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# High Hopes

Brian David-Marshall  
The Week That Was  
Friday, August 19, 2005



**U**.S. Nationals provided several big storylines this past weekend in Baltimore. There was the emergence of Monoblue Tron as a dominant deck, the dissolution of the traditional team TOGIT and the roster changes that have led to the crowning of the Seven Kings and the excitement over the high quality of this year's U.S. National team.

All three storylines were at least partially written by the same author – U.S. National Champion Antonino De Rosa. De Rosa reeled off an 8-0-2 record in Constructed with Monoblue Tron. He was one of three "Kings" in the Top 8 and is captaining a team that includes himself, TOGIT's Jon Sonne, and Neil Reeves.

The Italian-born 23-year-old was still pinching himself when I caught up with him to ask about winning the National Championship for his adopted country.

"I still can't believe it!" De Rosa beamed. "I am very proud and overwhelmed at the idea that I have to represent United States of America at Worlds. Having Neil and John on the team makes it much easier since they are both better than me at **Magic** and both great friends."

This was the second win of De Rosa's career. He won Grand Prix-Kansas City during *Mirrodin* Block Limited but, despite countless money finishes, has never come close to winning as much as the \$25,000 he picked up for his finish in Maryland. This was his third time playing in Nationals in the United States and has come close to playing on Sunday the other two times.



De Rosa with Richard Garfield, after winning U.S. Nationals.

"I came in 11th the year [Josh] Wagener won, and 22nd the year [Eugene] Harvey won," De Rosa recollected.

For a long time, De Rosa explained that he seemed to have a mental barrier keeping him from that breakout performance. There were plenty of times on the Pro Tour where he was within shooting distance of a Top 8 spot only to stumble and have to settle for a Top 64 payout. He credits his victory in Kansas City with giving him the confidence necessary to win on the bigger stage – and as a result would be hard-pressed to pick one victory as more meaningful than the other.

"Well, in Kansas City winning was really awesome because I actually believed in myself that I could win. Before Kansas City I made four GP Top 8s and lost every time in the quarters. I think I have more PT Top 64s ending on a losing streak than anyone on tour. Too many times I am like one win away from top eight and would lose three or four in the row. I usually crack under pressure. Winning Nationals is a much bigger accomplishment than winning a GP but they are both very special to me."



Last year, De Rosa played in Italian Nationals without much success. It did earn him a fair amount of ribbing from his friends back home when he won this year's U.S. event, though. He was also the source of an unusual form of National pride.

"They all joked around that U.S. Nats must be easier than Italian Nats since I always scrub out of Italian Nats. But everyone is very happy for me, and I don't think I could be any happier that all these people believed in me."

The next step for De Rosa is replicating his Nationals success on the Pro Tour. Flanked by Reeves and Sonne, he certainly felt good about the team competition at Worlds – although he did have some concerns.

"I think the team is awesome, I really hope Neil goes. (I know he says he will but I still wonder.) Jon Sonne is one of the better American players right now. Neil is just one of the smartest players to ever have played **Magic**. I think if we playtest together, and fix our kinks for the Team Rochester part I think we can easily be one of the teams competing for Sunday. I am just glad to be the worst on the team."

To prepare for the event, De Rosa plans to join Sonne in New Jersey and stay at Gerard Fabiano's house. ("Hopefully Neil accepts our invitation. If so we can get a lot of work done," De Rosa said.) I asked

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Sonne, left, De Rosa and Reeves form a veteran U.S. National Team.

De Rosa to explain the shift from TOGIT superteam to the slimmed down and apparently limited roster of the 7 Kings – a roster that does not include long-time TOGIT staple Sonne.

"Well TOGIT the store is pretty much dead. No one goes there any longer to play. Eugene (Harvey) and Adam (Horvath) are really busy with other stuff like being lost in the World of Warcraft, Patrick Sullivan moved to San Diego, and Jon Sonne and Craig Krempels usually playtest with more Southern Jersey people. We are all still good friends -- I would do anything for any of them. Lately Josh (Ravitz), John (Fiorillo), Gerard (Fabiano) and Osy (Lebedowicz) test and me, Alex (Lieberman), and Billy (Postlethwait) test. We share info back and forth."

Of those seven, Antonino, Josh, and Alex all made their way to Sunday this past weekend. "Right now we are very dedicated since all of us are out of school for summer vacation. I mean overall we put three Kings in the Top 8, and we won two tournaments back to back."

The other tournament win for the team was a couple of weeks back at Grand Prix-Minnesota when Lieberman took home the title. De Rosa was hyping his friend going into Pro Tour-London, and with two high-profile finishes under his belt he seems to be living up to the advance billing.

"A few months ago Alex Lieberman was pretty much the best **Magic** player that no one knew about," De Rosa said. "He was my PT teammate. He has some of the best raw talent that I ever seen anyone display and I regularly play with people like Osy and Eugene. Alex takes school very seriously and hasn't gone to too many tournaments before this year. Me and Billy just dragged him out of his dorm room to play with us at the PT. He has been on the gravy train ever since. Osy claims Alex will win a PT by the end of next year. I will not be surprised if he wins two. I don't want to jinx him but I am very confident of his skills and now that he has a little confidence (something he lacked in the past) there is no saying how much he can accomplish."



De Rosa's Monoblue Tron deck led to more than a few turns of serious pondering.

As for the Monoblue Tron deck that he and Lieberman took into the Top 8, what happens to it next week when the base set changes over from *Eighth Edition* to *Ninth*? Will it still be a viable deck for Canadian Nationals?

"I haven't thought about it tooo much," De Rosa said. "You do lose **Concentrate** which is pretty awesome in combination with **Chrome Mox**, but **Plow Under** leaves the format which was a very annoying card to play around. Overall I think it stays the same unless Monoblue becomes more popular -- then it's pretty bad. The deck all-in-all doesn't have too much life. As soon as *Mirrodin* block rotates out and *Ravnica* rotates in, it is dead."

## JSS Decklists and Finals Coverage

There is a long tradition of White Weenie decks winning at U.S. Nationals. When Mike Patnik reached the Top 8 portion of the senior circuit with his White Weenie build, many people expected him – in the role of 'some guy' – to win the whole thing. Patnik had to settle for \$5,000, an invite to Worlds, and alternate status on the U.S. National team. With his loss in the semifinals, it fell to 15-year old Jeff Rabovsky to uphold the honor of the oldest archetype in **Magic** history.

"I either got lucky or played the right deck – or both," smiled Rabovsky as he prepared to face off against Jason Rosellini and his Tooth deck in the finals of the [JSS Championship](#).

The matchup was something of a coin flip in Jeff's estimation although he had done better than that to this point in the tournament. "The deck is 50-50 against Tooth but it is 60-40 against everything else – except Flores Red which is its worst matchup. I need a fast clock, **Damping Matrix**, or Hokori. So far I have played Tooth twice and went 2-0."

His opponent Jason Rosellini had not lost a match after starting the tournament with a disappointing 0-2-1 record in the first three rounds. From that point to the start of the finals, he had reeled off 10 straight wins – including one against White Weenie. He had also faced the deck one other time and lost in the early rounds.

Both players were playing in their last year of Super Series eligibility. In order to see this level of competition again, they will need to elevate their game to the Pro Tour level. Both players have kept their eyes on the Pro Tour and were looking forward to the challenges it would provide. For Jeff he can look to his home state for inspiration as the most visible Pro in his area is former JSSer Gadiel Szeifer.

Jason felt confident that he could be competitive on the Constructed PTQ scene and has even played in a couple of PTQs this season to test the waters. Forty-card decks were another matter entirely. "I am not so good at Limited. I just picked up some draft boxes so I am going to start practicing."

As the two players shuffled for the first game Jason cheered on his all-foil **Tooth and Nail** deck, "Go shiny Tooth, go!"

He caught a reflection from Jeff's side of the table and he approved, "Whoa...Your stuff looks pretty shiny too. I can see the glare on your face."



Jeff's deck was actually a rag-tag band of foils, black-bordered, and even white-bordered cards. He had clearly not dedicated the same amount of time to tricking out his deck, while Jason spent nearly as much time trading for the foils he needed as he did playtesting the deck.

"I might have bought a couple of small things here and there – *Sakura-Tribe Elders* for example – but mostly it was by trading. The decklist always comes first though," assured Rosellini. "I have like 20 foil cards in my box that didn't make the list. Unfortunately I tested a lot."

Jeff went on to win the match two games to one despite being out-blinded by Jason. His early threats managed to squeak out just enough damage in two of the three games. In the middle game, an entwined *Tooth and Nail* resulted in *Triskelion* and *Mephidross Vampire* – which continues to be dominating against any creature-based deck.

If the recent successes of Szleifer, Kyle Goodman, and Jeff Garza are any indication, these two young players could be facing each other again on the Pro Tour sometime soon... maybe even with 40-card decks next time.

Rabovsky collects his trophy from Richard Garfield.

### Jeff Rabovsky – White Weenie: Matrix Has You!

Champion – 2005 Junior Super Series and 15-Year-Old Winner

Main Deck <i>60 cards</i>		Sideboard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Blinkmoth Nexus</li> <li>1 Eiganjo Castle</li> <li>15 Plains</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>20 lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Auriok Champion</li> <li>3 Hokori, Dust Drinker</li> <li>3 Isamaru, Hound of Konda</li> <li>4 Lantern Kami</li> <li>4 Leonin Skyhunter</li> <li>4 Savannah Lions</li> <li>3 Suntail Hawk</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>25 creatures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Chrome Mox</li> <li>4 Damping Matrix</li> <li>4 Glorious Anthem</li> <li>4 Raise the Alarm</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>15 other spells</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Circle of Protection: Red</li> <li>1 Hokori, Dust Drinker</li> <li>4 Karma</li> <li>3 Terashi's Grasp</li> <li>4 Wrath of God</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>15 sideboard cards</p>

### Jason Rosellini – Tooth and Nail

Finalist – 2005 Junior Super Series

Main Deck <i>60 cards</i>		Sideboard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Boseiju, Who Shelters All</li> <li>7 Forest</li> <li>4 Urza's Mine</li> <li>4 Urza's Power Plant</li> <li>4 Urza's Tower</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>20 lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Duplicant</li> <li>3 Eternal Witness</li> <li>1 Kiki-Jiki, Mirror Breaker</li> <li>4 Sakura-Tribe Elder</li> <li>1 Sundering Titan</li> <li>1 Triskelion</li> <li>3 Vine Trellis</li> <li>1 Viridian Shaman</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Chrome Mox</li> <li>3 Oblivion Stone</li> <li>3 Plow Under</li> <li>4 Reap and Sow</li> <li>4 Sensei's Divining Top</li> <li>4 Sylvan Scrying</li> <li>4 Tooth and Nail</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>25 other spells</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Circle of Protection: Red</li> <li>2 Creeping Mold</li> <li>2 Iwamori of the Open Fist</li> <li>1 Mephidross Vampire</li> <li>2 Molder Slug</li> <li>1 Plains</li> <li>1 Plow Under</li> <li>1 Viridian Shaman</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>14 sideboard cards</p>

## Sean Pottenger – Monoblue Control: Insert Cool and Ingenious Deck Name Here

2005 Semifinalist – Junior Super Series



Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
2 Blinkmoth Nexus	3 Annul	3 Hibernation
20 Island	4 Boomerang	1 Mephidross Vampire
3 Stalking Stones	3 Disrupting Shoal	1 Sakashima the Impostor
25 lands	4 Hinder	4 Sun Droplet
3 Jushi Apprentice	3 Inspiration	1 Triskelion
1 Meloku the Clouded Mirror	4 Mana Leak	4 Twincast
4 Spire Golem	2 Rewind	1 Uyo, Silent Prophet
8 creatures	4 Vedalken Shackles	15 sideboard cards
	27 other spells	

## Arthur Stewart – Tooth and Nail: Toothwinz.dec

2005 Semifinalist – Junior Super Series



Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
9 Forest	2 Chrome Mox	1 Boseiju, Who Shelters All
1 Okina, Temple to the Grandfathers	3 Mindslaver	4 Circle of Protection: Red
4 Urza's Mine	2 Oblivion Stone	3 Creeping Mold
4 Urza's Power Plant	4 Reap and Sow	2 Oxidize
4 Urza's Tower	4 Sensei's Divining Top	1 Plains
22 lands	4 Sylvan Scrying	3 Plow Under
1 Duplicant	4 Tooth and Nail	1 Viridian Shaman
4 Eternal Witness	23 other spells	15 sideboard cards
1 Kiki-Jiki, Mirror Breaker		
4 Sakura-Tribe Elder		
1 Sundering Titan		
1 Triskelion		
2 Vine Trellis		
1 Viridian Shaman		
15 creatures		

## Bret Farrell – Monoblue Tron: BretTron

Quarterfinalist – 2005 Junior Super Series



Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
10 Island	3 Aether Spellbomb	2 Annul
1 Minamo, School at Water's Edge	4 Condescend	1 Echoing Truth
1 Oboro, Palace in the Clouds	2 Echoing Truth	1 Mindslaver
4 Urza's Mine	4 Mana Leak	4 Shifting Borders
4 Urza's Power Plant	2 Mindslaver	4 Sun Droplet
4 Urza's Tower	3 Oblivion Stone	2 Time Stop
24 lands	2 Rewind	1 Triskelion
1 Meloku the Clouded Mirror	3 Sensei's Divining Top	15 sideboard cards
2 Memnarch	4 Serum Visions	
2 Triskelion	4 Thirst for Knowledge	
5 creatures	31 other spells	

## Bret Blackman – Medium Green: Blackman Beacon



## 2.0

Quarterfinalist – 2005 Junior Super Series

### Main Deck

60 cards

20 Forest  
1 Mountain  
1 Swamp

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22 lands

4 Birds of Paradise  
4 Eternal Witness  
2 Godo, Bandit Warlord  
4 Sakura-Tribe Elder  
3 Troll Ascetic  
2 Viridian Shaman  
3 Wood Elves

---

22 creatures

4 Beacon of Creation  
4 Plow Under  
3 Sensei's Divining Top  
2 Sword of Fire and Ice  
1 Sword of Light and Shadow  
2 Umezawa's Jitte

---

16 other spells

### Sideboard

2 Arashi, the Sky  
Asunder  
4 Cranial Extraction  
3 Creeping Mold  
1 Plains  
1 Troll Ascetic  
1 Viridian Shaman  
3 Worship

---

15 sideboard cards

## Sean Inoue – Tooth and Nail

Quarterfinalist – 2005 Junior Super Series and 14-Year-Old Winner



### Main Deck

60 cards

1 Boseiju, Who Shelters All  
8 Forest  
1 Okina, Temple to the Grandfathers  
4 Urza's Mine  
4 Urza's Power Plant  
4 Urza's Tower

---

22 lands

2 Chrome Mox  
3 Oblivion Stone  
2 Plow Under  
3 Reap and Sow  
3 Sensei's Divining Top  
4 Sylvan Scrying  
4 Tooth and Nail

---

21 other spells

1 Darksteel Colossus  
1 Duplicant  
4 Eternal Witness  
1 Kiki-Jiki, Mirror Breaker  
1 Mephidross Vampire  
4 Sakura-Tribe Elder  
1 Sundering Titan  
1 Triskelion  
3 Viridian Shaman

---

17 creatures

### Sideboard

4 Creeping Mold  
4 Defense Grid  
1 Leonin Abunas  
1 Platinum Angel  
2 Plow Under  
3 Vine Trellis

---

15 sideboard cards

## Julian Cheng – Aggro Red

Quarterfinalist – 2005 Junior Super Series



### Main Deck

60 cards

4 Blinkmoth Nexus  
16 Mountain

---

20 lands

4 Arc-Slogger  
4 Frostling  
2 Hearth Kami  
4 Slith Firewalker  
3 Vulshok Sorcerer  
3 Zo-Zu the Punisher

---

20 creatures

4 Chrome Mox  
2 Genju of the Spires  
4 Magma Jet  
4 Seething Song  
3 Shrapnel Blast  
3 Sword of Fire and Ice

---

20 other spells

### Sideboard

2 Flamebreak  
2 Fractured Loyalty  
2 Goblin Charbelcher  
2 Jinxed Choker  
4 Molten Rain  
3 Shatter

---

15 sideboard cards

## Pranay Mohan – Aggro Red: The Philosopher's Stone

11th Place – 2005 Junior Super Series and 13-Year-Old Winner



Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
4 Blinkmoth Nexus	4 Chrome Mox	2 Flamebreak
16 Mountain	2 Genju of the Spires	2 Jinxed Choker
1 Shinka, the Bloodsoaked Keep	4 Magma Jet	4 Molten Rain
21 lands	4 Seething Song	2 Shatter
	4 Shrapnel Blast	2 Sowing Salt
	3 Sword of Fire and Ice	3 Vulshok Sorcerer
4 Arc-Slogger	21 other spells	15 sideboard cards
4 Frostling		
2 Hearth Kami		
4 Slith Firewalker		
4 Zo-Zu the Punisher		
18 creatures		

Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
<b>Andrew Levine – Aggro Red</b>		
69th Place – 2005 Junior Super Series and 12-Year-Old and Younger Winner		
4 Blinkmoth Nexus	4 Chrome Mox	2 Boil
14 Mountain	4 Magma Jet	3 Fractured Loyalty
1 Shinka, the Bloodsoaked Keep	4 Seething Song	3 Pulse of the Forge
19 lands	4 Shrapnel Blast	4 Shatter
	3 Sword of Fire and Ice	3 Sowing Salt
	2 Umezawa's Jitte	15 sideboard cards
4 Arc-Slogger	21 other spells	
4 Hearth Kami		
1 Kumano, Master Yamabushi		
4 Slith Firewalker		
4 Vulshok Sorcerer		
3 Zo-Zu the Punisher		
20 creatures		

## Top 8 Legacy Decklists

You'll have to wait a week before reading Zvi Mowshowitz's personal account of playing in the Legacy Championships at Gen Con, and another week for his feature article on the Legacy format.

Until then, you will have to sate yourself with the Top 8 decklists from a 54-person Grand Prix Trial during U.S. Nationals weekend.

In addition to the High Tide decks, White Weenie decks, Survival deck, Vial Goblins, and various burn decks that made the Top 8 there was also quite a lot of MiracleGro and SuperGro along with many other favorite decks from bygone formats.

Archetype	Number
Goblins	9*
High Tide	7**
Survival	7*
Sligh/Burn	6*
Red-green Beats/Burn/Gro	5*
Miracle/Super Gro	3
White Weenie	2**
Suicide Black	2
Single decks: TurboLand, Monoblue Control, Pox, Landstill, Elves, Cogs, Fluctuator, Fish, The Game, Full English Breakfast, Five-Color Control	
*=number in Top 8	

Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
<b>David Gearhart – High Tide: Solidarity</b>		
Winner – Grand Prix-Philadelphia Trial Legacy Format		
4 Flooded Strand	3 Brain Freeze	1 Chain of Vapor
12 Island	4 Brainstorm	1 Echoing Truth
2 Polluted Delta	3 Cunning Wish	1 Evacuation
18 lands	2 Flash of Insight	4 Hydroblast
	4 Force of Will	1 Meditate
	4 High Tide	1 Rebuild
	4 Impulse	1 Snap
0 creatures	3 Meditate	1 Stroke of Genius
	4 Opt	1 Turnabout
	4 Reset	2 Twincast
	2 Thirst for Knowledge	1 Words of Wisdom
	3 Turnabout	15 sideboard cards
	2 Twincast	

**Alix Hatfield – White Weenie: WWW**

Finalist – Grand Prix-Philadelphia Trial Legacy Format

**Main Deck**  
60 cards

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Karakas          | 2 Enlightened Tutor    |
| 1 Maze of Ith      | 2 Mask of Memory       |
| 1 Mishra's Factory | 1 Pariah               |
| 15 Plains          | 1 Pithing Needle       |
| 4 Wasteland        | 2 Seal of Cleansing    |
|                    | 4 Swords to Plowshares |
|                    | 3 Umezawa's Jitte      |

22 lands

15 other spells

- 
- 4 Icatian Javelineers  
1 Isamaru, Hound of Konda  
4 Mother of Runes  
2 Savannah Lions  
4 Silver Knight  
4 Soltari Priest  
4 Weathered Wayfarer

23 creatures

**Sideboard**

- 2 Abolish  
4 Armageddon  
1 Enlightened Tutor  
1 Null Rod  
2 Pariah  
2 Phyrexian Furnace  
2 Pithing Needle  
1 Serenity

15 sideboard cards

**Brandon Eimer – White Weenie: Angel Stompy**

Semifinalist – Grand Prix-Philadelphia Trial Legacy Format

**Main Deck**  
60 cards

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 Ancient Tomb            | 3 Chrome Mox            |
| 11 Plains                 | 3 Mask of Memory        |
|                           | 3 Parallax Wave         |
| 15 lands                  | 3 Seal of Cleansing     |
|                           | 2 Sword of Fire and Ice |
| 4 Exalted Angel           | 4 Swords to Plowshares  |
| 1 Isamaru, Hound of Konda | 4 Tithe                 |
| 4 Mother of Runes         | 2 Umezawa's Jitte       |
| 4 Silver Knight           |                         |
| 4 Soltari Foot Soldier    |                         |
| 4 Soltari Priest          |                         |

21 creatures

24 other spells

**Sideboard**

- 3 Armageddon  
2 Decree of Justice  
3 Disenchant  
3 Honorable Passage  
4 True Believer

15 sideboard cards

**Calosso Fuentes – Vial Goblins**

Semifinalist – Grand Prix-Philadelphia Trial Legacy Format

**Main Deck**  
60 cards

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Bloodstained Mire | 4 Aether Vial     |
| 12 Mountain         | 2 Umezawa's Jitte |
| 4 Wasteland         |                   |
| 3 Wooded Foothills  |                   |

20 lands

6 other spells

- 
- 4 Gempalm Incinerator  
2 Goblin King  
4 Goblin Lackey  
4 Goblin Matron  
4 Goblin Piledriver  
1 Goblin Pyromancer  
4 Goblin Ringleader  
1 Goblin Sharpshooter  
4 Goblin Warchief  
1 Kiki-Jiki, Mirror Breaker  
4 Mogg Fanatic  
1 Siege-Gang Commander

**Sideboard**

- 2 Flaring Pain  
1 Phyrexian Furnace  
3 Pithing Needle  
2 Pyrokinesis  
3 Pyrostatic Pillar  
3 Red Elemental Blast  
1 Scrabbling Claws

15 sideboard cards

**Seth Perrin – High Tide: Two Words**

Quarterfinalist – Grand Prix-Philadelphia Trial Legacy Format

**Main Deck**  
60 cards2 Flooded Strand  
12 Island  
4 Polluted Delta

18 lands

0 creatures

3 Brain Freeze  
4 Brainstorm  
3 Cunning Wish  
2 Flash of Insight  
4 Force of Will  
4 High Tide  
4 Impulse  
3 Meditate  
4 Opt  
4 Reset  
3 Thirst for Knowledge  
3 Turnabout  
1 Twincast

42 other spells

**Sideboard**4 Blue Elemental Blast  
1 Brain Freeze  
1 Chain of Vapor  
1 Echoing Truth  
1 Evacuation  
1 Meditate  
1 Rebuild  
1 Snap  
1 Stroke of Genius  
1 Turnabout  
1 Twincast  
1 Words of Wisdom

15 sideboard cards

**Russell Carl – Red-Green: Santana Back**

Quarterfinalist – Grand Prix-Philadelphia Trial Legacy Format

**Main Deck**  
60 cards1 Bloodstained Mire  
1 Forest  
11 Mountain  
4 Taiga  
3 Wasteland  
2 Wooded Foothills

22 lands

4 Kird Ape  
3 Mogg Fanatic  
4 Werebear

11 creatures

4 Chain Lightning  
4 Cursed Scroll  
3 Fireblast  
4 Incinerate  
4 Lava Dart  
4 Lightning Bolt  
4 Magma Jet

27 other spells

**Sideboard**4 Naturalize  
4 Price of Progress  
2 Pyrostatic Pillar  
3 Red Elemental Blast  
2 Sulfuric Vortex

15 sideboard cards

**Keyafar Saleh – Survival**

Quarterfinalist – Grand Prix-Philadelphia Trial Legacy Format

**Main Deck**  
60 cards4 Forest  
3 Taiga  
4 Tropical Island  
2 Wasteland  
2 Windswept Heath  
4 Wooded Foothills

19 lands

1 Anger  
4 Birds of Paradise  
1 Dosan the Falling Leaf  
1 Druid Lyrist  
1 Eternal Witness  
1 Genesis  
1 Gilded Drake  
1 Mystic Snake  
1 Quirion Ranger  
1 Rofellos, Llanowar Emissary  
1 Seedborn Muse  
1 Spike Feeder4 Brainstorm  
4 Force of Will  
2 Mana Leak  
4 Survival of the Fittest

14 other spells

**Sideboard**3 Blue Elemental Blast  
3 Chill  
3 Naturalize  
4 Phyrexian Furnace  
2 Seal of Removal

15 sideboard cards

- 1 Spike Weaver
- 1 Spore Frog
- 1 Squee, Goblin Nabob
- 4 Tradewind Rider
- 1 Uktabi Orangutan
- 4 Wall of Roots

27 creatures

## Jon Pharis – Monored Burn: Cinder

Quarterfinalist – Grand Prix-Philadelphia Trial Legacy Format



### Main Deck 60 cards

16 Mountain

16 lands

0 creatures

- 4 Browbeat
- 3 Cave-In
- 4 Chain Lightning
- 4 Fireblast
- 2 Flame Jet
- 1 Fork
- 4 Incinerate
- 4 Lava Spike
- 4 Lightning Bolt
- 4 Magma Jet
- 2 Scent of Cinder
- 4 Seal of Fire
- 4 Thunderbolt

44 other spells

### Sideboard

- 1 Breaking Point
- 4 Meltdown
- 4 Price of Progress
- 4 Red Elemental Blast
- 2 Wasteland

15 sideboard cards

## Firestarter: Disrespecting the Weenie

Looking through the field breakdown from the Legacy GP Trial, it seems like White Weenie was once again underestimated. Even though only two players opted to play with some incarnation of the oldest deck archetype, they both reached the Top 8 -- the best penetration rate by any deck in the field by far.

Why do people keep underestimating the results that this archetype continues to post?

*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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