

CZ0543. LTR MOST FLAVORFUL COMMANDERS

- 1) UPKEEP STEP
 - 2) MAIN TOPIC
 - 3) TO THE LISTENERS
 - 4) CLEAN-UP PHASE
-

CLAP AND SLATE

- 1) INTRO Jordan & Rachel

@jordanpigeon - @wachelreeks - @commandcast

Between the Commander products and main set, there are over 100 legendary creatures in the Lord of the Rings set, which means we won't cover all or even half of the legends. We've already covered the most powerful Commanders in the set, but that's not the only way to judge a legendary creature. Today we're talking about the most flavorful Commanders in the set—the ones that really tell their story—and showing you how to build a Commander deck around them. BUT BEFORE WE GET INTO THEM:

****CARD KINGDOM** **ULTRAPRO #1** **PATREON: PAUL KARYAKOS****

2) MAIN TOPIC: **THE MOST FLAVORFUL COMMANDERS - LORD OF THE RINGS**

I love Lord of the Rings and have been watching the movies endlessly since their release, but these cards are based on the characters of the books. So I brought in Jordan Pridgen to talk about the trilogy and its corresponding Commanders. To be fair, there are tons of cards in this set that have high flavor marks, but these are our favorites.

BILBO, BIRTHDAY CELEBRANT

Bilbo's birthday is September 22, the same as Frodo!

WHAT'S THE REFERENCE?

"When Mr. Bilbo Baggins of Bag End announced that he would shortly be celebrating his eleventy-first birthday with a party of special magnificence, there was much talk and excitement in Hobbiton." - Page 1 line 1

GAIN LIFE

You're going to need to gain a LOT of life. Bilbo likes effects that gain life in lots of instances

- Essence Warden; Teething Wurmlet; Trostani, Selesnya's Voice; Sangromancer; Fangren Marauder

But you probably still need some big chunks

- Beacon of Immortality; Fumigate; Heliod's Intervention; War Report; Fracturing Gust;

Life Gain Enhancers

- Rhox Faithmender; Cleric Class; Alhammarret's Archive; Honor Troll;
- Righteous Aura

SEND OUT INVITES

I think the correct flavor choice here is just ALL the hobbits you can get + Gandalf

- Samwise Gamgee; Sam, Loyal Attendant; Frodo, Adventurous Hobbit; Peregrin Took; The Gaffer; Delighted Halfling; Rosie Cotton of South Lane; Farmer Cotton; Lotho, Corrupt Shirriff; Elanor Gardner; Meriadoc Brandybuck; Lobelia, Defender of Bag End; Saradoc, Master of Buckland; Prize Pig;
- *Non-LTR Halflings* > Prosperous Innkeeper; Archivist of Oghma;
- Gollum, Obsessed Stalker;
- Admittedly, this will probably not win you the game on the spot without some help.

But I also think it's pretty funny to have Bilbo invite a vampire to his birthday.

- Vito, Thorn of the Dusk Rose; Sanguine Bond; Vizkopa Guildmage; Archangel of Thune; Blossoming Bogbeast;
- *Bilbo can put into play on end step* > Felidar Sovereign;

This deck isn't particularly powerful, but it can be scary. Especially when you're getting close to that 100 life mark. Make sure you have protection for Bilbo and are doing something

GANDALF THE GREY

WHAT'S THE REFERENCE?

He wore a tall pointed blue hat, a long grey cloak, and a silver scarf. He had a long white beard and bushy eyebrows that stuck out beyond the brim of his hat.

Gandalf stayed in the Shire for over two months. Then one evening, he suddenly announced that he was going off again next morning. 'Only for a short while, I hope,' he said. 'But. I have been idle longer than I should.'

NOTE: Choose one that hasn't been chosen EVER. So you do have to let Gandalf go take a break in the library eventually unless you...

BLINK HIM

- Ghostly Flicker; Essence Flux; Blur;
 - *Careful with instants and sorceries, make sure he's still around when the spell resolves*
- *Best* > Thassa, Deep-Dwelling; Conjurer's Closet; Displacer Kitten; Meneldor, Swift Savior;
 - Candlekeep Sage;
- *Cast him off the top* > Jacob Hauken, Inspector; Neera, Wild Mage;
- *Clone him* > Vesuvan Drifter;

MAX VALUE

- *Double him up* > Harmonic Prodigy; Veyran, Voice of Duality;
- *Maximize Untap* > Bounce Lands; Lotus Field; Gilded Lotus; Pyromancer's Goggles;
- *Maximize Damage* > Chandra's Incinerator; Solphim, Mayhem Dominus; City on Fire;
- *Maximize Copy* > Twinning Staff;

SPELLBOOK

- *We've been talking about a LOT of permanents. Don't forget, MOST of this deck will be spells to trigger Gandalf.*

- *Careful with Tutors. You don't want Gandalf to get lost in the library*

I like Gandalf as a BIG spells commander because of the copy effect

- *Copy This* > Electrodinance; Storm King's Thunder; Galvanic Iteration;
- *Then go big* > Mana Geyser; Crackle with Power; Time Warp;

If you don't want to go BIG spells, you could cast a lot of little spells. Let's do some damage.

- *Cantrips* > Brainstorm; Opt; Ponder; Frantic Search; Dig Through Time;
 - *The important thing here is that they are cheap, instant speed and sound like he's VERY busy doing research for the war effort.*
- Fiery Inscription; Gandalf's Sanction; Exalted Flamer of Tzeentch; Aria of Flame;
- Dragon's Approach???

GOLLUM, SCHEMING GUIDE

WHAT'S THE REFERENCE?

Presently they were under the shadow, and there in the midst of it they saw the opening of a cave. 'This is the way in,' said Gollum softly. 'This is the entrance to the tunnel.' He did not speak its name: Torech Ungol, Shelob's Lair. - The Two Towers

GOLLUM GAME

- Choice of Damnations; Boneyard Parley; Pain's Reward; Liar's Pendulum; Keen Duelist; Do or Die; Hoarder's Greed; Struggle for Sanity; Hostile Negotiations; Creeping Dread; Measure of Wickedness;

SWOLE-UM

This game is harder to play than you think. You have to make that hit COUNT.

- *Buff Gollum* > Quietus Spike; Phytresis; Astarion's Thirst; Vorpall Sword; Blackblade Reforged; Hatred; Howl from Beyond; Nightmare Lash;
- *Attack Triggers* > Anduril, Flame of the West; Bilbo's Ring; Sword of the Animist; Lucille; Trepanation Blade;

MIDROLL POINT

LEGOLAS, MASTER ARCHER

WHAT'S THE REFERENCE?

'Two!' said Gimli, patting his axe.

'Two?' said Legolas. 'I have done better. I make my tale twenty at the least. But that is only a few leaves in a forest.'

FIGHT EM

- *Fight/Bites* > Cosmic Hunger; Animist's Might; Bushwhack; Prizefight; Titanic Brawl;
- *Targets* > Irresistible Prey;
- *Even MORE damage* > Greatbow Doyen; Basilisk Collar; Windswift Slice;
- *Fight your own* > Hornet Nest; Stuffy Doll; Vigor; Broodhatch Nantuko; Druid's Call;

YOU'RE THE TARGET

- Season of Growth; Wild Defiance; Venerated Rotpriest; Gargos, Vicious Watcher; Livewire Lash;

COUNTERS

- Ozolith, the Shattered Spire; Hardened Scales; The Ozolith;

This is a sweet deck, but is VERY reliant on Legolas. Make sure you pack lots of protection to keep him shooting arrows all day.

LOBELIA, DEFENDER OF BAG END

WHAT'S THE REFERENCE?

"I'll give you Sharkey, you dirty thieving ruffians!" says she, and ups with her umberella and goes for the leader, near twice her size. So they took her. They've took others we miss more, but there's no denying she showed more spirit than most.' - The Return of the King: The Scouring of the Shire

She does have a redemption arc, she gives all her money after death to help homeless hobbits

WELCOME BACK, LOBELIA

- Dies and Comes Back
 - Fake Your Own Death; Undying Malice; Supernatural Stamina;
 - *Sac Outlets* > Deadly Dispute; Nasty End; Victimize; Bone Shards;
- *Untappers* > Magewright's Stone; Thousand Year Elixir;
- *Blink* > Sword of Hearth and Home; Golden Argosy; Conjuror's Closet;
- Panharmonicon;

SILVER SPOONS

- Ichor Wellspring; Mycosynth Wellspring; Prized Statue; Solemn Simulacrum; Scrap Trawler; Circuit Mender;
- Falkenrath Forebear; Noble's Purse; Treasure Map; Blood Fountain; Academy Manufacturer;

PAYOUT

- Marionette Master; Disciple of the Vault; Agent of the Iron Throne;
- Terisiare's Devastation;

SHADOWFAX, LORD OF HORSES

WHAT'S THE REFERENCE?

Shadowfax they called him. By day his coat glistens like silver; and by night it is like a shade, and he passes unseen. Light is his footfall!

You do not ride Shadowfax: he is willing to carry you – or not. It is then his business to see that you remain on his back

EXTRA COMBAT

- Aurelia, the Warleader; Seize the Day; Relentless Assault;

WHITE RIDERS

You could go low power with High CMC

- *Removal* > Meteor Golem; Duplicant; Zealous Conscripts; Githzerai Monk
- *Tokens* > Captain of the Watch; Evangel of Heliod; Reverent Hoplite; Darksteel Splicer; Angel of Invention; Siege-Gang Commander;
- *Toughness Fighting* > Bill the Pony; Baldin Century Herdmaster; Rasaad yn Bashir

Or you could buff Shadowfax's power to cheat bigger things into play

- **Equipment**
 - *Buff* > Blackblade Reforged; Commander's Plate; Sword of Hearth and Home; Hero's Blade; Maul of the Skyclaves
 - *Things to cheat* > Heavenly Blademaster; Godo, Bandit Warlord;
- **Counters**
 - Guardian Scaelord; Skyboon Evangelist; Hexavus; Death-Greeter's Champion; Serra Redeemer

SHELOB, CHILD OF UNGOLIAINT

WHAT'S THE REFERENCE?

How Shelob came there no tale tells, for out of the Dark Years few tales have come. But still she was there, who was there before Sauron, drinking the blood of Elves and Men, weaving webs of shadow; for all living things were her food, and her vomit darkness.

ACADEMY MANUFACTOR

- Let's talk about Academy Manufactor
- Instead of making a copy food, it'll make a normal food, clue and treasure
- If you made a token copy of Gingerbrute (which is type Food) it would trigger and make the normal tokens.

SPIDERS

- Lolth, Spider Queen; Rotwidow Pack; Ishkanah, Grafwidow; Arasta of the Endless Web; Doom Weaver; Arachnogenesis;

BUG BITES

- *Bites* > Animist's Might; Cosmic Hunger; Bite Down; Spinning Wheel Kick; Thornbite Staff; Viridian Longbow;
 - *Bites are significantly better than fights because many of your spiders are 1/2s with Deathtouch*
 - You Look Upon the Tarrasque
- Season of Growth; Wild Defiance; Swarmyard;
- Drivnod, Carnage Dominus; Parallel Lives;

OUR FAVORITE COMMANDER FROM LOTR?

Jordan = Legolas, Master Archer

Rachel = Shadowfax, Lord of Horses

MOST FLAVORFUL COMMANDER FROM LOTR?

Jordan = Shelob, Child of Ungoliant

Rachel = Bilbo, Birthday Celebrant

3) **TO THE LISTENERS**

Which commanders do you think are the most flavorful Commanders in the set? Are you planning on building any? 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! **Megan Yip; Eric Lem; Damen Lenz; Arthur Meadowcroft; Ladee Danger; Manson Leung; Craig Blanchette; Josh Murphy; Jake Boss; Jamie Block; Sam Waldow; Gaurav Gulati; Mitch Trafford; Evan Limberger; Gabriel Pozos; Jimmy Wong; and Josh Lee Kwai.**