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BETWEEN THE LINES

Kelly Anderson Group's Monthly Newsletter

25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Company Highlights
- Missouri Truck Driving Championships 2023
- Team Member Spotlight
- Trivia Question

COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS

Do you need a CDL (Commercial Driver's License) or an endorsement? We offer Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) theory courses! Whether looking to obtain a CDL Class A or B or upgrading from B to A, we have one of the first steps you need to earn your CDL! We also offer endorsement classes such as hazmat and school bus.

If interested in this service or others we offer, visit our website at [kellyandersongroup.com](https://www.kellyandersongroup.com) or reach out to Bill Rohr at billrohr@kellyandersongroup.com!

TRIVIA

How many classes of trucks participate at the Missouri Truck Driving Championship?

MOTDC 2023 RECAP

Truck drivers carefully maneuvered around cones as fans walked - and even crouched - closely to the barrier, concentrating on their team competing in the Missouri Truck Driving Championship (MOTDC) 2023 in Branson, MO.

On June 2 and 3, 2023, professional drivers across Missouri traveled to the Branson Convention Center by invitation to compete in this year's MOTDC. It is the stepping stone to the National Trucking Championship - the prize in every driver's eye. This year's tests included the usual written exam, pre-trip inspection, and skill course. Every main category of truck class was represented, from 4-axle semi-trucks and step vans to twin trailers and flatbeds.

Drivers found this year's skill course more difficult than in the past, making it a nail-biting experience for attendees in the crowds. Remy Braun, with Contract Freights Inc. (CFI) and who won third place in the flatbed class this year, has been competing in the championship for 23 years and described the skill course as such: "I call it your 10 minutes to fame. The written test and the pre-trip are behind closed doors - you and the test, you and the equipment. But when you get out on that course that's you and everyone looking at you." The skill course has been the anticipated event of the MOTDC every year and has remained the favorite amongst the majority of drivers.

Dan High, a driver with Old Dominion Freight Line Inc., drove twin trailers in the competition. Even though the written exam was not typically any driver's preferred portion of the competition, High has had the process down pat and has usually been one of the first to be finished.

This time, High was the first one to walk out of the closed-door test, taking him 11 minutes and 59 seconds. "I just put the information in and let it all fall back out and see how it works out," said High regarding the key to completing the exam so quickly. However, he also stressed the importance of preparation: "You really have to prepare and practice your skills and study the book; do your pre-trip routine so that you can get better every year."

Christopher Morrison from Hogan Transportation suggested a similar mentality, "Stay calm and listen to the rules." Perhaps High's and Morrison's attitude could prove to be crucial to getting through the stressful parts of the competition. Drivers should study and practice to the best of their ability but then simply go into the championship letting whatever happens, happen, and focusing on the moment. Other previous drivers had more advice, as well.



" Don't skip the small steps."

Endrea Davidson
 CFI

MOTDC 2023 RECAP CONT.

"You have to focus on each problem one at a time. You can't get discouraged if you know you missed a problem or know you got a zero," Braun stated about the various tests. "You got to block it out. You have more problems ahead of you." Drivers such as Braun, High, and Morrison sought to encourage their competitive peers despite the winning desire. This sportsmanship spirit was palpable amongst all of the participants.

Endrea Davidson, a CFI rookie at the competition, said that teammates like Braun and other returners were crucial to herself and other newcomers. "Listen to everyone who's been here before," Davidson said. This advice included echoing what her fellow competitors mentioned: "Take it easy. Don't stress yourself out. Just have fun."

Drivers held a wide range of input but it all surrounded one main aspect: having fun. The championship added a lot of pressure to drivers, especially newcomers; however, enjoying the comradery and remaining in the moment aided with that stress. This joyful attitude was most likely reinforced by the passion these drivers have for their careers and their families' support.



"My family gets to come and that makes it even better," Morrison gleefully stated. Onlookers could see wives, husbands, friends, and children following and recording their drivers with phones and proud smiles as they ran the skill course. In the hallway, families pressed against the glass of the window wall overlooking the pre-trip inspection truck bay, cheering as their loved ones below searched relentlessly for damages and mistakes. The fanbase was just as a part of this competition as the drivers were.

This observation was at its pinnacle during the awards banquet, which concluded the event. It embodied sportsmanship and celebration. When a teammate or loved one won an award, families and teams jumped, cheered, and hugged one another. No smile could be held back at this sight. "Coming to the competition is like having a whole new family," Morrison expressed. There was no mistake that truckers looked forward to the 2023 championship not only for the high stakes but for the supportive community, as well.

In a practical sense, the Missouri Truck Driving Championship 2023 was about which drivers were the most skilled in their class. However, at its heart, it was about the community and passion which holds each driver, team, and family together.

"If you're on the fence about it, you know, just do it. It's a lot of fun. It can be stressful but you just kind of have to get into it and after the first year, the nerves go away."

Dan High
 Old Dominion Freight

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Faith Hawkins



Job Position:

Final Mile Recruiter/Processor

Length at the company:

2 Years

Where are you from:

I was born in Ohio, lived in Texas, but have been in Neosho, MO for 23 years.

Favorite part about working here:

"The family environment."



Check out our Facebook and other social media pages for all of MOTDC content and photos!

TRIVIA ANSWER

There are nine total of truck class categories at the MOTDC. These trucks include: 4-axle, 3-axle, 5-axle, sleeper berth, flatbed, tanker, twin-trailer, straight, and step-van.



www.kellyandersongroup.com

(417) 451-0853

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