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UTAH TEEN WINS NATIONAL BEST BAGGER CONTEST AT N.G.A. CONVENTION

RESTON, Virginia (February 23, 2001) — Micah L. Crapo of Smith's Food and Drug Stores in Draper, Utah won the title of 2001 Best Bagger at the National Grocers Association (N.G.A.) Annual Convention in Dallas.

Crapo, a high school senior from Bluffdale, has only been bagging for one year. When he is not perfecting his bagging techniques, Crapo enjoys history, athletics, wrestling and other sports. As the winner, Crapo received \$2,000, a bag-shaped trophy and a chance to be a guest on the *Late Show with David Letterman*.

When asked by a Dallas reporter about his chance to be a guest on the *Late Show with David Letterman*, Crapo responded, "He'll make fun of me, but it's a free trip to New York."

The contest began Tuesday, January 30 with the preliminary rounds, and concluded with the final rounds the next day. Twenty-three baggers from all over the United States came to compete. Each of the twenty-one men and two women had already won local and state contests to reach the national competition. The group was narrowed down to five contestants at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds. A participant's score is based on the speed the items are bagged, as well as packing procedures such as proper bag building and distribution of weight as well as style, attitude and appearance, during two rounds using both plastic and paper bags.

First runner-up in the contest was Tim Lannoy of Piggly Wiggly #112, Waterloo, Wisconsin. Second runner-up was Keith Voss of Fareway Stores, Inc., Rock Valley, Iowa. Third runner-up was Josh Hopper of Martin's Supermarkets, Logansport, Indiana, and the fourth runner-up was Barrett Marshall of K-VA-T Food Stores, Norton, Virginia. Each winner received a bag-shaped trophy as well as \$1000 for the first runner-up and \$500 for the second, third and fourth runners-up. N.G.A. also gave a certificate, aprons and a \$250 check to each state winner.

The Best Bagger Contest was sponsored by Bunzl Distribution and Vanguard Plastics. The emcee for the final rounds on Wednesday was NBC *Today Show* weatherman, Al Roker.

N.G.A. is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. An independent retailer is a privately owned or controlled food retail company operating in a variety of formats. Some are publicly traded but with controlling shares held by the family. Most independent operators are serviced by wholesale distributors, while others may be partially or fully self-distributing. Independents are the true "entrepreneurs" of the grocery industry and dedicated to their customers, associates, and communities. N.G.A. members include retail and wholesale grocers and their state associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers.