

Who Will be the 2025 “World’s Best Bricklayer?”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MINNEAPOLIS, MN, Nov. 22, 2024 –The 2024 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® Regional Series and its 22 competitions is in the books and the roster is set for the 2025 World Championship! The winners of each regional event will travel to Las Vegas, Nevada on January 22nd for a chance to lay it all on the line and become the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 World Champion! Which of these world-class masons has the skill, speed, and stamina to claim the title, “World’s Best Bricklayer,” and the lion’s share of the \$125,000 jackpot? Be one of the estimated 5,000 masonry fanatics packing the Bronze Lot of the World of Concrete & Masonry tradeshow and you’ll see the action and excitement LIVE!

In just under two months, over 30 SPEC MIX® Mudslingers, the backbone of the world championship contest, will roll up their sleeves to transform one of the Las Vegas Convention Center’s parking lots into the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 World Championship competition arena. This will be the 23rd anniversary of the company’s mission to promote the craft and build on its ongoing workforce development initiative.

Commonly called the “Superbowl of Masonry” by the industry, the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® is hands down the world’s largest and most prestigious masonry event that showcases the pride and passion its craftsmen & women. This action-packed bricklaying battle takes place on Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025, during the World of Concrete expo that’s regarded as the North America’s largest annual construction trade show. The anticipated attendance for the show is over 55,000 concrete and masonry aficionados.

With thousands of fans standing 10 deep along the ringside cheering on the competitors, for 60-minutes the masons will battle to lay as many bricks as they can building a 26-foot double wythe wall, with as few workmanship errors as possible. A total of 27 masons and their trusted mason tenders, otherwise known as a laborer, will work together like a finely tuned machine. The challenge is a true test of each team’s mental and physical resilience. In the end, only one mason will walk out of the arena with the keys to a new 4x4 truck filled with prizes, a pocket full of cold cash, and the bragging rights of being the best, most skilled bricklayer in the masonry industry.



2025 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 World Championship Competitors:

Regional Series Competition	Bricklayer	Company	City & State	Qualifying Brick Count
Alberta	Douglas Veldman	Veldman Masonry	Lithbridge, AB	580 Bricks
Utah	Brian Tuttle	Quik Trowell	Clearfield, UT	542 Bricks
Ohio	Cole Stamper	Mason Structure	Lexington, KY	707 Bricks
British Columbia	Will Fitzpatrick	Structura Masonry	Abbotsford, BC	487 Bricks
Illinois	Marty Marrs	Marty Marrs Masonry	Terre Haute, IN	501 Bricks
Colorado	Esteban Cabral	JVS Masonry	Denver, CO	723 Bricks
Wisconsin	Jake Brock	Brock Construction	Fort Atkinson, WI	535 Bricks
East Tennessee	Manuel Hernandez	A.D. Masonry	Afton, TN	601 Bricks
Northeast	Johnny Langerap	Langerap Masonry	Spartan, NJ	578 Bricks
Missouri -	JT Payne	Foeste Masonry	Cape Girardeau, MO	683 Bricks
Quebec	Timothy Wilson	Construction M&F	Chateauguay, QC	532 Bricks
Eastern Pennsylvania	Phil Bachetti	Giles J. Cannon	Aston, PA	712 Bricks
Iowa	Tommy Iezek	Maxons Masonry	Oxford, IA	642 Bricks
Ontario	Mike Alves	A&M Masonry	Lynden, ON	633 Bricks
Western Pennsylvania	Ray Byers	Byers Masonry	Herminie, PA	514 Bricks
Washington	Garret Shafer	Northbound Masonry	Seattle, WA	652 Bricks
Oklahoma	Darian Douthit	Providence Masonry	Wyandotte, OK	485 Bricks
North Carolina	Wriston McGee	McGee Brothers Co.	Monroe, NC	767 Bricks
Virginia	Dale Emmerson	Emmerson Brothers	Yorktown, VA	565 Bricks
California	Richard King	NuWay Masonry Inc.	Riverside, CA	593 Bricks
Texas	Luis Martinez	Brazos Masonry	Waco, TX	760 Bricks
West Tennessee	Vince Wright	Wright Masonry	Section, AL	558 Bricks
Wild Card Winner	Jose Hernandez	Ranch Masonry		724 Bricks
Australia	Damian Amuso	DA Bricklaying	Willowmavin, AUS	N/A
United Kingdom	Charlie Collison	Collison brickwork Ltd.	Colchester, England	N/A
2024 Winner	Michael Schlund	Kowalski Masonry	Wausau, WI	N/A
2024 Top Craftsman	Dave Sontag	Bearstone Ex	Calgary, AB	N/A

The reigning back-to-back World Champion, 42-year-old Michael Schlund, and returning SPEC MIX Top Craftsman™ winner from Alberta, Canada, Dave Sontag, will take on the 22 regional series winners and Wild Card challenger, Jose Hernandez, from Houston, Texas. All will compete for their piece of the purse totaling over \$125,000 in cash and prizes including a new 4x4 Truck, a Kubota RTV-X1130 utility vehicle, and an Essick Pro12 mixer.

This year's grand finale has several masons that have won, or placed, in previous competitions. Adding an international flavor to the masonry match, a team from the United Kingdom and another from Australia will give event enthusiasts reason to declare it will be the best competition of all time. On that list of past winners is 2023 & 2024 Champion Michael Schlund, who is highly motivated to do what has

never been done before and win the title for the third time in a row! Across the arena will be Dave Sontag from Alberta, Canada will be defending his “TOP CRAFTSMAN” belt with the hope while doubling down to take “World Champion” honors. This won’t be an easy feat considering the planet’s top masons all chasing their life-long dream to earn the highly respected title, “WORLD’S BEST BRICKLAYER.”

Get ready, Las Vegas! Tens of thousands of Constructions Industry devotees are coming to tour the World of Concrete and take in all the city has to offer. And many have their calendars set to be front and center at the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 to witness the world’s best bricklayers pour their heart and soul into leaving town a winner. When gambling in Vegas, it takes pure luck to win. When laying brick in Las Vegas, winning will take pure SKILL, SPEED and STAMINA!

Don't miss these talented craftsmen lay it all on the line masonry industry’s next celebrity. The event will be live streamed at www.specmix.com as well on the official SPEC MIX Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/SPECMIX>.

To learn more about the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 event, visit our website [here](#).

To see the 2024 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 World Championship recap, [click here](#).



If you have any questions, would like to cover the event from inside the arena, or set up an interview with any of the competitors, please contact [Derek Bloch](#) at (470) 681-5223 or [Jeff Farmakes](#) at 612-306-5672.

SPEC MIX is the national source for high quality, factory produced mortars and grouts that are preblended for the construction industry. SPEC MIX products are precisely engineered to meet ASTM and building code requirements. Projects designed for the installation of brick, CMU, stone, stucco or building repair and restoration, SPEC MIX offers a full line of products packaged in 80 & 3,000-pound bags produced with state-of-the-art batching equipment to ensure quality and consistency from start to finish. For optimal jobsite efficiency, safety, and productivity, we provide contractors with numerous silo material mixing systems that maximize a contractor's cost savings, safety, and profitability. For more information, visit www.specmix.com.