

2015 TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

NINE Idahoans Head to National Truck Driving Championships

MERIDIAN, ID – Among stiff competition in the largest pool of professional truck drivers to compete in Idaho's Truck Driving Championships (TDC) in over a decade, nine Idaho drivers will head to St. Louis, Missouri compete against top drivers from across the country.

Hailing from Rigby to Rathdrum, Saturday's winners distinguished themselves from 60 other drivers to earn the right to vie for national bragging rights at the National Truck Driving Championships, an event sponsored by the American Trucking Associations, August 11-15, 2015 in the "Show Me" state.

"In addition to being asked to take a written test on the hundreds of safety regulations they must know and comply with, the drivers must conduct a pre-trip test in front of an Idaho State Police Commercial Vehicle Safety officer, and drive a course of six problems with at least 100 people watching," said Julie Pipal, president and CEO of the Idaho Trucking Association (ITA).

After the written, pre-trip and skills (driving) segments were completed, ITA board member Dan Bernert, BCT, Inc., presented award to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in nine classes of competition. The 1st place winner in each class will represent Idaho at the national competition.

In addressing the group of drivers, family, friends and spectators gathered at the track at the Idaho State Police facility in Meridian, TDC Chairman Cole Prestwich, safety director for Arlo G Lott Trucking in Jerome, said, "you are all winners. I am proud of each and every one of you today for putting yourselves out there to compete. You truly are the best of the best."

James Neavear, Blackfoot, took first in the 4-Axle class for the second year in a row. Daniel Istre, Caldwell, who took first place in the Sleeper Berth class in 2014, took home top honors in the Twin Trailers class this year.

Bernert also presented Co-Grand Champion awards to Kevin Winn, winner of the 3-Axle class, and Dean Goodnight, winner of the flatbed class. Scott Colwell, Reddaway, took home the pre-trip award, scoring a 98 out of a possible 100.

Rookie of the Year awards went to 3-Axle class competitor Skyler Campbell, Fed Ex Freight, and Dean Giesbrecht, Con-way Freight. Rookies, or first-time competitors, dominated the Step Van class, by taking all three top spots over veteran competitors.

3 AXLE

- 1 Kevin "KJ" Winn, Old Dominion Freight Lines, Twin Falls
- 2 Matthew Housley, Fed Ex Freight, Caldwell
- 3 Josh Jetton, Con-way Freight, Wilder

4 AXLE

SLEEPER BERTH

- 1 John Kauten Sr, Gordon Trucking, Emmett
- 2 **James Cadwell***, Gordon Trucking, Rigby
- 3 Joe Valencia, Con-way Freight, Nampa

STRAIGHT TRUCK

1 James Neavear, Fed Ex Freight, Blackfoot
2 Adam Heim, Fed Ex Freight, Rathdrum
3 Joe Hill, Old Dominion Freight Lines, Marsing

5 AXLE

1 Dave Murphy, YRC Freight, Meridian
2 Scott Colwell, Reddaway, Parma
3 Timothy "Tim" Melody, ABF Freight Systems, Inc., Payette

FLAT BED

1 Dean Goodnight, Reddaway, Nampa
2 Timothy "Tim" Brown, Arlo G Lott Trucking, Twin Falls
3 James Poole, Arlo G Lott Trucking, Cambridge

STEP VAN

1 Brandon Becker, Fed Ex Ground, Boise
2 Joshua Arnett, Fed Ex Ground, Meridian
3 John Scafe, Fed Ex Ground, Ashton

1 William "Bill" Nolan, Old Dominion Freight Lines, Kuna
2 Jacob "Jake" Davis, Con-way Freight, Boise
3 Daryl Barnett, Fed Ex Freight, Mountain Home

TANK TRUCK

1 Ronald Coles, ABF Freight Systems, Inc., Melba
2 Ray Sitton, Con-way Freight, Nampa
3 Jeremy Christensen, Reddaway, Caldwell

TWIN TRAILERS

1 Daniel Istre, Reddaway, Caldwell
2 Mark VanBlaircom, Old Dominion Freight Lines, Meridian
3 Kurt Davis, Con-way Freight, Pocatello

**Bolded winners are rookies.*