

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release



MISSOURI TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BRANSON

BRANSON, MO. – On May 31, 2019 through June 1, 2019, the Missouri Trucking Association held the 52nd Annual Missouri Truck Driving Championships at the Branson Convention Center.

The two-day event, sponsored by the Association's Council of Safety Supervisors, evaluated 200 drivers on a written test of their knowledge of the industry; safety and security; first aid; and fire safety. Another segment of testing included hands-on required pre-trip vehicle inspections. The participants then competed in their respective classes on a point-value-assessed driving skills course of six obstacles that simulate actual everyday conditions. The skills course tested drivers' ability to judge distances, maneuver tight spaces, park and position their vehicle exactly over scales, before barriers or around curves.

Over 700 on-lookers at the Awards Banquet Saturday evening saw Chris Morrison of Marion, IL; receive the prestigious "Grand Champion" title as Missouri's best of the best. Chris, a driver for Hogan Transports, Inc. of Earth City, MO achieved this recognition by achieving the highest point differential above the average within his class in all three elements of skill and knowledge.

Mr. Morrison was also awarded the top driver in the Sleeper Berth Class during the annual driving competition. Eight other class winners will join him as the Missouri Championships Team travels to Pittsburgh, PA to compete against other state teams in the American Trucking Association's National Truck Driving Championships August 14 – August 17, 2019. During the competition the Missouri Team will compete against 450 other professionals vying for selection as the nation's top professional truck drivers.

First, second and third place winners in all nine classes of competition as well as the top "Rookie", the driver with the best Pre-Trip Inspection, the driver with the highest score on the Written Examination and the driver awarded for Professional Excellence were honored at the Awards Banquet Saturday evening.

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Straight Truck Class

1st- Paul Tyler of Arnold, MO
XPO Logistics, St Louis, MO



2nd- Jim Houghton, of Gower, MO
FedEx Express, Kansas City, MO



3rd- Phillip Argus of Arnold, MO
UPS Freight, St. Louis, MO



Three Axle Class

1st- John Reyes of St. Louis, MO
XPO Logistics, St Louis, MO



2nd- Michael Meyer of Fenton, MO
FedEx Express, Berkeley, MO



3rd- Kent Luebbers of Caseyville, IL
UPS Freight, St. Louis, MO



Four Axle Class

1st- Bruce Brewen, of Valles Mines, MO
Hogan Transports Inc. Bridgeton, MO



2nd- Donald Adams of Florissant, MO
XPO Logistics, St Louis, MO



3rd- Brent Sims of Kingdom City, MO
FedEx Freight, Columbia, MO



Five Axle Van Class

1st- David Pruitt of Carthage, MO
Leggett & Platt, Carthage, MO



2nd- Julie Barnett of Springfield, MO
Prime Inc., Springfield, MO



3rd- Darryl Meade of Warsaw, MO
Walmart Transportation, Harrisonville, MO



Flatbed Class

1st- Scott Fischer of Medford, OR
Prime Inc. Springfield, MO



2nd- Robert Bramwell of Centerview, MO
ABF Freight, Sedalia, MO



3rd – Duane Grimme of Satsuma, FL
Prime Inc., Springfield, MO



Winners and runners-up in the classes of competition are listed below with the driver name and employer company.

Tank Truck Class

1st- Sid Naramore of Chaffee, MO
Buchheit Logistics, Scott City, MO



2nd- Jerry Farnsworth of Mt. Vernon, MO
Solar Transport, Springfield, MO



3rd- Anthony Eck of Layton, UT
Prime Inc. Springfield, MO



Sleeper Berth Class

1st- Chris Morrison of Marion, IL
Hogan Transports, Bridgeton, MO



2nd- Robert Hussey of St. James, MO
Walmart Transportation, St. James, MO



3rd- Albert Arriola of Fabens, TX
CFI, Joplin, MO



Twin Trailers Class

1st - Michael Chatterton, Rogersville, MO
FedEx Freight, Springfield, MO



2nd- Steve Fields, Independence, MO
YRC Freight, Kansas City, MO



3rd- Jamie Ingram of Licking, MO
FedEx Freight, Cabool, MO



Step Van Class

1st- Stacey Kraus of Arnold, MO
FedEx Freight, Saint Clair, MO



2nd- Donald Alpers, Ava, MO
FedEx Ground, Stafford, MO



3rd- Darius Mason of Kansas City, MO
FedEx Ground, Kansas City, MO



David Pruitt, of Carthage, MO a driver for Leggett & Platt, Inc. was named “Rookie of the Year” for his outstanding well-rounded performance as a first-time contestant.

The “Pre-Trip Inspection” award for the highest score in assuring that a vehicle is in safe and efficient operating condition before leaving on a trip went to Rodney Rodebush, of Alba, MO a driver for FedEx Ground.

Bruce Brewen, of Valles Mines, Mo a driver for Hogan Transports Inc. received the Award for Highest Written Examination Score.

The Recipient of the Professional Excellence Award, the driver who most exemplifies the best attributes of a professional truck driver, was Thomas Miller, of Bunker Hill, IL a driver for Prime Inc.

The “Team Championship” went to XPO Logistics based in St. Louis, MO for having the highest average team score in the competition.