

**DATE: 10/3/13****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

The SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® REGIONAL – Florida sees a veteran competitor shine in Orlando.

ORLANDO, FL—As the sun rose over A1 Blocks facility October 3rd 2013, competitors in the east parking lot stood patiently by their cars awaiting the start of the Florida Regional SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® competition. The sun quickly baked the concrete floor of the competition setting the tone that everyone would have to compete in sweltering heat and a steady pace would be the key to victory in the balmy Florida weather. Two men emerge from the crowd; eyes focused holding a guitar case looking over the stalls. Normally this would be an unusual carrying case for a mason. Holding the guitar case is the three-time Florida regional champion and 2010 national champion Ray Robinson. Given his skill set, most masons in Florida were intimidated to enter the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 regional competition once they knew he was competing. However, two of the most respected masonry companies in Florida, renowned for their skill and craftsmanship answered the call, Pascal Robertson Masonry and Richard Souder Masonry of Central Florida. Both companies are well known for having some of the best masons in the state and both were ready, willing and able to unseat the champ.

***Sweet City Gelato- Food Truck******Café Rouge – Food Truck******MCAA & MAF Tent***

As the competitors began their starter courses, the mood lightened. Classic rock filled the air as fans piled out of cars one by one filling the venue. Food trucks featuring Orlando's finest local fare lined the event along with tents from array of sponsors showing off the latest new masonry industry products, each holding raffles and giving away prizes to fans. Of special interest was the latest in concrete block manufacture, the "A-Block" and "H-Block". These masonry units were developed specifically to keep masons from having to lift standard concrete block over rebar in grouted masonry walls. The labor savings, increased production and reduction in lost time injuries promoted by the use of these innovative

masonry units is industry changing. Anchoring the event was the MCAA and MAF tent where the organizations met with local contractors to discuss the masonry industry.



Labor Saving "A" Block



National Emcee & SPEC MIX VP Brian Carney

Once the competition began, a familiar voice was heard over the speakers. Ryan Coyne, QUIKRETE's Regional Sales Manager and now Emcee, provided a day's worth of competition information, sponsor plugs and comic relief along with special guest Emcee, SPEC MIX VP Brian Carney.

While the sponsor booths were a huge hit with the attendees, bricklaying competition itself stole the show. As the competition began, it became evident that stamina will determine who will go on to the national championship as the Florida sun relentlessly beat onto the competitors. As the competition progressed the crowd was unable to pick a clear leader as every mason looks to be neck and neck, building towering walls at a breakneck pace. After forty-five minutes, three bricklayers emerged from the pack. Former national champion Ray Robinson, Pascal Robinson and Rick Souder started to pull away. It could come down to a single brick if the three bricklayers pace continues at this rate. The energy at A1 Block becomes electric as the competitors entered the last five minutes. As the crowd roared Ray Robinson gained a clear lead in the end, but with possible deductions speed does not guarantee a victory.



2013 Florida Bricklaying Action



Local Ford Dealer Rush Ford



Hydro Mobile Booth

As the competition closed, and judges started examining the walls, fans made their way over to the MCAA and MAF tent to converse and learn about masonry trends and opportunities with the MCAA and MAF. Guest Speaker and past MCAA President, Mackie Bounds (Brazos Masonry, Texas) gave lead a discussion about the masonry industry and the importance of getting involved with the locally and nationally with the Masonry Associations as a contractor. While the judges wrapped up their inspection of the wall, the SPEC MIX Bag Toss Competition began. Attendees were ecstatic to learn the winner will walk away with a new 50 inch Samsung television.



“Bag Toss” for a TV



2013 Florida Regional Competitors



2013 Florida Champion – Ray Robinson

Former champion Ray Robinson and tender Luis Mejia took home Florida Regional Championship honors with (682) brick. Second place and the Florida Craftsmanship award went to Richard Souder and tender Braden Souder with a final brick count of 524 brick. Third place was awarded to Pascal Robertson and tender Tyler Robertson who laid 521 brick.

A special thanks to our local Florida sponsors: Cement Products, A1 Block, Hydro Mobile, Hertz Equipment Rental, Titan Cement, American Cement, EZ Spred, Vulcan, Global Cement Products and all the national sponsors without whom we would not have been able to have a successful competition.

Final Results:

1st Place

Mason –Ray Robinson – 682

Tender – Luis Mejia

Contractor – JAM Construction

SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN®

Mason – Richard Souder - 524

Tender – Braden Souder

Contractor – Richard Souder Masonry

2nd Place

Mason – Richard Souder - 524

Tender – Braden Souder

Contractor – Richard Souder Masonry

3rd Place

Mason – Pascal Robertson

Tender – Tyler Robertson

Contractor – Pascal Robertson

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