

# MAGIC MADNESS

## Friday Night Magic tournament attracts avid card-game players

Sonia Rayka | Staff Writer

Friday Night Magic: No mortals allowed.

Along with some of his friends, senior Riley Buchanan attends a weekly gathering held at Gameswap to play the card game Magic: The Gathering. According to Magic: The Gathering's website, the player takes the role of a planeswalker, a powerful wizard who makes conquests against other wizards through the use of his own knowledge in the form of the cards. Each card represents a different ability

that the wizard can use to defend himself. Senior Seth Dowers said that his first experience playing Magic in a group environment was incredibly nerve-racking, but his worries were soon set aside when he met others with similar interests.

"I had just built up my deck and took it into my first tournament," Dowers said. "When I first went, I was super nervous, but I soon started making friends there and they would give me cards that I didn't have in my deck and looking back now, they were probably only 50-cent cards but back then they were priceless to me."

According to Dowers, the key to becoming a successful Magic player is all in practice.

"When I first started, I didn't win a single tournament for weeks, but I still went every week, excited (and) ready to see all the different cards that people were playing," Dowers said. "I've spent hours sitting in front of my cards thinking of all the different things I can do with them, so it's worth it."

Dowers said that Magic: The Gathering has greatly tied his friends together through a bond over the game and their sheer passion for it.

"When I introduced Magic to a bunch of kids at school, we all started to hang out and it's made our friendships a lot stronger," Dowers said. "Our love of Magic has brought us all closer together than if we were all just playing video games or doing things solo. It gave us a passion to get out of our bubbles a little more and find something we really enjoy."



Seniors Seth Dowers and Riley Buchanan play Magic: The Gathering at Gameswap on Friday nights.

Photo by Madison Krell