



Wisconsin Fishers of Men

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Roland Martin and Big Smallies highlight WI East Event on Big Green

On a weekend where Roland Martin addressed the crowd at the Friday night pre-tournament meeting and almost 25 pounds of smallies tipped the scales on Saturday, many of the WI East anglers are still in a state of awe after the recent events on Big Green. "I'm still reeling a little," replied Division Director Chris Jones who admittedly was very excited to see a legend like Roland at the Friday night meeting, who came just to hang out for pictures and autographs, and then to have 24 pounds of smallmouth tilt the scale on Saturday was unbelievable. "I'm used to seeing Roland in my living room on TV, not standing next to me posing for a picture." It was a great weekend to be part of the WI East Division. One great fisherman on Friday night. One great weigh in on Saturday!

For David Loewe of Oshkosh and Dave Larsen of Menominee their practice period was characterized by a strong Largemouth bite, but the two anglers found themselves in a precarious position after the Friday night boat draw. In a follow up interview Monday evening David Loewe commented, "We originally had planned to go channel fishing like a lot of the other teams, and then we drew boat 40. At that point we knew we'd be fishing 'used water', so we decided to roll the dice and take our chances on the main lake." It clearly paid off for the two anglers. Positioning their boat in more than 30 feet of water, the two angled into the wind, working their subtle presentation along a 20 foot break line and proceeded to rip into a school of Smallmouth bass that most anglers only dream of catching. The weapons of choice were a tube and a finesse worm. They declined to comment on the color.

Any other day, the story line of the tournament would have read something completely different, but totally amazing in its own way. It would have read something like this: "Twelve year old fishing phenomena **Jonny Schultz** and partner Dave Belongia win Big Green event with 15.31 pounds!" Lost in the daze of the big smallie craze was an incredible day on the water by a young man with a knack for catching fish and a tournament tested veteran with a passion for sharing fishing with youth. Schultz of West Bend and Belongia of Fond du Lac pulled a solid limit of Largemouth from the channels of Big Green using a variety of soft plastics to take second place. The two anchored their limit with a dandy 4.29 pound Largemouth that the stage savvy youngster Schultz replied "was just as fun to net for Dave as it would have been to catch." With the second place finish, the two sit tied for fifth overall in the point race and are in the pole position for the Adult Junior standings with an automatic

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