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# Closing the Books on Standard

Brian David-Marshall  
The Week That Was  
Thursday, September 2, 2004



**G**rand Prix Nagoya marked the last significant Standard event before the 2004 World Championships. After this weekend Standard will become the domain of Friday Night **Magic** until the introduction of **Champions of Kamigawa** and the much-anticipated State Championships.

Grand Prix Nagoya's Pro Tour Invitations fed into Pro Tour Columbus but unlike every other PTQ held around the World it was run using the Standard format--the same format as Grand Prix Kuala Lumpur. Last year at the similarly Standard Grand Prix Bangkok, Tsuyoshi Fujita dropped a goblin bomb on the format with his Goblin Bidding deck.

There were no significant surprises in the Top 8 although Masami Ibamoto's Deathcloud deck arched a few eyebrows. Although four Affinity decks made the Top 8 it was green-red Goblins that earned Tatsunori Yishi a \$2,400 payday and an invite to Pro Tour Columbus. The finals mirrored the finals of Japanese Nationals when Tsuyoshi Fujita first called attention to the deck and won his National Championship.

The real surprise came in the final standings. Tsuyoshi Fujita, Osamu Fujita, and Itaru Ishida seemingly make the cut to the Top 8 of Asian Grand Prix at will but this time they all finished well outside the money. This seemed especially crushing since they were all playing the decks that they expected to bring to the Standard portion of Worlds.

Pro Tour winner Mashashiro Kuroda battled with illness--likely brought on by the stress of a newborn baby not ten days old--and although he rode a roller coaster on day two from the top of the standings down to the middle of the pack and then back up to tenth with wins in the closing rounds. Although he finished strong he felt too terrible after the weekend to justify the trip to Worlds and elected to stay home with his new baby girl.

Coming into Worlds the deck that seemed to attract the most attention from the rest of the world was Tomohauru Saitou's blue-white control deck that was sporting main deck **Relic Barriers**. A number of players including Brian Kibler, Jon Finkel, and Seth Burn were playing decks based off of Saitou's build at World's this week--sans the **Decree of Silence**.

**Itaru Ishida**

A deck that was notably absent from the Top 8 was the mono-green Tooth and Nail deck the Japanese **Magic** community refers to as Tron. There were a dozen such decks on Day Two--fifteen Tooth decks made Day Two overall--and not a one reached the elimination rounds. With their confidence in the Tron deck deeply shaken, players such as Itaru Ishida were forced to look to Goblins as the plan for Worlds instead.

Masami Ibamoto followed his Sunday appearance as a member of S.A.I. from Seattle with another Top 4 this past weekend. He cobbled together a last minute Death Cloud deck when he had to build decks for his friend and his girlfriend for the tournament. He gave his best deck--goblins--to his friend Hiroataka Hata. Hata finished in twenty-first place and won \$250. He gave his Mycosynth Golem combo deck to his girlfriend--no word on where she finished.

Ibamoto stayed with the hot hand for Worlds and played another Death Cloud deck. He felt that he could have won the event with a little time to think about his deck. He would have included both **Relic Barriers** and **Infests** in his sideboard. After having the time to think for Worlds he abandoned blue and switched to red for **Siege-Gang Commander!!!**

## On the Other Hand...

While there was nothing startling in the main event there was something of a stir in the Junior open when thirteen year old Ryosuke Yagi managed to defeat a field of close to fifty players with his Krark-Clan Ironworks deck. It was Ryosuke's first actual sanctioned tournament and he picked up the deck cold when he borrowed it from an older friend.



Ryosuke Yagi		
Krark-Clan Ironworks - Winner Junior Open		
Main Deck		Sideboard
60 cards		
4 Ancient Den	4 Chrome Mox	4 Annul
4 Great Furnace	3 Condescend	4 Echoing Truth
4 Seat of the Synod	3 Fabricate	3 Electrostatic Bolt
	2 Fireball	2 Mindslaver
		2 Stifle

4 Tree of Tales	1 Goblin Charbelcher	15 sideboard cards
4 Vault of Whispers	4 Krark-Clan Ironworks	
20 lands	4 Magma Jet	
	4 Myr Incubator	
	4 Pentad Prism	
	4 Serum Visions	
0 creatures	2 Talisman of Dominance	
	2 Talisman of Unity	
	3 Thoughtcast	
	40 other spells	

## PTQ Results

The PTQ season is winding down. Pretty soon we will be looking ahead to State Championships and Sealed Deck Qualifiers for Pro Tour Nagoya with *Champions of Kamigawa*. There are only a handful of events in late September and the spots for Columbus are drying up fast. Here are the lucky ducks that made the Top 8 of their PTQs and GP Trials this past weekend.

Event City	Event Date	Event TO	Attendance
Atlanta (PT Qualifier)	8/28/2004	Anthony Edwards	124
Finish: 1. Drew Lichtenstein; 2. Jonathan Grubbs Jr.; 3. Clint Hays; 4. Andrew Wolf; 5. Derrick Sheets; 6. Matthew Long; 7. Jesse Kilgore; 8. William Randall			
Los Angeles (PT Qualifier)	8/28/2004	Dan Gray	149
Finish: 1. Eugene Levin; 2. Blake Kyles; 3. Brandon Estrada; 4. Nam Tran; 5. Sam Stein; 6. Paul Herr; 7. Cody Anziano; 8. Andy Custer			
Louisville, Ky (PT Qualifier)	8/28/2004	Brennan Moody	77
Finish: 1. Gregory Vincent; 2. Victor Puente; 3. Rye Harper; 4. Darryl Taylor; 5. Jake Meiser; 6. Daniel Neeley; 7. Gary Richie; 8. Jacob Beal			
New York City (PT Qualifier)	8/28/2004	Glen Friedman	149
Finish: 1. Artem Dushkevitch; 2. Mike Eisenhauer; 3. Robert Peacock; 4. Gleb Gorkhover; 5. Elias Vaisberg; 6. Kevin An; 7. Ethen Martin; 8. Mathew Saypoff			
Montreal (PT Qualifier)	8/28/2004	Maro Bongiovani	83
Finish: 1. Karim Saliba; 2. Martin-Eric Gauthier; 3. Gregory Kelly; 4. Vincent Boulanger; 5. Christian Potvin; 6. Guillaume Cardin; 7. Steeve Bisson; 8. Tobias Rosman-Simionescu			
Richmond, Va (PT Qualifier)	8/28/2004	Pete Hoefling	97
Finish: 1. Luke Smith; 2. Steven Spotts; 3. Alex Majlaton; 4. Ian Bennett; 5. Chris Vasold; 6. Lawrence Creech; 7. Lance Shrader; 8. Michael Rooks			
San Antonio, Texas (PT Qualifier)	8/28/2004	Tim Weissman	59
Finish: 1. William Moreno; 2. Chance Whitaker; 3. Kyle Sanchez; 4. Andrew Gray; 5. Daryl Schmitt; 6. Jeremy Watkins; 7. Bob McClellan; 8. Roy Baran			
Hartford, CT (PT Qualifier)	8/28/2004	Tom Shea	99
Finish: 1. Melissa DeTora; 2. Daniel Connelly; 3. John Putrino; 4. Joseph Schmidt; 5. James Searles; 6. Brian Shiels; 7. Adam Chambers; 8. Michael Pise			
Ames, Iowa (GP Trial)	8/28/2004	Brian Woerth	41
Finish: 1. Dave Lyon; 2. Michael Liu; 3. Louis Yang; 4. Robb Boros; 5. Matt Hansen; 6. Jack Ewing; 7. Nick Hamilton; 8. Kristin Clemens			
Los Angeles (GP Trial)	8/28/2004	Dan Gray	15
Finish: 1. Mike Voskuhl; 2. Howard Chen; 3. Ryan Scott; 4. Tony Lee; 5. Adam Mancuso; 6. Brian Dennert; 7. Frank Gilson; 8. Brent Olson			
San Antonio, Texas (GP Trial)	8/28/2004	Tim Weissman	17
Finish: 1. Jeffrey Meyerson; 2. Ha Tran; 3. John Ligon; 4. Robert Hutchins; 5. Mark Molaro; 6. Aaron Tolley; 7. Robert Hendon; 8. Michael			

## The Week that Is...

Things are a little light for today's column--apologies. I just got back from Japan and went straight to Worlds in San Francisco. Plus, my Dictaphone with an Itaru Ishida interview seems to have eaten the tape and has not regurgitated anything remotely useable. Live Worlds Coverage kicked off yesterday and will be ongoing all week. I will be following a player around all day today during the draft portion. Perhaps two-time Limited Pro Tour winner Nicolai Herzog would be a good candidate? Nicolai and Gabriel Nassif are in a heated battle to unseat Kai Budde as the player of the year. Kai is not to be discounted though as a second place finish here would likely earn him another year of free trips and cushy hotel rooms.

So don't worry about The Week That Was, go check out the Week That Is all weekend long at the [Tournament Center](#).



Go watch!

*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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