

## CZ0545. LTR MOST INTERESTING COMMANDERS

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### \*\*\*CLAP AND SLATE\*\*\*

- 1) INTRO Murph & Rachel

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*This is the final installment of our Lord of the Rings commander set review episodes. We've already covered the most powerful and the most flavorful Commanders in the set, but today we're covering the most interesting. The commanders that made us itchy to start a brew. The ones that had us running to Archidekt. BUT BEFORE WE GET INTO THEM:*

**\*\*CARD KINGDOM\*\* \*\*ULTRAPRO #1\*\* \*\*PATREON: KYLE BRUNS\*\***

### 2) MAIN TOPIC: **LOTR - THE MOST INTERESTING COMMANDERS**

*There are lots of sweet designs in this set, we've talked about lots of them already, but in my opinion we've saved the best for last. These commanders presented unique challenges, unlocked sweet old cards or just made us puzzle over making them work. Let's kick things off with...*

#### **ARAGORN, KING OF GONDOR**

##### **GOOD TO BE KING**

*This deck hopes to defend the Monarch well, but it may lose it from time to time. When you do, steal it back before you go to combat.*

- *Permanent before combat* > Court of Grace; Palace Jailer; Emberwilde Captain; Eomer, King of Rohan; Champions of Minas Tirith;
- *Blink before turn* > Ephemerate; Restoration Angel; Touch the Spirit Realm;
- Likes the Monarch
  - *\*We\* draw for monarch* > The Council of Four; Faerie Mastermind; Psychic Possession; Wedding Ring
  - Irencrag Pyromancer; Ethereal Investigator;
- *Initiative* > Caves of Chaos Adventurer; White Plume Adventurer; Seasoned Dungeoneer;

##### **VALUE ATTACK**

- *Attack Triggers* > Delina, Wild Mage; Curse of Opulence; Sludge Monster;
- *Combat Damage* > Professional Face-Breaker; Ragavan, Nimble Pilferer; Bident of Thassa; Storm the Vault; Port Razer;
- *Extra Combats are GREAT when players can't block. Take advantage of the shields being down to deal damage*

## DEFENSE

*You've put the monarch in play, let's keep it.*

- Pramikon, Sky Rampart;
- *Vigilance* > Brave the Sands; Odric, Lunarch Marshal; Angelic Field Marshal;
- Also, flyers.

## CÍRDAN THE SHIPWRIGHT

*Key-rdan*

## MIND GAMES

*Cirdan creates such a funny mind game and there are a lot of ways to manipulate it*

- Telepathy; Psychic Possession; Weird Harvest;
  - *How do these change the game you're playing?*

## I VOTED!

- Illusion of Choice; Mystic Sanctuary;
- VOTE AGAIN >
  - Wirewood Symbiote;
  - *Clones* > Spark Double; Sakashima of a Thousand Faces; Sakashima the Imposter; Clever Impersonator;
    - Copies scary things they put into play, but also clones Cirdan
  - *Blink* > Displacer Kitten; Thassa, Deep-Dwelling; Golden Argosy;
  - *Clear Attacks* > Sword Coast Sailor;

## SCARY STUFF

- Koma, Cosmos Serpent; Nezahal, Primal Tide; Nyxbloom Ancient; The World Spell; Kodama of the East Tree; Consecrated Sphinx; Omniscience;
  - Gotta have that top end to get the votes

## VEGETABLES

*Dangerous decks like Cirdan really need to eat their vegetables as far as deck building is concerned.*

- *Bounce* > Into the Roil; Run Away Together; Tolarian Contempt
- *Steal them* > Oko, Thief of Crowns; Agent of Treachery;
- *Card Draw* > Windfall; Memory Jar; Diminishing Returns; Sail Into the West;

## ÉOMER, KING OF ROHAN

### BLINK

*Commander with an ETB? Gotta blink him!*

- Ephemerate; Teleportation Circle; Nahiri's Resolve; Slip on the Ring; Long Road Home;
- *Myriad* > Duke Ulder Ravengard;

### MEN OF THE WEST

- *Blinky humans* > Thalia's Lieutenant; Recruiter of the Guard; Knight-Errant of Eos; Reverent Hoplite; Loran of the Third Path; Basri's Lieutenant; Kessig Malcontents; Eowyn, Fearless Knight;
- *Tokens* > Horn of Gondor; Call the Coppercoats; Increasing Devotion; Cemetery Protector; Forth Eorlingas!; Riders of Rohan;
  - Anointed Procession; Panharmonicon;

- *Just good* > Giant Killer; Intrepid Adversary; Lossarnach Captain; Adriana, Captain of the Guard;

### **BUFFS**

- Hero's Blade; Fallaji Vanguard; In the Web of War; Onward // Victory; Unleash Fury;

### **GIMLI, MOURNFUL AVENGER**

*Mandatory: Legolas, Master Archer; but also Neyith of the Dire Hunt*

### **TOKENS**

- Mycoloth; Pest Infestation; Artifact Mutation; Dragon Broodmother; Tendershoot Dryad; Scute Swarm; Avenger of Zendikar; Zurzoth, Chaos Rider;
- *Most flavorful is Goblins* > Pashalik Mons; Rundvelt Hordemaster; Krenko, Tin Street Kingpin; Moria Marauder; Skirk Prospector; Boggart Shenanigans; Owlbear Shepherd;
  - *Goblins took over Moria after all the Dwarves there had to leave*

### **ARISTO-CLASH**

*Commander with an ETB? Gotta blink him!*

- *Sac Outlets* > Ashnod's Altar; Phyrexian Altar, but also Goblin Bombardment; Spawning Pit; Thermopod; Evolutionary Leap;
- *Payoffs* > Hissing Iguanar; Spiteful Prankster; Vicious Shadows; Haruspex; Weatherlight Completed;
  - *Also fine* > Impact Tremors; Purphoros, etc

### **FINISH HIM!**

- Make a ton of tokens, make Gimli indestructible, cast Blasphemous Act, attack?
- Fling; Berserk; Temur Battle Rage;

\*\*\*MIDROLL POINT\*\*\*

### **GOLDBERRY, RIVER-DAUGHTER**

*Reminds me of Tekuthal, Inquiry Dominus or Chisei, Heart of Oceans*

### **MANIPULATION**

- *Proliferate* > Flux Channeler; Inexorable Tide; Tezzeret's Gambit; Thrummingbird; Contentious Plan;
- Power Conduit; Nesting Grounds; Aven Courier; Leech Bonder; Clockspinning; The Ozolith;

### **COUNTERS**

- *Keyword Counters* > Crystalline Giant; Myojin of Cryptic Dreams;
- *Lore Counters* > Kiora Bests the Sea God; The Phasing of Zhalfir;
- *Charge Counters* > Everflowing Chalice; Coalition Relic;
  - *Interaction* > Lux Cannon; Transmogriying Wand; Umezawa's Jitte;
  - *Threats* > Gavel of the Righteous; Darksteel Reactor;
- *+1/+1 Counters* > Mindless Automaton;
- *Planeswalkers* > Teferi, Master of Time; Narset, Parter of Veils;
  - Ichormoon Gauntlet
- The One Ring;
- *Negative Counters* > Glen Elendra Archmage; The Watcher in the Water;

- *Age Counters* > Mystic Remora; Polar Kraken; Chisei, Heart of Oceans

### UNTAP

- Freed from the Real; Pemmin's Aura; Patriar's Seal; Kelpie Guide; Vizier of Tumbling Sands;

Also... Storm of Forms

### KING OF THE OATHBREAKERS

#### JUST A PHASE

- Clever Concealment; Teferi's Protection; Guardian of Faith; Robe of Stars;

#### YOU'RE THE TARGET

- Cauldron Haze; Eerie Interlude; Embolden; Pollen Remedy; Scapegoat; Remedy; Heaven's Gate; Touch of Darkness;

#### THAT'S THE SPIRIT

- *Spirits Matter* > Droghskol Reinforcements; Spirit Bonds; Oyobi, Who Split the Heavens; Nikko-Onna; Celestial Kirin;
  - Iname, Death Aspect + Living Death; Haunting Voyage;
- *Tokens* > Thalisse, Reverent Medium; Clarion Spirit; Anduril, Flame of the West; Shadow Summoning; Lingered Souls; Court of Grace; Benevolent Offering; Twilight Drover; Kaya's Guile;
- *Good Spirits* > Skyclave Apparition; Selfless Spirit; Horobi, Death's Wail; Divinity of Pride;
- *Typal cards* > Kindred Dominance; Pact of the Serpent; Species Specialist;

### SAMWISE GAMGEE

Show preference to historic permanents when building this deck!

#### TOO MANY COOKS

- *Make foods* > Sam, Loyal Attendant; Tireless Provisioner; Peregrin Took; Late to Dinner; The Underworld Cookbook
- *Likes foods* > Jaheira, Friend of the Forest; Sarinth Steelseeker; Idol of Oblivion; Trail of Crumbs; Academy Manufactor; Gilded Goose; Elanor Gardner;

#### HISTORIC WIN

- Teshar, Ancestor's Apostle
- *Choose your path...*
- *Legends* > Lathiel, the Bounteous Dawn; Celestine, the Living Saint; Gandalf the White; Bennie Bracks, Zoologist; Reki, the History of Kamigawa;
  - Urza's Ruinous Blast; Kamahl's Druidic Vow; Boseiju, Who Endures; Eiganjo, Seat of the Empire;
- *Artifacts* > Aetherworks Marvel; Idol of Oblivion; Panharmonicon; Witch's Oven; Palantir of Orthanc; Ratchet, Field Medic;
- *Sagas* > Urza's Saga; Restoration of Eiganjo; The Mending of Dominaria; Satsuki, the Living Lore; Calix, Guided by Fate; Sythis, Harvest's Hand;

#### COMBO POTENTIAL

- There are combos with Sam if you have black
  - Cauldron Familiar + Samwise + any free sac outlet

- Rosie Cotton + Scurry Oak
- Bill the Pony + Krark-Clan Ironworks + Emiel the Blessed

## **SAM, LOYAL ATTENDANT / FRODO, ADVENTUROUS HOBBIT**

### **2ND BREAKFAST**

*There are a couple of builds that you could do here. One of them is a food-focused build that we just talked about, but with black and a more attacky commander there are some sweet cards you could add.*

- *Food/Hobbit Focused* > Agent of the Iron Throne; Folk Hero; Farmer Cotton; Meriadoc Brandybuck; Pippin, Warden of Isengard; Rapacious Guest; Prize Pig;
- *What does black add* > Nadier's Nightblade; Mirkwood Bats; Gyome, Master Chef; Cauldron Familiar; Savvy Hunter; Gluttonous Troll; Marionette Master; Disciple of the Vault
  - lots...
- *But we've spent a lot of time talking about food decks. Let's talk about Frodo a bit more.*

### **LIFE GAIN**

- Ajani, the Greathearted; Glorious Sunrise;
- Vito, Thorn of the Dusk Rose; Sanguine Bond; Indulging Patrician; Celestine, the Living Saint; Griffin Aerie; Ezzaroot Channeler;

### **THE RING**

- *Ring Tempts You* > Frodo, Sauron's Bane; Call of the Ring; Nazgul; Witch-king of Angmar; Smeagol, Helpful Guide; The Ring Goes South; Aragorn, Company Leader;
  - *Combo* > Boromir, Warden of the Tower; Ratadrabik of Urborg;
- *Second Draw* > Gixian Puppeteer; Jolrael, Mwonvuli Recluse;
- *Double Strike* > Fireshrieker; Duelist's Heritage; Flaming Fist; Silverblade Paladin; War of the Last Alliance;

### **HOBBUTTS?**

- *Toughness Fighting* > Bill the Pony; Huatli, Sun's Heart; Baldin, Century Herdmaster; Rasaan yn Bashir; Doran, the Siege Tower; Assault Formation; Ancient Lumberknot; Trostani, Selesnya's Voice;

### **OUR FAVORITE COMMANDER FROM LOTR?**

**Murph = Goldberry, River Daughter**

**Rachel = King of the Oathbreakers**

### **MOST INTERESTING COMMANDER FROM LOTR?**

**Jordan =**

**Rachel = Cirdan, the Shipwright**

### 3) **TO THE LISTENERS**

Which commanders do you think are the most interesting Commanders in the set? Are you planning on building any of the Commanders we talked about today? What are the hot pieces of tech that we missed?

**\*\*CARD KINGDOM #2\*\* \*\*ULTRA PRO #2\*\***

4) CLEAN-UP STEP

Big thanks to our amazing team here at The Command Zone! **Damen Lenz; Eric Lem; Megan Yip; Gaurav Gulati; Jordan Pridgen; Jamie Block; Arthur Meadowcroft; Manson Leung; Jake Boss; Sam Waldow; Evan Limberger; Ladee Danger; Craig Blanchette; Mitch Trafford; Gabriel Pozos; Josh Lee Kwai; and Jimmy Wong.**

**Also Josh Murphy!**