



Interview with *Dustin Kjelden*, the winner of the FLW Wal-Mart Championship in Cleveland, OH .....

## **Who influenced you to become a fisherman?**

It would have to be my Grandfather, Pernie Kjelden. He always had a great love for the outdoors, whether it was hunting or fishing. He influenced me in that excitement and that love that comes from the outdoors.

I grew up on a lake and my Grandfather would tell me what to do and I would go out in my little paddleboat with a MinnKota transom-mount trolling motor hooked up on it and try it. From the age of 9 on...it did not matter what the conditions were like or how the fish were biting, I would be out there trying to catch a fish.

## **What advice would you give someone that is considering going on the Professional Fishing Tour?**

I guess before the decision is made to become a Pro-Walleye Fisherman is to make sure your love for the sport is very strong because to make it you are going to go through some hard times. You are not always going to win. Those first couple of years, when you start out, you typically are not going to make any money and you will lose a fair amount of money. Professional fishing is just like any other sport out there where there are the people who normally do well are the people who have dedication and love for the sport. To compete at this level, you better have that love and dedication. You are going to have to put in a lot of hours, making sure of everything, doing your research and making sure of your equipment. It is a full time job that sometimes pays absolutely nothing and sometimes costs a lot.

It is also very important to have your family's support behind you because when things are rough and you start doubting your decisions to go ahead and do this if your family is not behind you 100% that you can do it then it can be pretty tough to do.

## **Do you have favorite style or place to fish?**

I really do not know if I have a style of fishing any more. I pretty much love all styles of fishing and my favorite body of water would probably be the Bay of Green Bay. I really love 'em all! I love the challenge! If we are going after 5# or 35# a day it doesn't really matter to me. It is the challenge of coming up with a good weight.

The year has been an incredible ride and the competitors in the FLW Wal-Mart Walleye Tour are incredibly talented and to have a good of year as I have had this year is just...it, it just floors me!!

I would like to thank Ranger, Evinrude, Minn-Kota, BFGoodrich, Lowrance and Northland Fishing Tackle, they have all been very helpful throughout the fishing season.