

## 2009 Team of the Year

# Davis and Gies win top honors as Team of the Year and World Walleye Champions



With 85.26 pounds from Lake Erie over three days, Ohio anglers Matt Davis (Marion) and Dan Gies (Huron) jumped to the top of the elite Championship field to be crowned the Cabela's MWC World Walleye Champions, earning a cash prize of \$25,000. This impressive victory comes just four weeks on the heels of winning the coveted MWC Team of the Year title which carried a \$13,000 bonus. Davis and Gies are on a roll to have achieved both in such short succession, a testimony to their fishing acumen and versatility.

"So many great anglers have been a part of the rich history of the MWC," shared Matt Davis after the majestic walleye trophies and big check had been presented. "It's amazing to think that we've now accomplished something of this stature and are amongst their ranks. It's awesome." Partner Dan Gies knows it took awhile coming together, but agrees that the moment is sweet. "We've been a part of the MWC since the inception of the East division, for five years now," shared Gies, addressing his peers at the Champions dinner. "We had to learn the hard way and take our knocks at some of the tournaments that stretched us and our skill set. This is just such a great feeling, hard to believe it's real." This was their first Circuit victory.

Davis and Gies also received sponsor contingency bonuses including \$100 from the National Professional Anglers Association (NPAA) and \$200 from the Oxygenator for using an Oxygenator system in their livewell. Their Championship purse, bonuses and Team of the Year awards makes for a \$38,300 paycheck for the month of October for these MWCers.

## Webster Tournament

### Woodward and Rice come back to grab win!



Big finishes were the order of the day as the 2009 Cabela's MWC season wrapped up on Waubay Lake in the Glacial Lake area of South Dakota. As a season ending event, wins occurred for both the tournament at hand and the circuit's Team of the Year honors. The Championship field for 2010 was also firmly established for a field of 29 teams. The biggest finish was a significant comeback for the proud Waubay Lake winners, Brian Woodward and David Rice, both of Casper, WY. The duo had only 4.9 pounds on day one sitting in 36th place out of a field of 44 teams. Yet the talk at the dock on Sunday morning was definitely that anyone was still in this tournament with the right fish. Getting the right fish was exactly what Woodward and Rice accomplished. They ended up with the largest basket of the tournament with 22.44 pounds on day two for a spectacular catapult to first place with just over a four pound cushion.

## West Division Winners

### Propst and Atkinson take West Division Team of the Year honors



West Division honors were awarded to the MWC West Division Team of the Year, Bob Propst, Jr. of Pierre, SD and David Atkinson of Sault Sainte Marie, MI. They captured West Division Team of the Year honors with their third place finish at Waubay, 14th place at Lake Oahe and 14th place at Devils Lake. The honor is worth a bonus of \$2,400 for the team. Their 3rd place weight of 22.49 pounds at Waubay cashed a nice \$3,250 plus Propst won \$100 from the National Professional Anglers Association (NPAA) making a total of \$5,750.

## Dunkirk Tournament

### Hollingsworth and Navis capture 2nd win with MWC!



With an impressive ten pound spread, New Yorkers Bob Hollingsworth (Kenmore) and Jim Navis (Grand Island) won the Lake Erie tournament out of Dunkirk, New York with ten fish weighing in for 66.07 pounds. They were the only team to produce two thirty-plus pound baskets both days and the honor awarded the duo \$10,300 in cash prizes. This was their second Cabela's MWC victory. Their first was in 2004 on the Eastern basin of Lake Ontario out of Henderson Harbor, New York. When they win -- they win big. In 2004 their margin over second place was over 35 pounds! Asked about their accomplishment, Hollingsworth replied, "Usually there's a mistake along the way that ruins your chances, but that just didn't happen this time. This is great."

Mistake-free is right. Hollingsworth and Navis weighed 32.68 pounds on day one which put them in third place. However the teams above them struggled on day two and the winners put together a repeat performance with 33.39 pounds for a total of 66.07 pounds. They fished 9-10 miles west of Dunkirk in 72' of water. They were 4'-5' off the bottom, but the big fish came in the morning on a high line. The duo used the traditional Dunkirk technique of large Dipsy Divers with Renosky Crystalina 5" plugs. The Dipsys were watermelon black tiger (set at 3 1/2) in which Hollingsworth painted the bottom a bright fluorescent green and doctored the top with a little pink. "I just don't like the chrome showing on the bottom," mused Hollingsworth. The deeper rig was the blueberry muffin coloring (set at 1) and the bottom was painted black. They trolled about a one mile pattern at 1.8 miles per hour. "Bob and I try to keep it fun in the boat and not get too serious," shared Navis, all smiles after the win. "We have a dollar bet everyday we fish together on who gets the first fish and another dollar bet on who gets the biggest fish of the day." Navis paid his two bucks to Hollingsworth on the stage with a laugh.

## Devils Lake Tournament

### Ryan and Ethridge grab victory!



Guy Ryan and Troy Ethridge of Salina, Kansas won the Cabela's MWC tournament with their first place finish at 46.93 pounds. The winners cashed in \$15,120 plus a \$1,000 bonus from Ranger Boats for being the top finishing team in Ranger Cup. Plus a \$100 bonus from the National Professional Anglers Association (NPAA) for a total of \$16,220. Ryan and Ethridge are having a fantastic 2009 season. A second place finish at Mobridge (Lake Oahe) in early May, a 14th place finish at Marinette/Menominee (Bay of Green Bay) earlier July and now this win have the two quite pumped for their shot at Cabela's MWC Team of the Year. Just one more tournament for them at Webster, South Dakota (Lake Waubay) in September will determine the outcome.

**Bay of Green Bay Tournament**  
**Knowles and Rabetski Capture Win**



The Wisconsin team of Joe Knowles (Sherwood) and Gordon 'Butch' Rabetski (Neenah) capture a big win on the Bay of Green Bay, July 11th & 12th. They had the lead on day one with 23.44 pounds and completed their victory with 28.44 pounds on day two, the second largest basket of the tournament, for a total of 51.88 pounds. Their victory earned them \$14,650 in prize money plus \$1,000 for Ranger Cup and another \$200 for the Oxygenator Bonus. They also earned an additional \$770 in big fish cash on day two for bringing in the largest fish of the day with a 9.96 pounder, giving them a grand total of \$16,620.

## Central Division Winners

### **Sutton and Vojak take Central Division Team of the Year title**



The Bay of Green Bay tournament also marked the end of the Central Division for 2009, with that came our Central Division Team of the Year title which went to the Illinois team of Bill Sutton (Lindenhurst) and Bill Vojak (Antioch). They finished with 214 division points winning the Central Division by eleven points. Sutton and Vojak progressively excelled within the division. They started out the year at Spring Valley, IL with a 20th place finish followed up by a 15th place finish on Lake Pepin, MN and completed the division on the Bay of Green Bay with their 2nd place finish. Besides the honor of being the Central Division Team of the Year, their win also netted them a cool \$3,180 plus beautiful new trophies.

## Sandusky Tournament

### **Record Breaking Basket on Lake Erie!**



A record two-day basket was set by the winning team of Dennis Lantzy of Warren, Michigan and Steve Vande Mark of Linwood, Michigan on the phenomenal fishery of Lake Erie, weighing in 86.38 pounds. This was their first Cabela's MWC victory cashing in \$13,300 in total with sponsor bonuses from Ranger Boats and the Oxygenator. The previous two-day basket record was set in 2007 on Lake Ontario at 85.07 pounds.

## Lake City Tournament

### **Matthees and Conway pull out victory at Lake City!**



St. Charles and Winona, Minnesota residents Aaron Matthees and Paul Conway, respectively, bested a field of 73 teams to capture their second MWC victory on the mighty Mississippi River. Employing a simple live bait rig technique on wing dams or other structure spot-on-spot locations produced their two day total of 43.02 pounds cashing in \$14,000. The second-largest basket of the tournament at 28.54 pounds on day two paired up with a 4th place day one basket of 14.48 pounds to garner the victory. The two carried smiles as wide as Lake Pepin on stage with their fish. A beautiful 9.12 pound walleye on Sunday was the biggest fish of the day providing a bonus of \$575 for a total of \$14,575.

## Mobridge Tournament Lake Oahe Winners!



Aaron Wagner and Jim Perry, respectfully, win the Lake Oahe Tournament!

One of the most challenging bites the MWC has faced in its 25 year history was part of the experience on Lake Oahe in South Dakota this weekend. High muddy water, a late spring delaying the spawn and the smelt run all contributed to the unique conditions that challenged the 61 team field. But persevere and tough it out -- they did!

Twenty-one teams caught at least one fish with a total of 54 fish caught. The winning weight was 15.72 pounds for 3 fish by the Kansas team of Jim Perry and Aaron Wagner. This was their first Cabela's MWC tournament, and obviously their first MWC victory, cashing in a total of \$13,188. Included in these winnings are sponsor bonuses from the Oxygenator for \$200 and the National Professional Anglers Association (NPAA) for \$100.

## Detroit River Tournament

### **Congratulations to Wayne Butz and Don Frederick!**



Congratulations to Cabela's MWC Team of the Year, Wayne Butz of Hobart, WI & Don Frederick of Appleton, WI for winning the Detroit River/ Lake Erie tournament! They finished with a two day total of 53.01 lbs. Weighing 22 pounds even on the 1st day , and were sitting in 7th place. On the 2nd day, they ended up with a whopping 31.01 pounds, the largest basket of the event to grab the 1st place honors. In addition to their first place winnings, Butz and Frederick were the beneficiaries of additional sponsor contingency bonuses totaling \$1,800. The Ranger Cup \$1,000 bonus along with the \$500 Mercury bonus, \$200 Oxygenator bonus and \$100 Team FCIS (Farm & City Insurance Services) bonus, giving the duo a total of \$14,600.

The tournament was filmed by North American Media Group for airing on Versus Television Network.

Airdates are Tuesday, June 2nd and Thursday, June 4th, both at 10:30 a.m. Eastern.

## Spring Valley Tournament

**Congratulations to Steve and Adam Sandor!!**



Congratulations to Steve "Pinky" Sandor of Tonica, IL and his son Adam Sandor of Ottawa, IL for winning the 2009 Spring Valley tournament. They finished with a two day total of 27.60 lbs. They weighed 12.05 lbs. on the first day to put them in 2nd place. On day 2, they brought in 15.55 lbs, including a 4.76 pounder, the largest fish of the tournament to take home the victory.