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## Missouri Truck Driving Championships 2008

June 9, 2008

### WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN MISSOURI TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

JOPLIN - With nearly 570 in the audience looking on, **Lawrence O'Neal** of Festus, Missouri, a driver for FedEx National LTL of St. Charles, Missouri, gained the distinguished title of Grand Champion in the 2008 Missouri Truck Driving Championships. By outscoring his competitors in a written examination, a pre-trip inspection, a personal interview and a truck driving obstacle course where he proved superior driving skills, he triumphed. The competition was held in Joplin, Missouri at the John Q. Hammons Convention Center, this past weekend, June 6 & 7, 2008.

Lawrence O'Neal succeeded by placing first in the Twin Trailers Class in the annual safe driving competition sponsored by the Missouri Motor Carriers Association and its Council of Safety Supervisors, which attracted 181 of the state's top truck drivers.

O'Neal received the Grand Trophy and the opportunity to compete in the American Trucking Association's 2008 National Truck Driving Championships in Houston, TX on August 19 through 23, 2008, for the selection of the nation's top professional truck drivers.

First, second and third place winners in all eight classes of competition were honored and received trophies at the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening in Joplin, at the John Q. Hammons Convention Center. The first place winners will all be competing in their particular class of competition at the National Truck Driving Championships in Houston, in August.

[Winners and runners-up in the classes of competition are listed below with the driver's hometown, and Employer Company and its location.](#)

#### Straight Truck Class

1st – **Jeremy Riggs**, Warrensburg, MO – Yellow Transportation, Kansas City, MO

2nd – **Robert Elder**, Arnold, MO – FedEx Freight East, St. Charles, MO

3rd – **Greg Kauffmann**, Hazelwood, MO – FedEx Express, Hazelwood, MO

#### Three Axle Class

1st – **John Barney**, O'Fallon, MO – FedEx Express, St. Louis, MO

2nd – **Michael Hausner**, O'Fallon, MO – FedEx Freight East, St. Charles, MO

3rd – **Alvin Lewis Jr.**, Carbon, IL – Con-way Freight, St. Louis, MO

#### Four Axle Class

1st – **Michael Gandee**, Cardington, OH – Prime, Inc., Springfield, MO

2nd – **Mark McBeath**, Raymore, MO – Wal-Mart Transportation, St. James, MO

3rd – **Rickey Barnett**, Cahokia, IL – UPS Freight, St. Louis, MO

#### Five Axle Van Class

1st – **Paul Baumhoer**, Koeltztown, MO – Wal-Mart Transportation, St. James, MO

2nd – **Albert Hockett**, St. James, MO – Con-way Freight, Rolla, MO

3rd – **Robert Hussey**, St. James, MO – Wal-Mart Transportation, St. James, MO

#### Flatbed Class

1st – **Mitchell Stegner**, Pilot Grove, MO – Roadway Express, Inc., Columbia, MO

2nd – **Larry Adams**, Walnut Grove, MO – TCSI/Transland, Inc., Strafford, MO

3rd – **Ray Parker**, Carterville, MO – Tri-State Motor Transit Company, Joplin, MO

#### Sleeper Berth Class

1st – **Rick Hopwood**, Donnellson, IL – Wal-Mart Transportation, St. James, MO

2nd – **Aaron Neal**, Del City, OK, – O & S Trucking, Inc., Springfield, MO

3rd – **Michael Kannard**, Oronogo, MO – Above Par Transportation, Inc., Webb City, MO

#### Twin Trailers Class

1st – **Lawrence O'Neal**, Festus, MO – FedEx National LTL, St. Charles, MO

2nd – **Mike Keeney**, Rogersville, MO – Con-way Freight, Marshfield, MO

3rd – **Thomas Eickhorst**, St. James, MO – Con-way Freight, Rolla, MO

#### Tank Truck Class

1st – **Duane Grimme**, Satsuma, FL – Prime, Inc., Springfield, MO

2nd – **Russ Martin**, Meta, MO – Con-way Freight, Rolla, MO

3rd – **Jack Lovan**, Willow Springs, MO – Wal-Mart Transportation, St. James, MO

The winning scores were based on personal interviews, an hour-long written examination, a vehicle safety inspection and a field course featuring six precision driving problems which simulated challenges a truck driver faces under actual everyday conditions.

**Jeremy Riggs** of Warrensburg, MO, a driver for Yellow Transportation out of Kansas City, 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 **Chad Daniel** of West Point, GA, a driver for Prime, Inc. in Springfield, MO.

The "Team Championship" went to **Wal-Mart Transportation**, of St. James, MO for having the highest average team score in the competition.

The keynote speaker for the evening was **Jan Skouby**, Motor Carrier Services Director, Missouri Department of Transportation.

6/09/2008

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