



SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®

PRESS RELEASE

KEEP GOING. KEEP MOVING. KEEP WORKING.™



DATE: 2/4/09
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FROM: SPEC MIX®, Inc.
Contact: Jeff Farmakes, 651-905-8109 - for more information regarding this event.



Tyke Mangum wins the title of "WORLD'S BEST BRICKLAYER," at the 2009 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® National Bricklaying Championship in Las Vegas, Nevada

LAS VEGAS, NV —The 2009 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® National bricklaying championship decides, "Who is the World's Best Bricklayer?" Mason Tyke Mangum from North Carolina, took first place overall with a record 890 brick laid. This timed, 60 minute competition was held on Wednesday, 1:30 PM CST, February 4th, 2009, at the Masonry Construction's Challenge Arena, located in the Gold Lot, at the 2009 World of Concrete / World of Masonry trade show. This is the largest annual construction trade show in the world. It is held once a year at the Las Vegas Convention Center, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Last year's 2008 official show attendance was over 85,000 paid attendees.

Originating in 2003, the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 National is a bricklaying competition comprised of the best bricklayers in the world. Twenty, 2-man teams made up of a mason and mason tender, compete to lay the most brick while meeting strictly defined workmanship standards that are closely evaluated by 22 masonry trade experts. The competition has the largest winner's purse of any masonry competition. The competitors compete for well over \$100,000 in cash and prizes before a crowd of 3,000 arena spectators and thousands more by live webcast.

First place winner, Tyke Mangum, a 24 year old mason with McGee Brothers Company, Monroe, North Carolina, was declared "World's Best Bricklayer," Tyke laid 890 brick in just sixty minutes, which is the highest count ever at the Regional and National competitions. With just six years experience, Tyke won the grand prize of a new 2009 Ford F-250, XLT, V8, SuperDuty, 4 x 4 truck, \$5,000 in cash and thousands in sponsor prizes. Tyke's mason tender was Dan Hallman also with McGee Brothers Company.

The SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN award was given to mason Bert Schneider, with Helander Masonry, Dixon, Illinois. Bert laid 578 brick, his combined brick count and quality of his wall was judged the, "most sellable." Bert's tender was Paul Shiroras II, also with Helander Masonry. As the SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN, Bert Schneider won a new 2009 Bobcat 2200 4WD Utility Vehicle, \$5,000 in cash and thousands in sponsor prizes. Among those prizes was a MH-10 MUD HOG mixer which will be given to a masonry training center of Bert's choice.

The 2nd place overall winner was mason Garrett Hood, with McGee Brothers Company, Monroe, North Carolina. Garrett laid 861 brick and his tender was Kevin Hallman. Garrett was last year's 2008 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 National 1st place winner. Garrett won \$4,000 cash, and thousands in sponsor prizes.

The 3rd place overall winner was mason Alejandro Lopez, with Alejandro Lopez Masonry, Austin, Texas. Alejandro laid 807 brick and his tender was Alfonso Martinez. Alejandro won \$3,000 in cash and thousands in sponsor prizes.

The SPEC MIX TOUGHEST TENDER winner was Ken Huizenga, with Illinois Masonry, Oaklawn, Illinois. Ken won \$2,500 in cash and hundreds in sponsor prizes. The SPEC MIX TOUGHEST TENDER is a preliminary event held just before SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 National. In this event the tenders race the clock to set up a predefined work area for the mason that includes 1,060 brick and other masonry tools. Ken's winning time was 16 minutes, 54 seconds, one of the competitions best times in its seven year history.

Established to showcase the skill and craftsmanship of masonry, the general description of the bricklaying competition is as follows: The contest requires all masons to meet the quality standards of the event. They have 60 minutes to complete their 26 foot, double wythe brick wall. The competition has four awards, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place which are based on the highest brick count meeting the quality standards. The 4th award, the SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN is judged the most sellable wall over 500 brick. This award, judged by all 22 masonry officials, is the second most coveted award at the event and has the second highest award purse. For some competitors, winning the SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN award is their main goal.

This year's competition is made up of winning regional bricklayers from 16 regions nationwide in the US & Canada. Competition bricklayers come from states such as Ohio, California, Washington, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Virginia, Massachusetts, Utah, Oklahoma, Colorado, Illinois, Texas, and North Carolina, and from the Canadian provinces of Alberta, and Ontario. The competitors who were the 1st Place and SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN winners of the 2008 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500[®] were also back to defend their titles.

For more details about this event go to www.specmixbricklayer500.com This is the web site that offers a FREE, webcast connection of the archived 2009 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500[®] National.

To view an archive video of the 2009 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 National competition go to: <http://www.smb1500.com/webcast-info.cfm>

Truck, cash, and prizes provided by these 2009 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500[®] National sponsors:

Widely recognized by the construction industry as the *premiere* event at the WOC/WOM, the success of this competition is largely attributed to the support of its sponsors. Working together to promote the masonry trade and its members, numerous companies pull together by making both cash and product contributions.

Platinum Level Sponsors

SPEC MIX®, Inc.
Masonry Construction Magazine
Ford Trucks
Hydro Mobile
EZ Grout Corporation
Prism Pigments

Gold Level Sponsors

Marshalltown Company
STIHL
Bobcat
Acme Brick
Ash Grove
MCAA
Mortar Net USA Ltd.

Contributor Level Sponsors

Gatorback Mortarboards
Crick Levels
Blaklader Workwear
Sterling Handling Equipment
E-Z Mix Products
Angelus Block
Building Lime Association
Safway Scaffolding

SPEC MIX® is a national source for high quality, factory produced cementitious products for the construction industry. With more than 57 licensed manufacturers located in major markets across the U.S., and Canada, the SPEC MIX team utilizes computerized batching equipment and the finest materials to ensure total quality control throughout any masonry project. We also offer various patented silo systems to maximize a contractor's proficiency and safety rating. Our purpose is to keep a masonry crew going, moving and working.

Published 10 times a year, MASONRY CONSTRUCTION magazine is the premier source of information for masons. Masonry Construction's Challenge takes place at World of Concrete each year and is a series of competitions designed to demonstrate the skills of masons. The SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 National Competition and the SPEC MIX TOUGHEST TENDER are two of the premier events within the Masonry Construction's Challenge program.

World of Concrete and Masonry Construction are owned by Hanley Wood LLC, the premier media and information company serving housing and construction. Through four operating divisions, the company produces award-winning magazines and Web sites, marquee trade shows and events, rich data and custom marketing solutions. The company also is North America's leading publisher of home plans. Founded in 1976, Hanley Wood is a \$250 million company owned by affiliates of JPMorgan Partners, LLC. CCMP Capital Advisors manages the Hanley Wood investment for JPMorgan Partners.

NOTE USE OF TERMS:

For trade news

Please respect all legal trademarks for trade use. In print, the correct way to refer to the competition event is the 2009 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® National, case use as shown. The award titles for SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN®, and SPEC MIX TOUGHEST TENDER®, should be in all caps followed by the word, "award." When writing about our corporation the correct way to write our corporate name is SPEC MIX®, Inc., if referring to our brand the correct way is SPEC MIX® The ® mark should always be used on the 2009 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®, and SPEC MIX®, Inc., the first time either term is used in body copy and always used when either term is in a headline or sub-headline.

For general news and mass media

If this information is being used for general news or mass media, follow your own editorial polices. We do ask that the full term of the event be used at least once at the beginning of the article, thereafter, "event or competition" would be acceptable terms. Please do not cut, rename or edit the legal trademark title of the event so as to maintain the legal brand name and its integrity.

If you have any questions regarding this event, need images, video footage or logos, contact the name listed below.

For further information about this press release contact:

Regards,

Jeff Farmakes
SPEC MIX®, Inc.
Marketing Communications
O 651-905-8109
C 612-750-2924
E jfarmakes@specmix.com

SPEC MIX®, Inc.
2025 CENTRE POINTE BLVD
MENDOTA HEIGHTS, MN 55120