

Spartan Fishing Team



For all the latest news and information on the Spartan Fishing Team, be sure to check out our teams <u>website!</u>

The best way to contact Coach Kuchyt is through email: ckuchyt@olchs.org

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Tip of the Month

Most forest preserve lakes in the area have drainage basins or dam walls. Focus on these features after spring rains for some hot bass action.



www.MyHappyHyundai.com Spartan Fishing Team.

The 2010 Ultimate Spartan Anglers Have Been Crowned!

In December, Junior Luis Garcia and Sophomore Alexis Kosek were crowned the 2010 Ultimate Spartan Anglers by winning the men's and women's division, respectively.

In a tightly contested contest, these two anglers beat nearly 30 teammates to win the competition. At the conclusion of the event, participants had the opportunity to pick four items from the prize table. Spitfire Automotive made a generous donation to the team which helped fund prizes like fishing products from Rapala, Storm, Berkley, and others. Volunteers from Fish Tales Fishing Club helped judge the event. Read more about the event in Omar Abdulla's article on page three.

The captain of the fishing team, junior **Ben Masek**, writes about his favorite professional angler



Luis Garcia & Alexis Kosek are the 2010 Ultimate Spartan Angler champions.

Kevin VanDam and discusses why he believes KVD is the best bass angler in the world.

This issue also features information about outdoor shows that are of particular interest to high school anglers, including the <u>Tinley Park Fishing Show</u>, <u>Bedford Sales Open House</u>, and the <u>America's Outdoors Show</u>.

And finally, February 15, 2011 is the due date for this years scholarship application. This years scholarships have been donated by Happy Hyundai and Spitfire Automotive. More information on these scholarships can be found on page 5.

Spring Tackle Box Cleaning = Help a Kid Fish

Winter is a time for most anglers to sort through their fishing gear and prepare for the 2011 fishing season. As you sort through your gear to make room for new lures, hooks and weights, rods, and reels, please consider donating your old fishing gear to the Spartan Fishing Team.

The kids on the

team are between the ages of 14-17 years old and many of these young anglers are eager to learn more about fishing but lack they lack adequate gear.

Donated gear is usually raffled during team meetings, used as prize incentives, or awarded to anglers that write articles for this newsletter.

If you have fishing gear that you would like to donate to the team, please contact **Coach Kuchyt** at



SPECIAL REPORT: Why Kevin VanDam is the Best!

by Ben Masek (Grade 11)

"And your 2010 Bass Master classic champion is Kevin VanDam!" There some people in this world who say that KVD is not the best bass angler ever, but I argue notion and I have the facts to prove it. VanDam has 18 B.A.S.S federation wins, and he also has three Bass Master classic championships (ESPN.com). But that is not all, VanDam also has six angler of the year awards and he has earned over \$4,000,000 as a professional bass angler (KevinVanDam.com).

There are a lot of things VanDam is known for, but his biggest accomplishments are his 18 B.A.S.S federation wins; he is second on the list behind Roland Martian with 19 (ESPN.com). Kevin is one of the few anglers to have 18 first place finishes, most professional anglers have less than five. This is because in the world of professional bass fishing, you don't have a teammate or a partner on the boat with you to help you make decisions or to help you net a fish. Its all up to you to catch fish and win tournaments. Not only does VanDam have 18 wins, but he also has 85 top ten finishes and 136 top twenty finishes (KevinVanDam.com). He has proven himself in the world of bass fishing. But what about Bass Master classic championships, or angler of the year awards (A.O.Y.), well lets just say that VanDam has more than a few of these trophies displayed on his mantle as well.

It is true Kevin has six A.O.Y awards, which are not easy to come by now-a-days. In order to even win one of these awards, you have to excel in different elements of fishing and win many tournaments across the country. Not only does VanDam have six A.O.Y awards, he also has three Bass Master classic championships under his belt (ESPN.com). The Bass Master classic is the most prestigious award you can win in the world of bass fishing. Also, for eight of the last nine years, VanDam has been ranked as the #1 bass fishermen in the world. To this day, he holds that ranking (KevinVanDam.com). If you think that his accomplishments end here, your wrong. He is the only angler in history to win over \$4 million in career earnings!

Being a professional bass fisherman is not a financially stable job. VanDam has earned over



KVD hoists the bass the helped him win the tournament

\$4 million dollars, professional baseball player Alex Rodriguez makes that in a month! Being a tournament angler is a challenge, You must pay to enter into most tournaments and your not even guaranteed to earn that money back. You are also fishing against 75-90 other people who are looking to take home the trophy and money. During the "average" tournament, VanDam will earn \$19,763, not bad for a few days work. Most other anglers only average \$5,000 (ESPN.com). Also, Kevin receives over \$300,000 in lures, line, rods, reel, boats, trucks, etc. It is for these reasons that I believe Kevin VanDam has proven himself as the best bass angler of all time.



Ben Masek: Future Angler of the Year award winner.



Kevin VanDam holds up his Angler of the Year award.

Fishing Rod Rentals Now Available at Oak Lawn Public Library

The Spartan Fishing Team has brought the "Access to Fishing" program to the Oak Lawn Public Library! Access to Fishing is a rod and reel loaner program where community members with an Oak Lawn Public Library Card can visit the library and "check out" a fishing rod just as they would a book. This offers a unique opportunity for children and adults who are interested in going fishing to do so without having to purchase equipment to try the sport. When a child or community member checks out a rod and reel, tackle packet (containing hooks, sinkers, a bobber, etc.) and instructional fishing literature are given to the patron at no cost!

The program was established in Illinois by the Department of Natural Resources in 1997 and has since been supported through federal and state grants.

Currently, there are over 160 "Access to Fishing" fishing pole loaner sites in Illinois. The Spartan Fishing Team brought the program to Oak Lawn and the team will maintain the rods and reels to ensure that they are in great shape for people to enjoy. The rods are Zebco Rhino and the reels are Zebco 20/20 spincast reels. Through this program, the team hopes to get more kids in Oak Lawn involved in fishing and the outdoors.

There are many fishing opportunities located with a few miles of Oak Lawn, including the Stoney Creek Pond (103rd & Central) and the many Cook County Forest Preserve Lakes. Some of the best fishing of the year can be done shortly after the ice melts. Start planning now to check out a rod from the library and take a kid fishing this spring!



Mary Williams (Oak Lawn Public Library), Luis Garcia, and Ben Masek of the Spartan Fishing Team

Ultimate Spartan Angler Challenge Competition by Omar Abdulla (Grade 11)

On December 28th, the Spartan Fishing Team held its second annual Ultimate Spartan Angler Challenge. The competition focused on three separate elements: the written portion, knot tying, and casting ability. The challenge spanned two days; day one was on November 22 and we took the written portion. Day two was on December 28th. Members of Fish Tales Fishing Club came by the high school and judged the casting and knot tying portion of the challenge.

The written part of the test was a multiple choice tests that made up of three parts. First, there was a slide show of fish native to Illinois which we had to identify. The time limit to identify the fish was about six seconds, making it a hard challenge. The second part of the test consisted of our familiarity with the state rules and regulation booklet, and the last part was 20 questions on the best ways to catch bass. It also had questions about how to catch other fish. **Mike Hentgen** and **Luis Garcia** tied for first in this challenge. The guys from Fish Tales offered the tie breaking question "what is the limit on trout from Lake Michigan?" Mike Hentgen answer correctly and won this part of the competition (the answer is two).

Day two focused on the physical challenges of fishing. We started off competing in the knot tying competition. The three knots we had to tie were the Palomar, the improved clinch, and the Albright knots. We were timed and then the guys from Fish Tales check to see if we tied them correctly. **Carlos Patino** dominated this event as he had the best time for all three of these knots.

The last challenge tested our casting ability. **Ben Masek** took first in the casting distance event with a cast of
over 173 feet. **David Bialas** won the "bozo bucket" event by
using his telescoping rod. One of the most difficult challenges
was the side casting. **Luis Garcia** was the only competitor who
managed to cast a lure into a bucket laying on it side on a table from a distance of about twenty feet. The last challenge
was the casting accuracy competition. In this challenge, you
had to cast as close as you could into a bucket that was about
50 feet away. Luis Garcia was the closest and therefore, he
won that competition.

While Coach Kuchyt was tallying up the <u>results</u>, we enjoyed pizza from <u>Grassland's Pizza</u> and a pop. The pizza was delicious! While we ate pizza, we talked to the guys from Fish Tales and they offered us tips and they shared with us the locations of some of their favorite fishing holes in the area. We would like to send a special thanks to the following Fish Tales members: Casey Orlowski, Jerry Flaherty, Tom Lauaritis, Tim Jacob, and Chuck Cook.

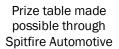
At the end of the day, when the **results** were posted, Luis Garcia finished first, Carlos Patino took second, and Ben Masek took third. Coach Kuchyt also had another surprise for us. Based on how many points we scored in the challenge, we were allowed to pick from a prize table. Through a generous donation from **Spitfire Automotive**, team members had the opportunity to pick from a prize table that was loaded with products from Rapala, Storm, Berkley, and more. We had a fun time and we hope to attend next year's Ultimate Spartan Angler Challenge.



Fish Tales members judging the knot tying event. Boys division champion Luis Garcia and girls division champion Alexis Kosek.



Fish Tales members judging the casting accuracy event.









Left: Written test champion Mike Hentgen, Knot tying champion Carlos Patino, Casting champion Luis Garcia.

Right: Fish Tales members and the Spartan Fishing Team





Things to do for Fishermen in the Winter Months

Ted Takasaki in Oak Forest on February 24, 2011!

The Spartan Fishing Team has been invited by Fish Tales Fishing Club to attend a special presentation by Ted Takasaki on February 24, 2011. Ted Takasaki will be fielding questions and discussing various angling techniques from 6:30 to 10pm that night. This special meeting will be held at Gaelic Park (6119 W. 147th St, Oak Forest, IL) on February 24, 2011. The public and other high school teams are welcomed to attend. Tickets are \$10 at the door or \$8 if purchased in advance. You can purchase tickets in advance by calling Chuck Cook 708-212-4640 or Fred Howes at 708-687-5149. More information on the event can be found here.



Bedford Sales Open House in Morris on January 21-23, 2011

Bedford Sales is welcoming high school fishing teams to the <u>Bedford Sales Open House</u>. Teams are welcomed to a **FREE** table at the show where they can help gain exposure for their fishing club or sell fundraising merchandise. Some of the top names in the fishing industry will be at the event, including **Jay Yelas, Mike McClelland, and Jim Saric** along with a host of tackle manufacturers. Contact Colin Carter at 815-942-1333 for more information.

America's Outdoors Show in Rosemont on January 26-30, 2011

The <u>America's Outdoor Show</u> is one of the largest outdoors shows in the nation! Six Fresh Water Hall of Famers will be part of the show and Kevin VanDam will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the show. **Sunday, January 30 is High School and College Fishing Team Day**. Students will be able to discuss fishing techniques with some of the industries top professionals! Discounted tickets can be bought by clicking <u>here</u>.

Tinley Park Fishing Show in Tinley Park on February 12-13, 2011

The <u>Tinley Park Fishing and Outdoor Show</u> is scheduled for February 12-13, 2011. The event is held at Tinley Park High School and includes various fishing vendors and numerous seminars. It's an event Spartan anglers look forward to each and every year not only for what they learn at the seminars, but also for the great deals available by various vendors!







*Dates subject to Change

Thursday, January 13 - Team Meeting

Team meeting after school at 3:05pm.

Saturday, January 22-23 - Bedford Sales Open House (Morris, IL)

I am asking that parents, along with students, drive to Bedford Sales in Morris, IL and attend this event together. Some of the Midwest's top bass anglers will be hosting seminars at this event. We need a few parents/students to man a table at the event to bring more recognition to the Spartan fishing team and hopefully try to gain some more sponsors. Please email me to let me know if you would be willing to do this with your parent/guardian.

Saturday, January 26-30 – America's Outdoor Show (Rosemont, IL)

January 30 is high school/college bass team day. Kevin VanDam and a host of other professional bass fishermen will be at the event presenting to anglers. Students will have to arrange their own transportation to the event. This is the largest outdoors show in America and one you do not want to miss! Discounted tickets can be bought by clicking here.

<u>Tuesday, February 8 - Team Meeting</u>

Team meeting after school at 3:05pm. Sign up date for TP Show.

Saturday, February 12 – Tinley Park Fishing Show (Tinley Park, IL)

This is a team event that you will need to sign up for beforehand. Bus leaves at 8am

Wednesday, February 23 – Team Meeting

Team meeting after school at 3:05pm.

Thursday, February 24 - Ted Takasaki at Gaelic Park (Oak Forest, IL)

It is highly encouraged that you attend this event with a parent/guardian. Ted Takasaki is a world renowned walleye fisherman who will teach you new tips & tricks.

Tuesday, March 15 - Team Meeting

Team meeting after school from 3:05pm. We will discuss Spring break salmon/perch fishing trip.

Tuesday, March 22 – Lake Michigan Trip

Team will leave at 5:30am to fish the lakefront.

APRIL:

A number of trips and possible tournaments will be held throughout April in preparation for the sectional tournament. We will also have local tournament anglers come and talk to us at the school.

Thursday, April 21 – Sectional Bass Tournament

MAY: Possible Perch Fishing Trip on the lakefront

Oak Lawn Community High School Spartan Fishing Team c/o Chris Kuchyt 9400 Southwest Hwy. Oak Lawn, IL 60453

E-mail: ckuchyt@olchs.org

About our logo...



The Spartan Fishing Team logo was created and designed by **Matt Jensen**. Matt graduated from Oak Lawn Community High School in 2010. Matt currently attend Dominican University where he plans to develop his artistic talent and study business.





Spartan Fishing Team Offers **Two** \$250 Scholarships!

The **Spartan Fishing Team**, through the generous contributions of its sponsors, is proud to announce that it will award **\$500 in scholarships** to a junior or senior member of the 2010—2011 fishing team. Happy Hyundai of Oak Lawn and Spitfire Automotive have generously offered a \$250 scholarship in each companies name to members of the team. Qualifications for these scholarships as well as an application can be obtained directly from Coach Kuchyt. Please patronize the establishments of our sponsors who advertize with us because it is with their help that we are able to offer these scholarship and unique outdoor experiences to the kids. The team would like to thank these wonderful businesses who advertise with us and partnering fishing clubs for their help in this endeavor.

Helpful Links

Spartan Fishing Team

IHSA Bass

The Future Fishes Here

Illinois Fish Records

Fish Tales Fishing Club

Animated Fishing Knots

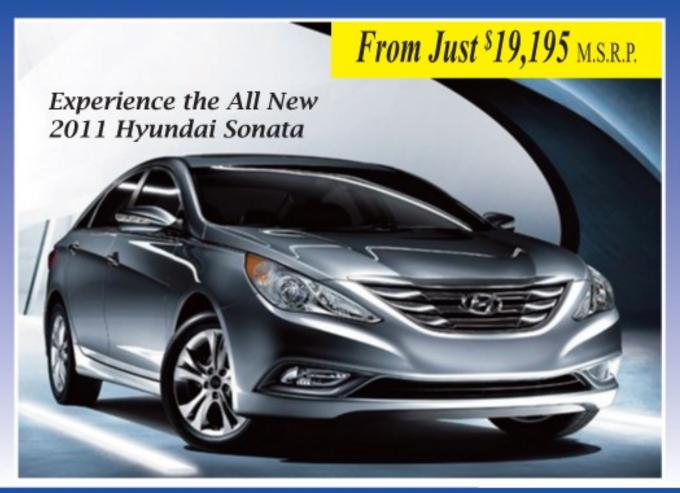
Cook County Forest Preserve Fishing Booklet

Illinois Game & Fish Magazine

To understand the owl,
study the mouse.
- Rick Clunn, paraphrasing a Native

- Rick Clunn, paraphrasing a Native American saying





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Come join us this show season at the following events!

See our products in person and design your team jerseys on the spot!

Bedford Sales Open House

January 21st Friday 2-6 22nd Saturday 9-5 23rd Sunday 9-4

America's Outdoor Show

Stephens Convention Center Rosemont, IL January 26th - 30th

The Bassmaster Classic

Ernest Morial Convention Center New Orleans, LA February 18th - 20th

justin@rayjus.com or call:815-513-5583



Attention High School Fishing Coaches!

Bedford Sales is welcoming high school fishing teams to the Bedford Sales Open House.

Teams are welcomed to a FREE table at the show where they can help gain exposure for their fishing club or sell fundraising merchandise. Some of the top names in the fishing industry will be at the event, including Jay Yelas, Mike McClelland, and Jim Saric along with a host of tackle manufacturers. Contact Colin Carter at 815-942-1333 for more information.

Fish Tales Fishing Club

Fish Tales Fishing Club consists of a group of individuals who love to fish. The goal of this family oriented group is to increase angler knowledge. Meetings with guest speakers to discuss fishing tips and techniques are held on the third Thursday of each month. The group meets at the Bremen Township Building located at 15350 South Oak Park Ave in Oak Forest.

For more information on *Fish Tales*, please visit their website at: http://fishtalesfishingclub.homestead.com/index.html





January

Flavor Of the Day List

- 1 Crazy for Cookie Dough
- 2 German Chocolate Fudge
- 3 Red Raspberry
- 4 Turtle
- 5 Chocolate Oreo Volcano
- 6 Chocolate Eclair
- 7 Andes Candies
- 8 Brownie Thunder
- 9 Butter Pecan
- 10 Double Strawberry
- 11 Turtle
- 12 Chocolate Heath Crunch
- 13 Cookies & Cream
- 14 Caramel Cashew
- 15 Chocolate Caramel Twist
- 16 Boston Cream
- 17 Double Marshmallow Oreo
- 18 Turtle
- 19 Caramel Apple Cobbler
- 20 Black Forest
- 21 Nestle's Crunch Swirl
- 22 Caramel Fudge Cookie Fudge
- 23 Cappuccino Almond Fudge
- 24 Mint Oreo
- 25 Turtle
- 26 Brandy Butter Pecan
- 27 Nestle Caramel Crunch
- 28 Oreo Overload
- 29 Just Drummy
- 30 Rocky Road
- 31 Strawberry Bon-Bon

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7281 W. 87th St., Bridgeview, IL 60455 (708) 430-0940 Owner: Mike Albertsen

> Email: jisbaitntackle@me.com Web Page jisbaitandtackle.com

Store Hours

M - Fri 8 AM - 6 PM Sat 7 AM - 4 PM Sun 7 AM - 3 PM Attention High School Anglers!

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Carry-Out & Delivery Specials

Large 14" Cheese Thin Crust Pizza \$6.45

Extra Toppings \$1,75

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5651 W. 87th St.—708-424-8000
Limited Time Only. Tax and delivery not included.
Carry-out and delivery only. Offer expires 1/31/11
Thank you for supporting the Spartan Fishing Teaml

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\$2.00 OFF Any Jumbo 18" Pizza

Grassano's Pizza

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Carry-Out & Delivery Specials

Mon-Thurs

2 Large 14" Thin Crust

Pizzas

\$11.00

Extra Toppings \$1.75

Grassano's Pizza
5651 W. 87th St.—708-424-8000
Limited Time Only. Tax and delivery not included.
Carry-out and delivery only. Offer expires 1/31/11
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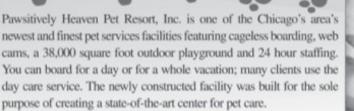


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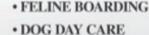
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Sweet or hot peppers \$.65 extra

Limit 2

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Italian Chicken Breast Sandwich

Only \$3.59 (reg.\$5,59)

Served on garlic bread with sweet peppers, lettuce, tomato and melted mozzarella cheese Limit 2

Frankie's Beef/Pasta & Catering Inc.
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Not valid on any other offers. Offer expires 1/31/11

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Now Serving Mexican Food!!!

Steak or Chicken Taco

Only \$1.45 (reg.\$1.95)

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Thank you for supporting the Spartan Fishing Team!

Char-broiled Polish Sausage w/Fries

Peppers extra

Only \$3.19 (reg.\$4.88)

No Limit

Frankie's Beef/Pasta & Catering Inc.

Oak Lawn, IL 708-423-4444

Must mention coupons on phone orders.

Not valid on any other offers. Offer expires 1/31/11

Thank you for supporting the Spartan Fishing Team!

2 Hot Dogs with Fries

Only \$3.19 (reg.\$5.67)

No Limit

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Thank you for supporting the Spartan Fishing Team!

Turkeyburger w/Cheese & Fries

Limit 2

Only \$3.99 (reg.\$4.88)

Limit 2

Frankie's Beef/Pasta & Catering Inc.

Oak Lawn, IL 708-423-4444

Must mention coupons on phone orders.

Not valid on any other offers. Offer expires 1/31/11

Thank you for supporting the Spartan Fishing Team!