

2007 Texas Walleye Championship

Hot and unusually calm conditions greeted the qualifying teams in the 2007 Texas Walleye Championship at Lake Meredith on June 23-24. At stake was over \$4,500 in prize money and prizes and an automatic qualification to the 2008 Cabelas National Team Championship. What a difference a single month made! In the May 19th tournament at Meredith, teams were bringing in as much or more weight with a 5 fish limit as was being brought to the scales with 10 fish over a two day tournament. It was evident that two teams discovered a hot weather pattern that worked and battled it out by bringing in very close weights each day. In the end, the team of David Wilkinson of Fritch and Russell Wilkinson of Amarillo won the overall first place trophies and \$1,080 with a total of 19 lbs 9.6 ozs. Dan Turner of Dumas and David Turner of Bristow, OK finished in 2nd place winning \$490 with 18 lbs 13.4 ozs. Kevin and Kalin Audrain of Fritch came in 3rd winning \$290 with 15 lbs 14.2 ozs.

The 1st place winner of \$500 on Day 1 of the tourney was also David and Russell Wilkinson with 9 lbs .02 ozs. They also took the big fish pot of \$130 with a 2 lb.14.2 oz walleye. Dan and David Turner were a close 2nd winning \$300 with 8 lbs 14ozs. Kevin and Kalin Audrain claimed 3rd and \$170 with 8 lbs 8.6 ozs. 4th place and \$50 went to Ed Rodriguez of Fritch and Jim O'Connor of Amarillo with 7 lbs 15.2 ozs. 5th place and winner of a bait cooler was Hank and Hunter McWilliams of Fritch with 7 lbs 5.8 ozs.

Winning 1st place and \$500 on Day 2 was Jim Welch of Fritch and James Welch of Albuquerque, NM with 10 lb 10 ozs. They brought in the largest 5 fish limit of the tourney. 2nd place and \$300 went to David and Russell Wilkinson who brought in 10 lbs 9.4 ozs to secure the overall championship. Once again, the Wilkinsons won the big fish pot of \$130 with a 3 lb 13 oz fish. 3rd place and \$170 went to Dan and David Turner with 9 lbs 15.4 ozs to put them in the championship runner's-up spot. 4th and \$50 was won by Hank and Hunter McWilliams with 7 lbs 9.6 ozs. The 5th place winner of the bait cooler was Donnie Tollison of New Braunfels and Mike Robinson of Borger with 7 lbs 8.2 ozs.

The Overall Point Leader for the Year ended up being shared by three teams with 30 points each. They are: Hank and Hunter McWilliams; Kevin and Kalin Audrain; and Dan and David Turner.

In the Championship, the Wilkinsons won a total of \$2,140 plus a fully stocked tool chest provided by Crown Supply in Borger for catching the biggest walleye of the championship. Thank you also goes to: Scott Golden and Walleye Central for providing the funds for 1st and 2nd place plaques for all the one day tourneys. A special thanks to TWA Director Donnie Bell for providing the beautiful Championship trophies. Unfortunately, a work emergency prevented Donnie from fishing the Championship. Donnie, we missed you! Thanks also to: Kevin Audrain for the wonderful new weigh in scales; Texhoma Federal Credit Union for 4th place money for the Championship; Bryan Garrison for the bait coolers and other prizes; Ed Rodriguez for securing the door prizes; OJ's for door prizes; and the Marina at Lake Meredith for providing such a wonderful facility for our tournaments.

The championship concludes the 2006-07 TWA Season that produced four different tournament winners. The 2007-08 TWA Season will begin with a Fall Tourney in October to be announced soon.

For more information on the Texas Walleye Association, contact Dan Turner at (806) 935-3176 or dnturner@valornet.com.

Point Leaders for 2007

Captain	Points
Hank McWilliams	30
Kevin Audrain	30
Dan Turner	30
Jeff Cooper	25
David Wilkinson	24
Ed Rodriguez	24
Jim Welch	23
Robert Reining	20
Bryan Garrison	15
Donnie Bell	13
John McWilliams	11
Tom Evans	9
Donnie Tollison	8
Stephen Jones	8
Brian Stangel	5
Mark Murphy	4
Camron Lacy	4
Dale Miler	1
Dwight Russell	1
Murle Meaker	1