

## RETURN OF BRUISERS

You know after fishing the Ottawa river for over 25 years I've seen all the highs and lows of its fury, when it decides that the bite is going to be off "ITS OFF" big time and no matter what you throw the big boys just don't bite. But when that river is on it can be a beautiful thing.

Now going into the tournament when I per-fished I noticed that the bite was exceptional and the big fish were willing to play, I said to my partner Brian "LOOK OUT" it's going to take a huge bag to win this thing, All the things needed were there for the big bite to be on.

### TOURNAMENT DAY

The day was the same as pre-fish skies, pressure, wind no changes what so ever I mean everything was "STATUS QUO" . We get to our first spot and boom, boom two 4 pounders in the well then we grind around and get a 6 pounder and another 4 and a nice 3 so were sitting with around 21 pounds and its only noon and we have 4 hours to catch 1 more big fella to close this up because we knew we were still short a fish on this day.

Well after catching another 15 to 20 fish all around 3 lbs we can't seem to get one more duker so off the scale we go.

Just before we head in we see Andy and Scott drive by us and they look rather relaxed and we say immediately to each other "UH OH" thaaat's not good (LOL).

After arriving at the weigh in we start talking to the boys and we quickly realize that there are some big bags waiting to be weighed in.

## **THE WEIGH IN**

The weigh in was anything but normal a lot of half the field weighing in 13 to 15 pounds and then the big weights started coming in starting at 17+ pounds.

Then we weigh 20.91 pounds and there is still more big bags to come. Finally Tony and Paul bring a great 21.73 to the scale then Jean-Martin and Pat Milot weigh 22.12 and Lorne Sugrue and Bruce Gammon 22.12 and we have a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place (long time since I seen that BUT WAIT one more boat to weigh-in.

Here comes the relaxed boys Andy Kinstler and Scott Lecky they approach the scale and start taking their fish out of the well and man these fish are huge, one by one they put in the basket to weigh Brian and I are looking at the fish saying "oh theres a six ,theres a six, theres a five theres a five oh look they have rat 3 pounder LOL on the scale they go 23.25 lbs and the victory is theirs.

It's been a while since we've seen these weights and its nice to this quality of fish again and know the mighty Ottawa still has the monsters swimming around.

Congrats to everyone and especially the top 10 and also to Michel Gramigna and Daniel Ponton with a monster 7.06 largie to capture big fish of the day.

Until next time this Wayne"Coop" Cooper saying stay safe and keep your line wet.