



ROCHESTER BASSMASTERS BASS NEWS

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OCTOBER 2017

BROWN CAPTURES HIS FOURTH CLASSIC



**ROD BROWN'S 13.52 LBS.
GAVE HIM THE WIN AT THE
2017 MEMORIAL CLASSIC
ON KEUKA LAKE**

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



**2017
MEMORIAL CLASSIC
KEUKA LAKE, KEUKA LAKE STATE PARK
BRANCHPORT, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 7, 2017**



2017 MEMORIAL CLASSIC

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ROCHESTER BASSMASTERS 2017 MEMORIAL CLASSIC TOP FIVE

Seated: Rod Brown - 1st, 13.52 lbs., Standing Left to Right: Rich Bush - 5th, 11.60 lbs. Kurt Keller - 4th, 12.57 lbs. Mark Harold - 3rd, 12.96 lbs., Jon Skirment - 2nd, 13.08 lbs.

Rodney Brown became the first four-time winner of the Rochester Bassmasters Classic when he brought four smallmouth and one largemouth bass weighing 13.52 pounds to the scales at the October 7, 2017 Memorial Classic, held on Keuka Lake. Rod's previous wins were in 2003, 2006 and 2013.

Rod said, "Keuka, not being my favorite lake, started out slow. I traveled to the upper Penn Yan arm and started shallow fishing a drop shot and Ned rig. The real shallow rock had a bit of slime and no fish. I moved out and found a couple of largemouth out in 6 ft. of water, but they were few. I continued to move deeper until I found some smallies in 17.5 ft. This bite was pretty good but short lived on a drop shot. I was wasting way too much time re-tying due to bite offs from Pickerel. My area was fairly small over an area of maybe one hundred yards. When the bite died, I should have tried other techniques (swim bait, spy bait, Ned, jerk bait, etc.), but I left to let the area rest. I moved to the north end hoping for a good largemouth but that didn't happen. Next, I fished some deeper water, out to 25 ft. on a point, nothing! From there, I moved back to my good area and caught another smallie, but it didn't help and

couldn't get any others going. Now with time running short, I bounced to windy points. On these I could get a few bites and found no help. Time ran out so back to the launch for weigh-in."

Jon Skirment made a big splash in his first Rochester Bassmasters Classic when he finished second. Jon's 13.08 pounds of bass was just 0.44 pounds behind the winner.

John said, "Unfortunately, I had not fished Keuka in over 6 years before the tournament, and I had only been on it 2 times before. I could probably count on 1 hand the number of fish I have caught there, so I knew going in that I had to pick a couple areas I thought would hold fish and focus my efforts to pick them apart. I figured the fish might be deeper than usual since it is a super clear deep lake. I focused on outside weed edges in 12 to 18 feet of water. All my Largemouth that I weighed came from 2 general areas at the north end of the Penn Yan arm. I tried hitting some docks later in the morning, but didn't see any activity around them so I ruled them out for the rest of the day. All my fish came on a 1oz. jig in green pumpkin. I made long casts and had to watch my

line. They would either hit it as soon as it hit the bottom, or after I bounced it a couple times. I consistently caught fish about every half hour once I located my key areas, and culled a few times in the afternoon. The bite did seem to turn off later in the afternoon after the wind and waves picked up and pounded the area."

The 2017 Angler of the Year, Mark Harold, finished in 3rd place with 12.96 lbs.

Mark said, "When I won the 2015 Classic held on Keuka and Honeoye Lakes, I fished exclusively in the Penn Yan section of the lake. Also, in our last club tournament on Keuka Lake I caught my fish in the Penn Yan arm. In this tournament I felt my best chance to win was again in Penn Yan, but I never got more than a couple miles from Branchport. I decided to check out a couple nearby areas before making the run to Penn Yan where I anticipated there would be a crowd. I caught a very small keeper on a dock right away using a wacky rigged trick stick. My next stop yielded nothing so I started heading to Penn Yan. Just as I got the boat on plane I had a feeling I should check out one more area that was on the way. When I stopped I quickly caught a small keeper smallmouth on a one ounce chartreuse

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JON SKIRMENT
2ND Place - 13.08 lbs.



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MARK HAROLD
3rd Place - 15.46 lbs.



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Place	Angler	Fish Caught	Fish Weighed	Weight	Lunker	Penalties
1	Rod Brown	5	5	13.52		
2	Jon Skirment	5	5	13.08		
3	Mark Harold	5	5	12.96		
4	Kurt Keller	5	5	12.57	4.33	
5	Rich Bush	5	5	11.60		
6	Will Rogers	5	5	11.40		
7	Tom Haley	5	5	11.21		
8	Dom Cerasuolo	5	5	9.58	3.64	
9	Fred Blom	5	5	9.32		
10	Bill Wittman	5	5	9.13		
11	Dave Livingston	5	5	8.51		
12	Steve Levine	4	4	8.24		
13	Todd Keller	5	5	8.16		
14	Paul Caldwell	5	5	7.55		
15	Jacob Zaremski	5	5	7.43		
16	Tyler Austin	4	4	5.28		
17	Tige Noni	2	2	3.54		
18	Nate Kalpin	2	2	2.79		
19	Terry Gartz	2	2	2.70		
20	Fred Ratcliffe	2	2	2.53		
22	Matt Ferrante	1	1	1.21		
23	Matt James	DNF	DNF	DNF	DNF	DNF
	Boater					
	NonBoater					

Lou Dog spinnerbait. Shortly after that I got a largemouth on a Luhr Jensen Wobble Pop. I was alternating between throwing in shallow and out deep, these first three fish were all shallow. Then, on one of my deep casts, I caught a better than three pound smallmouth on a Super Spook Jr. With four fish in the boat early in the morning I decided my time would



KURT KELLER
4th Place - 12.57 lbs.

be better spent casting instead of running to Penn Yan.

It wasn't long after I had decided to stay that I picked up my limit fish on the Lou Dog spinnerbait, about a two and a half pound largemouth. My next bass was fooled by the same spinnerbait, and was my biggest of the day, a 3.91 pound largemouth. I gained about three pounds with the cull. I still had one in the well that weighed one pound at the most and worked hard to cull it out. I spent the rest of the day almost exclusively throwing that spinnerbait and catching only pickerel. I never was able to cull out that little smallmouth. I ended up with 12.96 pounds to finish third."

Kurt Keller had his best career finish in this year's race for AOY. Kurt finished in 11 just .52 lbs. out of the Top Ten.

Kurt brought in a five fish limit of 12.57 lbs. for 4th place.

Rich Bush ended in 5th Place with 11.40 lbs.

Rich said, "I started with a top water bait, but I could not seem raise any fish.

So I decided to fish shallow throwing weightless green pumpkin sticko (senko) and caught several fish including my 2 best this way. I also caught several fish drop shooting a Zoom green pumpkin finesse worm."



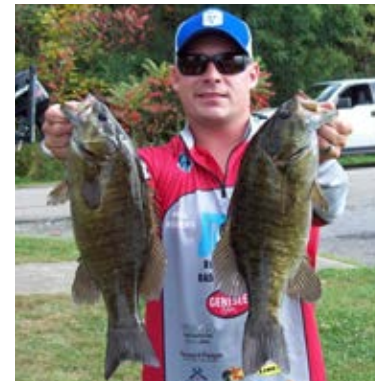


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2017 STANDINGS ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES

Place	Angler	1000 Islands Day 1	1000 Islands Day 2	Conesus Lake	Sodus Bay Day 1	Sodus Bay Day 2	Cayuga Lake	Oneida Lake Day 1	Oneida Lake Day 2	TOTAL	AOY Weight
1	Mark Harold	18.72	20.15	8.14	11.88	13.55	14.90	12.51	19.22	119.07	110.93
2	Tom Haley	13.37	12.91	19.22	16.12	14.12	16.78	13.76	16.72	123.00	110.09
3	Dave Livingston	8.69	14.17	15.85	12.75	15.31	14.67	14.59	16.62	112.65	103.96
4	Nate Kalpin	19.17	7.39	14.93	15.74	8.60	6.93	14.49	15.42	102.67	95.74
5	Jon Skirment	13.07	10.43	0.00	16.99	12.15	12.12	10.70	16.21	91.67	91.67
6	Tyler Austin	11.13	11.07	10.73	13.58	14.99	14.19	12.92	4.39	93.00	88.61
7	Matt James	9.05	5.73	11.87	18.89	12.74	10.53	10.45	12.49	91.75	86.02
8	Rod Brown	0.00	0.00	8.78	13.94	14.80	11.09	15.87	17.34	81.82	81.82
9	Bill Wittman	7.67	12.84	10.77	16.99	9.68	10.64	9.13	10.97	88.69	81.02
10	Jacob Zaremski	5.77	14.27	13.72	9.04	9.62	6.52	14.90	9.78	83.62	77.85
11	Kurt Keller	10.32	13.99	17.39	8.90	3.64	19.25	3.54	3.84	80.87	77.33
12	Tige Noni	14.03	5.62	0.00	8.66	7.12	15.78	13.14	12.42	76.77	76.77
13	Steve Levine	17.45	10.57	9.06	10.17	7.46	13.26	0.00	6.80	74.77	74.77
14	Matt Ferrante	9.69	11.66	2.89	7.66	8.42	8.13	8.83	17.16	74.44	71.55
15	Paul Caldwell	12.16	5.18	9.13	9.47	14.24	8.89	10.64	6.84	76.55	71.37
16	Will Rogers	8.69	0.00	5.19	10.52	8.60	7.51	14.08	15.11	69.70	69.70
17	Fred Blom	16.13	9.75	7.05	12.19	10.27	2.82	6.76	6.79	71.76	68.94
18	Todd Keller	4.45	12.04	0.00	9.99	0.00	12.86	16.07	9.07	64.48	64.48
19	Rich Bush	0.00	0.00	11.32	0.00	11.81	13.08	15.52	10.68	62.41	62.41
20	Dom Cerasuolo	4.62	10.89	2.87	9.82	13.59	7.08	8.81	7.00	64.68	61.81
21	Kevin Kinnear	11.84	0.00	7.88	10.99	6.32	3.67	10.72	3.38	54.80	54.80
22	Fred Ratcliffe	8.91	1.77	2.85	10.48	7.86	11.11	5.14	8.41	56.53	54.76
23	Terry Gartz	11.67	9.01	3.04	10.50	4.34	3.72	10.36	2.46	55.10	52.64
24	Bob Manley	11.52	12.76	0.00	9.43	11.09	4.43	2.64	0.00	51.87	51.87
25	Dylan Mackaravitz	9.81	1.19	4.84	5.21	10.45	1.09	11.01	9.10	52.70	51.61
26	Chris Burns	10.71	6.72	4.41	7.92	10.10	1.82	5.34	5.43	52.45	50.63
27	Drew Damtoft	8.29	3.90	1.48	4.45	13.02	6.76	5.80	8.16	51.86	50.38
28	Rich Zajac	0.00	0.00	3.81	9.01	11.69	4.80	12.15	4.89	46.35	46.35
29	Merritt Diamond	8.35	0.00	3.91	5.04	0.00	3.24	16.19	7.04	43.77	43.77
30	Devon Talbot	0.00	0.00	10.84	4.62	5.68	15.46	2.88	3.04	42.52	42.52
31	Kyle Sweers	12.59	7.89	0.00	0.00	1.21	1.27	2.55	16.42	41.93	41.93
32	Sean Brown	5.78	8.88	4.48	0.00	11.77	10.40	0.00	0.00	41.31	41.31
33	Dalton Talbot	0.00	0.00	8.10	4.62	10.54	4.38	3.26	3.00	33.90	33.90
34	Mike Wall	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.67	0.00	4.37	8.89	11.44	31.37	31.37
35	Tom Hughes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.28	13.94	29.22	29.22
36	Orlando Roman	0.00	0.00	2.72	0.00	0.00	11.15	4.35	7.75	25.97	25.97
37	Dennis O'Brien	0.00	0.00	8.05	0.00	6.66	0.00	0.00	8.13	22.84	22.84
38	Aidan Blake	6.53	10.22	5.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.09	22.09
39	Rich Callabrese	0.00	10.84	0.00	9.96	0.00	0.00	1.95	16.63	20.80	20.80
40	Jim Bianchi	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.46	17.46
41	Tyler Muhs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.12	2.33	12.59	16.04	16.04
42	Lock Holmes	6.14	7.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.90	13.90
43	Ray Law	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.85	5.04	3.17	0.00	12.06	12.06
44	Bob McEaney	0.00	0.00	10.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.68	10.68
45	James Dorak	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.21	0.00	0.00	9.21	9.21
46	Justin Keller	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.08	0.00	0.00	4.86	0.00	8.94	8.94
47	Don Georlich	0.00	0.00	6.43	0.00	0.00	1.70	0.00	0.00	8.13	8.13
48	Raven Otto	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.56	3.24	7.80	7.80
49	Dan Palazzo	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.14	3.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.75	6.75
50	Ray Sacheli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.42	0.00	0.00	6.42	6.42
51	Forte Dalton	5.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.79	5.79
52	John Norton	0.00	0.00	5.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.32	5.32
53	Gary Haun	0.00	0.00	2.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.42	2.42
54	Harvey Rhody	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



- Angler of the Year
- Top Ten Anglers
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