

Hogan Transport's Chris Morrison is Missouri's TDC Grand Champion

Branson, MO (June 18, 2019) – Over the weekend of May 31st – June 1st, the Missouri Trucking Association held its 52nd Annual Missouri Truck Driving Championship at the Branson Convention Center.

The two-day event, sponsored by the Association's Council of Safety Supervisors, allowed on-lookers the opportunity to witness some of the state's top drivers compete in several categories for the ultimate title of "Grand Champion". That honor went to Hogan Transport's Chris Morrison, who won the Sleeper Berth competition to clinch the Grand Champion win. Mr. Morrison's accomplishment makes it the third year in a row that a Hogan driver has won the title. Another Hogan driver, Bruce Brewen, who was the Grand Champion in 2018 and 2017, won the 4-Axle.

Chris, who has been driving with Hogan for almost four years, said: "I've done everything. Worked for several companies and Hogan's treated me the best." In the past, Chris worked for companies that emphasized the freight over his safety—at Hogan it's the other way around. "Safety comes first. They stress that a lot," Chris commented.

In order to be eligible to compete, drivers must have no reported incidents for the entire year. Safety is one thing both Mr. Morrison and the Hogan team take very seriously. The competition ranks drivers on key measures such as safety and security, first aid and fire safety, pre-trip vehicle inspections, and driving skills. Competitors are given a written test, a hands-on safety inspection exam, and are put through a rigorous driving skills course that tests their ability to judge safe distances, maneuver tight spaces, park, and accurately position their vehicle over scales, before barriers and around curves. Mr. Morrison scored the highest point differential in all three areas for his skills and knowledge.

When asked about how his victory feels, Chris exclaimed, "I feel like a super star. I was nervous because I was hoping for 3rd or 2nd, but then I got first in Sleeper Berth. It's the hardest one in the competition."

At the banquet, where a record-breaking 729 people attended on Saturday evening, Chris described sitting in disbelief as his wife elbowed him when he didn't realize his name was called. Chris won two trophies and the respect of the entire Hogan team. Pictures from the event depicting him with his trophies and family, were displayed on the office's jumbo TV screen and he was featured on Hogan's driver app.

Morrison will be joined by eight other class winners as the Missouri Championship Team travels to Pittsburgh, PA to compete against other state teams in the American Trucking Association's National Truck Driving Championships, which takes place August 14th – August 17th. During the competition, the Missouri Team will compete against 450 other professionals vying for selection as the nation's top professional truck drivers.