

Daino & Friscia Take 1st Place At Junior Partner's Tournament

The New York State Junior BASS Federation held its 3rd Annual Junior/Partners Tournament on Sunday, August 19th 2007. The tournament launched out of Brewerton Boatyard on Oneida Lake.

The largest entry to date was registered as a combined field of 74 Pro's and Junior's competed for the total purse of \$3 thousand dollars. A record number of bass were brought to the weigh-in stage as 27 teams recorded bag limits of 6 bass per team.

Pro-angler Craig Daino along with partner and junior-angler Ryan Friscia weighed in their bag of 6 bass tripping the scales at 20.66 lbs to take first place in the tournament. Anytime you average almost 3 ½ lbs per fish, you know you've had a great day at the pond. As winners, Craig took home \$500 in cash and Ryan was awarded \$300 in Bass Pro Shop Gift Certificates. The tournament paid down eleven places to both pros and juniors along with numerous door prizes for others.

Following with 18.77 lbs. and finishing in 2nd was pro-angler Mike Cusano and his junior partner, Austin Flick. Mike & Austin had an outstanding day and as the past winners of this tournament in 2006, they defended their title honorably.

Southern Tier pro-angler Ron Hill and his son, junior-angler Brandon Hill teamed up to finish 3rd with a respectable 17.51 lbs.

Finishing 4th was pro-angler Mike Mertz and his junior partner Kyle Magill-Jones with 16.72 lbs.

Rounding out the top 5 were the father and son team of pro-angler Wes House and his son, junior-angler Tyler House with a respectable 16.25 lbs.

The "lunker" or largest bass of the day was brought in by the 8th placed team of pro-angler Billy Alexander and his junior partner Joe Tahan.

Their winning bass weighed in at 4.78 lbs.

As always our sponsors, both local and national play a major role in allowing us to host and operate these tournaments for our junior anglers.

Mickey Fortunato and I would like to thank our local sponsors; Brewerton Boatyard, Vella's Supermarket's, Bass Pro

ever increasing. Mickey and I would like to thank the following people who stepped up to plate and helped us make this tournament what it is today.

Tom Merritt and Greg Jones – The Sponsor Display. Tom, you did a terrific job! Linda and Ron Johnstone - Our Cooks – Linda, thank you for volunteering at the last minute; Mary Jones and Lisa Temple did Tee-shirt Sales and Weigh-in Board; Walt Hoffman Checked in boats; Jeanne Wolfe did the 50/50 Raffle; Patricia J. Tahan took Photos! Thank you Pat, wow ... great job!; Tom Pavlot, Joe Zwijacz & Kim Goffredo - Thank you all for helping me with the weigh in! I hope you can attend and assist us again in 2008!

To all you juniors – PLEASE remember to thank your parents! Also, try to stay in touch with your pro-partners and ASK them if they will fish with you again, in this Junior/Partner tournament next year.

On a sad note, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the unfortunate incident that occurred on Oneida Lake, days prior to our tournament. A senior citizen, 85 year old John C. Kowalewski, was doing what he loved to do, fish on Oneida Lake. Unfortunately, he was killed by another boat. Mickey acknowledged the loss, by asking for a few moments of silence in his memory, prior to blast-off and at the beginning of the weigh-in ceremonies.

Mickey and I hope you all had a great time and an exciting summer fishing & participating in all our NYS Junior Tournaments.

We sincerely wish you joy and success the rest of this and hope to see all of you again in 2008. **FL**



Craig Daino (L) and Ryan Friscia Proudly Hold Up Their Awards

Shops, Jim West Monroe Auto Repair, Boat Deal Brokerage Service, Reymore Chevrolet Sales, Inc., Marine 2000, Brewerton Pharmacy, D.G.'s Restaurant, Dailey's Pour House, The Old Boathouse Restaurant, Good Golly's Restaurant, and Wal-Mart Supercenter.

Our thanks also go out to our national sponsors; Skeeter Boats, Mustad, Mepp's Lures, Rap-L-Trap by Bill Lewis Lures, Eagle Claw, AA Worms, Road Runner, Bubbie Belly's, Driichi, and RMR Industries line and lure Company.

If you have the opportunity to be in the area of any one of these sponsors, please take the time to visit them, maybe purchase their product, but by all means, please thank them for all they do for all our juniors.

As I've always said in the past, it's never redundant when it comes time to thank all our volunteers. We are so fortunate to get the response we do have, year after year and the enthusiasm is