

# HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER...

A NEWSLETTER BY ESPN WOMENS TOUR ANGLER, COLLEEN MCKAY

## WOMEN'S BASSMASTER TOUR—LAKE DARDANELLE

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WBT—LAKE DARDANELLE 1

MY PROFILE 2

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS 2

WBT—LAKE DARDANELLE 2

### NEXT ISSUE:

- A report from Lake Guntersville
- Mass Bass Federation

Back to Lake Dardanelle in Russellville, AR. I had mixed feelings as I was heading back to Lake Dardanelle for the second stop on the 2007 Women's Bassmaster Tour.

Last year I finished second at the WBT event on Lake Dardanelle, barely missing winning the tournament and finally obtaining a boat by two ounces. I could only hope that I could repeat or improve on my performance here compared the last time I fished this lake, although I knew it would be difficult as there would be plenty of competition.

Kimberlee Striker and Linda Sands from Cullman, AL were kind enough to let me pre-fish with them.

The day I fished with Linda she said that a photographer (Josh) from the Russellville Courier would be joining us for a while and that he would be taking some pictures of her and her boat.

When Josh arrived it seemed as if he brought the rain with him because it started to pour. Josh was

huddled under a golf umbrella trying to keep his camera dry while Linda and I were standing in the pouring rain with our rain gear on trying to catch some fish.

Josh took several photos of Linda and had all sorts of questions about tournament fishing and what it was like for us to be fishing a national tour. After a while the rain slowed up a little and Josh turned to me and

told us the article and photos would be in the paper the next day.

The next morning I walked in to the meeting hall for a seminar where several of the WBT competitors pointed at me, giggling, and said that my picture was in the paper. Much to my amazement, Josh put my picture on the front page of the Russellville Courier! Wow, I never had my

picture on the front of a newspaper before. There were more pictures of Linda and I in the sports section along with a nice article about the Women's Bassmaster Tour. Thank you Josh and the Russellville Courier!

**Day 1:** I would be fishing with Mickie Wolfberger from Missouri. Mickie caught several nice bass during practice. Her fishing style was very similar to mine (finesse fishing) which was a good sign.

Mickie and I managed to catch some nice keeper bass early (see photo) but the fishing seemed to slow down as the day progressed and we struggled to catch more fish.

**Day 2:** I was in the top 25 after the first day and hoped that I could im-



Mickie Wolfberger and Colleen at the Weigh-in on Day 1 at Lake Dardanelle

said that he was going to take pictures of me too. By this point I felt like a drowned rat. He took several photos and Linda and I both managed to catch some small spotted bass while he was taking the pic-

prove my position in the standings. Unfortunately I was paired with someone that had not found many fish in practice. We managed to find some fish and I caught plenty of them, unfortunately they all seemed to be 14 1/2 inches long which would be great back at home in Massachusetts but not so great in Arkansas where there is a 15 inch limit on bass. I was sure that I would drop out of the top 25. After Day 2, I was in twenty-fifth place overall and had just made the cut. I knew I would have my work cut out for me if I wanted to move up in the standings on Day 3. However, I couldn't help but remember the great finish I had on Lake Dardanelle on the third day of the tournament there last year.

**Day 3:** I was fishing with Tami Kashiwabara from Japan. Tami is learning English and we managed to communicate with each other fine. However, I knew I was in trouble when Tami asked where I was from. I replied "Massachusetts". She looked at me with a confused look on her face, so then I said "Boston". Tami started laughing and said "You Yankee". Well, you know you are going to be in for a long day when someone from Japan refers to you as a Yankee. I struggled to find keeper bass all day. Tami would catch one and it would be over 15 inches and then I would catch one and it would be another one of those 14 inch bass. Just one of those days on the water I guess. The good news is that at that point the worst I could do was finish in 25th place. Well, there's always the next tournament! Look out Guntersville.

**Reviewing the day's fishing with ESPN Announcer "Lurch" and WBT Tour Manager Deb Wilkinson**



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As I head the next WBT event I want to take the opportunity to thank my sponsors and supporters:

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**UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS**

ESPN Women's Bassmaster Tour  
 Lake Guntersville  
 Guntersville, AL  
 May 3-5, 2007

Green Water Wizards—Club Tournament  
 Charles River  
 Waltham, MA  
 May 12, 2007

Mass Bass Federation Team Trail Tournament  
 Long Pond  
 Lakeville, MA  
 May 20, 2007

I am employed as a faculty member and researcher at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. I began fishing bass tournaments in 1999 . I compete on the Women's Bassmaster Tour and fish both club (individual) and team tournaments in the Massachusetts Bass Federation. I'm fishing the Women's Bassmaster Tour (WBT), initially as a non-boater but with a goal of obtaining a boat and fishing as a boater. I would like to establish relationships with sponsoring companies for myself and for my club. I strive for advancement opportunities in pursuit of a professional fishing career.