
NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

TRUCKING INDUSTRY DISPLAYS THE BEST OF THE BEST IN SPRINGFIELD

SPRINGFIELD – On June 4 & 5, 2010, the Missouri Trucking Association held the 43nd Annual Missouri Truck Driving Championships at the Prime, Inc. CDL Training Lot in Springfield, Missouri. The Hotel Headquarters was Ramada Oasis Hotel. The two day event evaluated nearly 130 drivers on their knowledge of the industry, first aid, safety and security, and required federal vehicle inspections. The participants were then interviewed by industry experts before competing on a point-value-assessed driving skills course of six obstacles to be completed under actual everyday conditions.

In their respective classes, drivers tested their expertise in the driving skills they use daily. The competition challenged their knowledge of safety, equipment, and the industry, as well as their performance on a personal interview. The skills course tested drivers' ability to judge distances, maneuver tight spaces, reverse, park, and position their vehicle exactly over scales, before barriers or around curves.

New to the event this year, the Media Challenge allowed three local media representatives to compete against each other driving the course in a straight truck. Charlie Mason of 92.9 Bass Country out of Springfield, Tom Trtan and Bob Evans both of KOLR-TV also of Springfield, each got a unique taste of what these drivers go through. The winner, Charlie Mason of 92.9 Bass Country came away with the win. He attended the Awards Banquet Saturday evening and was presented with a plaque to commemorate the experience.

Nearly 450 on-lookers at the Awards Banquet Saturday evening saw **Byron Bramwell** of Centerview, Missouri, receive the prestigious "Grand Champion" title as Missouri's best of the best. Byron, a driver for YRC Transportation of Kansas City, Missouri, achieved this recognition by outscoring all other competitors in four elements of skill and knowledge.

Mr. Bramwell was also awarded the top driver in the Three Axle Class in the annual safe driving competition sponsored by the Association's Council of Safety Supervisors. He will be joined by eight other class winners as the Missouri Championship Team reporting to Columbus, OH to compete against other state teams in the American Trucking Association's Truck Driving Championships August 3 –

August 7, 2010. 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" and the driver with the best Pre-Trip Inspection were honored at the Awards Banquet.

Winners and runners-up in the classes of competition are listed below with the driver's hometown, and Employer Company and location.

Straight Truck Class

- 1st – **Robert Elder**, Arnold, MO – *FedEx Freight, St. Charles, MO*
- 2nd – **Gary Risman**, St. Jacob, IL – *Con-way Freight, St. Louis, MO*
- 3rd – **Greg Kauffmann**, St. Peters, MO – *FedEx Express, Hazelwood, MO*

Three Axle Class

- 1st – **Byron Bramwell**, Centerview, MO – *YRC Transportation, Kansas City, MO*
- 2nd – **Michael Meyer**, Fenton, MO – *FedEx Express, Hazelwood, MO*
- 3rd – **Michael Hausner**, O'Fallon, MO – *FedEx Freight, St. Charles, MO*

Four Axle Class

- 1st – **Larry Alvey**, Wentzville, MO – *FedEx Freight, St. Charles, MO*
- 2nd – **Chad Daniel**, Greencastle, PA – *Prime, Inc., Springfield, MO*
- 3rd – **Kelley Asher**, Billings, MO – *FedEx Freight, Springfield, MO*

Five Axle Van Class

- 1st – **Scott Raper**, Springfield, MO - *UPS Freight, Strafford, MO*
- 2nd – **Bruce Brewen**, Valles Mines, MO – *Hogan Transport, Inc., Bridgeton, MO*
- 3rd – **Wyatt Hooper**, Republic, MO – *Con-way Freight, Marshfield, MO*

Tank Truck Class

- 1st – **Michael Fenton**, Catawissa, MO - *Prime, Inc., Springfield, MO*
- 2nd – **Paul Tyler**, Arnold, MO – *Con-way Freight, St. Louis, MO*
- 3rd – **Jon Hume**, Hillsboro, MO – *FedEx Freight, St. Charles, MO*

Flatbed Class

- 1st – **Duane Grimme**, Satsuma, FL – *Prime, Inc., Springfield, MO*
2nd – **Scott Hopper**, Jacksonville, MO – *Wal-Mart Transportation, St. James, MO*
3rd – **David Harper**, California, MO – *Hogan Transport, Inc., Bridgeton, MO*

Sleeper Berth Class

- 1st – **Paul Blessing**, Nappanee, IN – *Prime, Inc., Springfield, MO*
2nd – **Ricky Hopwood**, Donnellson, IL, – *Wal-Mart Transportation, St. James, MO*
3rd – **Kirby Killgore**, Mountain View, MO – *O & S Trucking, Springfield, MO*

Twin Trailers Class

- 1st – **Phillip Wampler**, Nixa, MO – *FedEx National LTL, Strafford, MO*
2nd – **Regnald Ansbach**, Kansas City, MO – *YRC Transportation, Kansas City, MO*
3rd – **Larry O'Neal**, Festus, MO – *FedEx National LTL, St. Charles, MO*

Step Van Class

- 1st – **Jody Arnall**, Hartville, MO – *FedEx Freight, Cabool, MO*
2nd – **Charles Eultgen**, Ballwin, MO – *FedEx Express, Maplewood, MO*
3rd – **Pete Amann**, Shiloh, IL – *FedEx Express, St. Louis, MO*

Michael Fenton of Catawissa, MO, a driver for Prime, Inc. out of Springfield, 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 **John Barney** of O'Fallon, MO, a driver for FedEx Express, in Berkeley, MO.

The "Team Championship" went to **FedEx Express**, based in St. Louis, MO for having the highest average team score in the competition.

The keynote speaker for the evening was **Col. Ron Replogle**, Superintendent, Missouri State Highway Patrol.

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