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BASS NEWS
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JULY 2021

FURANO
WINS OPENER AT LAKE ERIE WITH 24.33 LBS. AND A 5.22 LB. LUNKER

PHOTOS BY: JAKE ZAREMESKI

Vic's Sports Center
2039 Tallmadge Road | Kent, OH 44240

LAKE ERIE

ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES • JUNE 19, 2021 • SHERIDAN BOAT LAUNCH • TONAWANDA, NY

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Proud dad, WILL ROGERS (with his wife Lauren & son Hunter) - 2nd Place - 23.87 lbs.

The Rochester Bassmasters kicked off the 2021 season with Rochester Bassmasters Vic's Sports Center Angler of the Year Series at Lake Erie on June 19, 2021.

The anglers launched out of the Sheridan Boat Launch in Tonawanda, NY.

Adam furano outpaced the field of 31 Anglers with 24.33 lbs. and a 5.22 lb. kicker for the win.

JIM BIANCHI - 4th Place - 20.91 lbs. & 5.64 lb. lunker.

Adam said, "What an amazing day fishing for so many reasons! This was my first-time fishing Erie, caught the biggest bag of bass in my life, and had my personal best smallmouth. I couldn't have been luckier than drawing ***Jim Bianchi*** as my boater. He not only put us on the fish, but I also learned so much from how to fizz smallmouth to how to analyze the day to build on it and continuously improve. It was a tough day with the wind for sure and difficult to feel the strikes. Slow and steady baits on the bottom were the key for sure! I can't thank Jim enough for the experience!"

Finishing in 2nd place on his home waters was ***Will Rogers*** with a five fish limit of 23.87 lbs. and 5.19 lb. lunker.

Taking 3rd place was ***Ben Levy*** with 23.80 lbs. Ben said, "Pretty much all of my day was spent dragging baits (mostly a ned rig) in about 40 feet of water. Had to get used to the chop and use some heavy jig heads, but it ended up being a great day. Special thanks to ***Will Rogers*** for taking me out.

Jim Bianchi finished in 4th place with 20.91 lbs.

Jim said, "Erie is always fun this time of year and launching out of the river added a new twist. I started the tournament going the opposite direction of most of the field (down river). We progressively worked deeper and deeper throughout the day and each stop had nice fish using both the river and lake. The story of the day was certainly my non boaters (Adam) ability to dial into the bigger fish. I give him all the credit in the world for not just copying me and developing his own thing. Even when I would tuna haul, he would stick with his confidence presentations and got it done. A fun and rewarding day! The tourney crew had their plates full between venue

BEN LEVY - 3rd Place - 23.80 lbs. & 5.55 lb. lunker.

changes, off limits and fog delays so a big thanks to all who make it happen!"

In the 5th place slot with another impressive limit of 20. 42 lbs. was ***Dan Patane***.

Dan said, "Slow start to the day with the fog delay but after we're able to takeoff I was fortunate enough to put my three biggest fish of the day in the boat with a drop shot within the

Continued on page 3

DAN PATANE
5th Place - 20.42 lbs.

TJ VALLE
6th Place -20.30 lbs.

first couple hours. After that I headed to the lake but it was to rough to move around much. Wes was able to fill a decent limit out of the back of the boat and I was able to make a few upgrades while fighting the wind. The only thing missing was the air show!

Finishing in 6th place with 20.30 lbs. was ***TJ Valle***.

NATE KALPIN
7th Place -20.16 lbs.

TJ said, "I started the day bed fishing found a couple good one that dropped off the bank and bedded just out of eye site.. caught those and bunch others till the coast guard kicked me out of the Inner Harbour.. the rest of the i fish a community area but in practice I found a clean area where they were bedding in 11-12.5ft.. as soon as I got there I started to catch them and good one too.. probably cause 10 fish in a row in like 15 mins I know everyone saw and was probably mad cause I just slid in there and started whacking on them.. I was on a different deal than everyone that was in there.. I ran the same specific line all afternoon and it payed.. caught my bed fish on a drop shot with a short lead and a Ned.. My afternoon fish were all on a drop shot with a 2.5ft lead cause of the current.. in closing PHOENIX boats are badass... LOL"

Nate Kalpin 20.16 lbs. gave him a 7th place finish.

Nate said, "Lake Erie is always a fun place to kick off our season. This year proved to still be true, although there were less than ideal lake conditions and additional off limits circumstances put forth by the Buffalo Air Show. I was able to practice 1 day a few days prior to the event, which was spent mostly retying and untangling rods hosting my Father and brother on board. Practice was good and fun, both out in the lake and closer to the river. Tournament day forced me to stay in one area for 85% of the day before boat traffic eventually pushed me away. Fishing was straight forward, long casts with a tube and ned rig caught all my fish throughout the day. The bite in the morning was heavy, and slowed as the day progressed. I caught a ton of fish, but couldn't find that one or two 5lb class fish that was needed to have a chance in the top 3. Not complaining on a 7th place finish to open the year, or catching 20.16 lbs.. Looking forward to the next event and keeping the momentum rolling. Hats off to Frog-master/TD Wes and the tournament committee for last minute changes to the launch and running a great weigh in."

Steve Levine came to the scales with 19.87 lbs. for 8th place.

Steve said, "Tournament day was planning on being eventful as we needed to make a last-minute launch changes because of an Air Show taking place over our fishing spots. Wes did a great job as TD handling all the details even with all of us babies whining and giving our opinions. Just when he thought his job was done and he could relax and fish Wes had to hold off our kick off for at least an hour due to Fog.

Finally, we kicked off and some of us decided to brave the rivers current and the lakes waves just to catch a smallmouth or two. The ride was not exactly fun but my non-boater
Jack Kleinman and I made it without any issues. Once there Jack decided to show me his fishing skills and catch almost 10 Bass before I caught

Continued on page 3

STEPHEN LEVINE
8th Place -19.87 lbs.

my first one...oh god it was going to be like last year with Adam. Luckily, I made a change off my Dropshot and Ned and went to a swimbait and was able to pull in two four pounders before we changed spots. Our new problem was that the fog had set in again so moving was slow, but we made it to the community hole where I had found a grass edge where staging fish were holding. I continued to fish the swimbait and was able to add another 4 pounder and two large 3.5 pounders while still being a net boy for Jack. Now a new problem comes up...the pleasure boaters started to tie up right on my spot pushing us away from the larger fish. We moved as close as we could and started casting around them and luckily, I was able to get two more 4 pounders. Sadly, with almost 40 pounds of fish in the livewell between Jacks fish and mine they kept blocking our overflow which cut down on oxygen and I lost one fish. While sad for me my neighbor was thrilled as I brought it home for him with a few of his friends.

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3380 Monroe Avenue
Suite 103
Rochester, NY 14618

Stephen Levine
Financial Advisor

Direct: 585-278-8665
Fax: 585-445-7266
steve@tradewindsfinancial.com

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Vic's Sports Center

LAKE ERIE

ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES - JUNE 19,2021
SHERIDAN BOAT LAUNCH, TOWANDA

Place	Points	Angler	Fish Caught	Fish Alive	Lunker	Weight
1	300	Adam Furano	5	5	5.22	24.33
2	295	Will Rogers	5	5	5.19	23.87
3	290	Ben Levy	5	5	5.55	23.80
4	285	Jim Bianchi	5	5		20.91
5	280	Dan Patane	5	5		20.42
6	276	Tj Valle	5	5		20.30
7	272	Nate Kalpin	5	5		20.16
8	268	Steve Levine	5	4		19.87
9	264	Jack Kleinman	5	5		19.86
10	260	Mark Harold	5	5		18.42
11	257	Jake Zaremski	5	3		18.25
12	254	Doug Walker	5	5		18.16
13	251	David Livingston	5	5		18.10
14	248	Rich Bush	5	5		16.59
15	245	Tige Noni	5	2		16.48
16	243	Todd Keller	5	5		16.27
17	241	Matt Ferrante	5	5		16.22
18	239	Jon Skirment	5	5		15.87
19	237	Wes Vyverberg	5	5	5.16	15.67
20	235	Jim Walters	5	5		15.49
21	233	Rod Brown	5	5		15.15
22	231	Noah Buttarazzi	5	4		14.77
23	229	Merritt Diamond	5	5		14.72
24	227	Mark Buttarazzi	5	5		13.55
25	225	Paul Caldwell	5	5		12.75
26	223	Bill Wittman	5	5		12.65
27	221	Terry Gartz	5	4		12.54
28	219	Dom Cerasuolo	5	4		11.91
29	217	Fred Ratcliffe	5	5		11.86
30	215	Dave Rowe	5	5		11.72
31	213	Dennis O'brien	4	4		7.18
32	211	Mark Saile	2	2		6.10
33	209	Dalton Forte	1	1		2.20
34	100	Bob Mceneaney	0	0		0.00

Continued on page 5

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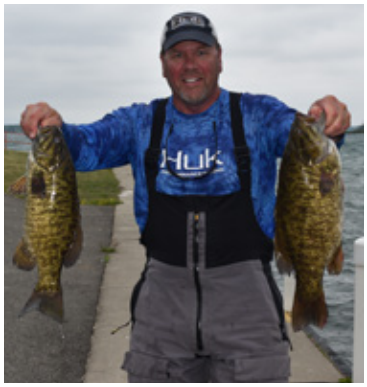
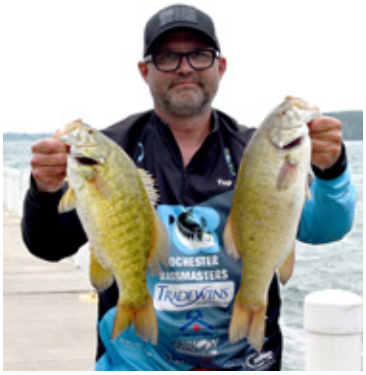

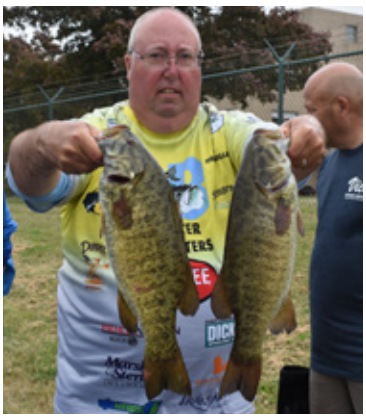

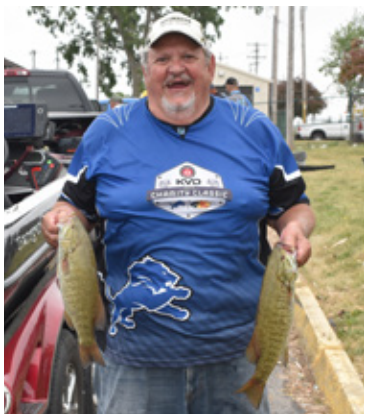

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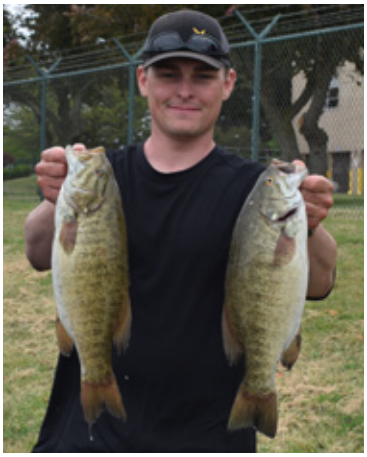

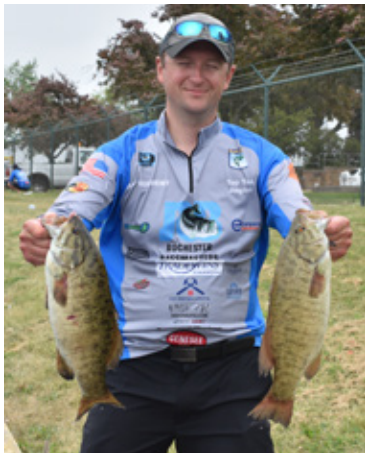

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