



# 2013 RAYJUS OUTDOORS – OAK LAWN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL BASS TOURNAMENT



## SPARTAN SPONSORS

Excitement was running high for over 170 high school anglers from 21 schools from across northern Illinois who assembled at the Des Plaines Conservation Area. [Rayjus Outdoors](#), [Unique Bassmasters](#), and the [Spartan Fishing Team](#) partnered together to present the [2013 Rayjus Outdoors - Oak Lawn Community High School Bass Tournament](#) on the Kankakee/Des Plaines River at the [Des Plaines Conservation Area](#).



A steady stream of teams began to arrive to the conservation area at 5:20am. As teams registered, each student angler received a gift bag from [Rayjus Outdoors](#) containing merchandise from [Mercury Marine](#), [Power Team Lures](#), [Ferrara Candy](#), [Bizz Baits](#), [Cruncher Baits](#), [Culprit](#), [Berkley](#), and [Lake Fork Tackle](#). By 7:05am, all 48 boats were in the water and the tournament was underway by 7:18am.



The weather on October 12 was variable. The morning started sunny and temperatures quickly reached 70 degrees. By late morning, however, the clouds rolled in, winds picked up, temperatures dropped, and and every so often, a cloud would open up with a steady rain. Despite the crazy weather, 33 boats out of the 48 taking part in the event weighed fish.



### When a bad cast ends up being the best cast of the day...



[Hinsdale Central High School](#) duo [Jeff Hopkins](#) and [Christian Sona](#) won the tournament with 7.52 pounds. More impressive than their victory was how they won the tournament. Jeff Hopkins caught the tournament's big bass by trying to cast under a dock. He explains "I tried casting my green stick bait under a dock but instead got it through a crack in the dock. It was dangling there and a big bass came up and swooped at it twice. The third time he nailed it! We trolled over to the dock, grabbed him, and got him out." The bass weighed in at 3.14lbs, making it the largest bass caught in the four year history of the tournament! For his catch, Jeff was awarded a beautiful bass print donated by [Bass Pro Shops](#) in [Bolingbrook, IL](#).



### Reading the weather...



[Luke Jasper](#) and [Jake Lepczynski](#) of [Lemont High School](#) paid close attention to the changing weather to help them claim second place. [Jasper](#) stated, "in the morning, when the weather was warm, we caught our fish on top water frogs in the weeds." [Lepczynski](#) went on to explain "as the weather got colder, we slowed things down and we started catching them on green pumpkin shaky heads and wacky rigs."



## Rounding out the top five...

**Minooka High School** claimed two top five finishes, with **Luke Brozovich** and **Colton Welch** finishing in third (5.92lbs) and **Dan DeGraaf** and **Noah Arnold** taking fifth (5.20lbs). Brothers **Matt** and **Tyler Bomba** from **Providence Catholic** claimed fourth place with 5.88lbs.

The Oak Lawn High School team of **John Neubauer** and **Jon Metelski** finished in 17<sup>th</sup> place with two bass. "Before the clouds rolled in, the fishing was hot! We were fishing a large weed flat and the fish were choking down our stick baits, but most of the fish were just short of the 12 inch minimum" **Neubauer** said.

This tournament was made possible thanks to the **Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation** club **Unique Bassmasters** who conducted the weigh-in and **Rayjus Outdoors** who provided the trophies and gift bags for the kids. A special thank you also goes out to the **Illinois Department of Natural Resources** for preparing the site for this tournament.



**Above:** First Place team Jeff Hopkins & Christian Sona from Hinsdale Central



**Above:** Rayjus owner Justin Romines, Big Bass Award winner Jeff Hopkins, and Oak Lawn Coach Chris Kuchvt



**Above:** Second Place team Luke Jasper & Jake Lepczynski from Lemont High School



**Above:** Third Place team Luke Brozovich & Colton Welch from Minooka High School

Additional pictures of the event can be seen at the [Spartan Fishing Team Facebook](#) page.

## 2013 RAYJUS OUTDOORS – OAK LAWN HIGH SCHOOL BASS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Place	School	Anglers	Number of Fish	Live Fish	Big Bass	Total Weight
1	Hinsdale Central	Jeff Hopkins/Christian Sona	4	4	3.14	7.52
2	Lemont	Luke Jasper/Jake Lepczynski	5	5	2.04	6.61
3	Minooka	Luke Brozovich/Colon Welch	5	5	1.56	5.92
4	Providence Catholic	Matt Bomba/Tyler Bomba	5	5	1.68	5.88
5	Minooka	Dan DeGraaf/Noah Arnold	4	4	1.84	5.20
6	Minooka	Alex Lindemann/Anthony Fazio	3	3	2.62	4.78
7	Reed Custer/ Braidwood	Jake Begler/Kyle Byerley	4	4	1.76	4.61
8	St. Laurence	Joseph Perepechko/Justin Shepherd	3	3	2.10	4.54
9	Geneva	Eric Neylon/Marc Hornig	3	3	1.35	3.54
10	Seneca	Brad Wyss/Colin Griffin	3	3	1.67	3.46
11	Lemont	Jack Lambert/Tommy Rimbo	3	3	1.05	3.17
12	Geneva	Jack Olson/Griffin Curran/Aidan Boehm	2	2	2.10	3.12
13	Sandburg	Ryan Kwiecinski/Ethen Goldstien	2	2	1.83	2.88
14	Reavis	Jeziel Vargas/Bobby Clancy/Fahim Kishta	2	2	1.52	2.77
15	St. Laurence	Matthew Misicka/Conner Reno	3	3	1.01	2.76
16	Immaculate Conception	Martha Mayora/Nick Tummillo	2	2	1.32	2.48
17	Oak Lawn	John Neubauer/Jonathan Metelski	2	2	1.32	2.19
18	Br. Rice	Brendan Macunity/Pat Nielsen	2	2	1.17	2.16
19	Minooka	Canyon Kenny/AJ Wojtowicz	2	2	1.26	2.13
20	Geneva	Sam Vogelshsberg/Matt D'Onofrio	1	1	-	1.94
22	De La Salle	Chris Ludes/Josh Garcia/Robert Molloy/Will Toepfer	1	1	-	1.85
22	Naperville Central	Chapman Curtis/ Kit Bensen	2	2	1.04	1.76
23	Hinsdale Central	John Flaherty/Brian Liss	1	1	-	1.73
24	Elgin	Miguel Vasquez/Ismael Martinez	1	1	-	1.65
25	Oak Lawn	Jonathan Osipczuk/Andrew Jensen	1	1	-	1.60
26	Sandwich	Austin Hellyer/Mike Dobbs	1	1	-	1.38
27	Team Chmielewski	Brody Chmielewski	1	1	-	1.34
28	Oak Lawn	Juan Merez/Lauren Cappel	1	1	-	1.30
29	Br. Rice	Adam Magnum/Rob Abraham	1	1	-	1.14
30	De La Salle	Nick Dycus/Danny Mancari/Austin Herrera/Adrian Munoz	1	1	-	1.06
31	Br. Rice	Dan Malone/Matt McKendry	1	1	-	1.03
33	Team Montefusco	Marco Montefusco	1	1	-	1.00

Big Bass Winner – Jeff Hopkins (Hinsdale Central) 3.14lbs Largemouth Bass

Creature Fish Winner – Nikolis Gonzalez (De La Salle High School) 1.14lbs Shad

