

Big fish record broken...twice!

All-time contest record smashed

An all-time contest record was smashed by two different anglers with 55 pound muskies as anglers vied for a 55 horsepower Evinrude outboard motor and \$150 in cash. First consideration in the 23 year old "Molson" Big Fish Contest is given to weight, but when weights are identical, the longest fish wins.

The lunker maskinog caught by Craig Dawson of Dryden, Ontario, got the edge by 1 3/4". His fish, caught in Wabigoon Lake, measured 56 3/4" overall while Gary Ishii's Moon River monster measured 55 inches. Ironically the previous record Molson musky was caught in Moon River in 1977.

Rick Morgan, Executive Vice President of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, which runs the province-wide award program, stated, "We checked both 55 pound entries very carefully. Witnesses were interviewed, biological evidence was examined, and both weigh scales were double checked."

In the smallmouth bass category, Robert Beals of Chelmsford, Massachusetts coaxed a 7 pound, 5 ounce bronzeback from Restoule River to earn his first place finish.

In largemouth bass, Willowdale angler Kathy Bennett tapped all entries with her 8 pound 4 1/2 ounce

bucketmouth, taken from Head Lake. A dead minnow did the trick.

Gyven Boudreau of Red Rock proved his prowess as a speckled trout fisherman as he took both first and second place in that category. The bigger fish, taken from Lake Superior weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces, while the smaller one, weighing 7 pounds 14 ounces came from the Nipigon River.

Northwestern Ontario also produced the top lake trout. Peter Nee from Bloomington, Minnesota pulled his 39 pound 12 ounce beauty from appropriately named Trout Lake.

In the rainbow trout category, Toronto

angler, Joseph Meluck edged into first place with his 24 pound 1 1/2 ounce dandy taken from Georgian Bay.

There was an amazingly low number of salmon entered in the 1981 Big Fish Contest despite separate categories for coho and chinook. A number of anglers passed up Molson's money when they failed to enter.

Lucky Harris of Mississauga didn't mind though. He took first, third, and sixth place in the Chinook category. His top fish tipped the scales at 40 pounds 14 3/4 ounces. All three fish were caught while Harris fished from shore.

It is the coho class that really has contest

officials stumped, as cash prizes were awarded to every fish weighing over 13 pounds. Top of the class was Jo Anne Vervaecke of Wallaceburg, who took her 20 pound 5 ounce winner from Lake Erie.

Timmins angler Peter Heyland stayed near home and pulled the top northern pike from nearby Kenogamissi Lake. It weighed an even 32 pounds.

In the walleye category, it was northwestern Ontario again as Stephen Kimberley pulled his 17 pound fish from Eagle Lake. Kimberley proved it was no fluke by also taking third place in the smallmouth bass section.

The top 15 fish in each of the 10 contest categories won cash prizes. The top entry in each one also received a 4.5 horsepower Evinrude outboard motor except Dawson. In his case, because he broke an all-time contest record, a 55 horsepower Evinrude outboard will be presented. All entries over established minimum weights received Molson honour

awards. The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters is a province-wide conservation organization

with 28,000 members. The "Molson" Big Fish Contest is open to all residents of Ontario and all legally licensed non-resident anglers.



Down and up

Midland Centennials' John Walter appears downtrodden as members of the Penetanguishene Kings celebrate a goal during their Georgian Bay Junior C Hockey League matchup last week at Midland Arena. The Kings'

celebration continued through Sunday afternoon as well, as the Penetanguishene squad coasted to a 12-5 hammering of the Cents at Penetanguishene Arena.

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