

WISCONSIN TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOP DRIVERS TEST SKILLS IN WISCONSIN STATE TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

89 of the top fleet truck drivers in the state from 27 companies put their driving skills to a grueling test June 23rd & 24th in the 2006 Wisconsin State Truck Driving Championships at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton.

The Truck Driving Championships, sponsored annually by the Wisconsin Council of Safety Supervisors, an affiliate of the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association, to promote highway safety, is the toughest test of a truck driver's knowledge and job performance. The most dramatic competition is the field course, beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 24th. There were six parking and maneuvering exercises requiring precision driving and steady nerves.

In one test, the driver of a typical 60-foot tractor-trailer must make a right turn coming as close to a curb (tire) without hitting it. In addition to the field course, competitors are required to make a typical pre-trip inspection for the trucks, looking for a series of safety defects planted by officials. Each also undergoes an hour-long written examination, testing knowledge of the trucking industry, safe driving rules, first aid, and fire-fighting.

"The contestant making the highest total score in each of the events is designated the Champion of the Class," said Jim Hamby, Birchwood Transport, Inc., Chairman of the 2006

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Wisconsin State Truck Driving Championships. “Trophies were awarded to the top three competitors in each class of competition at the awards banquet held at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton.”

In addition to the best driver awards in each truck category, Vehicle Condition Award is given to the driver with the best score for a pre-trip inspection. Also presented is a Rookie-of-the-Year Award, for the best score by a new contestant.

To be eligible for competition, a driver must have been employed for at least one year by a fleet trucking company and have a one-year accident-free driving record. The driver must either live in Wisconsin or be dispatched from Wisconsin. These are some of the best drivers in the state. The following were the champions in this year’s competition (name, company, & hometown):

- Three-Axle Tractor – Semi-trailer:
Thomas Dake, FedEx Freight, Gillette, WI
- Four-Axle Tractor – Semi-trailer:
Mark Hassemer, Yellow Transportation, Whitelaw, WI
- Five-Axle Tractor – Semi-trailer:
Ron Schneider, Wal-Mart Transportation, St Cloud, MN
- Five-Axle Flatbed:
Thomas Crosby, Roehl Transport, Inc., McComb, LA
- Five-Axle Tank Truck:
Regnald Ansbach, Roadway Express, Cudahy, WI
- Five-Axle Sleeper Berth:
Carl Ziehlke, Wal*Mart Transportation, Menomonee, WI
- Straight Truck:
Brent Glasenapp, FedEx Express, Franklin, WI
- Twin Trailers:
Michael Fay, Con-Way Freight, Warrens, WI

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These Champions will be competing at the ATA National Truck Driving Championships, August 15 – 19 in New Orleans, LA. They will compete against drivers from all 50 states in their class of competition.

Other awards presented were:

Rookie of the Year Award **Timothy McLeod, Roehl Transport, Inc.,** Bristol

Vehicle Condition Award **Scott Parks, FedEx Express,** Milwaukee

Team Trophy **N & M Transfer Co., Inc.,** Neenah

The person with the highest over all score above his class average was **Ron Schneider,**
Wal-Mart Transportation, St. Cloud, MN