather than try to race with the metagame and play the deck du jour you get to really know your deck. Every card in the deck becomes an old friend lovingly selected through good times and bad. You develop a sixth sense in regards to those 75 cards (let's not forget the sideboard) and you feel like you can beat anyone on any given day because you have more experience with the inner workings of your beloved creation.



Jeff finished high in the money at last year's event and took the same approach with his Mirari's Wake deck; playing it constantly until its workings became second nature to him. Many people felt Jeff should have made the Top 8 last year but he has more than made up for it in his final appearance on the junior circuit. The decks below are the Top 5 after sixteen rounds of Swiss and the top finisher in each age group. The tournament did not cut to a Top 8, rather it relied on the standings after sixteen rounds to determine a winner. Jeff won on a clean break in the points as the only player with 40 points at 13-2-1.



Jeff Garza

Mono Green Tooth - JSS Champion

Main Deck 60 cards	Sideboard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Forest 1 Stalking Stones 4 Urza's Mine 4 Urza's Power Plant 4 Urza's Tower 23 lands 2 Darksteel Colossus 1 Duplicant 4 Solemn Simulacrum 1 Triskelion 2 Vine Trellis 10 creatures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Mindslaver 4 Oblivion Stone 4 Oxidize 4 Reap and Sow 4 Sylvan Scrying 2 Talisman of Impulse 2 Talisman of Unity 4 Tooth and Nail 27 other spells
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Chalice of the Void 1 Duplicant 1 Mindslaver 2 Ravenous Baloth 1 Triskelion 2 Vine Trellis 4 Viridian Shaman 15 sideboard cards

Kyle Goodman

Elf and Nail - JSS Championships 2nd place finisher



Main Deck

60 cards

17 Forest
1 Mountain
4 Wooded Foothills

22 lands

4 Birds of Paradise
1 Darksteel Colossus
1 Duplicant
1 Kamahl, Fist of Krosa
2 Triskelion
3 Vine Trellis
4 Viridian Shaman
4 Wirewood Symbiote
4 Wood Elves

24 creatures

3 Pyroclasm
4 Skullclamp
3 Tooth and Nail
4 Vernal Bloom

14 other spells

Sideboard

1 Duplicant
1 Fierce Empath
1 Goblin Pyromancer
4 Mindslaver
4 Oxidize
1 Pyroclasm
1 Sundering Titan
1 Tooth and Nail
1 Triskelion

15 sideboard cards

Kristian Browne's deck is pretty interesting and like Jeff's is not adversely affected by the banning of Skullclamp. Kristian was right near the top of the standings all weekend long and it will be interesting to see if his five color approach translates into the new environment.

Kristian Browne

Five-Color Green - JSS Championships 3rd place finisher



Main Deck

60 cards

3 City of Brass
3 Contested Cliffs
7 Forest
4 Mirrodin's Core
2 Mountain
4 Wooded Foothills

23 lands

4 Birds of Paradise
4 Molder Slug
4 Ravenous Baloth
4 Troll Ascetic
4 Vine Trellis
4 Viridian Shaman

24 creatures

2 Carbonize
3 Electrostatic Bolt
1 Fireball
4 Oxidize
3 Worship

13 other spells

Sideboard

4 Detonate
3 Pyroclasm
4 Terror
4 Vex

15 sideboard cards

Marshall Putnam's deck on the other hand... The question about the future of this deck has to be in regards to how Skullclamp compares to Cranial Plating in the new environment. We will find the answer to that when we hit the post rotation decks in a few hundred words. Be patient.

Marshall Putnam

Fantastical Sunshine - JSS Championships 4th place finisher



Main Deck

60 cards

2 City of Brass
2 Glimmervoid
4 Great Furnace
2 Seat of the Synod
3 Tree of Tales
4 Vault of Whispers

17 lands

4 Arcbound Ravager
4 Arcbound Worker
4 Disciple of the Vault

4 Oxidize
3 Shrapnel Blast
4 Skullclamp
4 Thoughtcast
4 Welding Jar

19 other spells

Sideboard

4 Electrostatic Bolt
3 Mana Leak
4 Naturalize
4 Terror

15 sideboard cards

- 4 Frogmite
- 4 Myr Enforcer
- 4 Ornithopter

24 creatures

Jonathan Watson was the last player in the standings with thirty-seven points or better. All of the Top 5 players were in the fifteen or older age category. The winner's decklists in each of the age categories follow beneath this one.

Jonathan Watson

Ravager Affinity - JSS Championships 5th place finisher



Main Deck 60 cards

- 4 Darksteel Citadel
- 3 Glimmervoid
- 4 Great Furnace
- 4 Seat of the Synod
- 4 Vault of Whispers
- 19 lands
- 3 Chromatic Sphere
- 3 Pyrite Spellbomb
- 4 Shrapnel Blast
- 4 Skullclamp
- 4 Thoughtcast
- 3 Welding Jar
- 21 other spells

- 4 Arcbound Ravager
- 4 Arcbound Worker
- 4 Disciple of the Vault
- 4 Frogmite
- 4 Myr Enforcer

20 creatures

Sideboard

- 4 Detonate
- 3 Electrostatic Bolt
- 4 Mana Leak
- 4 Pyroclasm

15 sideboard cards

Anthony Izzo

Rage Against the Machine - JSS Championships 13 Year Old Champion (17th overall)



Main Deck 60 cards

- 20 Forest
- 20 lands
- 4 Birds of Paradise
- 1 Darksteel Colossus
- 1 Duplicant
- 1 Fierce Empath
- 1 Kamahl, Fist of Krosa
- 1 Sundering Titan
- 1 Triskelion
- 4 Vine Trellis
- 4 Viridian Shaman
- 3 Wirewood Herald
- 4 Wirewood Symbiote
- 4 Wood Elves
- 4 Skullclamp
- 3 Tooth and Nail
- 4 Vernal Bloom
- 11 other spells

29 creatures

Sideboard

- 1 Duplicant
- 4 Mindslaver
- 4 Oxidize
- 1 Platinum Angel
- 4 Steely Resolve
- 1 Viridian Zealot

15 sideboard cards

Justin Ling

March of the Machines - JSS Championships 14 Year Old Champion (23rd overall)



Main Deck 60 cards

- 4 Coastal Tower
- 4 Flooded Strand
- 4 Island
- 2 Lonely Sandbar
- 7 Plains
- 2 Secluded Steppe
- 23 lands
- 4 Damping Matrix
- 4 Darksteel Ingot
- 4 Echoing Truth
- 2 Future Sight
- 4 Mana Leak
- 4 March of the Machines
- 2 Mycosynth Lattice
- 2 Pulse of the Fields

Sideboard

- 4 Discombobulate
- 4 Purge
- 4 Silver Knight
- 3 Worship

15 sideboard cards

0 creatures	4 Talisman of Progress 3 Thirst for Knowledge 4 Wrath of God
	37 other spells

Sam Berse

Uncle Istvan's Destiny - JSS Championships 12 Year Old and Under Champion (77th overall)

Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
2 Blinkmoth Nexus	3 Chromatic Sphere	2 Detonate
4 Darksteel Citadel	4 Pyrite Spellbomb	3 Dwarven Blastminer
4 Glimmervoid	4 Shrapnel Blast	3 Flashfires
4 Great Furnace	4 Skullclamp	3 Pyroclasm
4 Vault of Whispers	4 Welding Jar	4 Shatter
18 lands	19 other spells	15 sideboard cards
4 Arcbound Ravager 4 Arcbound Worker 4 Disciple of the Vault 4 Frogmite 4 Myr Enforcer 3 Ornithopter		
23 creatures		

The New Standard

With the old Standard now a couple of days behind us let's take a look at the new Standard, replacing those icky **Skullclamps** with all the cards from *Fifth Dawn*. There was a twenty-five person Standard event held at Nationals on Sunday morning. I posted a deck archetype breakdown in the blog and I also presented the top two decklists after five rounds of Swiss. Ravager Affinity narrowly edged out Eternal Slide by .6667 on tiebreakers to win the Swiss-only tournament.

I was particularly happy to see the Eternal Slide deck do well as I have been championing in this column and in print since I first got a peek at **Eternal Witness**. The fact that **Cranial Plating** quite likely up to the task of replacing **Skullclamp** in Affinity should come as a surprise to no one, least of all readers of my column. I mentioned just last week that I thought no harm would come to the archetype with the banning of the clamp. Now I would like to see if anyone can have any success squeezing **Pentad Prism** into the main deck to free up the **Seething Song** slots in the sideboard.

Jameson Jones

Ravager Affinity - Standard Winner

Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
3 Darksteel Citadel	4 Chromatic Sphere	4 Furnace Dragon
3 Glimmervoid	4 Cranial Plating	3 Pyroclasm
4 Great Furnace	3 Pyrite Spellbomb	3 Seething Song
4 Seat of the Synod	3 Shrapnel Blast	1 Shrapnel Blast
4 Vault of Whispers	4 Thoughtcast	4 Somber Hoverguard
18 lands	4 Welding Jar	15 sideboard cards
	22 other spells	
4 Arcbound Ravager 4 Arcbound Worker 4 Disciple of the Vault 4 Frogmite 4 Myr Enforcer		
20 creatures		

Tony Pascasio

Eternal Slide - Standard Finalist

Main Deck	Sideboard

Main Deck		Sideboard
5 Forest	3 Akroma's Vengeance	2 Altar's Light
4 Mirrodin's Core	4 Astral Slide	2 Arrest
9 Plains	3 Decree of Justice	2 Ivory Mask
4 Secluded Steppe	4 Renewed Faith	2 Naturalize
3 Tranquil Thicket	1 Tel-Jilad Justice	2 Story Circle
	4 Wrath of God	1 Vedalken Shackles
25 lands	19 other spells	4 Vex
4 Eternal Dragon		15 sideboard cards
4 Eternal Witness		
3 Exalted Angel		
1 Kamahl, Fist of Krosa		
3 Krosan Tusker		
2 Viridian Shaman		
17 creatures		

There were only four players in the tournament with 4-1 records or better. The next two spots also went to Ravager Affinity.

Doug Prosak Ravager Affinity - Sunday Standard Tournament 3rd Place		
Main Deck	Sideboard	
60 cards		
3 Darksteel Citadel	2 Chromatic Sphere	1 Chromatic Sphere
3 Glimmervoid	3 Cranial Plating	3 Detonate
4 Great Furnace	3 Electrostatic Bolt	1 Electrostatic Bolt
4 Seat of the Synod	3 Shrapnel Blast	3 Mana Leak
4 Vault of Whispers	4 Thoughtcast	1 Myr Enforcer
	4 Welding Jar	4 Pyroclasm
18 lands	19 other spells	2 Thirst for Knowledge
4 Arcbound Ravager		15 sideboard cards
4 Disciple of the Vault		
4 Frogmite		
3 Myr Enforcer		
4 Ornithopter		
4 Somber Hoverguard		
23 creatures		

Dylan Clinkenbeard Plate of Affinity - Sunday Standard Tournament 4th Place		
Main Deck	Sideboard	
60 cards		
3 Darksteel Citadel	4 Cranial Plating	4 Electrostatic Bolt
4 Glimmervoid	4 Pyrite Spellbomb	3 Mana Leak
3 Great Furnace	4 Shrapnel Blast	4 Shatter
3 Seat of the Synod	2 Talisman of Dominance	4 Welding Jar
3 Vault of Whispers	3 Talisman of Progress	
	4 Thoughtcast	15 sideboard cards
16 lands	21 other spells	
4 Arcbound Ravager		
2 Arcbound Worker		
2 Atog		
4 Disciple of the Vault		
4 Frogmite		
4 Myr Enforcer		
2 Ornithopter		
1 Talisman of Dominance		
23 creatures		

Enough with the undercard stuff. Let's get down to the main event. Feral Events ran a Grand Prix Trial for GP New Jersey on Sunday morning. There were thirty odd competitors and I did a breakdown of the field by archetype in the blog (or as Jon Becker would prefer me to say—web log. Jon is a tireless crusader against

laziness and is fearful of a world where web logs become known merely as “guhs” but I clearly digress. Did I mention how tired I am?)

This was a good old-fashioned tournament with Swiss rounds and then a cut to Top 8. Head Judge Lloyd Dobson was good enough to make sure all the lists were compiled for this column and even separated out the Top 8 for me. Steve Feral, his head judge Lloyd, and the entire Feral Events staff did a bang up job with the various PTQs and Trials throughout the weekend.

This Trial was a two-slotter and the winner was technically Gim Chu. Taylor Blazek had to jet as soon as he made the Top 2 and dropped before they could play the finals. I don't know who would have won but I would have loved to have seen the match-up. Gim was playing Gabriel Nassif's deck from Kobe with no *Fifth Dawn* assistance. Blazek, on the other hand, was playing the most feared deck of the new format—Krank-Clan Ironworks.

Gim “Duck” Chu		
Tooth and Fire - Grand Prix New Jersey Trial (Block Constructed) Winner		
Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
3 Blinkmoth Nexus	2 Fireball	4 Creeping Mold
4 Cloudpost	2 Mindslaver	4 Damping Matrix
13 Forest	4 Oxidize	4 Detonate
4 Mountain	4 Reap and Sow	2 Duplicant
24 lands	4 Sylvan Scrying	1 Leonin Abunas
	3 Talisman of Impulse	15 sideboard cards
	4 Tooth and Nail	
2 Darksteel Colossus	23 other spells	
1 Leonin Abunas		
2 Platinum Angel		
4 Solemn Simulacrum		
4 Viridian Shaman		
13 creatures		

Taylor's version is capable of a lethal *Fireball* in the early turns. With only one *Fireball* in the deck that is clearly not its primary win condition. Rather than rely on having *Incubator* and *Charbelcher* or two *Myr Retrievers* and a *Disciple* as many lists have hypothesized, this deck relies on attacking with a lethal number of *Myr* early in the game. It is a solid consistent list that deserves your attention.

Taylor Blazek		
KCI - Grand Prix New Jersey Trial (Block Constructed) Finalist		
Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
4 Great Furnace	4 Chromatic Sphere	4 Echoing Decay
4 Seat of the Synod	4 Chrome Mox	4 Oxidize
4 Tree of Tales	4 Fabricate	3 Shattered Dreams
4 Vault of Whispers	1 Fireball	4 Tel-Jilad Justice
16 lands	4 Krank-Clan Ironworks	15 sideboard cards
	4 Myr Incubator	
0 creatures	4 Pentad Prism	
	4 Plunge into Darkness	
	4 Serum Visions	
	4 Talisman of Dominance	
	3 Thirst for Knowledge	
	4 Thoughtcast	
	44 other spells	

“Duck” Chu defeated Domenic Minicucci in the semi-finals while Taylor was dispatching Chris Rogers in similar fashion. Domenic recently made the finals of the [NAC](#) and played an unexpected mono-green deck this weekend. The East Coast may have found itself a rising star.

Domenic Minicucci		
Beacon Green - Grand Prix New Jersey Trial (Block Constructed) Semifinalist		
Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
4 Blinkmoth Nexus	4 Beacon of Creation	4 Creeping Mold
18 Forest	3 Echoing Courage	3 Damping Matrix
22 lands	4 Oxidize	4 Deconstruct
	2 Pulse of the Tangle	3 Nourish
	4 Tel-Jilad Justice	1 Viridian Shaman

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Eternal Witness 4 Molder Slug 4 Solemn Simulacrum 3 Sylvok Explorer 4 Troll Ascetic 3 Viridian Shaman <hr/> 21 creatures	17 other spells	15 sideboard cards
---	-----------------	--------------------

Chris Rogers Ravager Affinity - Grand Prix New Jersey Trial (Block Constructed) Semifinalist		
Main Deck 60 cards	Sideboard	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Darksteel Citadel 3 Glimmervoid 4 Great Furnace 4 Seat of the Synod 4 Vault of Whispers <hr/> 19 lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Chromatic Sphere 2 Cranial Plating 4 Serum Visions 3 Shrapnel Blast 3 Thoughtcast 2 Welding Jar <hr/> 17 other spells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Cranial Plating 3 Engineered Explosives 2 Furnace Dragon 1 Glimmervoid 2 Seething Song 3 Shattered Dreams 3 Thirst for Knowledge <hr/> 15 sideboard cards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Arcbound Ravager 4 Arcbound Worker 4 Disciple of the Vault 4 Frogmite 4 Myr Enforcer 4 Ornithopter <hr/> 24 creatures		

In the first round of elimination Rogers eliminated Matt Hansen playing Tooth and Nail, Taylor took out Kyle Boggemes playing Affinity, Gim took down another Affinity player in Michael Day, and Domenic took out Ross Brewer and his Tooth and Nail deck.

Michael Day Ravager Affinity - Grand Prix New Jersey Trial (Block Constructed) Quarterfinalist		
Main Deck 60 cards	Sideboard	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Darksteel Citadel 3 Glimmervoid 3 Great Furnace 4 Seat of the Synod 4 Vault of Whispers <hr/> 18 lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Chromatic Sphere 4 Cranial Plating 3 Night's Whisper 3 Shrapnel Blast 4 Thoughtcast <hr/> 17 other spells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Ornithopter 4 Shatter 3 Shattered Dreams 1 Shrapnel Blast 2 Somber Hoverguard 4 Terror <hr/> 15 sideboard cards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Arcbound Ravager 4 Arcbound Stinger 4 Disciple of the Vault 4 Frogmite 4 Myr Enforcer 3 Ornithopter 2 Somber Hoverguard <hr/> 25 creatures		

Kyle Boggemes Fast Hammer - Grand Prix New Jersey Trial (Block Constructed) Quarterfinalist		
Main Deck 60 cards	Sideboard	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Blinkmoth Nexus 2 Darksteel Citadel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Cranial Plating 4 Genesis Chamber 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Electrostatic Bolt 2 Lightning Greaves

3 Glimmervoid	4 Shrapnel Blast	2 Myr Retriever
4 Great Furnace	4 Welding Jar	3 Shatter
2 Seat of the Synod		4 Shattered
4 Vault of Whispers	16 other spells	Dreams
		2 Terror
18 lands		15 sideboard cards
4 Arcbound Ravager		
4 Arcbound Worker		
2 Atog		
4 Disciple of the Vault		
4 Frogmite		
4 Myr Enforcer		
4 Ornithopter		
26 creatures		

Ross Brower's *Silent Arbiter* could turn out to be an interesting card to foil the Ironworks deck that Blazek used to win his byes. It forces the KCI deck to find the *Fireball* for the win. Also note the inclusion of the powerful *Triskelion/Mephidross Vampire* combo and the *Bringer of the Black Dawn*.

Ross Brower		
TwelvePost - Grand Prix New Jersey Trial (Block Constructed) Quarterfinalist		
Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
4 Cloudpost	4 Oblivion Stone	1 Bringer of the White Dawn
20 Forest	4 Oxidize	4 Creeping Mold
24 lands	4 Reap and Sow	2 Duplicant
	4 Sylvan Scrying	4 Mindslaver
	4 Tooth and Nail	3 Tel-Jilad Justice
1 Bringer of the Black Dawn	20 other spells	1 Triskelion
1 Darksteel Colossus		15 sideboard cards
2 Duplicant		
2 Leonin Abunas		
2 Mephidross Vampire		
1 Platinum Angel		
1 Silent Arbiter		
2 Triskelion		
4 Viridian Shaman		
16 creatures		

Matt Hansen		
ElevenPost - Grand Prix New Jersey Trial (Block Constructed) Quarterfinalist		
Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
4 Cloudpost	3 Electrostatic Bolt	4 Detonate
10 Forest	3 Grab the Reins	1 Duplicant
2 Mirrodin's Core	4 Oxidize	1 Electrostatic Bolt
6 Mountain	3 Reap and Sow	2 Eternal Witness
2 Stalking Stones	4 Sylvan Scrying	1 Grab the Reins
24 lands	4 Tooth and Nail	2 Molder Slug
	21 other spells	1 Reap and Sow
		3 Shunt
1 Duplicant		15 sideboard cards
2 Eternal Witness		
1 Mephidross Vampire		
2 Molder Slug		
4 Solemn Simulacrum		
1 Triskelion		
4 Viridian Shaman		
15 creatures		

Whew. I'm going back to sleep. See you all next week after a return—hopefully better rested—from a weekend jaunt to Origins. I will bring back decklists and talk to some of the players taking part in the tournaments. I will ask

them about match-ups, sideboards, and try to get a sense of what the PTQ Columbus season is going to look like. See you then!

*Brian David-Marshall has been involved in **Magic** since 1994 when he was violently shaken by someone searching for the game. He has organized tournaments, run a store, and is currently the Pro Tour Historian. His latest venture is [Top8Magic.com](#), the publishing house that is releasing Michael J. Flores: Deckade.*



[Discuss](#) on the message boards



[Respond](#) via email



[Brian David-Marshall](#) archive

[About Us](#) | [Jobs](#) | [New to the Game?](#) | [Find a Store](#) | [Press](#) | [Help](#)

© 1995-2008 Wizards of the Coast, Inc., a subsidiary of Hasbro, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

[Terms of Use](#) - [Privacy Statement](#)

