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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

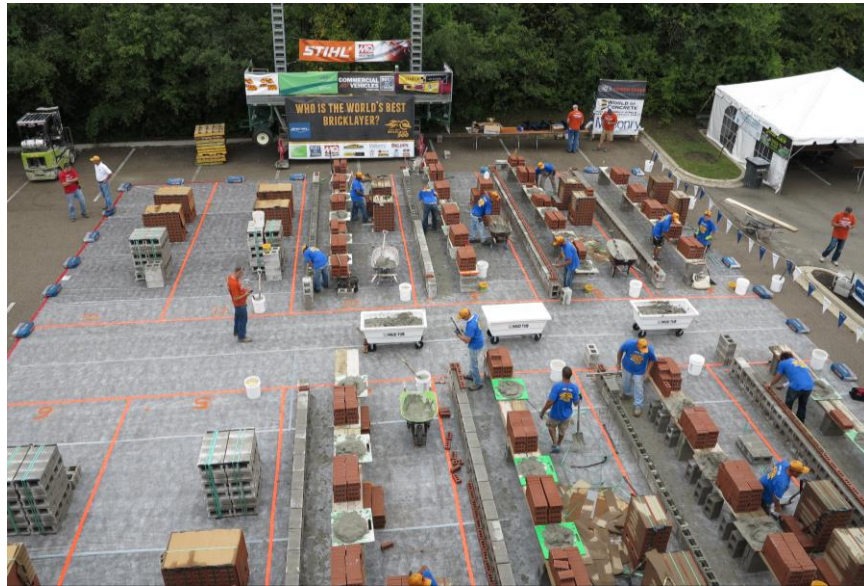


Addison, Illinois area holds the 2015 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® Regional Competition

ADDISON, IL —The 2015 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® Regional Competition for Illinois was held at the BAC District Council Training Center, Addison, IL on September 18th. Eight teams of brick masons and tenders vied for a competition spot in the 2016 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 World Championship Competition held in Las Vegas, Nevada. There, they will compete for over \$100,000 in cash and prizes including a new 2016 Ford F-250 XLT 4x4 truck.



Steve Cleveland, a mason from Valparaiso, IN, and his mason tender Sedat Süpürgeci, edged out the competition to take home first place. His net count of 557 brick won him a spot to compete in the 2016 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 in Las Vegas, but it also came with \$800 cash, Marshalltown custom engraved trowel, Illinois Brick & Marshalltown tool bags, 3 boxes of 1" Mortar Net and other miscellaneous masonry accessories. The SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN Award also went to Steve, earning him double honors for this event and additional cash and prizes. Mark Saksa, of Adams Masonry, Dyer, IN finished as runner up taking home \$500 cash, Marshalltown trowel and tool bag, Illinois Brick tool bag, 3 boxes of 1" Wall Defender from Mortar Net and other miscellaneous masonry accessories. Third place went to mason Brian Podest of Brickman Masonry, Manhattan, IL who received \$300 cash, additional tool bags, 2 boxes of Weep Vents and an assortment of miscellaneous masonry tools.



Eight of the regions most skilled teams arrived to compete, rain or shine. While the overcast, blustery day kept some spectators away the masons and tenders pressed on with their eye on the prize. Two Ford Super Duty trucks were displayed elegantly as a solid reminder of why teams are competing for their slot at the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 in Las Vegas. Liliana Calderon, with J&E Duff, West Chicago, IL, wanted her crack at the event as well, competing as the first ever woman in the Illinois Regional history. She managed a solid finish for the day demonstrating a strong talent with the trowel in hand. In addition, BBQ lunch was served throughout the day while the industry attendees and fans alike mingled and watched the event. Several local and national sponsors took advantage of prime tabletop display areas and offered up raffle prizes, hats, shirts and giveaways.



Final Results:

First Place

Mason – Steve Cleveland – 557 Brick
Tender - Sedat Süpürgeci,
Company- Midwest Masonry, Mundelein, IL

SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN

Mason – Steve Cleveland – 557 Brick

Tender - Sedat Süpürgeci,

Company- Midwest Masonry, Mundelein, IL

2nd Place

Mason – Mark Saksa- 439 Brick

Tender – William Keith

Company- Adam's Masonry, Dyer, IN

3rd Place

Mason – Brian Podest- 432 Brick

Tender – Jamie Patino

Brickman Masonry, Manhattan, IL

The SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 Regional and World Championship series of events are widely considered the masonry industry's strongest promotional program to showcase the skill, speed and craftsmanship of professional masons around the world. Established by SPEC MIX, Inc. in 2003, the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 is the trade's annual campaign that answers the question: "Who is the World's Best Bricklayer?" The winners of each regional qualifying competition earn free trip to Las Vegas to compete against 20 or more bricklayers in the World Championship held during the World of Concrete tradeshow on February 3rd, 2016.

The regional and championship contests consist of a two-person team; one mason and mason tender, that are given 60 minutes to construct a 26 foot 8 inch, double wythe brick wall that must be constructed to meet strict quality standards. The walls are judged by highly qualified, experienced industry experts that carefully follow a 10-point criteria system. The winning masons are ranked and awarded prizes based on the highest brick count while meeting the quality requirements and competition rules. The competition has four awards; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place which are based on the highest net brick count meeting the quality standards. The 4th award, and arguably considered the most coveted prize (prize), the SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN is judged the most sellable wall with over 500 brick laid. The walls are closely evaluated by carefully selected masonry officials carrying several years of bricklaying experience.

For more information on the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER Regional Program call 888-SPECMIX or go to:

www.specmixbricklayer500.com

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