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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® REGIONAL – WISCONSIN Qualifier promotes masonry in Milwaukee!

MILWAUKEE, WI— An overcast and cool morning didn't keep things from heating up at the 11th annual Wisconsin 2013 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® Regional competition held on September 20th, 2013, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This year's event had a full field of 8 mason competitors vying for a trip to Las Vegas at the 2014 World of Concrete/World of Masonry to be held on Wednesday January 22, 2014. This year's Wisconsin mason competitors included 2 past national qualifiers, 4 returning regional competitors, and 2 new rookies trying to upstage the veterans and prove they have what it takes to take the "World's Best Bricklayer," title.

SPEC MIX distributor, The Brickyard, was more than happy to host the regional qualifier this year as it returned to Milwaukee. Our hosts at The Brickyard also brought in some of their trade vendors to show off their products as well. All in attendance were fed with some grilled brats and hot dogs, as well as wood fire oven cooked pizzas. When audience members had some down time from the Bricklayer 500 and eating some tasty food they took their turn competing in the first annual "SPEC MIX Bean Bag Toss". Chris Manuel Jr. didn't take home the title tending for Tim Balthazar in the main event, but he did show that he's Wisconsin's best bean bag tosser by winning that competition and taking home a \$100 gift card. The Brickyard also gave a new masonry fire pit in a drawing to a lucky event attendee.



Brat and Pizza Cooker



These fans sure have some fun cheering for their favorite team



To encourage a career in masonry and promote our industry, Wisconsin Southwest Tech College's masonry instructor Don Borchert reached out to local area high schools to encourage field trips to the regional event. Casey Miller, a tech instructor at Burlington High School, brought out over 40 junior and senior students to take in the festivities and get a look at how exciting our industry can be. Fox News also spent the day at the Wisconsin Regional Qualifier and ran a nice piece on the evening news about the event.



Wisconsin Bricklaying Action



Local Sponsor Firegear Outdoors

The competitors laid brick at a feverish pace for a full sixty minutes. When the dust settled and the competition ended, everyone in attendance looked up at the leader board for what appeared to be a family affair. Paul Zvolena took 3rd place with an adjusted brick total of 365 while being tended by his brother, Dan Zvolena. The top 2 spots on the leader board were occupied by Nick and Jake Brock. Nick Brock, Exteriors Plus, took home honors of being Wisconsin's Best bricklayer with an adjusted total of 474 brick, and a 3rd consecutive trip to the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 in Las Vegas. Jake Brock, Brock Construction, was not to be outdone by his brother. Jake took home honors as the top Craftsman and second place finisher in this year's Wisconsin SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500.



2013 Wisconsin Regional Competitors



2013 Wisconsin Place Winners

The Wisconsin SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 Regional event featured numerous national and local SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 sponsors. The brick for this year's competition were donated by CalStar through their distributor and this year's host The Brickyard. Other sponsors include SPEC MIX Inc., The QUIKRETE Companies, Ford Motor Company, Marshalltown Trowel, Multiquip, Hydro Mobile, Prism Pigments, STIHL, and IQ Power Tools. Many local sponsors also stepped up to make this competition a success. They include: Maki Trucking, St. Mary's Cement, Graymont Lime, Lannon Stone, County Materials, Silbernagel Trucking, and Ameriglobe.

Final Results:

1st Place

Mason – Nick Brock – 474

Tender – Mike Miller

Contractor - Exteriors Plus LLC, Jefferson, WI

SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN®

Mason – Jake Brock – 373

Tender – Mike Winkleman

Contractor – Brock Construction, Fort Atkinson, WI

2nd Place

Mason – Jake Brock – 373

Tender - Mike Winkleman

Contractor - Brock Construction, Fort Atkinson, WI

3rd Place

Mason - Paul Zvolena – 365

Tender - Dan Zvolena

Contractor - Zvolena Masonry, Loyal, WI

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 8 inch, double wythe brick wall. The competition has four awards; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place are based on the highest net brick count meeting the quality standards. The 4th award, and arguably considered the most coveted price, the SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN is judged the most sellable wall. The walls are closely evaluated by carefully selected masonry officials carrying several years of bricklaying experience. Many of the competitors feel winning the SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN award is their main goal, and it has the second highest award purse.

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