

Last year for Nats i did my first event write up, it felt good having a record of what happened for an event that felt like a new height for me.

Last December I did my first reflective write up because I felt so bad following up an event that I needed to sort through thoughts, why I felt so bad and what I can do to fix it.

I think it's been a good habit for me to keep up with these things, to both keep a chronicle for my bad memory as well as put myself on the right track for improvement, so I wanted to go back through each event and mark new milestones as well as changes to my mindset that I want to maintain

2025 has been a bit of a roller coaster of highs and lows. While everything ebbs and flows, I think I'm coming out the other side wanting to push harder and harder to compete.

I started the year feeling pretty down on myself after flopping BH Houston on Aurora. After that, I felt like I needed to commit one way or another to playing decks I enjoy or decks I think will perform the best.

I decided to make a push on Oscilio, actually working with some people I knew (and some I didn't) to get a list together for Calling Memphis. After over a month of communicating with them and coming to conclusions that I still see debate about to this day like "Opt is fake, spindle is just an overcosted scalding rain. Why not just run Eternal Inferno then?", buying 3 EA Eternal Infernos, followed by "Wait, isn't Glyph Overlay just better?" I finally settled on my own list, kinda separate from what the others were working on.

Calling Memphis list:

<https://fabrory.net/decks/01JHRVPTSPG20WX6QTAVAV4C0Y>

Calling Memphis made for a couple turning points for me and overall was a fun trip. I road tripped with a car full of friends, roomed with some people for the first time, walked through the rain for some barbecue, slept in a closet on an air mattress, it was a fun time. The Calling itself went well, having some wild games such as sending a 9 card 11 value, into setting off a nuclear bomb the following turn, followed by clutching an "unwinnable" matchup making my way into my first ever Calling day 2. The second day didnt go that well, but I still had some fun games representing my favorite hero. That night I ended up going out with friends and having a great time, had a perilous trip back on those rent-a-scooters, and managed to get 3 hours of sleep for the battle hardened.

I started out on stream where I finally got to sit across from Taylor Crawford after interacting quite a bit online. To this date I stand by this game having the worst Mind Warp ever caught on camera. Not only did I make a mild misplay not blocking with my boots when I could combo at any moment (I did end up sending a combo), that let an Infiltrate through, which banished a Lightning Press. I popped boots to send a pretty good turn ending in a Mind Warp giving him exactly Mark of the Black Widow and Leave No Witnesses, tragic.

I won the next 2 games but the moment I ended up x-2 we left to start the road trip back home. I also spent so much money starting my journey to blinging out Oscilio.

Firsts:

Working with people on a list (even though we didn't land on the same list)
Calling Day 2

Mindset shift:

The reinforcement that if I'm dedicated to a hero, I can make it happen
Going out and making memories will always take priority over trying to "Sleep well"

Returning from Calling Memphis, I started having some bad sinus symptoms. Surely just convention flu or the actual flu from walking in the rain.

Nope, a tooth infection so bad that it had to be ripped out. The most agonizing few hours of my life when the pain fully hit.

This led to a lot of dental bills and fake teeth, and all the mental damage that comes along with that.

This knocked me out for most of RTN season. My one opportunity to go to an rtn, I ended up getting two early losses vs an Uzuri who really knows what they're doing and a prism, famously unwinnable at the time

RTN List:

<https://fabrary.net/decks/01JK1KK5Q3G795FD1BANR67SVB>

This was the first time I ever missed out on a nationals invite which felt bad but that meant I could mentally take some time off

In the spirit of mentally taking time off, I pivoted to Aurora following the armory deck, believing the matchup to be bad enough for Oscilio with enough other sketchy matchups that I decided that he was better off on the shelf for the moment.

I decided to split a bit away from what people were playing at the time. I so passionately hated having Flicker Wisp in the main board, that I did not run Face Purgatory, ran Balance for the mirror/other relevant matchups, and a couple extra instants so once in a blue moon I can pop greaves to abuse Gone in a Flash.

My aurora (still fairly basic)

<https://fabrary.net/decks/01JSGMKN8SNTRXGESRR8H7Z51G>

At the same time, we started ramping up Blood on the Bayou events and becoming more of a team working on these, even though I'm mostly stream support and hypeman. We ran our first circuit events which ran through that PQ season. I ended up 5-0 at the first circuit event, getting myself knocked out in top 8.

The following week (or week after?) was the Pro Quest at the same store, where I went undefeated into winning the event and my invite to PT Singapore!

And with one more pro quest to go, I ended up 2nd, losing to Bird in the finals.

Not a bad run for a hero I didn't really actively enjoy.

There was some sort of primal connection, historically being an aggro player. Something about 4 4 2 4 4 4 was really fun as well figuring out how to optimally arsenal sequence the damage, but at the end of the day there wasn't much interesting to me about the deck.

I think this cemented that whenever there is a clear best aggro deck, that's probably always an option for me if there isn't a hero that I'm feeling strong about at the moment.

Firsts:

Missing out on nationals invite

Doing a personal deviation of a hero (though it probably didnt matter)

Mindset shift:

If I need to, I can probably default to the best aggro deck

With High Seas coming out and finally a new mechanologist hero, I wanted to challenge myself to bring Puffin to Battle Hardened Las Vegas on release weekend. If I'm missing nats I may as well have fun. It was a scramble to get all the cards and put together a solid midrange pirate Puffin list that I felt comfortable about and started crushing side events, only dropping one game to prism on a pretty wild high roll. Then I got to the BH, paired into NuU round 1, the worst matchup. Round 2 got stuffed by a 1 of Ripple Away in Dori. We went to time so I forgot to drop and then I lost to a Cindra, a matchup I actually felt pretty comfortable with.

Damn.

I think the challenge of starting a new hero from the ground up was pretty fun but I'm not sure how many more times I want to do that tbh lol.

Once I got back, it was time to start locking in. Oscilio got a 0 cost shock and is looking better and better. Since Yuuto and I basically had the same list to begin with, I may as well start from that list. I tweaked the sideboards to be more comfortable for me and started practicing as much as I could, grinding talishar.

Soon enough was our grassroots BH in Houston. I was in charge of getting the stream set up. Thankfully the store had all of the equipment. We ran through getting all the scenes set up, finding good tools to use, but at the end of the day, splitting my attention between practicing for playing in the event and trying to set up the stream proved to be too much. I had several misplays in my run, as well as missing stream elements that should've been obvious. I need to commit one way or another when it comes to these things.

BH Houston list:

<https://fabrary.net/decks/01JT24CDA1RENE56F9BQCMA5SW>

Mindset shift:

I need to try not to split my focus when I care about things

Oscilio is not just a fun D tier deck

Despite my poor gameplay, I feel like we are on to something special with Oscilio at this point. I think I want to hard commit to this deck. Looking at the matchup spreads, he feels very favored into the field. If you removed The Banana Peel Factor™, he has almost no bad relevant matchups. Favored into araknis and gravy, favored into earth, Cindra MU is playable but she is held down by Arakni, everything is looking up.

I had decided to do my best to make it to Singapore for the pro tour when I won, so I started jamming as much talishar as I could. I did my best to prep for draft, which is just grinding runaways queue alone in my room at 2am. I think I got about 12 drafts in, trying to learn what I could about Puffin and Marlynn, ignoring gravy all together. Someone sent me their Marlynn notes, and I had no idea people broke it down like that, it was pretty eye opening for what legitimate draft practice looks like. Soon enough, it was time to head to Singapore.

This was my first time leaving the country, not on some Carnival Cruise with family.

I had a fantastic time wandering around the city with friends, walking places when we could, getting a glimpse of good public transportation, deepening relationships and making new ones, as well as meeting people I had known online for a while.

PT List:

<https://fabrory.net/decks/01K0BV5RDK1A6M1YZAV5MRXKQ2>

As for the pro tour itself, I had an incredible day 1 run, ending 7-1 only losing the final round to Yuki. I was absolutely ecstatic. Going undefeated on Oscilio, going positive in draft, it really feels like I can do it.

Day 2 went so bad I didn't even make it into cash.

1-2 draft, then bombed CC. I can blame it on several things, but it mostly came down to tilt and Hitting the Banana Peel™. At the end of it all it showed me two major things.

Firsts:

Time out of the country

Tier 4 day 2

Mindset shift:

I am capable of competing with the best

I still have plenty of room to grow

In the final days of the trip I started counting and it looks like I actually have way more money left over than I thought. And there's a calling in a few weeks. I booked my flight for Kansas City before leaving Singapore.

I keep practicing more and more, trying to get more and more comfortable on the hero. Trying to find lines and breaking out of comfortable habits is not the easiest when I've been pushing for so long.

This will be my first (and probably not last) turn-and-burn Calling. Getting off work at 6am friday, going straight to the airport, flying, staying up all day with friends (actually ended up staying up WAY too late, but memories > sleep) before collapsing like Yamcha in the bed.

Calling KC List

<https://fabrarity.net/decks/01K2NNAY1SC47HNYKS219A0EF4>

The calling went somewhat poorly for me, losing my win-and-in to a Fang, a generally pretty good matchup. The BH went a bit better, but I lost my win and in, finishing 14th. I think the BH was pretty beautiful at the end, I had a lot to say about it in my Calling Kansas City doc, but it's something I keep thinking about.

First:

Turn and burn calling

Mindset shift:

The real beautiful part about the game is the community, as fun as winning is

When I heard the format for Worlds, I was really excited. The concept of a Bo3 is something I really wanted to see in FaB, and the dynamics involved in the top 8 format seem so interesting to me. However as I tested the format with DIO (Man I Love High Octane) it felt really underbaked, nobody seemed to be enjoying it, everything seemed to be "Do the funny thing™" and lose because you didn't get to do it, or the more consistent decks that lose to the funny thing.

Playing in the LL BH Houston really reinforced how I was feeling. Even though I had a PTI lined up and the money set aside, there was not an amount I was willing to pay to play that format competitively.

I think the stress I was putting on that weekend, wanting a PTI, really hurt the experience for me. I also struggled sleeping almost more than ever for the event, so i just wasn't feeling well, on top of a routine yearly depression.

Funnily enough, I had the exact same score in the PQ+, but the losses were such hilarious high rolls from my opponent that I really couldn't be upset with it.

This fell smack in the middle of PQ season, where my first PQ I went 1-2 and went home, with the similar vibe as the BH, just not hanging in there well and really wanting to go back to bed. Then my second PQ I got my win, only dropping a game in swiss to a friend. This was the first PQ that I didn't quite feel the excitement of winning. I don't know if it was the overall bad mood, the fact it was a 16 player PQ, or the fact not many of my close friends made it out the whole season, it felt a little hollow. But I finally had LL points on Oscilio and an invite to PT Yokohama! I'm really looking forward to a trip to Japan.

PQ List:

<https://fabrarity.net/decks/01K5D4CQ3W3GBQ0V0SAW5JBQER>

With the bad vibes and giving up playing in Worlds, I started taking it a little easy, but more and more I'm realizing how far away we are from optimal Oscilio gameplay. Every event I keep thinking "If I was this good at this event... if I realized this at that event..." and it only makes

Oscilio more interesting. The games I do play I'm trying to think of how I can change priorities on cards I'm trying to discard, or how I'm prioritizing arsenal cards and so on.

Once in Philly I was in the mindset for side event gaming. I spent most of the first days in artist and merch lines. Something that was a bit exciting for me was a friend's team asking me for input on finalizing their Oscilio lists for worlds. They were all plenty capable (and showed it 🔥) and I was basically just helping talk out last thoughts, but this was hype for me lol.

I didn't have the best prep going into the event, trying to take a bit of a break, and actually locked in my side board drunk the night before, but regardless, I showed up to play my best and all my experience on Oscilio paid off! I probably popped off a bit much when my name was called for top 8, but fuck it, I was excited. Pushing through on a hero I'm passionate about in an insane bracket, and reaching a new milestone felt great.

I immediately punted a favored matchup, and it didn't help that they (self admitted) rolled HOT but I was unflappable in the moment and ready to get dinner with my friends.

Firsts:

BH Top 8

Worlds players asking me for input

Mental Changes:

I need to actually apply myself if I want to push further

Not that I haven't been applying myself, but there's always more that I can be doing.

I'm still not great at reaching out to people to practice specific matchups, just grinding talishar and armories.

I get too deep into a groove with a list and don't want to change.

I feel like I've developed an aversion to learning other decks because that means taking a few steps back and having to grind back to where I feel I should be. Not necessarily on Oscilio, but DIO in LL, just falling back on what's comfortable, as well as Briar in Sage now. Really hoping the next BnR and PEN bring a lot of meaningful changes for Sage, even if it means I need to break out of what is comfortable.

I'm really proud of the year I've had, by a good margin the best year of FaB I've had, not only in my performance but also the time I've been able to spend with people, friends I've made, relationships I've developed.

In 2026 I want to continue to develop as a player but more importantly, make more memories with people if possible. Try to make the most of the Yokohama trip. Try to have more fun in Vegas. Make it more of a point to get out of the hotel besides just dinner and breakfast.

I'm very fortunate to have an opportunity to do all this and I want to keep enjoying it for as long as I can!