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# NEWS RELEASE

MISSOURI TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1247

Jefferson Citv. Missouri 65102

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Contact: Tom Crawford  
Telephone: (573) 634-3388

For Immediate Release

## MISSOURI TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SPRINGFIELD

BRANSON, MO. – On June 2 & 3, 2017, the Missouri Trucking Association held the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Missouri Truck Driving Championships at the Branson Convention Center.

The two-day event, sponsored by the Association's Council of Safety Supervisors, evaluated 180 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 on a point-value-assessed driving skills course of six obstacles completed under actual everyday conditions. In their respective classes, drivers tested their expertise in the driving skills they use daily. 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 675 on-lookers at the Awards Banquet Saturday evening saw **Bruce Brewen** of Valles Mines, MO, receive the prestigious "Grand Champion" title as Missouri's best of the best. Bruce, 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. Brewen was also awarded the top driver in the Five Axle Van Class during the annual safe driving competition. He will be joined by eight other class winners as the Missouri Championships Team travels to Orlando, FL to compete against other state teams in the American Trucking Association's National Truck Driving Championships August 8 – August 10, 2017. 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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Winners and runners-up in the classes of competition are listed below with the driver's hometown, and employer company.

**Straight Truck Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Paul Tyler**, Arnold, MO – *XPOLogistics, St. Louis, MO*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **James Houghton**, Gower, MO – *FedEx Express, Kansas City, MO*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Joseph Pohlman**, Brussels, IL – *Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc., St. Charles, MO*

**Three Axle Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Scott Hopper**, Moberly, MO – *Walmart Transportation, St. James, MO*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Vito Marciante, Jr.**, O'Fallon, MO – *Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc., St. Charles, MO*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Cody Sims**, Mexico, MO – *FedEx Freight, Inc., Columbia, MO*

**Four Axle Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Brent Sims**, Kingdom City, MO – *FedEx Freight, Inc., Columbia, MO*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Joseph Hartsell**, Collinsville, IL – *UPS Freight, St. Louis, MO*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Jody McCleary**, Springfield, MO – *Associated Wholesale Grocers, Springfield, MO*

**Five Axle Van Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Bruce Brewen**, Valles Mines, MO – *Hogan Transports, Inc., Earth City, MO*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Albert Hockett**, Rolla, MO – *XPOLogistics, Rolla, MO*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Anthony Fengel**, Kansas City, MO – *FedEx Freight, Inc., Kansas City, MO*

**Flatbed Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Wayne Holder**, Excello, MO – *Walmart Transportation, St. James, MO*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Dohasan Vreeland**, Las Cruces, NM – *Barlow Truck Lines, Inc., Faucett, MO*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Jack Padilla**, Springfield, MO – *Prime, Inc., Springfield, MO*

**Tank Truck Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Andrew Hunt**, Willard, MO – *FedEx Freight, Inc., Springfield, MO*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Remy Braun**, Carthage, MO – *D & D Sexton, Inc., Carthage, MO*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Sidney Naramore**, Chaffee, MO – *Buchheit Logistics, Inc., Scott City, MO*

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**Sleeper Berth Class**

1<sup>st</sup> – **Glen Horack**, Elkland, MO – *Prime, Inc., Springfield, MO*

2<sup>nd</sup> – **William Church**, Deland, FL – *CFI, Joplin, MO*

3<sup>rd</sup> – **Robert Sikorski**, St. Charles, MO – *Walmart Transportation, St. James, MO*

**Twin Trailers Class**

1<sup>st</sup> – **Jerry Bedgood**, Kansas City, MO – *FedEx Freight, Inc., Edwardsville, KS*

2<sup>nd</sup> – **Jason Budd**, Nixa, MO – *FedEx Freight, Inc., Springfield, MO*

3<sup>rd</sup> – **Richard O'Brien**, Maryland Heights, MO – *FedEx Freight, Inc., St. Charles, MO*

**Step Van Class**

1<sup>st</sup> – **Steven Campbell**, Webb City, MO – *FedEx Ground, Joplin, MO*

2<sup>nd</sup> – **Jared Weidmann**, Kansas City, MO – *FedEx Ground, Kansas City, MO*

3<sup>rd</sup> – **John Wood**, Kansas City, MO – *FedEx Freight, Inc., Kansas City, MO*

**Joseph Pohlman** of Brussels, IL, a driver for *Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc., St. Charles, MO*, 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 **Steven Campbell** of Webb City, MO, a driver for *FedEX Ground of Joplin, MO*.

**Michael Meyer**, Fenton, MO of *FedEX Express, of Berkley, MO* 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 **Albert Hockett**, Rolla, MO, of *XPOLogistics, Rolla, MO*

The "Team Championship" went to **FedEx Freight, Inc.** based in Harrison, AR for having the highest average team score in the competition.

06/05/2017

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