



DATE: October 15, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



Danielson, CT. area holds the 2015 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® Regional Competition

DANIELSON, CT – The 2015 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® Regional Competition for The Northeast Region was held at Jolley Concrete, Inc., in Danielson, CT on October 15th 2015. Eleven 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 Crew Cab truck.



Group Photo All Contestants



Masons in Action

Mark Wells Sr., a mason with American Masonry Corporation, Beverly, NJ, and his mason tender Mark Wells Jr., edged out the rest of the competition to take home first place. His net count of 578 brick got the job done. Not only did first place carry the opportunity to compete in the 2016 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 in Las Vegas for Mark, but it also came with \$1,000 cash and engraved trowels and tool bags. The SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN Award also went to Mark Wells Sr., earning him an additional \$1000. Mark's tender, Mark Wells Jr. earned a combined \$1000 for his work on the winning team. Second Place went to Ray Byers, of Arch Masonry, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA with a brick count of 566, taking home \$750 cash and \$300 for his tender. Third place went to mason Fatjon Rapo of Connecticut Mason Contractors, Inc. of Hartford, CT, who received \$500 cash plus \$200 for his tender.



Rick McNamara, Jill Kiselica, & owner Wayne Jolley



Bob Duncan at the Grill

It was a perfect fall New England day as eleven teams competed for chance to represent New England at the World Championship Competition in Las Vegas, NV. A large crowd was on hand to enjoy music, barbeque and games. Two of the attendees won large screen TV's in the Corn-hole game. In attendance were 45 future masons from the Ellis Technical High School in Danielson, CT. The high school students had a great time watching the competitors and dancing for the cameras of the Channel 3 CBS affiliate (WFSB) from Hartford, CT. The local TV was on hand to film the New Jersey Team of Mark Wells Sr and his son Mark Wells Jr take 1st place and win the Craftsmanship award, walking away with \$3,000 dollars in cash, a free trip to the World Championship in Las Vegas, and the coveted First Place engraved trowel.

All this made possible with the help of our local Gold Sponsors-Jolley Concrete, Inc., Spaulding Brick, Lafarge, Holcim, Hale Trailer, and LMCT. Additionally, many thanks go to Bob Duncan, Rebecca DeMoranville and all the New England operations crew who were instrumental in raising donations and supporting the event.



First Place and SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN Winners Mark Wells Sr (right center) & Mark Wells Jr (left center)



Second Place Winners Ray Beyers (right center) & Adam Beyers (left center)

Final Results:

First Place

Mason – Mark Wells Sr. - 578 Brick

Tender – Mark Wells JR

American Masonry Corporation, Beverly, NJ

SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN

Mason – Mark Wells Sr. - 578 Brick

Tender – Mark Wells Jr.

American Masonry Corporation, Beverly, NJ

2nd Place

Mason – Ray Beyers - 566 Brick

Tender – Adam Beyers

Arch Masonry, Pittsburg, PA.

3rd Place

Mason – Fatjon Rapo - 333 Brick

Tender – Julian Poce

Conn. Masonry Contractors, Hartford, CT.

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. 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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