

**Tournament Report
Midwest Bass Anglers Open
Smithville Lake
Smithville, Missouri
March 26th, 2006
Highway W Boat Launch**

32 Teams converged on northwest Missouri's Smithville Lake on this cold and blustery Sunday morning. Many of the top sticks in the area showed up to help Midwest Bass Anglers with this fundraising tournament. Each year, Midwest Bass Anglers (A BASS Federation Nation Club) hosts a tournament to raise money and help their State Team compete in the Nebraska Bass Federation's State Tournament.

The guys from Midwest Bass Anglers proved to be good hosts, with a well run tournament and a nice lunch of Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Refreshments provided for all the anglers at the weigh in. A good deal of draw prizes were handed out as well.

Air Temps – low 40's AM mid 50's PM

Water Temps – 41 degrees at 7:00AM to 45+ degrees PM

Water Clarity – Stained Green

Water Visibility – 2 Feet

Wind – 20-30MPH SSE (Cold with Wind Chill)

Lake Level - 863.03 – Multi Purpose Pool is 864.2 – Outflow of 100 C.F.S.

The notoriously stingy Smithville Lake likes to make her anglers suffer even more when the water temps are still in the 40's. Anglers were greeted with a super tough bite, a cold stiff wind and bites very few and far between. Even with the extra tough conditions, a few teams still managed to draw a few weary Bass from the cold Smithville waters.

Smithville's tough bite got the best of my partner Jeff Gregory and I, showing no love for Jeff fishing his first money tournament ever. We spent hours working historically good areas, fishing Jerk baits, Wiggle Warts, Spinnerbaits, Jig-N-Pig, Crankbaits, Tubes you name it. We experimented with Shallow, Deep, Muddy, Clear, Rocks, Trees and pretty much anything else we could find in the creeks, coves and main lake points of Smithville Lake. We managed one bite, from a 5" Bass on my spinnerbait, and he just nipped the blade at the side of the boat. Told you it was tough!

Of the 32 teams in this event, 8 teams brought at least a fish to the scales with a total of 13 bass caught for the day.

The typically outstanding father and son team of Jeff and Paul Combs coaxed 4 solid bites, targeting old roadbeds that Jeff said he fished 20 or more years ago. Their 4 fish weighed in at an even 13.00lbs, with 1 fish coming on a jerk bait and the other 3 coming on a Team Supreme jig fished along those roadbeds in 15 to 18 feet of water. The Combs crew earned \$860.00 for their 1st place finish.

2nd Place: Horton/Rogers – 2 fish - 8.25lbs - \$560.00

3rd Place (Big Bass): Reider (fishing alone) – 1 fish - 6.00lbs - \$260.00 for 3rd and \$640.00 for Big Bass

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