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# Montreal Depths

Brian David-Marshall  
The Week That Was  
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As I type this, Pro Tour—San Diego is being assembled behind me. The Feature Match area is being constructed, the Pro Player Lounge is being stocked with food and drink, and tables are being pushed together in an unfamiliar square arrangement to accommodate the first-ever Two-Headed Giant Draft Pro Tour. Amid all the chaos, Randy and I managed to record our preview of the big event.

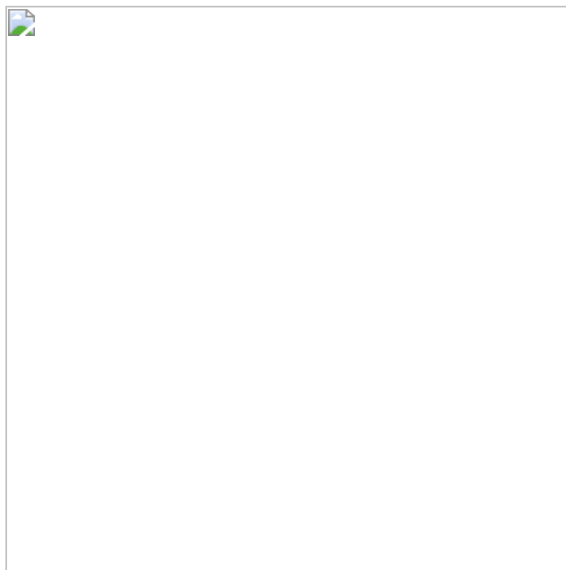
The players, many coming straight from Montreal, have to put aside thoughts of Block Constructed and focus their energy—and their teammate's energy—on the task of mastering this new and uncharted format. But if you are reading this at home, it is highly likely that you have not tabled your interest in Block Constructed. This is not to say that you will not closely follow all of the goings-on this weekend here in San Diego, but the fact is that you need to qualify for Valencia.

I was watching the Sunday Montreal coverage and found I had some unanswered questions regarding decks that had been hinted at, such as the apparent Reanimator list that was kicking around, Billy Moreno's 7-1 decklist from Day One, and what did all those Pro Tour winners bunched up near the top of the standings end up playing?

I decided I wanted answers and called Grand Prix—Columbus winner Steve Sadin on Sunday night to ask him to grab the Day Two decklists before heading back to NYC but he was out at dinner. He explained that they were going to swing back to pick up Kyle Sanchez (who was contributing some fine match coverage while everyone else ate), and that he would call Kyle to ask for the decklists so Steve could then bring them into the office on Monday. It seemed like too many moving parts—not to mention a run-on sentence—for it to ever come to pass, but sure enough when I came into my office on Tuesday decks nine through sixty-four were waiting on my desk.

The initial coverage provided a look at the Top 15 decks and Mike Flores and Frank Karsten have already dissected those in this week's columns. I am going to delve deeper and bring you some of the archetypes that did not make the cut but could still be worth being aware of as the PTQ season progresses.

Melissa DeTora is a long-time East Coast player who was in the running all weekend long with her deck that combined the **Stonewood Invocations** from Osyp's list (Osyp thought this should have been a format defining



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card going into Yokohama and perhaps if he had, you know, actually attended it would have been!), with the Predator elements that we see in Gabriel Schwarz's and Andre Coimbra's decks.

Stonecloaker is a pretty exciting piece of technology when it comes to the **Tarmogoyf** fights. Since your opponent's **Tarmogoyfs** are the same size as yours they tend to bounce off of each other. **Stonecloaker** lets you stack damage, return your Goyf, and remove a key card type from the graveyard—it is pretty saucy when the only sorcery in either graveyard is a **Call of the Herd**—to kill their suddenly smaller Goyf. It is also quite exciting with **Riftsweepers** and sideboarded **Thornscape Battlemages**.

I have seen a number of different attempts to name these decks, ranging from Mike's suggested Predator.dec to Melissa's cryptic Roger Williams Zoo but I hope that if something is going to stick, it will be Justice League (as was suggested by my Matthew Siler on his 33rd-place decklist).

Melissa DeTora, Roger Williams Zoo		
Grand Prix–Montreal – 16th Place		
Main Deck	Sideboard	
60 cards		
1 Mountain	3 Edge of Autumn	1 Dead // Gone
1 Horizon Canopy	3 Dead // Gone	1 Fiery Justice
3 Plains	4 Temporal Isolation	3 Stormbind
3 Forest	3 Call of the Herd	2 Disenchant
4 Gemstone Mine	3 Stonewood Invocation	3 Stonecloaker
3 Terramorphic Expanse	3 Fiery Justice	3 Thornscape Battlemage
4 Grove of the Burnwillows		2 Dodecapod
3 Flagstones of Trokair	19 other spells	
22 lands		15 sideboard cards
4 Kavu Predator		
4 Riftsweeper		
3 Saffi Eriksdotter		
4 Tarmogoyf		
4 Mystic Enforcer		
19 creatures		

Day Two was not an entirely happy place for Francisco Leon Valencia, who fell to 18th place after starting out Day One with a 9-0 record—and one meager bye to contribute to the cause. His monored deck featured Tarox Bladewing and was one of the few decks I saw that were still packing hatred for White Weenie with maindeck Sulfur Elementals and Ghost Flames, which may explain his success in the first nine rounds. It may also make it an excellent choice for the PTQ season.

Francisco Leon Valencia, Magnetic Resonance Aggro		
Grand Prix–Montreal – 16th Place		
Main Deck	Sideboard	
60 cards		
2 Pendelhaven	2 Rift Bolt	4 Wildfire Emissary
2 Keldon Megaliths	4 Ghostfire	1 Jaya Ballard, Task Mage
2 Zoetic Cavern	3 Word of Seizing	3 Fortune Thief
18 Mountain	4 Dead // Gone	3 Dodecapod
24 lands	13 other spells	4 Avalanche Riders
4 Keldon Marauders		15 sideboard cards
4 Mogg War Marshal		
4 Greater Gargadon		
3 Tarox Bladewing		
4 Magus of the Scroll		
4 Sulfur Elemental		
23 creatures		

One of my favorite decks in the tournament belonged to one of my favorite players on the Pro Tour. Pro Tour–Columbus champion Pierre Canali ended up in 23rd place with his take on Bridge from Below in the Block format. Many of the French players ended playing the same list including 64th-place finisher Raphael Levy. Pierre still stands by the list as a great choice for the PTQs, although he did mention that none of the other players piloting his creation were as happy with it as he was.



## Pierre Canali, Crazy Pedro 2

Grand Prix–Montreal – 16th Place

### Main Deck

60 cards

- 1 Gemstone Caverns
- 4 Terramorphic Expanse
- 7 Island
- 3 Forest
- 1 Pendelhaven
- 3 Urborg, Tomb of Yawgmoth
- 2 Gemstone Mine
- 1 Swamp
- 1 Graven Cairns

23 lands

- 3 Bogardan Hellkite
- 4 Gathan Raiders
- 4 Looter il-Kor
- 4 Bonded Fetch
- 3 Akroma, Angel of Wrath
- 4 Tarmogoyf
- 2 Body Double

24 creatures

- 4 Dread Return
- 2 Snapback
- 4 Bridge from Below
- 3 Chromatic Star

13 other spells

### Sideboard

- 2 Dodecapod
- 2 Snapback
- 3 Delay
- 2 Seal of Primordium
- 2 Tormod's Crypt
- 1 Wall of Roots
- 3 Spell Burst

15 sideboard cards

When you hit the bottom of the Top 32 you find a cluster of five monoblue decks including decks by a pair of Constructed Master candidates and Pro Tour Champions – Gabriel Nassif and Mark Herberholz in 29th and 30th places, respectively. The decks are, not surprisingly, close to identical as the Heesif machine has formed a formidable tandem in recent Constructed events.

## Gabriel Nassif, Monoblue Pickles

Grand Prix–Montreal – 16th Place



### Main Deck

60 cards

- 16 Island
- 4 Desert
- 1 Academy Ruins
- 3 Urza's Factory

24 lands

- 1 Triskelavus
- 2 Willbender
- 2 Fathom Seer
- 1 Venser, Shaper Savant
- 4 Riftwing Cloudskate
- 2 Teferi, Mage of Zhalfir
- 4 Vesuvan Shapeshifter
- 3 Brine Elemental

19 creatures

- 4 Ancestral Vision
- 4 Delay
- 4 Prismatic Lens
- 3 Cancel
- 2 Serrated Arrows

17 other spells

### Sideboard

- 1 Serrated Arrows
- 2 Snapback
- 2 Take Possession
- 4 Riptide Pilferer
- 3 Pongify
- 3 Spell Burst

15 sideboard cards

## Mark Herberholz, Morph 'em Ups

Grand Prix–Montreal – 16th Place



### Main Deck

60 cards

- 2 Calciform Pools
- 16 Island
- 1 Academy Ruins
- 1 Urza's Factory
- 4 Desert

24 lands

- 1 Triskelavus
- 4 Vesuvan Shapeshifter
- 4 Fathom Seer

- 3 Ancestral Vision
- 4 Delay
- 4 Cancel
- 3 Prismatic Lens
- 3 Coalition Relic

17 other spells

### Sideboard

- 4 Serrated Arrows
- 2 Take Possession
- 2 Spell Burst
- 3 Snapback
- 3 Aeon Chronicler
- 1 Temporal Isolation

15 sideboard cards

2 Willbender  
 3 Teferi, Mage of Zhalfir  
 2 Venser, Shaper Savant  
 3 Brine Elemental

19 creatures

One of my favorite physical decklists was Tomohiro Kaji's. Looking over the physical lists you can sometimes see the last minute decisions that a player goes through before handing in their list such as Frank Karsten's struck-through **Strangling Soot** in his sideboard that became...Strangling Soot. Kaji's changes were a little more sweeping.



Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
4 Desert	4 Ancestral Vision	1 Cancel
4 Dreadship Reef	4 Delay	1 Brine Elemental
2 Urza's Factory	3 Cancel	2 Aeon Chronicler
16 Island	3 Coalition Relic	1 Venser, Shaper Savant
26 lands	14 other spells	2 Willbender
4 Riftwing Cloudskate		2 Snapback
4 Vesuvan Shapeshifter		4 Serrated Arrows
3 Brine Elemental		2 Take Possession
3 Teferi, Mage of Zhalfir		15 sideboard cards
2 Willbender		
2 Venser, Shaper Savant		
2 Aeon Chronicler		
20 creatures		

Finally, Billy Moreno started the tournament with a 7-1 record only to, by his own account, "punt the three of the next four rounds". He described his deck with a sly grin as mono-red with Korphash.

Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
4 Urborg, Tomb of Yawgmoth	4 Ghostfire	2 Slaughter Pact
12 Mountain	3 Thunderblade Charge	3 Tendrils of Corruption
3 Molten Slagheap	2 Disintegrate	2 Detritivore
6 Swamp	2 Molten Disaster	2 Damnation
25 lands	2 Slaughter Pact	2 Death Rattle
4 Mogg War Marshal	2 Word of Seizing	4 Epochrasite
4 Ghostflame Sliver	15 other spells	15 sideboard cards
4 Sedge Sliver		
4 Greater Gargadon		
4 Korphash, Heir to Blackblade		
20 creatures		

Rounding out the parade of past Pro Tour winners playing on Day Two of Grand Prix Montreal was Gadiel Szleifer with his Korphash Control deck. While he finished near the bottom of the pack on Day Two, he was credited with the design of Michal Bernat's near-identical list that finished in 21st place.

Main Deck 60 cards		Sideboard
6 Swamp	4 Prismatic Lens	1 Extirpate
2 Island	4 Damnation	1 Pull from Eternity

1 Plains	4 Tendrils of Corruption	1 Disenchant
4 Urborg, Tomb of Yawgmoth	3 Careful Consideration	1 Venser, Shaper Savant
4 River of Tears	3 Mystical Teachings	1 Imp's Mischief
4 Tolaria West	1 Pact of Negation	2 Take Possession
4 Terramorphic Expanse	1 Slaughter Pact	4 Aven Riftwatcher
2 Urza's Factory	1 Haunting Hymn	2 Slaughter Pact
	1 Extirpate	1 Careful Consideration
27 lands	1 Pull from Eternity	1 Spell Burst
	1 Temporal Isolation	
4 Korklash, Heir to Blackblade	1 Take Possession	15 sideboard cards
4 Shadowmage Infiltrator	25 other spells	
8 creatures		

## Vote now for Constructed Master

To the surprise of pretty much nobody, Frank Karsten is the winner of [The Fanatic ballot](#) for the second year running. If the combination of his column, strong performances, and Deck-o-Pedia were not enough to lock it down, the story of Frank and his trusty Yokohama slop bucket was the clincher. Just take a look at this one comment from the message boards where the poster explained who he voted for and why:

"Karsten. I have played in more than one game with my friends in which I've heard someone say: 'In response, I throw up in a bucket' (in reference to Yokohama)."

Next up is [Constructed Master](#), which is going to be a real bloodbath of a category with a collection of the game's greatest players and fastest-rising new stars. Click on the big image to the right to read profiles and cast your vote.

There will also be a Players Vote taking place this weekend at Pro Tour–San Diego. Players taking part in the Pro Tour will have a chance to vote on the five players with the greatest totals of lifetime Pro Tour Points who have never been to the Invitational. The list is impressive and should spark some heated debate this weekend as players jockey for votes and the honor of playing in their first all-star game. The five candidates are Jelger Wiegiersma (280 lifetime points), Bram Snepvangers (243), Hall of Famer Rob Dougherty (235), Osamu Fujita (198), and Shuhei Nakamura (187).



## Sick Friday Night Magic Foil

The July [Friday Night Magic](#) promo card is a sick one all right and will be given away all month long at an FNM store near you.



## Firestarter: Vote on the Player's Vote

Who do you think will win the Players Vote this weekend and why? Do you think the results of this vote would be different if this ballot were open to the public? Head to the forums to sound off, and then tune in to Sunday's Top 4 webcast starting at 5 p.m. ET when we announce the winner.

*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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