



KEEPING THE TRADE STRONG

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE: 1/23/2019
FROM: SPEC MIX®
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS](#)

Canadian Mason Mario Alves wins the 2019 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® World Championship in Las Vegas



Las Vegas, NV—In front of the largest crowd in the 17-year history of the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® World Championship ([See Photos](#)), Mason Mario Alves of A & M Masonry in Hamilton, Ontario won big. Mario claimed the crown “World’s Best Bricklayer.” After 60-minutes of laying bricks against 26 other world-class masons, the 30 year old put up a wall with a brick count of 760 perfect brick that earned him a 2019 Ford F-250 XLT 4x4 truck, an Essick EM120 HYD mortar mixer on top of \$10,000 in cash and prizes. It was his third time qualifying for the championship event in Las Vegas. With the help of his brother mason tender Michael Alves, Mario delivered his best performance in an arena packed with thousands of spectators.

Of the 27 bricklayers and mason tender teams that competed for the event's \$125,000 purse, Mason Darian Douthit with Providence Masonry, Fairland, OK claimed the next highest ranking title, the SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN®. The event veteran claimed a 2019 John Deere Gator™ XUV 835 and another \$10,000 in cash and prizes for his efforts. Darian (age 47) laid 537 perfect brick which a 30 judge panel agreed was the "most sellable" wall. A mason for over 30 years he also won the TOP CRAFTSMAN® title back in 2016. Darian's mason tender was Andy Zepeda.

Standing beside first place and craftsman in the winners' circle, Second place honors went to Cole Stamper of Mason Structure in Lexington, KY. A mason for 20 years, Cole laid 749 brick with no deductions to win \$4,000 and over \$1,500 in sponsor prizes. His mason tender was Jeff Becker.

Rounding out the pool of winners was third place Juan Cabral of Phoenix Masonry in Denver, CO. Juan (36) laid 732 brick to claim a check for \$3,000 plus \$1,500 in prizes. Juan's mason tender was Jose Limon.

Kicking off the bricklaying action was the SPEC MIX TOUGHEST TENDER® competition. Twenty-seven mason tenders raced to stage all the materials used during the bricklaying event. Mason tender Charlie Cheatham with United Masonry in Cleveland, OH was named TOUGHEST TENDER, and collected a check for \$2,500 and \$1,500 in prizes. Charlie recorded a winning time of 13 minutes 52 seconds (WR – 11 minutes 7 second, set in 2005). Established to show the value a mason tender brings to a mason, it's a crowd favorite that tests the speed, endurance and accuracy of a skilled laborer.

Commonly referred to as the "Super Bowl of Masonry," the bricklaying battle took place on Wednesday, January 23th in the heart of the Masonry Madness® Day arena at the World of Concrete trade show in Las Vegas. Before a bricklayer is eligible to compete in the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® World Championship, each competitor must qualify by winning their Regional Series competition. This earns them a shot at taking down the returning Champion or SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN® title holders.

The SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® initiative was created in 2003 to promote masonry construction while accentuating the craftsmanship, pride and passion that masons dedicate to their work. It's also a means for SPEC MIX®, its sponsors and supporters, to give back to the masonry trade and strengthen its future. Over the years the event has evolved into an industry movement that is used as a tool for recruiting skilled labor and workforce development programs. The fierce competition, quality of craftsmanship, and the growing annual crowds, is evidence that the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® is uniting the industry and infusing energy into a craft that commands respect and admiration.

FIRST PLACE CASH & PRIZES

- 2019 Ford F-250 4x4 XLT Super Duty Truck
- \$5,000 check from SPEC MIX®
- Essick EM120YD Mortar Mixer
- STIHL TSA 230 battery-powered cut-off machine, 9" wheel, AR 900 battery, AL 500 high-speed charger
- iQ POWER TOOLS 360 Table Saw Set, Rolling Table, Smart Cart and a 14" Silent Blade
- BLAKLADER \$1000 gift certificate
- STABILA Custom Trophy 24" level and plaque
- MARSHALLTOWN Ceremonial Trophy Trowel & loaded SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® tool bag
- GATORBACK Mortarboards - 10 pack
- SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 World Champion Jacket & 1st Place Trophy from SPEC MIX

SPEC MIX TOUGHEST TENDER CASH & PRIZES

- \$2,500 check & SPEC MIX TOUGHEST TENDER® Trophy from SPEC MIX
- STIHL \$700 Product Certificate
- iQ POWER TOOLS \$200 iQ gift pack, jacket, and 3 saw blades
- BLAKLADER \$500 Gift Certificate
- MARSHALLTOWN loaded SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® tool bag.

SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN CASH & PRIZES

- \$5,000 Check and SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN® Trophy from SPEC MIX
- John Deere Gator™ XUV835 Crossover Utility Vehicle
- STIHL TSA 230 battery-powered cut-off machine, 9" abrasive wheel, AP 300 battery, AL 500 high-speed charger
- iQ POWER TOOLS iQPC912 and 3 saw blades
- BLAKLADER \$1000 gift certificate
- STABILA Custom Trophy 24" level and plaque
- MARSHALLTOWN Ceremonial trophy trowel & loaded SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® tool bag
- GATORBACK Mortarboards - 10 pack

SECOND PLACE CASH & PRIZES

- \$4,000 Check & 2nd Place trophy from SPEC MIX®
- STIHL TSA 230 battery-powered cut-off machine, 9" wheel, AP 300 battery, AL 500 high-speed charger
- iQ POWER TOOLS \$200 iQ gift pack and jacket
- BLAKLADER \$500 gift certificate
- STABILA Custom Trophy 24" level and plaque
- MARSHALLTOWN loaded SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® tool bag
- GATORBACK Mortarboards - 10 pack

THIRD PLACE CASH & PRIZES

- \$3,000 Check & 3rd Place trophy from SPEC MIX
- STIHL \$700 product certificate
- iQ POWER TOOLS \$200 iQ gift pack, jacket, and 3 saw blades
- BLAKLADER \$250 gift certificate
- STABILA Custom Trophy 24" level and plaque
- MARSHALLTOWN loaded SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® tool bag.
- GATORBACK Mortarboards - 10 pack

The SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 initiative was created to give back to the masonry trade and has expanded in many positive aspects. Regardless of its growth the event remains laser-focused on achieving its original goals of uniting the

masonry industry and putting the craft’s artisans on the world’s stage. It’s also taken on the role as the masonry industry’s top marketing campaign, frequently leveraged by industry professionals to infuse a strong sense of pride within its craftsmen, as well as masonry instructors using it as a tool to recruit young adults and individuals looking to start a new career.

Event sponsors: The 2019 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® World Championship appreciates the support of its outstanding sponsors who help promote the craftsmanship of masons and the masonry construction industry.

PLATINUM LEVEL

SPEC MIX®
QUIKRETE® Companies
Ford Commercial Vehicles
Hydro Mobile
John Deere
Hohmann & Barnard, Inc.
The Belden Brick Company
Multiquip, Inc.
STABILA

GOLD LEVEL

Blaklader
iQ Power Tools
MARSHALLTOWN
MCAA
Prism Pigments
STIHL Inc.

CONTRIBUTOR LEVEL

Best Block
Easy-Spred®
GATORBACK®
Jackson & Razor Back Tools
Safway® Scaffold
Xtreme Manufacturing

For more information on this event go to:

SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP & SPEC MIX TOUGHEST TENDER®

Visit www.specmixbricklayer500.com or go to The [2019 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 World Championship Digital Magazine](#) that will give you a history and background of the Regional and World Championship competition program.

More about SPEC MIX®:

SPEC MIX® is the construction industry’s national source for high quality; factory preblended cement-based building products for the construction industry. With more than 60 manufacturing facilities in all major markets across the US and Canada, SPEC MIX production plants utilize state of the art batching equipment and the finest materials to ensure total quality control throughout your project. In addition to its full line of masonry, stucco and specialty cementitious products, SPEC MIX offers various silo systems to maximize a contractor’s efficiency and safety rating. The mission of SPEC MIX is to provide the industry with solutions that keep construction crews going, moving and working safely—all day, every day.

1230 EAGAN INDUSTRIAL RD. STE. 160, EAGAN, MN 55121 P: 651-994-7120 WWW.SPECMIX.COM

1230 Eagan Industrial Road, Suite 160, phone 651-994-7120, fax 651-454-5315 www.specmixbricklayer500.com