



ROCHESTER BASSMASTERS BASS NEWS

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SEPTEMBER 2017

KELLER TAKES

CAYUGA LAKE



**KURT KELLER NOTCHES
HIS FIRST WIN AT
CAYUGA LAKE
WITH 19.25 LBS.**

PHOTOS BY: MARK HAROLD, EDITED BY: LAUREN BRAUN ROGERS

TRADEWINS
FINANCIAL

CAYUGA LAKE

FRONTENAC PARK, UNION SPRINGS, NY

ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES - AUGUST 27, 2017



TOM HALEY
2nd Place - 16.78 lbs.

Kurt Keller dominated the TRADWINS Cayuga Lake Rochester Bassmasters AOY tournament, August 27, 2017. Kurt's 19.25 pound five bass limit was almost two and half pounds more than his nearest competitor.

Kurt said, "Historically I have had a good (fish catches) practice at Cayuga and a terrible tournament. This year my practice was pathetic with regards to fish catches but I have learned to make practice productive even if you're not finding active fish. I ruled out many areas due to a lack of weeds and decided to return to unproductive but good-looking areas during the tournament.

Orlando Roman and I arrived at our first spot with me telling Orlando that I hadn't got a bite on top water in practice and I love to throw it but I wasn't going to today. Before I picked up my rod Orlando hooked a small keeper on his first cast with a topwater bait. Orlando managed a small limit and I had 4 small bass by 8:00 AM on a dropshot and crankbait. I had confidence that we were going to at least have limits for the day. We decided to move to my second spot, which has had larger fish on it for me in the past. We both caught a quality fish shortly after arriving on a drop shot at the weed edge. We decided we were going to camp in this area the rest of the day. The bite was slow but the fish were all much larger. I hooked a fish out a lit-

tle deeper and thought it was a 5 pound plus largemouth, but I was surprised when it was a 3 pound smallmouth which gave me a great fight, but was no match for Orlando's netting prowess! My last upgrade came from under one of the few docks we fished and it was 4 plus pounds.

I honestly didn't pay that close attention to how much weight I had and was I hoping I had 15-16 pounds. I thought that one of my fish was a lot bigger than my two other big fish and I was surprised when I bagged them and couldn't easily tell them apart. I was really happy when Orlando told me this was the first tournament that he has been able to cull. We had a great time and were fortunate enough to find a school of above average fish.

Again I would like to thank the many RBM members who have helped me improve in several areas of my fishing development! The friendships and mentorship is the best part of our club. Most of my best friends have come from meeting people through the RBM. I was touched (literally by some!) by the genuine outpouring of happiness from fellow competitors at seeing me win my first tournament. Thank you to my Sponsor **Michelle Keller!**"

Tom Haley grabbed the Angler of the Year lead when he brought a limit of five largemouth bass weighing 16.78 pounds to the scales at the TRADWINS Cayuga Lake Rochester Bassmasters AOY tournament. Tom's catch earned him second place on the day

Tom said, "I haven't fished Cayuga Lake much since the late 80's and early 90's, but I was fortunate enough to fish the 6 man team event there last year so I am getting more comfortable with it. The Thursday before the tournament I decided I needed a day away from work so I headed to Cayuga for the first time this year. The fishing was slow, but I figured out a pattern for calm conditions and one if the wind picked up. On the way home from practice I learned **Steve Levine's** boat went down and my name was drawn to be the lucky boater to Steve and his 6 other personalities. Not sure if the entire club is aware, but Steve is cursed. Steve tried to tell me that

the curse didn't travel with him when he was with others but soon after I realized he was with **Dave Livingston**. When Dave got in one of his recent accidents. I figured if we both made it through the day, and my boat and truck were still in one piece, it would be a good day.

Steve and I started the morning down the lake and it became clear the fish weren't all that active. I boated three small keepers, but chose to toss back a 14-inch fish for it swallowed my jig as I was helping Steve, probably with one of his 30 pickerel on the day. I ran across the lake and managed one solid 3-pound fish, but not much more. I decided to run back up near the launch and stopped at one of Steve's spots on the way. Apparently not catching any fish caused Steve to lose his mind because he turned into an entertaining ESPN commentator for the next hour. It was too much for me to handle so I told Steve we would head north where I located a school of fish so he could catch something. As soon as we got to the waypoint it was clear the fish were there. For the rest of the day we had steady action on drop shots and a shaky head. We caught 25-30 bass, and even more pickerel, off the area and

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TIGE NONI
3rd Place - 15.78 lbs.



DEVON TALBOT
4TH Place - 15.46 lbs.

steadily culled up to our limits. Had great time fishing with Steve and his multiple personalities. Most fish caught in 10-11 feet of water.”

Tige Noni's 15.78 pound five bass limit gave him a third place finish in the TRADWINS Cayuga Lake Rochester Bassmasters AOY tournament event.

Tige said, “I caught all my fish on a secret lure made by **Mark Harold***.”



DAVE LIVINGSTON
6th Place - 14.67 lbs.

My practice days did not give me any clues to where big fish were, but I found three spots that I thought I could fill a limit. My non-boater **Devon Talbot** and I went to my first area and it was not very productive. Devon caught one largemouth flipping and I was unsuccessful catching anything. We each missed one on a top water bite. After an hour we made a 20-minute run south and fished my second area. Devon boated two fish as did I. Nothing big, and it was a grind. So, I told Devon we were going to my third spot where we would fill out limits and then go flip docks for the rest of the day. When we got there, I marked a large school of fish right where they were “supposed” to be. I dropped a buoy on the edge of a drop off that went from about 22 to 28 feet of water. If my memory serves me right, Devon caught the first fish off the spot and it was a 3.5 lb smallmouth. Then I boated a largemouth that was hefty. I thought to myself “these fish have gotten bigger!” We each filled a limit and I think twice I said “if we don’t catch another fish in 15 minutes we’re leaving.” Both times one of us caught a bass in the 3.75 - 4 lb. class. After the second time this happened I told Devon “we’re staying here the rest of the day.”

We fished an area about the size of a football field from 10:00 AM - 2:45 PM. After fishing the area for that long, I believe what was there was a funnel that went from deep water to a flat that was 18-19’ deep. When we got away from the “funnel” we didn’t catch them. Move into the funnel and we would pick one up or get baitfish bites. The bass were right on the initial drop from 22’ - 30’ and we used Mark’s secret bait to catch them. *Just kidding, we simply used drop shot baits. It didn’t seem to matter what color, because we both ran out of Roboworms in “Aaron’s Magic” color and then ran out of purple dreamshots and went to other colors, but they would not eat anything other than a dropshot. I threw a topwater walking bait, popper, two different jigs, small swimbait, and big swimbait to no avail. In hindsight I wished I had thrown a Carolina rig. Also, I can’t take credit for finding this spot. I saw an elite pro fish it years ago and have fished it



MARK HAROLD
5th Place - 14.90 lbs.

several times, but have only ever caught smallish fish here. Remember, my initial thought was to just go there to fill a limit, but the fish (magically) were all grown up! It was a fun day and luckily my boat has a jump switch in it! When we went to get back at 2:45 PM and the batteries to my big motor were dead from running livewell pumps all day! I don’t have any sponsors to thank, so if you are willing to give me money to fish, I would thank you when I win at Oneida Lake.

Congratulations to Kurt Keller for putting the hammer on them! Also thank you to everyone for the help with setting up and tearing down the weigh in equipment. Especially Will Rogers (weigh master), Mark Harold (pictures), Fred Ratcliffe, Steve Levine, Kyle Sweers, Merritt Diamond, Chris Burns (livewell/kill switch checks), and anyone else who I forgot.”

Amateur Non-Boater **Devon Talbot** took 4th Place with 15.46 lbs.

Mark Harold's 14.90 lbs. was good enough for 5th Place. Mark also caught the biggest bass at the AOY event. This giant bass tipped the scales at 5.79 pounds.

Mark said, “I had a great practice and was confident that I, and everyone else, would catch a lot of fish, but things changed. I estimated that it would take at least 19 pounds to win (I was right there, congratulations to **Kurt Keller**)

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TYLER AUSTIN
7th Place - 14.19 lbs.

Place	Angler	Fish Caught	Fish Weighed	Weight	Lunker	Penalties	Total Weight
1	Kurt Keller	5	5	19.25	4.63		19.25
2	Tom Haley	5	5	16.78			16.78
3	Tige Noni	5	5	15.78			15.78
4	Devon Talbot	5	5	15.46			15.46
5	Mark Harold	5	5	14.90	5.79		14.90
6	Dave Livingston	5	5	14.67	5.33		14.67
7	Tyler Austin	4	4	14.19	4.24		14.19
8	Steve Levine	5	5	13.26			13.26
9	Rich Bush	5	5	13.08			13.08
10	Todd Keller	5	5	12.86			12.86
11	Jon Skirment	3	3	12.12	5.16		12.12
12	Orlando Roman	5	4	11.40		0.25	11.15
13	Fred Ratcliffe	5	5	11.11			11.11
14	Rod Brown	5	5	11.09			11.09
15	Bill Wittman	5	5	10.64			10.64
16	Matt James	5	5	10.53			10.53
17	Sean Brown	5	5	10.40			10.40
18	James Dorak	3	3	9.21	4.79		9.21
19	Paul Caldwell	4	4	8.89			8.89
20	Matt Ferranti	3	3	8.13			8.13
21	Will Rogers	5	5	7.51			7.51
22	Dom Cerasoulo	5	5	7.08			7.08
23	Nate Kalpin	4	4	6.93			6.93
24	Drew Damtoft	3	3	6.76			6.76
25	Jake Zarneski	3	3	6.52			6.52
26	Ray Sacheli	4	4	6.42			6.42
27	Ray Law	2	2	5.04			5.04
28	Rich Zajac	2	2	4.80			4.80
29	Bob Manley	2	2	4.43			4.43
30	Dalton Talbot	2	2	4.38			4.38
31	Mike Wall	3	3	4.37			4.37
32	Bill Depriest	1	1	4.25			4.25
33	Terry Gartz	2	2	3.72			3.72
34	Kevin Kinnear	3	3	3.67			3.67
35	Merritt Diamond	1	1	3.24			3.24
36	Fred Blom	2	2	2.82			2.82
37	Chris Burns	1	1	1.82			1.82
38	Don Goerlich	1	1	1.70			1.70
39	Kyle Sweers	1	1	1.27			1.27
40	Tyler Muhs	1	1	1.12			1.12
41	Dylan Mack	1	1	1.09			1.09
42	Dennis	0	0	0			0
43	John Norton	0	0	0			0
44	Bob McEneaney	0	0	0			0
45	Dalton	0	0	0			0
46	Gary Haun	0	0	0			0
	NON-BOATER						
	BOATER						
	AMATUER						

and that more than half the field would have at least 12.5 pounds (very wrong here). The bite got really difficult and the fact that I literally saw hundreds of bass swimming around that were unwilling to bite was frustrating.

After a fruitless attempt to catch some on topwater lures, I moved on to throwing the deep diving Poes crankbait that was working extremely well in practice. After a long period of nothing, I caught four in about 30 minutes. That was it for the crankbait bite. The highlight of the day followed when the first dock I fished gave up a 5.79 giant that earned me lunker honors. It fell victim to a wacky rigged Senko type lure. I saw quite a few other big bass on and around docks, but none would bite. I finished off the day in a huge school of bass that lazily swam around in crystal clear water, but showed no real interest in biting. I was able to convince a few to bite and culled twice to reach my 14.90 pound final weight.”

Dave Livingston took 6th Place with a 5 fish limit of 14.67 lbs.

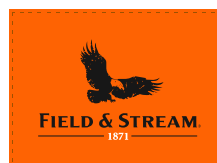
Dave said, “Practice had been very good, best 5 the previous Sunday was over 25 pounds, so the potential at Cayuga was for big weights. Weather, however, changes everything. A combination of high pressure, high sun and very little wind tend to put fish in a non-feeding mood, which was the case tournament day. Still, my first spot produced a limit

by 6:30 AM, just not much weight. This spot was a rocky bottom with scattered weeds, north of the launch (a long ways north).

I started moving around about 8:30 AM and eventually covered 40 to 50 other GPS positions in approximately 10 different areas (yes, we covered a lot of water). I caught fish in many of the areas, but upgrading was slow. Eventually went back to our starting spot and

managed to catch a 5.33 pound largemouth there that definitely helped. Also tried a couple of other areas that had not produced in the morning, but were now holding active fish. Even found a sunken rowboat at one of the spots and could see several good largemouth swimming around the wreck (but only one fish bit). All fish were caught on a craw tube (with modifications). 30 pound Invisibraid with 15 pound CFX leader, G-Loomis rods, Shimano reels. Three things that

Stats continued on page 6





really helped: tuna fish sandwich, trail mix and a great partner (Bob McEneaney).”

Tyler Austin rounded out the Top Seven. Tyler brought 4 fish to the scales that weighed 14.19 lbs.

Tyler said, “Going in to the tournament I only had two days to practice the weekend before. The first day of practice went well. I found two main spots that produced fish. One spot was a community hole and lots of guys were fishing it both days.

Going into tournament day I stopped at that spot, first thing that morning. This is where my partner Kyle Sweers caught the first fish of the day. The spot was crowded with three other guys on it that morning. So after an hour of fishing there, with only the one fish caught, I decided to make a couple mile run to my second spot. There is where I caught (2) - 4 pounders right off the bat. Then an hour or so later I caught my third fish that was around 3.5 pounds. I caught them on a drop shot Senko, green pumpkin red flake. After that I was left struggling to catch my fourth fish of the day.

I ran to several spots looking for fish. but I couldn't find another fish anywhere. I decided to run back to the spot where I caught the first three. I ended up flipping a Senko up shallow, along weed beds, to catch my fourth fish. The rest of the day I spent running around looking for one more! In the end I couldn't find that last fish!

I was pleased with my bag weighing in at 14.19 lbs.





2017 STANDINGS

ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES

Place	Angler	1000 Islands Day 1	1000 Islands Day 2	Conesus Lake	Sodus Bay Day 1	Sodus Bay Day 2	Cayuga Lake	TOTAL	AOY Weight
1	Tom Haley	13.37	12.91	19.22	16.12	14.12	16.78	92.52	79.61
2	Mark Harold	18.72	20.15	8.14	11.88	13.55	14.90	87.34	79.20
3	Dave Livingston	8.69	14.17	15.85	12.75	15.31	14.67	81.44	72.75
4	Kurt Keller	10.32	13.99	17.39	8.90	3.64	19.25	73.49	69.85
5	Nate Kalpin	19.17	7.39	14.93	15.74	8.60	6.93	72.76	65.83
6	Tyler Austin	11.13	11.07	10.73	13.58	14.99	14.19	75.69	64.96
7	Jon Skirment	13.07	10.43	0.00	16.99	12.15	12.12	64.76	64.76
8	Matt James	9.05	5.73	11.87	18.89	12.74	10.53	68.81	63.08
9	Bill Wittman	7.67	12.84	10.77	16.99	9.68	10.64	68.59	60.92
10	Steve Levine	17.45	10.57	9.06	10.17	7.46	13.26	67.97	60.51
11	Fred Blom	16.13	9.75	7.05	12.19	10.27	2.82	58.21	55.39
12	Paul Caldwell	12.16	5.18	9.13	9.47	14.24	8.89	59.07	53.89
13	Jacob Zarmeski	5.77	14.27	13.72	9.04	9.62	6.52	58.94	53.17
14	Tige Noni	14.03	5.62	0.00	8.66	7.12	15.78	51.21	51.21
15	Bob Manley	11.52	12.76	0.00	9.43	11.09	4.43	49.23	49.23
16	Rod Brown	0.00	0.00	8.78	13.94	14.80	11.09	48.61	48.61
17	Dom Cerasuolo	4.62	10.89	2.87	9.82	13.59	7.08	48.87	46.00
18	Matt Ferrante	9.69	11.66	2.89	7.66	8.42	8.13	48.45	45.56
19	Sean Brown	5.78	8.88	4.48	0.00	11.77	10.40	41.31	41.31
20	Fred Ratcliffe	8.91	1.77	2.85	10.48	7.86	11.11	42.98	41.21
21	Kevin Kinnear	11.84	0.00	7.88	10.99	6.32	3.67	40.70	40.70
22	Will Rogers	8.69	0.00	5.19	10.52	8.60	7.51	40.51	40.51
23	Chris Burns	10.71	6.72	4.41	7.92	10.10	1.82	41.68	39.86
24	Todd Keller	4.45	12.04	0.00	9.99	0.00	12.86	39.34	39.34
25	Terry Gartz	11.67	9.01	3.04	10.50	4.34	3.72	42.28	39.24
26	Devon Talbot	0.00	0.00	10.84	4.62	5.68	15.46	36.60	36.60
27	Drew Demtoft	8.29	3.90	1.48	4.45	13.02	6.76	37.90	36.42
28	Rich Bush	0.00	0.00	11.32	0.00	11.81	13.08	36.21	36.21
29	Dylan Mackaravitz	9.81	1.19	4.84	5.21	10.45	1.09	32.59	31.50
30	Rich Zajac	0.00	0.00	3.81	9.01	11.69	4.80	29.31	29.31
31	Dalton Talbot	0.00	0.00	8.10	4.62	10.54	4.38	27.64	27.64
32	Aidan Blake	6.53	10.22	5.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.09	22.09
33	Kyle Sweers	12.59	7.89	0.00	0.00	1.21	1.27	21.69	21.69
34	Rich Callabrese	0.00	10.84	0.00	9.96	0.00	0.00	20.80	20.80
35	Merritt Diamond	8.35	0.00	3.91	5.04	0.00	3.24	20.54	20.54
36	Jim Bianchi	0	0	0	17.46	0	0.00	17.46	17.46
37	Dennis O'Brien	0.00	0.00	8.05	0.00	6.66	0.00	14.71	14.71
38	Lock Holmes	6.14	7.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.90	13.90
39	Orlando Roman	0.00	0.00	2.72	0.00	0.00	11.15	13.87	13.87
40	Mike Wall	0	0	0	6.67	0	4.37	11.04	11.04
41	Bob McEaney	0.00	0.00	10.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.68	10.68
42	James Dorak	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.21	9.21	9.21
43	Ray Law	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.85	5.04	8.89	8.89
44	Don Georlich	0.00	0.00	6.43	0.00	0.00	1.70	8.13	8.13
45	Dan Palazzo	0	0	0	3.14	3.61	0.00	6.75	6.75
46	Ray Sacheli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.42	6.42	6.42
47	Dalton Forte	5.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.79	5.79
48	John Norton	0.00	0.00	5.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.32	5.32
49	Justin Keller	0	0	0	4.08	0	0.00	4.08	4.08
49	Gary Haun	0.00	0.00	2.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.42	2.42
50	Tyler Muhs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.12	1.12	1.12
51	Harvey Rhody	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Non-Boater								
	Boaters								
	Amateurs								





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