

Area angler stars in bass tourney



BILL PARKER

You watch them on cable TV each week and wonder what it would be like to be in their shoes... the shoes of a professional angler. You dream of fishing side-by-side with one of the nation's best... of catching a lunker bass under the watchful eye of a Bassmaster.

Then the show ends, reality sets in and in 15 minutes you find yourself in the back yard mowing the lawn. The dream fades with the setting sun.

For Bloomfield Hills resident Kyle Greene the sun is just beginning to rise. The local professional bass angler saw his dream turn to reality recently on the waters of Lake St. Clair.

Greene had the opportunity to hook up with some of the nation's best bass pros and made the best of a golden opportunity.

Greene was one of 108 amateurs competing in the four-day BASSMASTER Top 100 pro-am, Aug. 24-27 on Lake St. Clair. He joined 10 other O&E area anglers in the amateur competition.

Pros had to qualify for the tournament and paid a \$1,500 entry fee. Amateurs were selected through a random draw and paid a \$400 entry fee.

Over the course of the four-day tournament, Greene outfished his pro partners twice en route to

winning the amateur division championship with a total of 16 fish that tipped the scale at 35-pounds, 5-oz. He won a fully rigged Ranger Bass Boat, valued at \$19,000.

Howell's Kim Stricker won the pro division with 19 bass that totaled 61-pounds, 15-oz.

"It was kind of a dream come true for me," said Greene. "I was fully on TV and then it really happens. It was definitely a great experience. I didn't think I had a chance going in, but I had good partners."

A worthy competitor

Actually, Greene had a decent chance of placing in the tournament. He's an accomplished bass angler. He placed in the top 12 of the Michigan B.A.S.S. Federation circuit in 1992 and third in the Northern Division. Greene is currently in second place in the point standings in the Michigan Division of the Red Man Tournament Trail.

Entering the final day of the BASSMASTER Top 100, Greene was in second place, 2 lbs. 4 oz behind leader Deon Warner of Hudsonville, Mich. Greene was paired with Mickey Bruce of Buford, Georgia for the final day of competition. Fishing light colored Gitaite (tube jugs) in the main lake, Greene knew he was in good shape after just an hour on the lake.

"Mickey said he had a spot that we should both do pretty good at if we could just find the fish," explained Greene. "It took the first

cast of the day to find them. I felt pretty comfortable when we both hit a limit early in the morning. Then I started to get excited."

All the fish are kept alive and released back into the lake after they are weighed. The daily possession limit on bass in Michigan is five fish. When an angler has his limit and a bigger fish than those already in the live well is caught, the angler must release one of the smaller fish so he doesn't exceed the daily possession limit.

Greene's final day limit weighed 12-lbs, 6-oz.

Warner was catching a limit, Warner didn't weigh a fish on the final day and slipped to seventh. Greene turned back a late charge by Belleville's Todd Stamper, who had a four-day stringer of five bass weighing 14-lbs 3-oz. Stamper finished second with a four-day total of 31-lbs, 14-oz.

A different perspective

All the amateurs weren't as successful as Greene.

Lionel's Duce Ray placed 93rd with two fish that totaled 5-lbs, 14-oz.

"My objective was to go out there and learn something," explained Ray. "The pros were very good to me. They explained that we were fishing and why they were fishing. They treated me very well."

Ray fished with Jim Bitter, of Fruitland Park Fla. on the second day.

"Bitter pulled in 15 fish the

first day and his partner caught a limit," explained Ray. "On the second day there was a lot of wind and he didn't like the wind so we had a tough time. I just caught some off days."

"Overall my expectations weren't really high so I wasn't that disappointed. I learned a couple techniques and it really opened my eyes to what these guys go through. It seems glorified, but it's actually a lot of hard work."

Livonia John "Bandy" Sparkman caught three fish that totaled five pounds even. He wound up in 99th place. Sparkman was a bit disappointed with the lack of preparation by some of the pros he was teamed with.

"Overall I had a good time, but my expectations were higher," Sparkman said. "The four guys I fished with didn't do any pre-fishing other than the two days before the tournament. They didn't do their homework. I caught three fish and the pros I fished with caught a total of six. We just went on the fish like I thought we would be."

"All-in-all it was a good experience and I got to hobnob with the big guys. I didn't catch a lot of fish but I had a good time."

Anglers and hunters are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI, 48009. Fax information to (810) 644-1314 or call Bill Parker Monday evenings at (810) 901-2573.

WHISPERING WILLOWS
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

MEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

- Men's 36-hole medal play: Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 1st and 2nd.
- Entry fee \$70. Maximum handicap 36.
- Entries close at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24.
- Crossover starts on Saturday and Sunday mornings and afternoons.
- For pairings and starting times call 476-4403 after noon Thursday, Sept. 29th.
- Final make-up dates: Oct. 8th and 9th.
- Entries will be open to the first 200 golfers.

Name _____
Address _____
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Phone _____ Handicap _____ Cart? _____

Gary Whitener
Whispering Willows Golf Course
20500 Newburgh, Livonia MI 48152

• U S G A index or ten 18 hole score cards are required (as of deadline date).
• Send entry blank with check (no cash) payable to tournament director.

• Pairings will be made by the tournament committee. No requests for individual pairings will be taken. No changes will be made.
• Open to all residents of Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Garden City, Westland, Redford Twp., Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Lathrup Village, Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Beverly Hills, Orchard Lake, Troy, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Walled Lake, Union Lake and Avon Twp.

Schoolcraft women frustrated in season's first soccer action

The numbers problem facing Schoolcraft College's women's soccer team has already escalated.

The Lady Ocelots entered the season facing a formidable schedule with a new coach — former SC and Livonia Church Hill standout Nikki Johnson, who was an NAIA All-American at Siena Heights last year — and with few players.

There were only 13 on the roster to start the season, and now one of them — Kim Nelson — suffered a knee injury at last week-end's Monroe CC (Rochester, N.Y.) Tournament that could end her season.

"It's frustrating," said Johnson of her first weekend of collegiate coaching, during which her team lost and tied.

The Ocelots recovered from a weak first half in their opener Saturday against Monroe in an impressive second half, but it wasn't enough to save them from a 2-1 loss.

"In the first half, we played very individually," said Johnson. "In the second half, we played much better, more as a team."

Trailing 1-0 at the half, SC tied the match on a goal by Colleen Connell (Plymouth Canton), who headed in a restart from Kelly Niles. But Monroe netted the game-winner midway through the second half.

In Sunday's match against Niagara County CC, the Ocelots "were really drained," said Johnson. The result: In a match they should have won, they ended up with a 2-2 tie.

SC led 1-0 on a goal by Holly Kimble (Livonia Stevenson), off a Connell cross. Niagara tied it, but the Ocelots regained the lead on a Connell goal, off a corner kick by Maggie Frump (Farmington). Niagara gained its 2-2 tie with a goal in the second half.

Although they surrendered four goals, Johnson was impressed by keeper Jenny Mansfield's (Redford Union) performance. "She played an incredible game (against Monroe)," said Johnson. "She kept our team alive."

Staying alive an entire season with just 12 players is a goal in itself.

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

CLASSES/SHOWS

- HUNTER SAFETY CLASS**
The Western Wayne County Conservation Association in Plymouth Township will hold a D.N.R. sanctioned hunter safety course beginning Monday, September 12. The class is open to anyone 12 years of age and older and is mandatory for any first time hunter born on or after Jan. 1, 1960. The class will include instruction on hunter/handowner relations, hunter ethics, safe firearm handling, archery hunting, black powder hunting, survival, first aid and more. There is a \$4 fee and a certificate and patch will be awarded to all who successfully complete the course. (313) 453-9843.
- OUTDOOR WEEKEND**
The Woods-N-Water News Outdoor Weekend, featuring exhibitors, seminars and speakers, a puppy mart, demonstrations, Deer Camp Chili Cook-off, a live deer show and more, will be held Sept. 9-11 at the Eastern Michigan Fairgrounds in Imlay City.
- WATERFOWLERS SHOW**
Area waterfowl hunters, decoy carvers and wildlife art enthusiasts are invited to attend the 47th annual Michigan Duck Hunters Tournament, Sept. 10-11 at the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area. The event, which includes the Midwest Decoy Contest and the Pointe Mouillee Wildlife Art Show, begins at 9 a.m. each day.
- BOW HUNTING EXTRAVAGANZA**
Troy taxidermist Dave Belanger will be one of the featured speakers at the Inaugural Bow Hunting

DEADLINES/DATES

- ELK**
Sept. 15 is the application deadline for Michigan's December elk hunt.
- SMALLGAME**
Smallgame season opens statewide on Sept. 15.
- ANTLERLESS DEER**
Sept. 24 is the deadline to apply for an antlerless deer permit.
- ARCHERY DEER**
Archery deer season opens statewide on Oct. 1.
- RIFLE SAFETY**
The Wayne County Sportsman's Club in Romulus will hold a class on rifle safety and marksmanship beginning Sept. 12. The class will begin Monday evenings, (313) 532-0255. A class on shotgun safety and marksmanship begins Nov. 21.
- FISHING TOURNAMENTS**
- CHARITY BASS CLASSIC**
The Lake St. Clair Bass Anglers will hold their 8th annual Motor City Charity Bass Classic Tournament on Sunday, Sept. 11. The tournament, which will benefit the Association for Retarded Citizens, attracts anglers from throughout the area. (810) 949-0151.

METROPARKS

- FRIDAY NIGHT CANOE**
Learn about Michigan history and park wildlife while paddling the 35-foot Voyageur canoe in this program, which begins at 7 p.m. Friday at Stony Creek.
- CAMPFIRE PROGRAM**
Share in an evening of story telling, friendship and fun around the campfire in this program, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Indian Springs.
- REED COUNT**
Novice and experienced birders are needed to conduct a census of Kensington's bird population in this program, which begins at 7 a.m. Saturday at Kensington.
- CREEPY, CRAWLY, CATCH!**
An insect safari into a field to

CROSS COUNTRY HIKE

- CROSS COUNTRY HIKE**
A 3-mile trek over hill and dale begins at 10 a.m. Sunday at Stony Creek.
- SHEEP SHEARING**
A chance to watch the age-old process of sheep shearing begins at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Kensington Farm Center.
- LEAF PRINT T-SHIRTS**
Learn about fall colors then make a colored leaf print t-shirt in this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Saturday at Indian Springs.
- YOUNG ASTRONOMERS**
A program in which participants ages eight and older can learn about the stars begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Stony Creek.

Micky Redmond

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44-95 Season

TORONTO — Nov. 4-4, 1994
Mon. 7:00 U.S.

MONTREAL — Dec. 2-4, 1994
Tue. 7:00 U.S.

BOSTON — Jan. 4-8, 1995
Thu. 7:00 U.S.

TORONTO — Jan. 13-15, 1995
Sat. 7:00 U.S.

LA-ANAHUIM — Feb. 2-5, 1995
Tue. 7:00 U.S.

ST. LOUIS — Feb. 11-15, 1995
Sat. 7:00 U.S.

CHICAGO — Feb. 22-27, 1995
Sat. 7:00 U.S.

VANCOUVER — Mar. 24-27, 1995
Thu. 7:00 U.S.

DALLAS — Mar. 31, Apr. 2, 1995
Sat. 7:00 U.S.

TORONTO — Apr. 2-9, 1995
Sun. 7:00 U.S.

Church of Today Presents

Father Leo Booth
"The God Game: It's Your Move"
Sunday, September 11
9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Father Leo Booth, a nationally-acclaimed author, lecturer and trainer on spirituality and recovery from addictions, examines spirituality as a teaming of body, mind and emotions. Autograph session after both talks (Delayed airing)

Terry Cole-Whittaker
"Live The Glorious Life"
Wednesday, September 14
7:00 & 7:30 p.m.
Terry Cole-Whittaker, bestselling author of *Love and Power in A World Without Limits*, reveals the seven key aspects of a *glorious life*. Autograph session after both talks (will not be aired)

For more information, call Church of Today at (810) 758-3050.

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