

Don't Miss the Magic World Championships!

The fourth annual **Magic: The Gathering World Championships** will be held August 11–17 at the new state-of-the-art **Wizards of the Coast Game Center** in Seattle's University District.

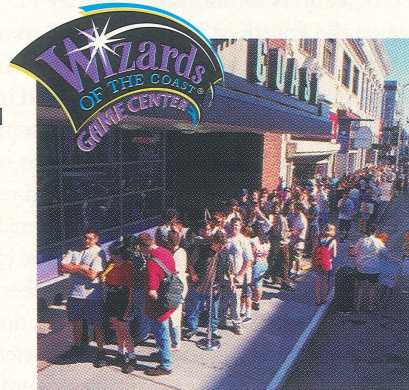
Drawing the top **Magic** players from around the globe, the World Championships kick off Monday, August 11, with "Worlds Warm-Up" events and will run through the entire week, culminating with the team competition on Saturday, August 16, and the individual finals on Sunday, August 17.

World-class **Magic** players representing more than thirty-five countries will compete for \$250,000 in cash prizes and the World Championship title. In addition to international competitors, the top

finishers from each of this season's **Magic Pro Tour** events and the Top 4 finishers from the 1996 World Championships will compete as well. The event also features numerous amateur tournaments, a Qualifier tournament for Pro Tour–Chicago (with a chance to win airfare), artist appearances and card signings, gunslinging, and much more. Beyond that, participants can enjoy many other activities at the 32,000-square-foot **Wizards Game Center**, which offers one of the largest collections of social, electronic, and computer-interactive games.

The **Magic World Championships** are open to the public from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 A.M. each day. Daily admission is \$5. The **Wizards of the Coast Game Center** is located in Seattle's University District at

4518 University Way N.E. The Game Center's telephone number is (206) 675-1608. For more information, contact **Wizards Customer Service** at (206) 624-0933.



REX RYSTEDT

Wizards of the Coast Acquires Five Rings Publishing Group



On June 26, **Wizards of the Coast** announced that it had completed an agreement to acquire the Bellevue, Washington-based **Five Rings Publishing Group, Inc.** Both companies are privately held and financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Five Rings Publishing Group, founded in 1996, is the creator and publisher of the **Legend of the Five Rings** trading card game and the producer of the **Star Trek: The Next Generation** collectable dice game. It is also the publisher of the soon-to-be-released **Dune: Eye of the Storm** trading card game.

Peter Adkison, president and CEO of **Wizards**, noted: "Five Rings Publishing is a young, dynamic company

that has created an impressive model for producing high-quality games over a short period of time. The company excels at combining strong property licenses with superb game play, and its expertise in the adventure game category greatly complements **Wizards of the Coast's** line of products."

Robert M. Abramowitz, CEO of **Five Rings Publishing Group**, added: "Five Rings Publishing and **Wizards of the Coast** both practice a corporate philosophy focused on interacting closely with consumers through demonstrations, tournaments, and active correspondence. The opportunity to combine the unique talents of the two companies will allow our products to continue to stand out in the marketplace."

Social Play Picking Up Speed

Arena—The League for **Magic: The Gathering** marked its one-year anniversary with the debut of *Van-*

guard, a new supplement for **Magic** (see page 68). Joseph Hauck, manager of social play programs for **Wizards of the Coast**, reiterated **Arena's** commitment to social **Magic**

BattleTech Contest Hired Guns

Prepare for *Mercenaries*, the second expansion for the **BattleTech TCG**, with the "Hired Guns" contest that challenges **BattleTech** players to recruit their own mercenary units for combat. As captain of your own team, your mission is to sign up the largest group of **BattleTech TCG** players you can for a chance to win terrific prizes.

The captain with the largest merc unit wins the grand prize: a trip to Seattle with three guests for the opportunity to clash with members of **Wizards of the Coast's Game Design team**. Fields of combat include the **BattleTech TCG** and the **BattleTech** simulator pods at the **Wizards Game Center**. The contest will be launched at **GEN CON** in Milwaukee (August 7–10) with the prerelease of *Mercenaries*, and will officially run through September 12. Winners will be announced in early October. Check your local game and hobby retailers in mid-August for entry forms, and scout out new recruits now for your chance to experience the ultimate tactical maneuver. For information, call (206) 624-0933.

