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N.G.A. NATIONAL BEST BAGGER CROWN GOES TO PENNSYLVANIA WOMAN N.G.A.

Honeymoon in Vegas Pays off Big for New Mom Representing Pathmark Stores

ARLINGTON, Virginia (Feb. 18, 2002) –Dawn Marshall, representing Pathmark Supermarkets of Upper Derby, PA, won the title of 2002 Best Bagger at the National Grocers Association (N.G.A.) annual convention in Las Vegas last week.

Marshall, who became a new mom in late January when she gave birth to her son Darien, will receive \$2,000, a bag-shaped trophy, and the chance to be a guest on a national talk show. She won the title by placing 35 items in two paper bags in 29.88 seconds, followed by placing another 35 items in plastic bags in 28.12 seconds.

The journey to the championship was a unique one for Marshall. Just two days after winning the Pennsylvania Best Bagger title last May, Marshall married her husband Derrick. Along with \$750 and the state trophy, Marshall earned the right to the national championship and her first plane flight to Las Vegas. Two-week-old Darien also joined his parents on the flight.

“It is a beautiful experience,” said Marshall, who is still on maternity leave from her job. “And Darien did great. Everybody was on stage celebrating, and I’m the one standing there crying.”

The contest between the 25 finalists began on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas. The five finalists advanced to the championship round the next day. Dan Miller, representing Martin’s Supermarkets in Michigan, finished second, followed by Christopher DeLorimier, representing Hows Markets in California. Josh Hopper of Martins Supermarkets in Indiana finished fourth and Jeff Kessler of Hy-Vee Supermarkets in Iowa finished fifth. Each of the finalists received a bag-shaped trophy. The second place finisher received \$1,000, while the other finalists each received \$500. All participants received certificates and aprons.

“We were very pleased with the level of competition at the 16th Annual Best Bagger event,” said Tom Zaucha, N.G.A. President and CEO. “It was down to the wire, but the adrenalin from having a newborn must have pushed Dawn ahead of the competition.”

The Best Bagger contest was sponsored by Hershey Foods, The Perrier Group of America, Campbell’s Soup Company, and Nestlé.

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.

