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ROCHESTER BASSMASTERS BASS NEWS

AUGUST 2017

JAMES TAKES SODUS BAY DAY 1



**MATT JAMES INKS
HIS FIRST WIN AT
SODUS BAY WITH
18.89 LBS. AND
A 5.81 LB. LUNKER**

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BUICK

GMC

SODUS BAY

SODUS BAY MARINA, SODUS POINT, NY

ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES - AUGUST 12, 2017



JIM BIANCHI
2nd Place - 17.46 lbs.

Matt James bested the field of Rochester Bassmaster competitors, at the August 12, 2017 Vision Buick GMC AOY Series Sodus Bay tournament, when he brought in a limit of five largemouth bass weighing 18.89 pounds. Matt anchored his limit with the tournament's biggest bass, a 5.81 pound beauty.

Matt Said, "Saturday I started an area I am very familiar with near the launch. During practice, it was producing 3-4 lb. fish so I left it alone for tournament day. As usual, on tournament morning, the bites were not coming so after an hour of nothing I decided to idle to another area that has produced some good fish for me in the recent past. I was throwing top water lures initially which produced 3 nice fish very quickly. This area was very shallow with scattered weeds. Mixed in with the top water baits, I also threw my favorite spinner bait and got another quality bite. I was feeling good at this point and it was only 8am. I had 4 solid 3 lb. fish in the boat and had all day to upgrade. 2-3 casts later the big fish of the day hit my lure. It felt initially like a giant pike, but it wasn't. After I saw the fish I got very nervous because it was big and my track record of actually landing big fish that I hook has not been stellar lately. After a flurry of 2-3 nerve racking jumps the fish decided to run under the boat and the profanity began for a

moment. Luckily the fish just seemed to give up and I had her in the box as fast as I could. I was able to upgrade one of my fish late in the afternoon to finish out the day. Fishing clean and not losing a single fish really helped me get it done."

Jim Bianchi took 2nd Place took with 14.46 lbs.

Jim said, "I was glad my schedule finally allowed me to jump back into a RB tourney. Sodus is always one of my favorites and, more times than not, I target smallmouth. This year the lake smallies were not near as ample as in years past but I still felt I could put together a solid limit. The biggest obstacle was going to be the fact my 21.7 ft Ranger was down and it's replacement was a 17 foot Fish-N-Ski Nitro that offered no electronics and a 12volt non cable steered 55lb trolling motor! So I used my Phone Navionics App to secure weighpoints as I got bites in practice and also rigged up my spare 7" Raymarine for some sonar readings. To say my set up was a scene is an understatement, and the guys at the motel got a good chuckle the night prior! I drew John Norton and I owe him a fish because he literally netted one of my fish as it spit the hook - Thanks again John! I drop shot the entire tournament and had a fair number of mushy bites that I was able to put in the boat. As I said at the meeting, I applaud the tournament committee for trying new things such as putting day two lake off limits. The thought by some was to level the playing field for those who don't have big boats and also that largemouth have a hard time competing with lake smallmouth. As good as the theory was, for the second time in recent years largemouth beat smallmouth (by both Tom Haley and Dave Livingston prior) and this year Matt James stomped us all with his impressive bag of largemouth. Hopefully we can allow everyone to fish the conditions and fish where their practice leads them in the future. Having normal open waters makes the decision making process in practice a blast because there are so many venue's to consider. After all, I think my little Nitro proved any boat can venture out if you plan and make good decisions. Thank you to everyone that contributes and runs

such good events!"

Bill Wittman once again displayed his ability to catch Lake Ontario smallmouth bass when he captured five totaling 16.99 pounds. He finished tied for third place

Jon Skirment brought five smallmouth bass to the scales weighing 16.99 pounds to earn a tie for third place in the Rochester Bassmasters at the August 12, 2017 Sodus Bay tournament.

Jon said, "I made a long run, over 20 miles into the lake. Conditions were tough with waves building up to 3 footers at my spot. I started in the 30ft zone focusing on isolated boulders on the edge of transitioning bottom contour. I couldn't get the fish to bite early, so I slowly moved shallower finding some keepers to fill a limit in as shallow as 8ft of water around big broken slat rock. Before moving to another area all together at 11am, I rechecked the area I started on. The bite had turned on but so did the wind. It was nearly impossible to stay on a single spot, so I resorted to drifting and dragging, which I think worked in my favor because the fish seemed to want it moving. I made several drifts over the same area, culling up each time. I pretty much lived with a drop shot using a Berkley Gulp Leech. I had to leave the area



BILL WITTMAN
3rd Place - 16.99 lbs. - T



JOHN SKIRMMENT
3rd Place - 16.99 lbs. - T

at 12:30 to give myself plenty of time knowing the run back was long, conditions were rough, and a storm was possible. Kudos to my Amateur non-boater **Dalton Talbot** for hanging tough and not complaining 1 peep all day. He kept a positive attitude regardless of breaking off a couple nice fish. We made it back to within 6 miles when we ran into the monsoon. Waves kicked up to 4-5 footers with winds gusting probably 30 MPH and torrential down pour. It lasted about 30 minutes, but it seemed like we would never get back. It cleared up just as I got within sight of Sodus and I had another 45 minutes to fish. So I ran the same productive pattern from earlier. I caught my second largest fish of the day to cull up to 17.24 lbs for the day with just enough time for the long idle back to check in. Unfortunately, I had 1 fish die on me due to the long rough ride and the 0.25 lb penalty left me with 16.99 LB's to tie for 3rd."

Tom Haley landed in 5th Place with 16.12 lbs. Tom said, "Typically Sodus is one of my best lakes and I am able to find fish fairly quickly. This year was quite different and I found the bite to be really slow. By the end of my practice day on Friday I was able to find fish in four areas in the bay, with one being a small area holding a tight concentration of fish. On day 1, I didn't have a partner so I elected to head towards the small area. After pushing the speed limit

to 6.2mph I reached my spot. It took me about 20 minutes to relocate the fish but within an hour I boated a 15 pound limit of fish on a brush hog and a shakey head. After the bite slowed, I headed off to my second area but only managed two small fish. After getting upset over losing a good fish I began to think how best to approach the rest of the day. I realized that I hit my prime area pretty hard and due to the size of the area I didn't expect it to reload by Sunday. As a result, I decided to use the remainder of the day practicing for Sunday. I ended up culling up a few more times while covering water to reach my 16.12 lb limit."

Nate Kalpin took 6th place with 15.74 lbs.

Nate said, "I made a long run into the lake, the longest I have made in a tournament so far. I knew I had the potential to catch a big bag, and decided I had a better chance at doing so than fishing the bay for large mouth. The ride out was fairly smooth and fast, I was eager to put my new-to-me Z520, to the test. We got to our first spot, and as normal, my non boater caught the first few fish! We started out drop shooting on specific waypoints around submerged structure in 30-40 fow. Only catching smaller smallmouth and 1 dink of a rock bass. I decided I would move off my area and began graphing around, I had a good tip from **Jon Skirment** from previously fishing the area, I used that info to find the fish by setting up drifts over isolated areas. It was too difficult to keep boat on waypoints since the wind kicked up and began shifting from blowing north, to blowing east. We caught all our fish drifting and dragging a drop shot with varying leader lengths throwing mainly anything perch colored, I used three spinning rods mainly, two spooled with 10lb fluoro and one with 8lb fluoro. We were unable to spend as much time in the lake as we hoped due to the increase in wave height and the distance we needed to travel to get back. The bite was really slow, up until about 11 am, where in about a 20min time the smallies started a feeding frenzy. I made 4 drifts over an area and culled up huge, 3 times. It got to be about noon when I decided we should



TOM HALEY
5th Place - 16.12 lbs.

head back towards Sodus. The waves at this point were 2-3 feet, mixed with fairly close rollers. I knew we would be taking it nice and slow. We began to head back, and saw a storm out in the middle of the lake. We saw a ton of lightning strikes so I figured I would put the boat to the test and hammer down to get back to Sodus before running into any storms. I apologize to **Rich Calabrese** for the not-so-fun ride back, although I had a blast jumping waves, up until the storm caught up to us. It was here where the weather turned for the worse, sideways



NATE KALPIN
6TH Place - 15.74 lbs.



ROD BROWN
7th Place - 13.94 lbs.

rain, hail, and 40mph winds kicked up the waves even more, and made it almost impossible to see. We were 8 miles out from Sodus when this hit. Needless to say we made it through an hour and 40min ride back, the boat handled the big waves as good as expected, and the Merc kept me muscling through until the end. I may have jinxed us when I told Rich I was "glad it was a bit rough" to get the experience driving the new boat through it because 10min later Mother Nature gave us a punch in the gut. I definitely could have done without the added storm on the way back and wish I could have spent more time fishing my areas, but I gambled on getting a big bag making the run. I still managed to finish 6th, and cannot complain. We caught about 13 smallies all day, just couldn't find the fatties (you won't hear me say that too often). Looking forward to the remaining tournaments and the race for AOY!"

Rod Brown finished in 7th place with 13.94 lbs.

Rod said, "My smallmouth came on dropshot off of Oswego, but I couldn't get them to fire up so returned to Bay. I upgraded for final weight in about 2 hrs flipping a Beaver in 12-13ft.



Place	Angler	Fish Caught	Fish Weighed	Weight	Lunker	Penalties	Total Weight
1	Matt James	5	5	18.89	5.81	0	18.89
2	Jim Bianchi	5	4	17.71	4.15	0.25	17.46
3	Bill Wittman	5	5	16.99		0	16.99
4	Jon Skirment	5	4	17.24	3.83	0.25	16.99
5	Tom Haley	5	5	16.12	4.21	0	16.12
6	Nate Kalpin	5	5	15.74	3.45	0	15.74
7	Rod Brown	5	5	13.94	4.05	0	13.94
8	Tyler Austin	5	5	13.58		0	13.58
9	Dave Livingston	5	4	13.00		0.25	12.75
10	Fred Blom	5	4	12.44	3.13	0.25	12.19
11	Mark Harold	5	5	11.88		0	11.88
12	Kevin Kinnear	5	5	10.99	3.96	0	10.99
13	Will Rogers	5	5	10.52		0	10.52
14	Terry Gartz	5	3	11.00		0.5	10.50
15	Fred Ratcliffe	5	5	10.48		0	10.48
16	Steve Levine	5	4	10.42		0.25	10.17
17	Todd Keller	5	5	9.99		0	9.99
18	Rich Calabrese	4	3	10.21	3.78	0.25	9.96
19	Dom Cerasuolo	5	5	9.82		0	9.82
20	Paul Caldwell	5	5	9.47		0	9.47
21	Bob Manley	5	5	9.43		0	9.43
22	Jacob Zarmeski	5	4	9.04		0	9.04
23	Rich Zajac	5	5	9.01		0	9.01
24	Kurt Keller	5	5	8.90		0	8.90
25	Tige Noni	4	4	8.66		0	8.66
26	Chris Burns	5	5	7.92		0	7.92
27	Devon Talbot	5	5	7.68		0	7.68
28	Matt Ferrante	5	5	7.66		0	7.66
29	Mike Wall	3	3	6.67		0	6.67
30	Dylan Mackaravi	2	2	5.21		0	5.21
31	Merritt Diamond	4	4	5.04		0	5.04
32	Dalton Talbot	2	2	4.62		0	4.62
33	Drew Demtoft	3	3	4.45		0	4.45
34	Justin Keller	3	3	4.08		0	4.08
35	Dan Palazzo	2	2	3.14		0	3.14
36	Sean Brown	0	0	0		0	0.00
38	Bob McEneaney	0	0	0		0	0.00
39	John Norton	0	0	0		0	0.00
	Non-Boater						
	Boater						
	Amateurs						

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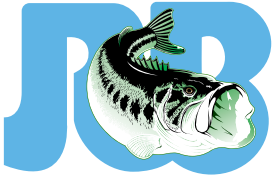


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