Professional Truck Driving Championships 2017 Winners

Driver from FedEx Freight crowned grand champion

The 2017 Kansas Professional Truck Driving Championships was held in Topeka on Friday and Saturday, June 16th and 17th at the Kansas Expocentre and Capital Plaza Hotel. The annual event brought in the best professional truck drivers from all over the state to compete in a series of challenges designed to test the drivers’ safety and knowledge. The winners of the Kansas competition will compete in the national competition August 9-12, 2017 in Orlando, Florida.

During the competition, drivers maneuvered through a course of six challenges, proved their industry knowledge by taking a 40-question written examination and conducted a vehicle inspection. Judges for the event were state and federal law enforcement officials and members of the Kansas Corporation Commission. To compete, drivers must have been accident free in the previous 12 months. The eight classes of competition drivers entered included: straight truck, sleeper berth, three-axle trailer, four-axle trailer, five-axle trailer, tank truck, flatbed trailer, and twin trailers.

This is the state’s premier driving event and attracted 67 of the trucking industry’s best drivers in Kansas. These men and women move America with the utmost professionalism and a constant commitment to the safety of the driving public. Crowning of the grand champion driver, class champions and finalists, rookie-of-the-year, equipment inspection champion and the top team of drivers took place at an awards banquet Saturday night, June 17th.

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Written Exam Award Presentation

The written exam is a challenging and important segment of the competition. A professional driver’s skills include making informed decisions that will affect their safe operation on the highways. The award recognizes the contestants understanding of all aspects of the trucking industry. The exam covers general information, safety and security rules, first aid and fire safety.

- **First Place**
  Don Logan - FedEx Freight
- **Second Place**
  Jimmie Wisley – YRC Freight
- **Third Place**
  John Bouddhara – FedEx Freight
Field Test Top Score Award
The field test award recognizes the drivers who scored the highest number of points while maneuvering through a six-problem course.

- **First Place**: Jeff Davis – Walmart Transportation
- **Second Place**: Jeffery Thompson – FedEx Freight
- **Third Place**: David Knight – Walmart Transportation

Vehicle Inspection Award Presentation
The vehicle inspection is a challenging and important segment of the competition. It encourages the drivers to pay close attention to the integrity of the safety equipment on their truck before driving. The driver that found the most defects in the allotted time was awarded the Vehicle Inspection Award.

- **Winner**: Don Logan - FedEx Freight

Class Winners in the 2017 KMCA Professional Truck Driving Championships:

**STRAIGHT TRUCK CLASS:**

- **First Place**: Bryan Studley – Walmart Transportation
- **Second Place**: Ronald Gabel – FedEx Freight
- **Third Place**: Dennis Cole – Holland Inc.

**3-AXLE VAN CLASS:**

- **First Place**: Jeffery Thompson – FedEx Freight
- **Second Place**: Jimmie Wisley – YRC Freight
- **Third Place**: Matt Rohrer – Walmart Transportation
4-AXLE VAN CLASS:
- **First Place:** Kaleb Diehl – YRC Freight
- **Second Place:** Darren Buntain – Old Dominion Freight Lines
- **Third Place:** David Knight – Walmart Transportation

5-AXLE VAN CLASS:
- **First Place:** Gary Harms – Walmart Transportation
- **Second Place:** Jason Damron – Convoy Systems LLC
- **Third Place:** Brian Baldwin – Old Dominion Freightlines

5-AXLE TANK CLASS:
- **First Place:** Jeff Davis – Walmart Transportation
- **Second Place:** David Eckles – Old Dominion Freight Lines
- **Third Place:** Dennis Chambers – Walmart Transportation

5-AXLE FLATBED CLASS:
- **First Place:** Don Logan – FedEx Freight
- **Second Place:** Terry Covey – FedEx Freight
- **Third Place:** Gregory O’Rear – Old Dominion Freight Lines
5-AXLE SLEEPER BERTH CLASS:
- **First Place:** Richard Williams – Walmart Transportation
- **Second Place:** Gary Stackhouse – Convoy Systems LLC
- **Third Place:** Darren Bogart – Walmart Transportation

TWIN TRAILER CLASS:
- **First Place:** John Bouddhara FedEx Freight
- **Second Place:** Dean Harris – FedEx Freight
- **Third Place:** Ernie Arnote – XPO Logistics

**Rookie of the Year Presentation**
*The Ronald E. Williams Rookie of the Year Award is given to the first-year contestant who displays an outstanding attitude, cooperative spirit, community interest, safe driving record, industry awareness and a good driving performance. This year we had 10 rookie drivers participating in the 2017 TDC.*

**Rookie of the Year winner:** Richard Williams – Walmart Transportation
**Grand Champion Award**
The winner of this award has served the trucking industry for 31 years and he has driven 2.7 million safe miles. During his time as a professional truck driver, he has been part of the president’s safety team, received a 24-year safety award, received the Bravo Zulu award and was Kansas Driver of the Month in 2009. He has competed in 11 Kansas TDC’s and placed first 10 times. He has made 8 trips to the national level taking first 4 times. The grand champion driver award is given to the driver who has the highest score average from the three events.

**2017 Grand Champion winner:** Don Logan - FedEx Freight

**Team Trophy Presentation**
The Championships team trophies are awarded to the company whose top three drivers outscore any other firm's top three contenders. This year there was a large fleet and small fleet team trophy.

**Small Fleet winner:**
Convoy Systems LLC

**Large Fleet winner:**
FedEx Freight