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Traffic and Weather Report

Brian David-Marshall
Swimming With Sharks
Wednesday, July 7, 2004



I just got back from covering [Canadian Nationals](#) and I've got decklists. There were three separate Block Constructed events that were run alongside the big event—two Grand Prix Trials and one PTQ. Each of the events had somewhere between forty and sixty participants and I have each and every one of the decklists spread about my office broken down by event and deck type.



2004 Canadian National Champion, Jingpeng Zhang

When we look at the results from tournaments it is very easy to just focus on the Top 8 but there is a bigger picture to consider. It's not enough to know that blue-green won the tournament. You also want to know how many blue-green decks were in the tournament. What did the rest of the field look like? Was there much Affinity? We throw the term 'metagame' around quite liberally in regards to Top 8 decklists but those eight players are just the tip of the metagame iceberg.

Don't worry, there will be twenty-four decklists when this article is read and done but I am going to approach the tournaments in the order they occurred over the weekend and breakdown which decks were played in what quantity and try to help you arm yourself for the upcoming PTQs, Grand Prix Trials, and Friday Night **Magic** Block Constructed tournaments in your area. With an accurate picture of what you are likely to face in the rounds preceding the Top 8 you can hopefully improve your chances of getting to the top of iceberg.

Grand Prix Orlando Trial - Friday, July 2nd

The first event of the weekend was held on Friday and was a thirty-eight player Trial for Grand Prix Orlando. This event took place during the opening rounds of Canadian Nationals and was the smallest of the three events. The player pool was largely made up of players who failed to grind into the tournament the night before—including former Canadian National Team member Jon Stern.

Lincoln Panosy

Big Red - GP Orlando Trial (Winner)

| Main Deck 60 cards | Sideboard |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Blinkmoth Nexus 4 Darksteel Citadel 4 Great Furnace 10 Mountain <hr/> <p>22 lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Arc-Slogger 4 Furnace Dragon 3 Furnace Whelp 4 Solemn Simulacrum <p>15 creatures</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Electrostatic Bolt 3 Magma Jet 4 Pulse of the Forge 4 Seething Song 4 Shrapnel Blast 2 Talisman of Impulse 2 Talisman of Indulgence <hr/> <p>23 other spells</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Damping Matrix 4 Echoing Ruin 4 Molten Rain 4 Shatter <hr/> <p>15 sideboard cards</p> |

Jon Stern

Affinity - GP Orlando Trial (Finalist)

| Main Deck 60 cards | Sideboard |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Darksteel Citadel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Chromatic Sphere 4 Annul |

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RULES

RULES

4 Glimmervoid
4 Great Furnace
4 Seat of the Synod
4 Vault of Whispers

19 lands

4 Arcbound Ravager
1 Arcbound Worker
4 Disciple of the Vault
4 Frogmite
4 Ornithopter
4 Somber Hoverguard

21 creatures

4 Cranial Plating
4 Shrapnel Blast
4 Thoughtcast
4 Welding Jar

20 other spells

4 Furnace Dragon
4 Seething Song
3 Vex

15 sideboard cards

Leslie Ross

Mono-Green - GP Orlando Trial (Semifinalist)



Main Deck 60 cards

23 Forest

23 lands

3 Eternal Witness
4 Fangren Firstborn
3 Molder Slug
4 Sylvok Explorer
3 Tel-Jilad Chosen
4 Troll Ascetic
3 Viridian Shaman
3 Viridian Zealot

27 creatures

4 Beacon of Creation
3 Predator's Strike
3 Pulse of the Tangle

10 other spells

Sideboard

4 Duplicant
3 Lightning Greaves
3 Oxidize
4 Tel-Jilad Justice
1 Viridian Zealot

15 sideboard cards

Justin Wilder

Affinity - GP Orlando Trial (Semifinalist)



Main Deck 60 cards

4 Darksteel Citadel
3 Glimmervoid
4 Great Furnace
4 Seat of the Synod
4 Vault of Whispers

19 lands

4 Arcbound Ravager
2 Arcbound Worker
4 Disciple of the Vault
4 Frogmite
4 Myr Enforcer
4 Ornithopter

22 creatures

4 Cranial Plating
4 Electrostatic Bolt
4 Shrapnel Blast
4 Thoughtcast
3 Welding Jar

19 other spells

Sideboard

3 Annul
4 Furnace Dragon
3 Seething Song
2 Somber Hoverguard
3 Terror

15 sideboard cards

Michael Cragg

Affinity - GP Orlando Trial (Quarterfinalist)



Main Deck 60 cards

2 Blinkmoth Nexus
1 Darksteel Citadel
4 Glimmervoid
4 Great Furnace
4 Seat of the Synod
4 Vault of Whispers

1 Chromatic Sphere
4 Cranial Plating
4 Shrapnel Blast
4 Thoughtcast
3 Welding Jar

Sideboard

3 Electrostatic Bolt
3 Genesis Chamber
3 Shatter
3 Shattered Dreams
3 Terror

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 19 lands | 16 other spells | 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 3 Ornithopter 2 Somber Hoverguard | | |
| 25 creatures | | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| William Chong Tooth and Nail - GP Orlando Trial (Quarterfinalist) | | |
| Main Deck 60 cards | | Sideboard |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Blinkmoth Nexus 4 Cloudpost 15 Forest 1 Plains 2 Stalking Stones <hr/> 23 lands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Mindslaver 4 Oblivion Stone 4 Oxidize 3 Reap and Sow 4 Sylvan Scrying 4 Tel-Jilad Justice 4 Tooth and Nail <hr/> 25 other spells | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Bringer of the White Dawn 4 Damping Matrix 1 Duplicant 1 Mephidross Vampire 2 Mindslaver 1 Reap and Sow 1 Sundering Titan 1 Triskelion 3 Viridian Shaman <hr/> 15 sideboard cards |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Darksteel Colossus 1 Duplicant 4 Eternal Witness 1 Leonin Abunas 1 Platinum Angel 4 Solemn Simulacrum <hr/> 12 creatures | | |

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Justin Howard Blue-Green Control - GP Orlando Trial (Quarterfinalist) | | |
| Main Deck 60 cards | | Sideboard |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Forest 10 Island <hr/> 21 lands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Annul 3 Condescend 4 Crystal Shard 4 Echoing Truth 4 Oxidize 3 Serum Visions 3 Thirst for Knowledge <hr/> 25 other spells | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Acquire 1 Condescend 4 Nourish 4 Tel-Jilad Justice 4 Troll Ascetic <hr/> 15 sideboard cards |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Eternal Witness 4 Solemn Simulacrum 2 Triskelion 4 Viridian Shaman <hr/> 14 creatures | | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Robert Anderson Tooth and Nail - GP Orlando Trial (Quarterfinalist) | | |
| Main Deck 60 cards | | Sideboard |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Cloudpost 16 Forest 2 Stalking Stones <hr/> 22 lands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Creeping Mold 4 Mindslaver 3 Oblivion Stone 2 Oxidize 4 Reap and Sow 4 Sylvan Scrying 4 Tooth and Nail 4 Wayfarer's Bauble <hr/> 27 other spells | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Bringer of the White Dawn 2 Creeping Mold 1 Duplicant 1 Leonin Abunas 1 Mephidross Vampire 2 Molder Slug 2 Oxidize 1 Sundering Titan 2 Tel-Jilad Justice 1 Triskelion 1 Viridian Shaman <hr/> 15 sideboard cards |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Duplicant 3 Eternal Witness 2 Plated Slagwurm 4 Solemn Simulacrum 1 Viridian Shaman | | |

Big Red - Five decks/One Top 8

Lincoln Panosy's Big Red deck led a pack of five such decks and was the only one to make the Top 8. All of the decks featured some number of **Furnace Dragons** and the requisite artifact mana to power it up. Lincoln was the only player of the five to max out at four copies each of the Dragon and **Seething Song**—something that gave him a game one edge against Affinity and Ironworks decks. He was also the only player to run **Furnace Whelp**. The other decks were running **Fireball** in the slot that the Whelp occupied in Lincoln's deck.

Affinity - Five decks/ Three Top 8

Jon Stern was the front-runner of this group with his finals appearance. More than half of the Affinity decks in the tournament made it to the elimination rounds; pretty impressive when you consider the amount of hate these decks have to combat. Almost every deck that was not Affinity or Ironworks was running cards specifically included to fight Affinity and Ironworks. Whether they have **Furnace Dragons**, some cocktail of green removal, or **March of the Machines**, every deck is gunning for those two decks. They were obviously successful in dealing with the latter but the former just keeps on keeping on.

The Affinity deck is fast and consistent. **Cranial Plating** is ridiculous and if your opponent stumbles for even a turn you can sneak in and take away half their life with one swing of an **Ornithopter**. Jon Stern was running four **Somber Hoverguards** which gave him a non-artifact threat with evasion. The mono-green decks have few answers for a blue flier even if they can destroy everything else in the deck.

Mono-green - Three decks/one Top 8

Leslie Ross' deck was the only one of three mono-green decks to make the Top 8. His was the only one of the three to run 100% Forests for his mana-base. The other two decks featured four copies each of **Blinkmoth Nexus**—an answer to the aforementioned **Somber Hoverguard**. It is interesting to note that Leslie fell to Jon Stern and his **Somber Hoverguards** in the semifinals.

[Last week](#) I became dizzied by all the decklists and criticized JD House for not playing **Echoing Courage** over **Predator's Strike** in his mono-green deck. I was critical because of **Echoing Courage's** combolicious interactions with **Beacon of Creation**. One small problem...JD was not playing the Beacon :(That said, I don't know why Leslie Ross chose to play **Giant Growth** over **Overrun** but you can't argue with success.

Tooth and Nail - Five decks/two Top 8

Tooth and Nail carried forty percent of its players into the Top 8. Robert Anderson's version was mono-green and featured a pair of untargetable Slagwurms for his opponents to cope with. He also ran four copies of **Mindslaver** with the hard lock in the sideboard—**Bringer of the White Dawn**. William Chong also had four **Mindslavers** but he split them evenly between the deck and sideboard with a Bringer for games two and three. He also touched white for **Leonin Abunas**.

Blue-Green Control - Five decks/one Top 8

Certainly one of the most popular decks to discuss online over the past week has been the blue-green deck that emerged from [Grand Prix Zurich](#). Five people ran the deck—as many people that ran any deck archetype to make the Top 8—and only Justin Howard made the Top 8. All of the decklists were pretty similar with some decks trying to work in **Mirrodin's Core** for more consistent mana. Justin's deck cut back on the mana from the Zurich deck and tried to 'cheat' with **Serum Visions**. He also added **Acquire** to the sideboard. Cirigliano lost in the finals to Tooth and Nail and if you can't beat a **Darksteel Colossus** you might as well steal 'em.

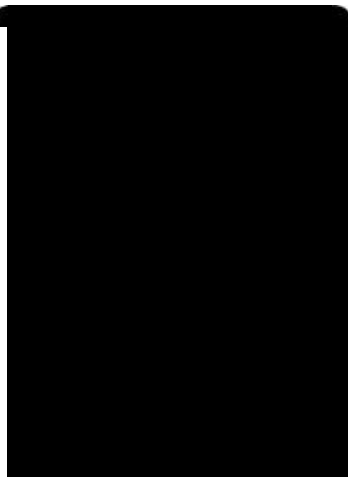
The rest of the field

Krark-Clan Ironworks - Four decks/no Top 8

All four decks featured the **Myr Incubator/Goblin Charbelcher** combo for the kill—two of them featured **Fireball** backup. Ironworks has been remarkably quiet to this point in the format but it is probably too soon to count the deck out. Combo decks generally take a few weeks to coalesce into their dominant form. They also take a few weeks for players to puzzle out all the interactions and the sideboard options. On the other hand, they don't have any pressure until the turn they go off and the prudent application of artifact hate may be enough to keep them from rising to the top.

March/Lattice - Four decks/no Top 8

There were three types of builds in the tournament. Two were blue-black with **Thirst for Knowledge** and **Night's Whisper** to dig into the **March of the Machines-Mycosynth Lattice** combo. Another of the decks was red-blue and featured spot removal in **Magma Jet** and **Shatter**. The final deck was an intriguing mono-blue build that accelerated its mana with **Gilded Lotus** and **Vedalken Engineer**. It also featured one copy of **Culling Scales**



that it could **Fabricate** for. While these decks can just get the turn four concession from Affinity and Ironworks with a **March of the Machines** I suspect their combo is just too slow to go toe to toe with the rest of the field.

Blue-White Control - Two decks/no Top 8

One of the more interesting decks to fall by the wayside is a blue-white Pristine Angel deck that also featured Abunas, **Vedalken Shackles**, and **March of the Machines** that was similar to the deck Kyle Smith Top 8'd with at Origins last week. I did not include it in the above category because those decks were relying on the March/Lattice combo as their kill mechanic while this deck was a different animal. More on this deck from the next tournament.

Other - Five decks/no Top 8

Mono-white, Mono-black, red-green, modular beatdown, and a Spellbomb deck.



Just Hype?

Grand Prix New Jersey Trial - Saturday, July 3rd

Saturday's affair was a fifty-two person tournament, the spike in numbers coming from the number of players dropping from the main event plus having the event on a weekend. The Top 8 looked similar to the previous day's event with one notable addition.

| Paul Russell | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Big Red - GP New Jersey Trial (Winner) | | |
| Main Deck 60 cards | | Sideboard |
| 3 Blinkmoth Nexus | 3 Detonate | 4 Flamebreak |
| 4 Darksteel Citadel | 4 Electrostatic Bolt | 3 Grab the Reins |
| 4 Great Furnace | 4 Molten Rain | 4 Magma Jet |
| 11 Mountain | 2 Pulse of the Forge | 4 Shatter |
| 22 lands | 4 Shrapnel Blast | 15 sideboard cards |
| | 3 Talisman of Impulse | |
| | 3 Talisman of Indulgence | |
| | 23 other spells | |
| 4 Arc-Slogger | | |
| 3 Furnace Dragon | | |
| 4 Megatog | | |
| 4 Solemn Simulacrum | | |
| 15 creatures | | |

| Gregory Darkoff | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Big Red - GP New Jersey Trial (Finalist) | | |
| Main Deck 60 cards | | Sideboard |
| 4 Blinkmoth Nexus | 4 Electrostatic Bolt | 3 Damping Matrix |
| 4 Darksteel Citadel | 4 Magma Jet | 4 Echoing Ruin |
| 4 Great Furnace | 3 Pulse of the Forge | 4 Molten Rain |
| 10 Mountain | 4 Seething Song | 4 Shatter |
| 22 lands | 4 Shrapnel Blast | 15 sideboard cards |
| | 2 Talisman of Impulse | |
| | 2 Talisman of Indulgence | |
| | 23 other spells | |
| 4 Arc-Slogger | | |
| 4 Furnace Dragon | | |
| 3 Furnace Whelp | | |
| 4 Solemn Simulacrum | | |
| 15 creatures | | |

| Charles Starling | |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Affinity - GP New Jersey Trial (Semifinalist) | |
| Main Deck 60 cards | Sideboard |

3 Darksteel Citadel
2 Glimmervoid
4 Great Furnace
4 Seat of the Synod
4 Vault of Whispers

17 lands

4 Arcbound Ravager
4 Arcbound Worker
4 Disciple of the Vault
4 Frogmite
4 Myr Enforcer
3 Ornithopter

23 creatures

4 Cranial Plating
4 Pyrite Spellbomb
4 Shrapnel Blast
4 Thoughtcast
4 Welding Jar

20 other spells

4 Annul
1 Blinkmoth Nexus
4 Electrostatic Bolt
4 Shatter
2 Somber Hoverguard

15 sideboard cards

Michael Abromovich

Blue-Green Control - GP New Jersey Trial (Semifinalist)



Main Deck 60 cards

12 Forest
10 Island

22 lands

4 Eternal Witness
4 Solemn Simulacrum
4 Troll Ascetic
4 Viridian Shaman

16 creatures

3 Annul
4 Condescend
4 Echoing Truth
4 Oxidize
4 Serum Visions
3 Wayfarer's Bauble

22 other spells

Sideboard

2 Acquire
4 Creeping Mold
2 Duplicant
4 Last Word
3 March of the Machines

15 sideboard cards

Tom Cheung

Tooth and Nail - GP New Jersey Trial (Quarterfinalist)



Main Deck 60 cards

4 Cloudpost
18 Forest

22 lands

1 Duplicant
3 Eternal Witness
1 Leonin Abunas
1 Mephidross Vampire
2 Plated Slagwurm
1 Platinum Angel
4 Solemn Simulacrum
1 Triskelion

14 creatures

2 Mindslaver
3 Oblivion Stone
4 Oxidize
4 Reap and Sow
4 Sylvan Scrying
4 Tooth and Nail
3 Wayfarer's Bauble

24 other spells

Sideboard

2 Duplicant
1 Mindslaver
2 Molder Slug
1 Sundering Titan
2 Tel-Jilad Justice
4 Troll Ascetic
3 Viridian Shaman

15 sideboard cards

Andrew McWhaw

Tooth and Nail - GP New Jersey Trial (Quarterfinalist)



Main Deck 60 cards

4 Cloudpost
17 Forest
1 Stalking Stones

22 lands

2 Darksteel Colossus
4 Eternal Witness

2 Oblivion Stone
4 Oxidize
4 Reap and Sow
4 Sylvan Scrying
3 Talisman of Impulse
4 Tooth and Nail

21 other spells

Sideboard

1 Bringer of the White Dawn
4 Creeping Mold
1 Hoverguard Sweepers
2 Mindslaver
2 Oblivion Stone
1 Sundering Titan
4 Tel-Jilad Justice

15 sideboard cards

- 1 Leonin Abunas
- 1 Mephidross Vampire
- 1 Platinum Angel
- 4 Solemn Simulacrum
- 4 Viridian Shaman

17 creatures

Jordan Wregget

Tooth and Nail - GP New Jersey Trial (Quarterfinalist)

Main Deck 60 cards

- 4 Cloudpost
- 17 Forest

21 lands

- 1 Bringer of the White Dawn
- 2 Darksteel Colossus
- 1 Duplicant
- 4 Eternal Witness
- 1 Mephidross Vampire
- 4 Solemn Simulacrum
- 1 Triskelion

14 creatures

- 3 Mindslaver
- 4 Oblivion Stone
- 4 Oxidize
- 3 Reap and Sow
- 4 Sylvan Scrying
- 3 Tel-Jilad Justice
- 4 Tooth and Nail

25 other spells

Sideboard

- 3 Damping Matrix
- 1 Duplicant
- 1 Mindslaver
- 1 Plated Slagwurm
- 1 Reap and Sow
- 2 Sundering Titan
- 1 Tel-Jilad Justice
- 1 Triskelion
- 4 Viridian Shaman

15 sideboard cards

Kyle Smith

Angel Control - GP New Jersey Trial (Quarterfinalist)

Main Deck 60 cards

- 14 Island
- 7 Plains
- 2 Stalking Stones

23 lands

- 3 Leonin Abunas
- 4 Pristine Angel
- 4 Solemn Simulacrum

11 creatures

- 2 Annul
- 4 Condescend
- 2 Echoing Truth
- 1 Last Word
- 2 March of the Machines
- 2 Pulse of the Fields
- 2 Talisman of Progress
- 3 Thirst for Knowledge
- 4 Vedalken Shackles
- 4 Wayfarer's Bauble

26 other spells

Sideboard

- 2 Annul
- 1 Echoing Truth
- 3 Last Word
- 1 Leonin Abunas
- 2 March of the Machines
- 1 Pulse of the Fields
- 2 Purge
- 3 Vex

15 sideboard cards

Big Red - Nine decks/two Top 8

Just fewer than twenty percent of the field decided to run Big Red. It won in Kobe, it won the day before, and it won again in this trial. Both versions that made it to the Top 8 rose to the very top and met in the finals. Paul Russell added **Megatog** to his build, giving him something to do with his artifacts when his **Furnace Dragon** wasn't blowing them all up. Greg Darkoff chose to run **Furnace Whelp** in that slot. Who wins in a fight?



Affinity - Seven decks/one Top 8

I don't know if I have seen a Top 8 in this format without an Affinity deck yet. Charles Starling was the only player to make it into the elimination rounds but the numbers are such that you can't expect to not face one of these decks over the course of a PTQ—although you are more likely to be facing blue-green or mono-red at this point. Does this mean that Affinity hate starts to drift back into the sideboard?

Blue-Green Control - Eight decks/one Top 8

Of the eight such decks in the format Michael Abromovich chose not to use **Crystal Shard**. He was content with abusing his cards with **Eternal Witness** and **Echoing Truth** while beating down with maindeck **Troll Ascetics**. The only targets in his deck for artifact destruction were **Wayfarer's Bauble** and **Solemn Simulacrums**—the first is unlikely to happen and the second draws him a card.

Tooth and Nail - Nine decks/three Top 8

This was the most successful deck in terms of placing players in the Top 8. One-third of the players with the deck made the Top 8. All three of these lists chose to run the Wrath-like combo of **Mephidross Vampire/Triskelion** in the maindeck. Two of them ran the Angel/Abunas combo while Jordan Wregget decided he wanted to take all the turns and ran the **Bringer of the White Dawn/Mindslaver** lock.

Angel Control - One deck/one Top 8

You can't argue with those numbers. 100% Top 8 penetration. Kyle Smith made his second Top 8 in two weeks with the deck and it looks to be very powerful. There are only a small handful of ways to kill a **Pristine Angel** and this deck should be able to counter all of them. Note that the **Last Words** have started to creep into the maindeck and even more counters are making their way into the board.

The rest of the field

Red-Green - Five decks/no Top 8

These decks look like Big Red decks without as much burn. Instead they have green artifact removal and **Eternal Witness**. They all have **Arc-Slogger** and a couple even run maindeck **Furnace Dragon** but it has not put up the numbers that Big Red has to date.

Mono-green - Five decks/no Top 8

Still popular but not putting up the numbers in this tournament.

March/Lattice - Three decks/no Top 8

Blue-green, mono-blue, and black-blue flavors.

Krark-Clan Ironworks - Three decks/no Top 8

The deck continues to miss the cut despite its obvious power. Was it all hype or is the right build waiting to emerge at Worlds?


Mono-black Control - One deck/no Top 8

Greater Harvester will have to wait another day for his close-up.

Pro Tour Columbus Qualifier - Sunday, July 4th

Finally, there was a fifty-nine person PTQ on Sunday, which saw another deck archetype join the Top 8 party. It should be noted that although Jon Stern did not win the tournament, they did not actually play the finals. Stern dropped confident that his ratings spike would suffice to Q him for either Worlds or Columbus.

| Bill Neilsen | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tooth and Nail - Pro Tour Columbus Qualifier (Winner) | |  |
| Main Deck | Sideboard | |
| 60 cards | | |
| 4 Cloudpost | 4 Oblivion Stone | 1 Creeping Mold |
| 19 Forest | 4 Reap and Sow | 2 Duplicant |
| 1 Stalking Stones | 4 Sylvan Scrying | 1 Mephidross Vampire |
| 24 lands | 4 Tel-Jilad Justice | 4 Mindslaver |
| | 4 Tooth and Nail | 4 Oxidize |
| | 20 other spells | 1 Sundering Titan |
| 2 Darksteel Colossus | | 1 Triskelion |
| 1 Duplicant | | 1 Viridian Shaman |
| 4 Eternal Witness | | 15 sideboard cards |
| 1 Leonin Abunas | | |
| 1 Platinum Angel | | |
| 4 Solemn Simulacrum | | |
| 3 Viridian Shaman | | |
| 16 creatures | | |

| Jon Stern | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Affinity - Pro Tour Columbus Qualifier (Finalist) | |  |
| Main Deck | Sideboard | |
| 60 cards | | |
| 4 Darksteel Citadel | 4 Chromatic Sphere | 3 Atog |
| 4 Glimmervoid | 4 Cranial Plating | 4 Electrostatic Bolt |
| 4 Great Furnace | 4 Shrapnel Blast | 1 Island |
| 4 Seat of the Synod | 4 Thoughtcast | 4 Moriok Rigger |
| 4 Vault of Whispers | 4 Welding Jar | 3 Vex |

20 lands

20 other spells

15 sideboard cards

- 4 Arcbound Ravager
- 4 Disciple of the Vault
- 4 Frogmite
- 4 Ornithopter
- 4 Somber Hoverguard

20 creatures

Dan Mac

Big Red - Pro Tour Columbus Qualifier (Semifinalist)



Main Deck 60 cards

- 3 Blinkmoth Nexus
- 4 Darksteel Citadel
- 4 Great Furnace
- 11 Mountain

22 lands

- 4 Arc-Slogger
- 3 Furnace Dragon
- 4 Megatog
- 4 Solemn Simulacrum

15 creatures

- 2 Detonate
- 4 Magma Jet
- 4 Molten Rain
- 3 Pulse of the Forge
- 4 Shrapnel Blast
- 4 Talisman of Impulse
- 2 Talisman of Indulgence

23 other spells

Sideboard

- 4 Electrostatic Bolt
- 4 Flamebreak
- 3 Grab the Reins
- 4 Shatter

15 sideboard cards

Mathieu Bedard

Tooth and Nail - Pro Tour Columbus Qualifier (Semifinalist)



Main Deck 60 cards

- 4 Cloudpost
- 13 Forest
- 4 Mountain
- 1 Stalking Stones

22 lands

- 2 Darksteel Colossus
- 4 Eternal Witness
- 1 Mephidross Vampire
- 4 Solemn Simulacrum
- 1 Triskelion
- 4 Viridian Shaman

16 creatures

- 2 Fireball
- 4 Oxidize
- 4 Reap and Sow
- 1 Rude Awakening
- 4 Sylvan Scrying
- 3 Talisman of Impulse
- 4 Tooth and Nail

22 other spells

Sideboard

- 3 Damping Matrix
- 2 Duplicant
- 2 Grab the Reins
- 1 Leonin Abunas
- 2 Mindslaver
- 1 Plated Slagwurm
- 1 Platinum Angel
- 1 Rude Awakening
- 2 Tel-Jilad Justice

15 sideboard cards

Kyle Smith

Angel Control - Pro Tour Columbus Qualifier (Quarterfinalist)



Main Deck 60 cards

- 15 Island
- 7 Plains
- 2 Stalking Stones

24 lands

- 3 Leonin Abunas
- 4 Pristine Angel
- 4 Solemn Simulacrum

11 creatures

- 3 Annul
- 4 Condescend
- 2 Echoing Truth
- 3 Last Word
- 2 Pulse of the Fields
- 3 Thirst for Knowledge
- 4 Vedalken Shackles
- 4 Wayfarer's Bauble

25 other spells

Sideboard

- 1 Annul
- 1 Echoing Truth
- 1 Last Word
- 1 Leonin Abunas
- 4 March of the Machines
- 1 Pulse of the Fields
- 2 Purge
- 4 Vex

15 sideboard cards

Yi Cheng

Big Red - Pro Tour Columbus Qualifier (Quarterfinalist)



Main Deck 60 cards

4 Darksteel Citadel
4 Great Furnace
15 Mountain

23 lands

4 Arc-Slogger
2 Furnace Dragon
2 Megatog
4 Solemn Simulacrum

12 creatures

4 Electrostatic Bolt
2 Fireball
2 Flamebreak
2 Magma Jet
4 Molten Rain
2 Pulse of the Forge
3 Shrapnel Blast
3 Talisman of Impulse
3 Talisman of Indulgence

25 other spells

Sideboard

4 Damping Matrix
3 Detonate
2 Furnace Dragon
2 Grab the Reins
2 Seething Song
2 Shunt

15 sideboard cards

Derek Denholm

Blue-Green Control - Pro Tour Columbus Qualifier (Quarterfinalist)



Main Deck 60 cards

12 Forest
12 Island

24 lands

4 Eternal Witness
4 Solemn Simulacrum
2 Triskelion
2 Troll Ascetic
4 Viridian Shaman

16 creatures

1 Annul
4 Condescend
3 Crystal Shard
4 Echoing Truth
4 Oxidize
4 Thirst for Knowledge

20 other spells

Sideboard

2 Acquire
3 Annul
3 Last Word
4 Tel-Jilad Justice
2 Troll Ascetic
1 Wayfarer's Bauble

15 sideboard cards

Ryan Youck

KCI - Pro Tour Columbus Qualifier (Quarterfinalist)



Main Deck 60 cards

4 Darksteel Citadel
4 Great Furnace
4 Seat of the Synod
3 Tree of Tales
4 Vault of Whispers

19 lands

0 creatures

2 Chromatic Sphere
3 Chrome Mox
4 Condescend
3 Fabricate
2 Fireball
1 Goblin Charbelcher
4 Krark-Clan Ironworks
4 Myr Incubator
4 Pentad Prism
4 Talisman of Dominance
2 Talisman of Progress
4 Thirst for Knowledge
4 Thoughtcast

41 other spells

Sideboard

4 Annul
3 Echoing Truth
4 Magma Jet
2 Override
2 Shatter

15 sideboard cards

I am going to fly through the archetypes pretty quickly here. This article has gone on much longer than I expected and it's already past the time where Scott Johns' temple starts to throb while he waits for my article to get in.

Tooth and Nail - Fourteen decks/ two Top 8

Affinity - Six decks/one Top 8

Big Red - Eleven decks/two Top 8

Blue-Green Control - Twelve decks/one Top 8

Angel Control - Three decks/one Top 8

Ironworks - One deck/one Top 8

"And so it begins." - Chicken Little

Mono-green - three decks/no Top 8

March/Lattice - two deck/no Top 8

Other - Seven decks/no Top 8

Whew. I don't know what's on tap for next week. I will be in Seattle doing coverage of the Team Pro Tour. I hope to be the blog guy again so I will try and keep you updated as to what is happening in side events and if I see any good decks you might get the jump on them by following the blog! In the meantime, make sure to check out [Randy's PT Seattle article](#) in the tournament center. It has a video preview of the event (including interviews with defending champions "Brockafellers" and the dominant team of the format, Kai Budde's "Phoenix Foundation") as well as a look at the new changes going into effect for Sunday's live webcast. Don't miss it!

*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.*



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