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ROCHESTER BASSMASTERS BASS NEWS

OCTOBER 2018

DAMTOFT CAPTURES HIS FIRST CLASSIC



PHOTOGRAPH BY: DAVE FENLON



EXCLUSIVE

**DREW DAMTOFT WON HIS FIRST TOURNAMENT,
THE 2018 MEMORIAL CLASSIC WITH 17.78 LBS.**



2018 MEMORIAL CLASSIC

ONEIDA LAKE, A & P MARINA

CICERO, NEW YORK

OCTOBER 6, 2018



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Drew Damtoft (right) gets ready for kickoff of the 2018 Memorial Classic in Dylan Mackaravitz's boat.

Drew Damtoft qualified for the 2018 Rochester Bassmasters Memorial Classic as a Non-Boater. Drew's bag of 17.75 lbs. was anchored by a 4.25 lb. largemouth (lunker) to secure his win and beat the next angler by 2.08 lbs. Drew said, "Being my first time in the Classic, my primary goal was not to get skunked. I had a few spots in mind that I wanted to try, but on the way to the first one I knew I would have to eliminate most of those due to the wind. I ended up tucking into a bay and trying near some shoals with no success. I was still pretty exposed to the wind and I felt I wasn't able to fish effectively. I decided to head toward shore and see if I could find anything in shallow. Finally, I pulled up to a dock coming off a break wall and was able to get my 4.25 pounder. I tried beating the bank a little more with no success. I decided to make a cast out away from the bank and hooked another. I was able to bring in my next 4 fish within 10 minutes

all from this same area, which was about the size of a football field. I tried to find other areas that were similar, but this was the only one that was producing. I let it rest a few

hours before coming back later in the day and I was able to cull a few more times. All in all, I was able to cull 4 times and my non-boater was even able to catch one. All the fish came from under 5 feet of water on 3/4 oz. spinnerbait. Thanks to **Dylan Mackaravitz** for letting me use his boat!"



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Drew Damtoft waits in the leader chair for the rest of the field to weigh in 2018 Memorial Classic.



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RODNEY BROWN
2nd Place - 15.70 lbs.

The *2018 Angler of the Year*, **Rod Brown** weighed in 15.70 lbs. for a 2nd Place finish.

Rod said, "I found the shallow water pattern fairly early in the

day, a pattern that was out of the window a bit. I discovered it by using a topwater lure over shallow weeds and then found I could pick them up on a white tandem spinnerbait ripping it through the weeds. Every fish came no deeper than 4.5-5 feet of water.

I had eight bites for the day and landed seven fish for my 15.70 pounds. I tried about six or seven

different spots, but only found fish in three of those. The wind was a big factor in limiting where I could go. I would not have wanted to be out there in any boat smaller than what I had. God bless those guys that were, a dedicated bunch I would have to say.

Congratulations to **Drew Damtoft** for a job well done!"



Rod Brown bundled up for the morning blastoff.



Rod sets the hook on one of the fish from his 15.70 lb. bag.



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MATT JAMES
3rd Place - 14.82 lbs.

Matt James took 3rd Place with 14.82 lbs.

Matt said, "It was a very rough day on the water, I really couldn't fish any of the places I would typically go so I was forced to really focus on a few small areas. I only

caught eight or nine fish all day. They were all caught in 9 to 12 feet of water on weed edges. One in particular produced my three best fish. I caught my fish throughout the day there was no best time in particular, my best fish came 20 minutes before the end of the day.

I tried to move around a little bit midday, but the wind was way too bad. Believe it or not I didn't touch a drop shot all day. All my fish came on the A-Rig. All in all given the weather conditions I had a pretty good day."



Matt James staging for the kickoff of the 2018 Classic.



Matt methodically working the weedbed.

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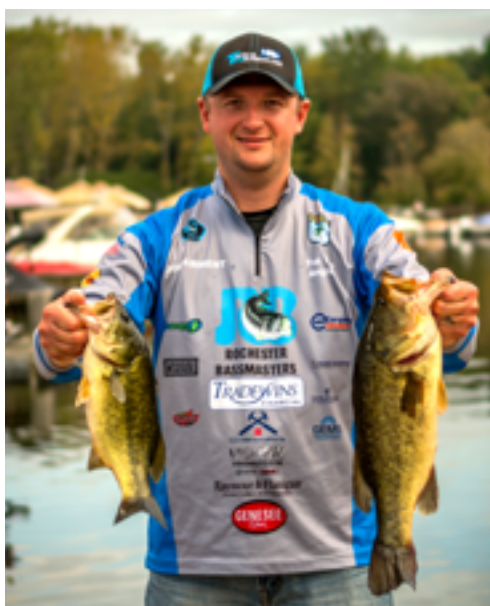
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JOHN SKIRMMENT
4th Place - 9.89 lbs.

Jon Skirment brought 9.89 lbs. to the scales for 3rd Place.

Jon, said, "I started out trying for smallmouth first thing in the morning. Fighting those 4 ft. surf waves got old real quick, and no bites to show. I moved on to largemouth, but made sure to spear a wave on the way. What better way to amplify an epic tournament and get the heart pumping on Classic morning! I was fortunate I had a spot that was out of the wind and waves. Even more fortunate was that there was fish there. I was even more fortunate that the 10 or so boats taking refuge in this protected bay didn't hit the 25-yard area where my fish were holding, but maybe that's because I timed it perfectly to switch shifts with the local duck hunters. I caught all 4 largemouth that I weighed there, and missed just as many. Anyone that fished the same tournament

as me would have a hard time believing all, but 1 of my bites came on a frog. After pounding that small stretch for a couple hours, I think the fish caught on to the scam I was running. Back out into the angry ocean I went searching for similar protected areas, but they were few and seemingly endless nautical miles between. I got a few more

blowups, but didn't connect with anything other than a couple pesky pickerel. Four fish for 9.89 lbs. to finish 4th in the Memorial Classic . . . that would about sums up the season, 2018 in the bag. Special thanks to my wife *Alexandria* for supporting me and my bad habits the entire season. You wouldn't see me if she didn't allow it."





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KURT KELLER
4th Place - 8.42 lbs.

Kurt Keller mugging for
the camera boat.



Rounding out the Top Five was **Kurt Keller** with 8.42 lbs.

Kurt said, "I knew Oneida was going to fish tough again, so I decided I was going to target largemouth on the 1 hour drive from Victor. When we arrived to the lake it became obvious that it was going to be real difficult due to the strong east winds creating very challenging 4-5 foot waves.

I started near the launch in a semi-protected area, but found the water was very discolored from the wind. I decided to run the length of the lake West to at least find water I could fish and enjoy the day. I speared 3 waves during the trip and broke part of my trolling motor mount. FYI, that makes 4 waves I've ever speared in my boat! When I arrived to the West end I had water in my boat to my ankles and the bilge pump outlet hole was under water. Thankfully when I went to the front of the boat it raised the back high enough to allow the water to pump out after about 1 hour. I caught 4-keeper largemouth in the first hour at this location and

finally got a 5th with about 2 hours left in the tournament. I caught all of them on a drop shot worm. The wind shifted a little at this point and made the main lake a little calmer. I headed back toward the launch and stopped a few times to try some main lake areas with an A-rig, but had no luck. I spent the last 45 minutes back near the launch hoping to cull but had zero bites. It became apparent talking to guys as they returned to the launch that most struggled and I was happy with my decision to get out of the main lake.

Thank you to **Tige Noni** for running a great tournament season and to my family for supporting my time away from home!"





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Oneida Lake fished extremely tough with a constant east wind and on and off rain. 4 five fish limits were weighed in and only 11 different anglers weighed a total of 32 fish! Thank you to **Dave Fenlon** and **Jake Zaremski** for being the camera boat! Thank you to **Bob Manley**, **Kevin Kinnear** and **Dylan Mackaravitz** for volunteering their boats and time to take non-boaters.

Finally thank you **Orlando Roman** for towing the RBM tournament trailer!

~ **Steve Levine, President.**



Kyle Sweers



Nate Kalpin



Mark Harold



Nate Kalpin waits for Weigh Master Kyle Sweers to count his fish.



Tige Noni





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ON THE WATER PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVE FENLON





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Bill Wittman



Matt James



Bill Wittman



Dave Livingston



Pat Carr



Tige Noni



Mark Harold



Tyler Austin



Steve Levine



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Nate Kalpin



Nate Kalpin



Kevin Kinnear pilots his boat for "Non Boater of the Year" Brent Russell.



Kyle Sweers



Todd Keller



Bob Manley pilots his boat for Tyler Muhs.



Rich Bush



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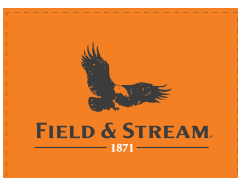
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