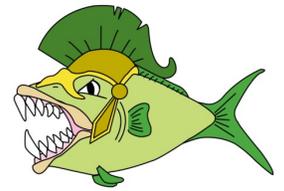




Spartan Fishing Team



For all the latest news and information on the Spartan Fishing Team, be sure to check out our teams [website!](#)

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Spartans Make National News	1
New Team Website and Video	1
How to Catch Northern Pike	2
Kevin VanDam Offers Advice	3
Tinley Park Fishing Show	4
Fish Facts-n-more!	5
Money Saving Offers from Our Sponsors	6-15

Spartan Fishing Team Makes National News!

The Spartan Fishing Team was featured in an article published in the February 2011 issue of [B.A.S.S. Times](#) magazine. The article on page 39 highlighted the bass tournament that Oak Lawn Community High School and [Unique Bassmasters](#) organized in October 2010. Results of the tournament can be found [here](#).

With the [IHSA sectional bass tournament](#) only weeks, this is a great time to place your orders for fishing team jerseys. [Rayjus Outdoors](#) offers dye-sublimated fishing jerseys for an unbeatable price! Be sure to check out the awesome graphics and place your order today to ensure delivery by the sectional date!

This month's Spartan Fishing Team newsletter features an article written by [Alexis Kosek](#) in which she offers advice on catching



Spartan Fishing Team wearing the jerseys designed by [Rayjus Outdoors](#) at the Tinley Park Fishing Show.

northern pike. [Matt Hetgen](#) explains what he learned from Kevin VanDam at the America's Outdoor Show. [Mike Hentgen](#) wrote a story about our teams experience at the Tinley Park Fishing Show and the tips he learned about fishing Shabbona.



Order your team jerseys now to relieve them in time for the sectional bass tournament!

Tip of the Month

When using a rubber frog, the rule of thumb is, "the longer the tail, the straighter the walk." Trimming the tail will accentuate the side-to-side walking action.

Matt Luzadder Creates New Team Website!

Sophomore fisherman [Matt Luzadder](#) has created a new Spartan Fishing Team website for the public to enjoy. The new site is full of team information and team pictures. Matt has done a great job to organize the website in a user friendly format that highlights team accomplishments and our sponsors. [To see the new](#)

[website, please click here.](#)

Team Video

[Ed Swies](#) has also taken the time to create a team video which highlights our outing to Horsetail Lake for the fall inland trout season. The team had a great time on this outing and you can share in our experience by watching this video. [Click here to check it out!](#) Members of the

team are now eagerly anticipating the spring inland trout season which is scheduled for April.



www.MyHappyHyundai.com



How to Catch Northern Pike by Alexis Kosek (Grade 10)

You will find small to medium sized pike, also known as "water wolves", where there are weeds and lily pads. The small to medium size pike are feeding on small minnows, bugs, frogs and each other. When you come out to the edge of the weeds and into deeper water, the pike will be bigger. But where are the really big pike? Big pike usually won't bother with small minnows, bugs or even frogs; they are looking for bigger prey.

Pikes are ambush predators. They will be found near weeds. Pike will hit just about any lure, but the most popular lures for pike are the "red & silver" DareDevil spoon and the and the yellow "five-of-diamonds" DareDevil spoon. Pike also hit jigs, Rapalas, Thundersticks, and bucktails. Some of the biggest pike are caught with small jigs while walleye fishing. It makes sense because the big pike will patrol the outer parameter of the schools of walleyes. To maximize your chances of catching northern pike, use red and white or red and silver lures in clear water and yellow lures in murky or muddy water.

Pike will play with your bait. It is not uncommon for a big pike to hit your bait and let go several times before the fish is hooked. With this in mind, you have to show some patience. If you get a big pike on and then lose him, just wait a little while and he may hit again. Their appetites are so ferocious that they

quickly start to feed again. It is said that a fish only has a three second memory. There are many reports by fisherman of catching the same pike over again.

Always use a steel leader, no matter what! First reason is the strike. They are crazy bitters and will snap your line in a second. Secondly, when you do hook them, they tend to bite up the line to get off. Their mouths are filled with hundreds of tiny needle sharp teeth that can cut through your line. You may be fast and lucky enough to set the hook and grab them with standard line, but when you pull the pike in, that's when the problem starts. They don't stop trying to get away and they put up a great fight. Steel leaders will come back curly and with kinks from the force of the fish.

Prime time for big pike is when the water temperatures is under 65°F. It is believed that once water temps reach these higher levels, big pike become somewhat stressed and the bite subsides as they move into deeper water. Sometimes these fish can be so stressed that feeding dwindles to almost nothing and weight loss will actually occur. In lakes where there is a high muskie population, big pike tend to stay a little closer to shore or move back into remote areas of a lake that are not facing the large open body of the lake because that is prime musky territory.

At Wolf Lake, in northeastern Illinois, a northern pike caught during a



survey that was 35 inches long and 12.3 lbs. Each year, fishermen at Wolf Lake report catching northern pike in excess of 30 inches. Regulations for northern pike on Wolf Lake are the statewide limits of 3 fish per day, 24" minimum length plus 2 pole and line only to limit use of unattended fishing gear. At Tampier Lake, approximately 360 northern pike are stocked annually to diversify the predator population in the lake and provide sport fishing opportunities to those who seek these fish.

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Kevin VanDam Offers Advice to High School Anglers

By Matt Hentgen (Grade 11)



Thanks to Mr. Masek, who is the father of Ben Masek, seven members of our team had the chance to attend the America's Outdoor Show, which is the largest outdoor show in the Chicago area. While at the show, we got to listen to seminars by some of the biggest names in the fishing industry, like Babe Winkelman, Al Lindner, and Spence Petros. But the highlight of our day had to be the special seminar that was held just for high school and college fishermen with [Kevin VanDam](#).

The seminar lasted about 45 minutes and was mostly a question and answer session. KVD

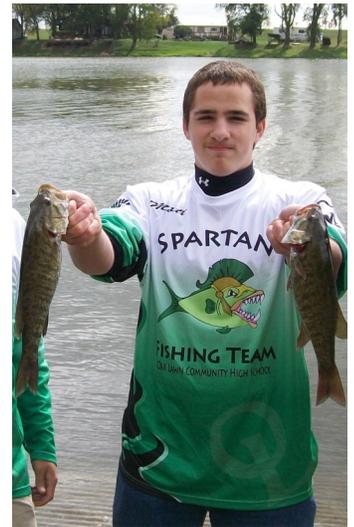
started by telling us that if we wanted to become professional fishermen, it was important for us to go to college. He said that the best degree for us to get was one in marketing, not biology. He said that his sponsors were the ones who paid for his livelihood and that it was his responsibility to promote their products. He then spent some time talking about his sponsors and the fact that he has had some of them for 15-20 years!

One of the questions asked was what he would do if nothing was working. KVD answered that the number one thing that you can bring with you fishing is confidence. Have confidence in yourself and your lures. When all else fails, go to a lure or technique that you believe you can catch fish with. He also explained that you could not let the things you cannot control get you down. For example, if you get to your fishing spot and someone else is fishing it, don't get discouraged. Go to another spot and start fishing it.

The biggest piece of advice he gave was to fish with different people. As a matter of fact, he said that the worst thing an aspiring fisherman can do is to fish with the same person all the time. By fishing with different people, you learn new techniques and tricks. If you fish with multiple people the more techniques you will know and be better off you will be.

Fishing could be an expensive sport for a high school student. KVD said that you need to be careful with what you buy in the stores or off the internet. Kevin VanDam said, "expensive lures could be junk." He explained that some lures are painted very nicely to catch the fisherman's eye, but they do not catch fish. He advised that we talk to people to find out if the piece of equipment is really worth paying the price.

This past October, I was part of the team that won our high school's first bass tournament. It was an awesome experience. Competitive bass fishing is addictive!



Matt Hentgen with two nice smallmouth he caught on the Kankakee River.



KVD shares a laugh with Spartan fishermen!



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Cleaning Your Tackle Box This Spring? Consider Donating Your Old Tackle

This is the time of year most anglers sort through their fishing gear to prepare for the 2011 fishing season. As you sort through your old tackle to make room for new merchandise, 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 about fishing but lack

they lack gear. If you have any used lures, old rubber baits, hooks, weights, etc., we could find a use for everything.

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 ckuchyt@olchs.org

The Tinley Park Fishing Show

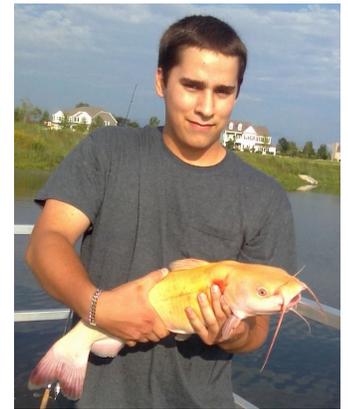
By Michael Hentgen (Grade 11)

On the morning of Saturday, February 13, my brother and I went on a trip with the Spartan Fishing Team to the Tinley Park Fishing Show. The Tinley Park Fishing Show is our favorite show of the year! It is a show for people who enjoy fishing and vendors at the show offer very good deals on fishing gear and numerous seminars are held to increase your fishing knowledge.

When we got to the show, we split up and went to different stands looking at all the different merchandise. There is so much stuff there it takes hours just to look at it all. There are also booths there that offer good deals on fishing charters and lodges. I got a great deal on two fishing rods! Just about everyone on the team bought something, from new lures to beef jerky. We stopped at booths that are our sponsors like **Fish Tales Fishing Club** to say thank you. It was very fun to see all the different vendors and meet new people.

While I was there, I went to one of the seminars. The seminar I went to was about Lake Shabbona and how to fish it for bass. The person doing the seminar was a guide named Jay Angel. He said one of the best lures to use is a watermelon colored four inch yum dinger. He said to use the yum dinger without any weight and just to let it flutter down. This technique will catch bass, but if you're going for the trophy bass he suggested another lure. The lure he uses to catch the trophy bass is a crawfish colored jig and pig. He said you don't get much bites but the bites you do get are the right bites. The three main points for bass are by the rocks, trees, and the dam. By the rocks and trees, the best technique is to use soft baits and drag them slowly or just let them flutter down. By the dam you can use soft baits but another technique he said works by the dam is burning crank baits. Each year, the Spartan Fishing Team takes a trip to Shabbona in the summer. We rent a boat and Coach Kuchyt takes us out for an hour or two (depending on how much time we have). I am pretty confident that with this new information, we will catch more fish on our next outing to Shabbona.

After the seminar I finished my shopping and went to get lunch. They have great fried walleye there. The walleye is out of this world. We sat around eating our lunch and talked about the great deals we got. After lunch we all went back to school and then home. The Tinley Park Fishing Show something all fisherman should go to.



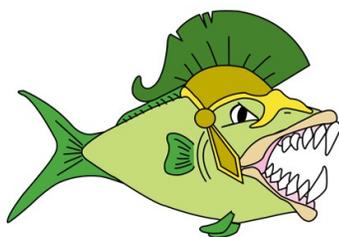
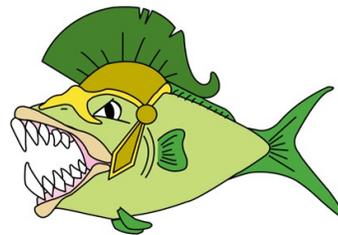
Mike Hentgen with an albino catfish he caught while in a subdivision pond while visiting his sister. The fish was released unharmed.



Luis Garcia and Kyle Kallenborn discuss summer fishing plans while enjoying some walleye and beans.



Spartan Anglers pose for a picture after a great day of shopping at the Tinley Park Fishing Show.



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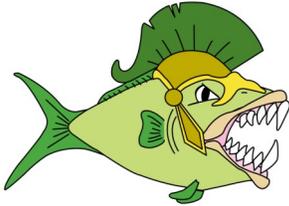
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About our logo...



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, 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.

Fish Fact
Fish were the first animals
to evolve backbones.

Helpful Links

Spartan Fishing Team

[IHSA Bass](#)

[The Future Fishes Here](#)

[Illinois Fish Records](#)

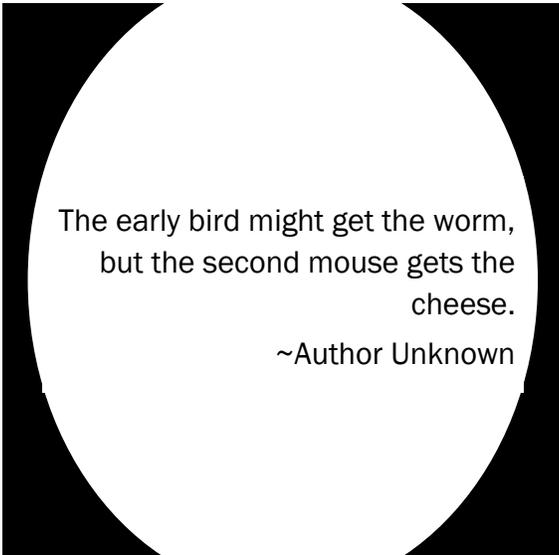
[Fish Tales Fishing Club](#)

[Animated Fishing Knots](#)

[Cook County Forest Preserve](#)

[Fishing Booklet](#)

[Illinois Game & Fish Magazine](#)



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- 11 Butter Brickle
- 12 Chocolate Caramel Twist
- 13 Mint Oreo
- 14 Coconut Crème Pie
- 15 Turtle
- 16 Strawberry Bon-Bon
- 17 Mint Explosion
- 18 Really Reese's
- 19 Rocky Road
- 20 Chocolate Éclair
- 21 Snickers Swirl
- 22 Turtle
- 23 Caramel Apple Cobbler
- 24 Cookie Dough Craving
- 25 Chocolate Covered Strawberry
- 26 Chocolate Oreo Volcanoes
- 27 Butter Pecan
- 28 Cappuccino Almond Fudge
- 29 Turtle
- 30 German Chocolate Fudge
- 31 Nestle Caramel Crunch

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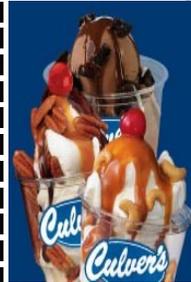
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Thank you for supporting the Spartan Fishing Team!

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>

