



Giner's 2007 Tactics Pay Off

By John Siejak - Managing Editor

The Angler of the Year Title is often decided by a few good decisions made by one good Federation angler that weren't made by another good Federation angler. With some exceptions, these anglers are generally guys who have been around the Federation for a number of years and have "paid their dues." What is it that fishing at the state level over a number of years adds to an angler's arsenal? Obviously, becoming familiar with the bodies of water the Federation fishes will give these guys an advantage, but is that the main key to these guy's success? If that was the case, why is it different for the select guys who can jump into the state level of competition and have success? It seems that the anglers who consistently finish well probably have some things in common when approaching tournaments.

Frank Giner is one of these anglers that would fit into the "consistently finishing well" category. Looking back on the 2007 season, which ended with Frank earning the Angler of the Year title, we will look at what was the biggest reason for success at each stop. Hopefully when you compare these decisions with our own, you may see some patterns that will help you catch more fish in 2008.

Way before he begins breaking down each individual lake, Frank likes to look at the season as a whole. His end goal is to finish in the top five for the year, thus reaching the state team as a boater. To reach this goal, Frank has a target of placing at least in the top twelve at each tournament stop. Using internet history data on the scheduled bodies of water, he is able to get a good feeling as to what weight he needs to catch in order to reach his mark. Additionally, Frank likes to pick out one tournament that he feels he has a chance to get a top three finish. Frank related, "This usually means fishing a place that plays to my strengths – sight fishing and flipping." Finally, looking at the schedule, Giner will also try to isolate the tournament site that may present the most problems; the one that might require a little more practice time.

Frank garnered a strong finish right off the bat in 2007, with a fourth place finish on Oneida Lake at the Susan

Johnson Opener. Usually the first tournament of the season is a tough one to prepare for, as the fish can be spawning or post spawn, or a combination of the two. For this tournament, knowing Oneida is generally shallow and warm, Frank only spent a short time looking for bedding fish. He was able to isolate a few areas with willing smallmouths. However, the key to this day was having the shallow largemouths to add weight to his limit. After catching his limit of smallies throwing a



2007 NYBCF Angler of the Year, Frank Giner

Jackal Squad minnow jerk bait, Frank and his partner headed for the shallows. While Frank's green fish didn't add much weight to his limit, he was open to his partner's areas, which paid off. By being open to the location, Frank was able to present his jig to a few more willing largemouths. This added the weight needed to have a great start to the season.

The Mohawk River was not as kind to Frank, where he finished in 22nd place, his only finish outside of the top ten. Oddly enough, going into this tournament, Frank felt the most confident of any of the events. Going into the event, he was on a good spinnerbait bite, and had a ledge that he had success on in the past. Unfortunately these spots were in two different pools. The ledge was historically good, so Frank decided to start there. Well, this first stop did not produce, so after a good effort there, Frank tried to recreate his spinnerbait pattern in that pool with the ledge. He

quickly lost a good fish, but that fish was the only one that was willing to bite in that pool. He ran to other similar areas, but he came up empty-handed. With about two hours to go, Frank headed to his original spinnerbait area and was able to put three fish in the boat before he had to turn in. Those three fish ended up saving the season for him.

Frank put his fishing into high gear for the final two events starting with a 9th place on the Niagara River. Frank approached this tournament viewing the Niagara River and Lake Erie as two different bodies of water. He knew the lake would win the tournament, but felt good about the chances of a 14-15 pound limit's ability to capture a top twelve slot. The game plan was to pick up one or two good fish on the lake and then fill out the limit in the river. Well, the lake didn't produce as he had hoped. With only one 3 ½ pound smallie as a reward for going out to the lake, Frank hit his river spots which produced a good number of fish in the three pound range. Having the river locations as a part of the game plan was instrumental in the solid finish at this event.

Turning back east, the 2007 trail closed on Lake George. Frank used his knowledge of the water to post a 6th place finish. That finish sealed the Angler of the Year title by a mere 1 point over defending AOY, Brad Brodnicki. Based on his experience on this lake in the Fall, Frank felt confident he could pull off a top ten finish. The deepwater structure fishing that is productive at this time of the year is similar to the type of fishing Frank does near his home on Candlewood Lake.

After practice he felt that he was on the fish to win. It turned out that he was right, and his non-boater proved it, as he went on to boat the winning limit behind Frank. Frank commented that the difference that day was the worm that his non-boater was fishing. Joe Tefft, his non-boater that day was fishing a 5 inch worm and Frank was fishing a 4 inch version. While Frank out caught Joe, the size of Joe's fish were consistently bigger. That was until Frank borrowed one of Joe's worms and put his biggest fish of the day in the boat. **FL**