



OAK LAWN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL SPARTAN BASS TOURNAMENT



[Illinois BASS Federation Nation](#) club [Unique Bassmasters](#) along with the [Spartan Fishing Team and its sponsors](#) partnered together to present the [Oak Lawn Community High School Spartan Bass Tournament](#) on the Kankakee/Des Plaines River at the Des Plaines Conservation Area. Eight schools were represented in the tournament which featured 14 boats. Participating schools included Reavis, Marist, Lemont, Seneca, De La Salle, Minooka, Harlan, and Oak Lawn.

October 2, 2010 proved to be a challenging day for the young anglers as an approaching cold front brought mid 50 degree weather and 10-20 mph winds and rain. Despite the conditions, the kids caught fish. Oak Lawn alumni ('03) and Unique Bassmaster member **Scott Orban** guided the Oak Lawn team to victory with a weight of 6.77lbs. Spartan anglers **Kallenborn/Hentgen/Patiño/Frega** each caught keeper bass. Each of these four anglers also had the opportunity to catch their first smallmouth bass. "It was a privilege to be part of this event, to watch the kids catch their first smallie and catch their first keeper bass in a tournament was a very rewarding experience," Orban stated. "Kudos to the kids, they fished hard and did a great job keeping those fish buttoned." Junior **Matt Hentgen**, who caught three of the teams bass, said "the smallmouth were tightly schooled together. I caught three bass on five casts! It was such an adrenalin rush! I just kept shaking with excitement."

Freshmen **Kody Frega** caught Oak Lawn's largest bass weighing 2.29lbs. He describes his catch "Coach Orban pointed out some slack water around a piece of structure and explained to me that bass relate to the currents change. He told me to cast my crankbait there and as soon as I did, I hooked into the monster."

Captain of the Spartan Fishing Team **Ben Masek** (junior) was on the second Oak Lawn boat which was captained by Unique Bassmaster member **Pete Saele**. Ben said "We battled the wind all day which made boat control and casting difficult. We managed to catch 15 bass and even one carp that grabbed my shaky head. Despite all the fish, we only had one keeper largemouth."

A 3.10 pound largemouth was the big bass of the tournament. It was caught by Lemont High School fisherman **Chris Walter** who describes his catch "When I hooked up with my first fish I knew it was a chunk. I didn't think it had the size to be a three pounder but I knew it'd be close. When they announced that my fish won big bass I was ecstatic. I've come close before but never won the title of big bass, so that was an awesome feeling!"

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In an effort to get more kids involved in competitive fishing, a creature fish tournament was also held for shoreline anglers. Since each boat was permitted a four person roster, the creature fish tournament was an opportunity for kids who excel in other fishing techniques to showcase their talents. The creature fish award went to Oak Lawn Community High School angler **Francisco Patiño** who caught a 4.26lbs flathead catfish. After receiving his award, Francisco said “when I saw that I was getting a bite, I wanted to run over and set the hook, but my dad told me to let the fish take the bait. When the fish really started pulling is when I set the hook. It was cool having so many people watch me weigh in the biggest fish of the tournament and congratulating me on the big cat.”



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“The guys at Unique Bassmaster ran a great tournament,” Oak Lawn head coach **Chris Kuchyt** stated. “Many kids made memories that will stick with them for the rest of their lives. All the coaches, high school anglers, and parents that took part in this tournament truly appreciate the time this club put forth in making this event possible.” Just as each member of the Blackhawks gets the Stanley Cup for a day, each member of the Spartan Fishing Team will get to opportunity to carry the championship plaque around with them from class to class and share stories of their experience.

Results

Place	School	Anglers	Number of Fish	Live Fish	Big Bass	Total Weight
1	Oak Lawn	Kallenborn/Hentgen/Patiño/Frega	5	5	2.29	6.77
2	Lemont	Walter/Burns/Casazza/Garza	2	2	3.10	5.47
3	Seneca	David/ Stuedemann	3	3	1.53	3.69
4	De La Salle	Markham/Cuchetto/Quigley/Kasprzyk	2	2	1.59	2.80
5	Minooka	Michael/Borque/Volke	2	2	1.04	1.94
6	Minooka	Akars/Price/Scott	1	1	1.31	1.31
7	Seneca	Carajohn/Kirkton/Mann	1	1	1.15	1.15
8	Marist	Engel/Rook	1	1	1.13	1.13
9	Marist	O'Neil/Bury	1	1	1.12	1.12
10	Oak Lawn	Masek/Swies/Abdulla	1	1	1.06	1.06

Creature Fish Results

School	Name	Fish	Weight
Oak Lawn	Francisco Patino	Flathead Catfish	4.26
Oak Lawn	Pat Hughes	Sucker	1.44
Oak Lawn	Kody Frega	Drum	.96
Oak Lawn	Michael Hentgen	Drum	.86



Kyle Kallenborn, Kody Frega, Scott Orban, Matt Hentgen, & Carlos Patiño of Oak Lawn Community High School



Kody Frega, Scott Orban, Kyle Kallenborn, Matt Hentgen, & Carlos Patiño of Oak Lawn Community High School



Kevin McLean of Unique Bassmasters presents the Big Bass trophy to Chris Walter of Lemont High School.



Ed Swies, Ben Masek, Omar
Abdulla of Oak Lawn
Community High School