



## Inaugural SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500<sup>sm</sup> draws huge crowd and enthusiasm

It was a cold, blustery day in Las Vegas, but that didn't stop nearly 1,000 spectators from cheering on the competitors of the inaugural SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500<sup>sm</sup>. The competition took place at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3 and was part of the World of Concrete/World of Masonry show.

The audience warmed up their vocal chords to the Toughest Tenders event. Each team of two tenders raced to be the first to have their station set up. The tenders were required to arrange 1,000 brick in four equal stacks at the appropriate working distance from the wall, place five mortar stands and boards between the brick stacks, and position a pail of water, tempering can and shovel in the center of the work area. **Kyle Jones** and **Kris Jones** of Bob White Masonry, Rock Island, Ill., mastered the competition, taking first place.

Then came the main event — the SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500. Twelve masons had one hour to lay as many brick as he could. But speed wasn't the only factor; skill was equally important. A competitor could be disqualified for having more than 20 voids or plumb exceeding ¼ inch. A team also could be disqualified if a tender handed the mason any material.

Once "Go!" was called, the excitement never wavered. "Skill. Speed. Stamina." was a fitting theme for the day. The masons worked at breakneck speed. It was only 50 degrees with a 20-mile-per-hour wind, but those bricklayers worked up a sweat. Each team of tenders encouraged their mason, and the crowd cheered on all the competitors. Trowels were flying so fast, the Mudslingers continually raced to keep up with the need for mortar.

Time's up. Everyone waited in anticipation as the judges counted bricks and surveyed the quality of the walls. Each



**Tracy Allen of IMS Masonry, Orem, Utah, gives it his all as nearly 1,000 spectators cheer on the competing masons in the inaugural SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500<sup>sm</sup>.**

mason proved his skill. No one was disqualified for quality of work. So in the end, speed was the deciding factor.

**Wayne Phipps** of Mourer Masonry, Inc., Batesville, Ark., took first place, laying 539 bricks. Second place went to **Jim Baker** of McGough Construction, St. Paul, Minn., with 534 bricks. Third place winner was **Bob White** of Bob White Masonry, Rock Island, Ill., with 507 bricks.

Also competed:

- **Glen Houghton Sr.**, Houghton Masonry, Blue Grass, Iowa
- **Todd Rose**, McGough Construction, St. Paul, Minn.
- **Ben Houghton**, Better Built Masonry, Durant, Iowa
- **Bill Mitchell**, CM Construction, Elkhart, Ind.
- **Tracy Allen**, IMS Masonry, Orem, Utah
- **Juan Nieto**, Ramco Masonry, Las Vegas, Nev.
- **John McClary**, G.G. Construction, Logandale, Nev.
- **Dennis Scheer**, D&R Masonry, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- **Perry Shane**, Frazier Masonry, Las Vegas, Nev.

# SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 Champions

## 1st Place Team



Bricklayer Wayne Phipps of Mourer Masonry, Inc., Batesville, Ark., and tenders Rafael Vega and Mark Baker.

## 2nd Place Team



Bricklayer Jim Baker of McGough Construction, St. Paul, Minn., and tenders Dave Kortum and Charlie Moen.

## 3rd Place Team and Toughest Tenders Winners

Bricklayer Bob White of Bob White Masonry, Rock Island, Ill., (at 62 years young — way to go Bob!) and tenders Kyle Jones and Kris Jones.



## SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 winners cash in

SPEC MIX, along with co-sponsors Polaris Industries, Cabela's and Kraft Tool, made the following prizes available to Bricklayer 500 winners and contestants:

### 1st Place

- Polaris PTV 6x6 500cc Workmobile
- \$2,000 Cash
- \$1,000 Cabela's Gift Certificate
- 1st Place SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 Trophy
- 1st Place Engraved Crick Level
- Cabela's Bricklayer 500 Champion Jacket

### 2nd Place

- Polaris PTV 4x4 500cc Workmobile
- \$1,000 Cash
- \$750 Cabela's Gift Certificate
- 2nd Place SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 Trophy
- 2nd Place Engraved Crick Level
- Cabela's Bricklayer 500 1st Runner-up Jacket

### 3rd Place

- Essick 9 cu. ft. Mortar Mixer
- \$500 Cash

- \$250 Cabela's Gift Certificate
- 3rd Place SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 Trophy
- 3rd Place Engraved Crick Level
- Cabela's Bricklayer 500 2nd Runner-up Jacket

### Toughest Tenders

- \$500 Cabela's Gift Certificate (each)
- \$500 Cash (each)
- Toughest Tenders Trophy (each)

### All Competitors

- Cabela's Competitor's Jacket
- Crick Level
- Competition T-shirt and Hat

SPEC MIX thanks *Masonry Construction* magazine, Polaris Industries, Cabela's and Kraft Tool for their support in making the Bricklayer 500 competition a first-rate event. We look forward to working with them next year.

# BIG thanks to everyone who made the SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 a success

First, we wish to thank all the teams for taking the challenge and putting their hearts, souls and sweat into the competition. These 12 teams set the bar, and now we are getting lots of inquiries about how to participate in next year's Bricklayer 500.

We also thank the Mudslingers for the fabulous job they did in making mud and making sure every contestant had a constant supply of mortar.

Last, but certainly not least, we thank the following companies that supported the competition and without which we couldn't have made this all happen:

## Gold Level Sponsors

- Polaris Industries
- Cabela's
- Kraft Tool
- *Masonry Construction* magazine

## Contributors

- Interstate Brick
- Crick Level
- SPEC MIX licensee Materials Packaging Corp.
- MultiQuip
- OmniQuip



Get ready ready for next year's contest in Orlando, Fla.!

## licensee profile

# Package Pavement emphasizes customer support

Customer satisfaction is the best testimony of a successful company. Always on the cutting edge in technology, Package Pavement also enjoys a stellar reputation among its customers, and Jamie King and Marty Schiraldi are the dynamic sales representatives behind that reputation.



**Jamie King, Package Pavement sales representative**

Package Pavement is a 50-year-old, family-owned business located in the Hudson Valley of New York, and serves eastern New York including the seven boroughs of New York City, plus western Connecticut. The Doherty family strives to be industry leaders, introducing new technology and material handling practices in their plants. But in spite of all their advanced technology, Package Pavement President Darren Doherty is most proud of their customer service, which emphasizes solving customer and job site demands. Their services range from blending special aggregates to admixtures producing special high performance products. Package Pavement also has a color-matching lab on premises, which enables them to shorten the time from order to delivery.

Facilitating this drive for superior customer satisfaction is Package Pavement's two salesmen Jamie King and Marty Schiraldi. Jamie is one of the original 1,500-mile members, averaging 1,500 miles a week behind the wheel. Eastern Regional Manager Stan Harwell often visits with Jamie over the phone at 4:30 in the morning while Jamie is on his way "to the city" to deliver color samples. Jamie and Marty have established a level of customer service that is second to none. Nothing is impossible at Package Pavement.

# Florida Masonry Association develops masonry training foundation

As Florida's residential market continues to be strong, skilled masons have a wealth of opportunities for work. However, in order to make sure that there is an adequate supply of skilled labor available for these construction projects, the Masonry Association of Florida (MAF) has formed an Apprentice and Educational Foundation to organize, direct and maintain a strong apprentice system for the masonry trade. The MAF has identified the need to train more than 500 masons per year to satisfy the growing construction demand in Florida.

For several years, the MAF has been providing masonry training in limited areas around the state and, therefore, with limited impact. However, in recent months, the major concrete block producers in the state have worked closely with MAF to establish a way to fund masonry training programs. With an estimated 300 million blocks produced every year in Florida, the producers agreed to implement a one-half-cent-per-block surcharge in order to fund masonry training.

According to Patrick McLaughlin, executive director of Florida Masonry Apprentice and Educational Foundation, MAF currently has approximately 275 apprentices enrolled in seven programs around the state that include a three-year training program, involving both on-the-job and classroom training. It takes the full three years for a student to achieve certification as a mason.

MAF has developed state-registered masonry apprenticeship standards with participating partners throughout the state. The apprentice learns on-the-job skills and attends classes at local jobs as tenders and laborers and perfect their skills to move up the ladder to become masons. According to McLaughlin, the new foundation and increased funds should help the association plus students in the next two to three years. Adding recruiters and expanding the apprentice programs into parts of the state where sufficient training is not currently available should help reach these goals.

Continued on next column

# SPEC MIX gets new look

With this issue of Trowel Tales, SPEC MIX unveils its new identity system. This new program will help the company in building its brand identity among architects, contractors and engineers.



In September 2002, Vice President and General Manager Brian Carney hired Capsule, a marketing design firm in Minneapolis, Minn., to develop a new logo, create a new national advertising campaign and redesign its stationery and marketing materials. The new logo officially went into existence in October 2002 when it was presented at the annual Licensee Meeting.

"Our new identity system strengthens our brand in this tough, competitive industry," Carney says. "Every aspect of this new system gives our brand greater impact in the market place, especially as we develop new products and continue growing SPEC MIX."

Keep an eye out for the new ads running in *Masonry Magazine*, *Masonry Construction*, *Shotcrete Magazine*, *AUA News*, *Tunnel Business Magazine* and *CM Design*. In the near future, the new logo will be applied to silos, bags, literature and merchandise. Also, not only has Trowel Tales changed its look, but it will now be mailed on a bimonthly basis. Look for the next issue in April.

## MAF develops masonry training foundation continued

The foundation plans to target high school graduates, v-tech students, even graduates of the local correctional system as potential apprentices. In addition, the foundation recruiters will be working with guidance counselors and attend job fairs to recruit students.

McLaughlin is confident in the foundation's efforts, "There will not be a shortage of masons when we get this program going. We will be replacing our retiring masons with highly skilled, educated workers."

## Autzen Stadium renovation makes a big “splash” for the Ducks!

The success of the Ducks football program in the past decade compelled the University of Oregon to expand and upgrade the Autzen Stadium facilities to meet the demands of a top-level competitor in NCAA Division I athletics.

The University of Oregon initiated a competitive selection process in late 1998 and selected Ellerbe Becket of Kansas City, Mo., for their professional design services. Putting together a cast of expert consultants in sports facility design, Ellerbe Becket tackled this complex three-year design and documentation process. Coordination and development of multiple specialty building systems included food service facilities, audio/visual systems, television broadcast infrastructure, vertical transportation, fire protection systems, playing field system, landscaping, wayfinding signage, as well as other building systems including structural, mechanical, electrical and civil engineering.

The massive scale of the structure required materials that would provide the university with a facility that could be easily maintained for many seasons to come. Ellerbe Becket chose masonry for its longevity and aesthetic beauty.

J&S Masonry Inc. was selected as the mason contractor, which met the challenge of a demanding schedule while maintaining the highest level of craftsmanship for a building that will be utilized by more than 54,000 fans on any given Saturday. Not only was craftsmanship critical, but consistent materials delivered efficiently to J&S Masonry's crews were a necessity. J&S Masonry chose the proven performance of SPEC MIX® mortars produced by Central Pre-Mix through their distributor Willamette Graystone to make the Autzen Stadium project a success.

The exposed structure of the seating bowl is fabricated of structural and architectural precast concrete, forming a sinuous shape that effectively extends the existing seating bowl structure, and maintains an intimate “single bowl” concept. The upper press tower is constructed of insulated metal building panels, glass curtain wall systems and a fully retractable, moveable glass panel wall system to provide unimpeded views to the action on the field. Crowning the press tower is a spectacular roof canopy featuring

wood glulam beams that cantilever almost 100 feet over the seating bowl, creating a dramatic focal point.

Extensive use of concrete masonry units is incorporated at public areas including the main concourse of the stadium, as well as at the perimeter operations buildings. Concrete masonry was the perfect choice for these high traffic areas to produce a long-term, durable design solution that required minimal maintenance and helped maintain a “human” scale to the facility. The use of alternating bands of split-faced masonry units and ground-faced masonry units in an insulated, single wythe wall produces a subtle, horizontal banding that complements the overall stadium design concept. All the masonry on this project has been treated with a transparent anti-graffiti/water repellent coating providing weatherability and cleanability to the wall, while preserving the natural look of the masonry.

In addition to building enclosures, masonry units are used at freestanding masonry columns that serve as a base for perimeter site lighting and also as enhancements to approximately 3,000 feet of custom steel fence and gates surrounding the entire facility. These same columns are utilized at each stadium entry, providing an “up close and personal” experience upon entering this dramatic collegiate stadium setting.

Expansion and renovation also included the addition of 12,000 seats to the capacity of Autzen Stadium, consisting of approximately 6,000 bench seats, 2,500 preferred sideline seats at midfield and 3,200 premium club seats with access to The Club at Autzen, a private elevated club level with enhanced concession services, large public lounges and spectacular views to the Willamette River Valley. In addition, two levels of the new press tower contain 32 private suites, to accommodate key program donors and university officials. The topmost level of the press tower is dedicated to support of broadcast and print news operations.

The entire facility design provides the University of Oregon with one of the most magnificent football stadiums in the country. Oregon alumni, students, and all Duck fans can be proud to host opponents at Autzen Stadium for decades to come.

## apprentice of the month

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### Joshua Hess: young mason, and scholar, too



**Joshua Hess lays another row of brick to his composite project in the National Masonry Competition held this past summer at Bartle Hall in Kansas City, Mo.**

Joshua Hess of Sellersberg, Ind., is our masonry apprentice of the month. A graduate of the C.A. Prosser School of Technology and Silver Creek High School, Hess recently accepted a scholarship to nearby Ivy Technical College.

His masonry instructor, Steve Terry, reports that Hess is a “skilled masonry worker with good attitude, perfect attendance and excellent work ethics.”

His instructor’s recommendation along with his Rotary Club Student of the Year Award and the Home Builders Association Award for his classroom work looked very good on his scholarship application.

In addition to school, Hess works up to 10 hours a day, laying and repairing brick for Sparks Masonry, a job he’s held for almost two years.

“I’ve been encouraged by those around me. My parents, my teacher and my boss have all worked with me and encouraged me to further my education,” Hess says. “No one in my family has ever laid brick, so it was the influence of my instructor, Mr. Terry, that pushed me to the national competition.”

Hess competed in the National Masonry Competition held in conjunction with the VICA SkillsUSA Leadership Conference held this past summer at Bartle Hall in Kansas City, Mo.

## industry highlights

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### Masonry has support of VICA SkillsUSA

Promoting a career in masonry to America’s youth is one of the primary goals of the masonry construction industry and its members. Although this is often a task easier said than done, the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) has done an exceptional job marketing the masonry trade to high school and technical college students. Their main vehicle for the past 34 years has been the Masonry Competition at the national SkillsUSA Championships event.

Today, the SkillsUSA Championships is a multi-million dollar event held in Kansas City’s Bartle Hall that occupies a space equivalent to eight football fields. In 2003, there will be more than 4,000 contestants in 75 separate events ranging from architectural drafting to culinary arts to electronics technology to masonry. And whether it pertains to masonry or not, for young students searching for career

opportunities or direction in life, this is an event to see.

This year’s championships and masonry competition is scheduled for June 26 when approximately 50 aspiring masons will compete for the national title — a much greater turnout compared to just 12 competitors in 1969’s inaugural contest in Memphis, Tenn. Considering each competitor has won their local event and continued through the state finals, this challenge showcases the best masonry students in the nation.

The SPEC MIX® organization, along with the MCAA, PCA, NCMA, BIA, Marshalltown Trowel and Bon Tool Company are all proud to sponsor this spectacular affair and encourage contractors across the United States. to support their local VICA masonry program. Together we can build a bigger, better workforce.

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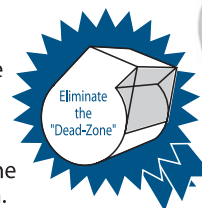
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Tampa, FL  
Booth # 625

### **South Carolina Final Four of Masonry**

March 14-15  
Columbia, SC

### **Introduction to the Design and Construction of Tunnels**

March 19-21  
Denver, CO

### **BIA Brick Show 2003**

March 27-29  
Orlando, FL

### **International No-Dig 2003 Show**

March 31-April 2  
Las Vegas, NV

### **The CSI Show**

April 9-11  
Chicago, IL

### **2002 Masonry Building Code Seminar**

April 9  
Washington, DC

### **Masonry Standards Joint Committee Meeting**

April 10-12  
Orlando, FL

### **The Masonry Society Executive Committee**

April 12-13  
Orlando, FL

### **2002 Masonry Building Code Seminar**

April 16  
Minneapolis, MN

### **AIA Show 2003**

May 8-10  
San Diego, CA

### **CSI University Annual Conference**

June 26-28  
Philadelphia, PA

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