Fish story: Dan Boileau of Canton (right) talks with emcee Jim Kalkopfen during the PWT Pro-



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Farmington angler fares well in PWT

Persistence pays. Just ask Furmington's Tom Rossman. The retired Chrysler worker has been fishing pro-am walleye tournaments for

tournaments for seven years, but has yet to finish in the money, until the recent Professional Walleye Trail tournament held on the Detroit River, that is.

Rossman was among the 133 amateurs competing in the Bass Pro Shops Mideast Pro-Am April 4-6 on the Detroit River at Trenton. Upon the conclusion of the tournament, Rossman had scratched his seven-year itch by placing third among amateur

scratched his seven-year itch by placing third among amateur competitors.

"This is my seventh event as an amateur and the first time I've finished in the money." Rossman said. "My wife has poured thousands of dollars into me and now we can finally get some of it back."
Rossman placed third with a

Oxed-area single to teach in the PWT.
Canton's Dan Boileau placed eighth in the amateur division with 12 fish that weighed 77.5 pounds. He led the amateur division after two days with 10 fish weighing 66.47 pounds, but he and his partner managed just two fish on the final day. Still, he won \$1,300 in prizes for his finish.

Plymouth's Jeff Hestwood won



Nice catch: Jeff Hestwood (left) of Plymouth and Robert Jones Jr. of Redford hold up walleye catches.

weighed 86.97 pounds. He won \$3,500 in prizes for his effort.

In PWT porams, amateurs are paired with a different professional each day. The two fish together for a five-fish boat limit and each angler carries that total weight into the next day of competition. The final weight is an accumulation of three days of fishing.

"For an amateur, these tournments are just phenomenal," said Rossman, who spends much of the summer fishing for walleyes in Lake Erie. "These guys do this for a living and every time you go out you learn something new. I even learned a different way to hook a minnow. They don't came off now."

Rossman wasn't the only O&E-area angler to cash in nat the PWT.

Canton's Dan Boileau placed eighth in the amateur division after two days with 10 fish weighing 66.47 pounds, but he mid his partner managed just with the work of the own standard prizes for his finish.

Plymouth's Jeff Hestwood won Plymouth's Jeff Hestwood won was in first after day one. I was fishing with Kim Papaneau of the second day," Modders said. The vision after two days with 10 fish weighting 66.47 pounds, but he was \$1,300 in prizes for his finish.

Plymouth's Jeff Hestwood won was first and the stood in 133rd place and he stood in

was issuing with a hard and the was in first after day one. I walked up to him and said. Put me on them and I'll catch them.' We got to the spot and I put four six-pounders in the beat in the first two hours. He freaked. Later, I ended up getting our big fish that was 10.55."

This was Modders' first well-eye pro-am.

"I started fishing bass tournaments when I was 16, Modders said. I'm bern and bred bass, but I like to fish walleyes in the spring."

Redford's Robert Jones Jr. placed 11th in the professional division with a three-day limit of 15 fish that weighed 76.63 pounds. He earned \$4,300 for his efforts.

Jones was steady throughout

efforts.

Jones was steady throughout
the tournament. He was in 29th
place after the first day with five
fish weighing 24.03 pounds. On
the second day he weighed five



Money winner: Farming-ton's Tom Rossman placed third among amateurs.

third among amateurs.

more fish that weighed 23.10
pounds. His two-day total of
47.13 meved him up to 28th. On
the final day, paired with Hestwood, the two teamed up toeath five fish that weighed 29.5
pounds as both anglers climbed
further up the ladder.

Tommy Skarlis, of Walker,
Minn., won the pro division with
a three-day total of five fish that
weighed an impressive 98.69
Marshfield, Wis., was the top
amateur with 15 fish that
weighed 30.67 pounds.
The In-Fisherman PWT
returns to Michigan, July 1820, in Sault Ste. Marie, There
are still amateur apots open.
Call (218) 829-0520 for more
information

(Bill Parker writes a weekly

information
(Bill Parker writes a weekly outdoor column for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Bill Parker, c 4 Outdoors, 805 E. Mople, Birmingham, MI 48009.)

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