



Missouri TBF Qualifiers

Truman Lake July 10 & 11, 2010

The final results of the 2010 Missouri TBF Bass Federation Tournament Series proved to be much more competitive and exciting than most people imagined it would following the opening two tournaments at Lake of the Ozarks.

Following Day 1 at LOZ, Eddie Wolfe of Forsyth, Keith Hendrix of Big Sticks, Rodney Bowersox of Wicked Stix and Brian Maloney of Mexico were in the top 4 qualifying positions. Little changed after Day 2 as the top 4 qualifying YTD positions were Eddie Wolfe, Keith Hendrix, Brian Maloney and Shane Bakken of Westside, with Rodney dropping just two spots to the 6th position. With Eddie and Keith finishing 1st and 2nd both days, they seemed to have a comfortable lead. Only 15 anglers had weighed fish both days, which meant for the rest of the field, they would need some of those folks to blank in order for them to qualify.

Day 3 at Truman Lake presented some new opportunities for some anglers who previously did not think they had a great chance to qualify for divisionals. 4 anglers in the top 15 positions did not participate at Truman, including the anglers in 2nd place and 7th place, allowing several people to move up in positions.

Just like in a major golf tournament, the 3rd day of a 4-day tournament is often referred to as “moving day” and for some it was, in both directions. Truman Lake has historically proved to be a good fish producer, but the huge fluctuations in lake level and inconsistency in water release made it much more difficult this weekend. Add to that blue bird skies, little wind, and a lake which was mysteriously clear – Zebra mussels. Only 15 of 28 anglers weighed fish on Saturday. Troy Richter of Westside weighed in the big bag of 6 pounds for 1st place, followed by Darren Wuebke of Team Concepts with 5.23 pounds, Don Heiser of Team Concepts with 4.81 pounds and Jody Hughes of Wicked Stix with 4.25 pounds. These were the only anglers to weigh 2 fish in their bags.

Eddie Wolfe and Brian Maloney each weighed a fish and moved were in 1st and 2nd place YTD. Darren Wuebke moved up 7 places to 3rd and Don Heiser moved also moved up 7 places to 4th place YTD. Others in hot pursuit were Eric Snow of Forsyth who had moved from 9th to 5th place, David Smith of Westside who had moved from 8th to 6th place and Jody Hughes who had moved from 15th place to 7th place. Patrick O'Neal of Team Concepts held down the 8th spot. These 8 anglers were the only ones to have weighed fish in all 3 tournaments.

The final day brought overcast skies and a much more wind, which many thought would improve the fishing, but it did not as only 10 of 30 anglers weighed fish. Shane Bakken stole the show for 1st place with 4 fish weighing 8.63 pounds. Rodney Bowersmith only weighed one fish but it was a pig at 4.77 pounds for 2nd place, followed by Shelby Thacker with 2 fish for 4.14 pounds and Brian Maloney with 2 fish for 3.77 pounds.

In the end, the four qualifying anglers were all about consistency, as they were the only 4 anglers to weigh a fish in each of the four tournaments. The four Missouri TBF divisional qualifiers for the 2011 divisional tournament are 1st – Brian Maloney, 2nd Don Heiser; 3rd Eric Snow and 4th Jody Hughes.

Never was the saying that “it all came down to one fish more appropriate” as 3 of the other top 8 qualifiers after the 3rd day could have potentially qualified by catching one fish on the final day. Our congratulations to the qualifiers and thanks to everyone who participated and a very sincere thanks to everyone who braved a very sudden very severe sideways downpour of heavy rain and extremely high winds to safely get their boats loaded.