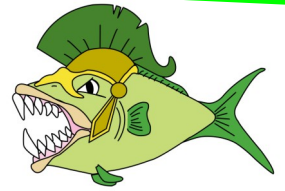




# Spartan Fishing Team



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](mailto:ckuchyt@olchs.org)

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The sectional bass tournament assignments have been released and the Spartan Fishing Team will be at Wolf Lake! The entire list of sectional assignments can be found [here](#).

This newsletter is jam-packed with great high school fishing information, from news on the **2012 Oak Lawn High School Bass Tournament** scheduled for September 15 to a new competition for high school fishing teams being held by the [Fishing & Outdoor Radio Show](#) to find the best high school fishing club in Illinois!

You can also enjoy student written articles about **why bass strike** and learn about **different types of fishing reels**. This issue has something for everyone!

The Spartan Fishing Team has also been hard at work collecting used fishing rods to be donated to soldiers overseas. Finally, check out



Mike Hentgen and Tyler Bachelder are crowned the 2011 Ultimate Spartan Anglers! Read more on page 3.

the featured video link on page 11 which takes you to an **NBC Nightly News** video link on the benefits of fishing for high school kids. So please sit back and enjoy our interactive newsletter!

### Tip of the Month

When fishing a Carolina rig, use a brass sinker. Brass will transmit a lot of vibration up your line, and you'll be able to tell if you're fishing mud, sand, gravel or chunk-rock bottom.

## Spartans Gathering Fishing Gear for Soldiers by Mike Hentgen (grade 12)

The Spartan Fishing Team has organized a program to send fishing rods to member of the US military. We would like to send our troops these donated rods so they can have something fun to do and hopefully give them a chance to catch fish while serving out country.

This program will run through March 18, 2012. Our fishing team has asked local fishing tackle and bait shops if we could use their stores as drop off points. If you have a rod and reel that you would like to donate, please bring it to Oak Lawn High School or to:



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# 2011 Ultimate Spartan Angler is Michael Hentgen and Tyler Bachelder By Michael Hentgen (Grade 12)

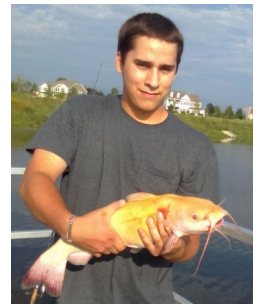
On December 26, the Oak Lawn Spartan anglers held a friendly competition between teammates. The competition tests our knowledge of fish identification, fishing techniques, knots, and casting ability. To judge the competition we invited our friends from Fish Tales Fishing Club.

We held the competition for about three hours with a fierce fight for first place. Coach Kuchyt developed a point system for the competition, first place received ten points, second received eight points and so on down to seventh place in each of the eight events.

The first part of our competition was a 40 question multiple choice test which included questions on fishing techniques, rules and regulations, and fish identification. Michael Hentgen answered the most questions correct in the boys division and Junior Alexis Kosek won for the girls. The second part of the competition was tying fishing knots. We were judged by the time it took to tie the knot and the quality of the knot. The knots we tied were the polamar knot, the clinch knot, and the Albright knot. Freshman Andrew Jensen tied all

three knots faster than any other boy on the team. As for the the girls division, senior Tyler Bachelder tied the polamar knot the fastest. The clinch knot was tied fastest by Jaime Schuld and the Albright knot was tied fastest by Alexis Kosek. The third part of the competition was casting ability. This part is where Spartan anglers were tested on casting distance, accuracy, bozo buckets, and a side-casting event. In the girls division Lauren Cappel won with an astounding 91'11" in casting distance and Jaime Schuld was runner up. As for casting accuracy Lauren Cappel again came in first place to add on 10 more points to her score, and following not far behind was Jaime Schuld. For the boys division, Jon Metelski won the bozo buckets, and Mike Hentgen cast the furthest with a distance of 133'11" and he also won the casting accuracy contest.

At the end of the competition, the points were added  
...USA Tournament continued on page 8





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## Fish Tales Fishing Club Nets Huge Catch of Toys and Gift Cards for Treasure Chest Foundation

Fish Tales Fishing Club in Oak Forest netted 119 toys, \$195 in gift cards and \$235 in cash to benefit the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation (POTCF) during the Fishing Club's annual Christmas Party. Fish Tales Fishing Club ([www.fishtalesfishingclub.com](http://www.fishtalesfishingclub.com)) is an organization of men and women who meet monthly to discuss fishing techniques, conduct seminars about local lakes and to support the South Suburban Special Recreation Association by organizing weekly fishing trips throughout the summer.

Fish Tales Fisherman Fred Howes said, "We wanted to give back because the toys are put to good use all year round. It is such a good thing that the Treasure Chest Foundation does." Ms. Kisel expressed her gratitude for the generous support shown by the Fishing Club members. "A toy drive of this magnitude is a true blessing," said Ms. Kisel. "The Fishing Club's tremendous support will brighten the lives of so many brave children and teens battling cancer."

If you would like further information about the Treasure Chest Foundation, please contact Colleen Kisel at 708-633-TOYZ (8699) or visit the Foundation's web site at [www.treasurechest.org](http://www.treasurechest.org).

**Source:** <http://triblocal.com/orland-park/community/stories/2011/12/fish-tales-fishing-club-nets-huge-catch-of-toys-and-gift-cards-for-treasure-chest-foundation/>



Fish Tales Fisherman Fred Howes proudly displays the Fishing Club's fresh catch of toys at the Foundation's Orland Park warehouse.

## Spartan Fishing Team to Host Third Annual High School Bass Tournament

The Spartan Fishing Team is planning the third annual Spartan Bass Tournament to be held on the Kankakee/DesPlaines River at the [DesPlaines Conservation Area](#) on September 15, 2012. The team has partnered with **Unique Bassmasters** and **Rayjus Outdoors** to bring this event together. Over 120 high school anglers took part in the 2011 tournament, making this tournament one of the largest high school fall bass tournaments in Illinois. Last years tournament details and results can be found [here](#).

The 2012 tournament will have a similar format to the 2011 tournament. Schools will again be able to enter as many boats as they would like with a \$30 entry fee per boat. The number of boats in the tournament, however, is limited to the number set forth by the DNR permit. Entries will be allowed on a first come, first serve basis. More information

on the tournament, along with registration forms, will be made available through the summer issue of the Spartan Fishing Team newsletter.

Click on the YouTube icon below to view the 2011 Rayjus Outdoors—Oak Lawn High School Bass Tournament highlight video.



## Fighting Illini to Host High School Bass Tournament

The Illini Bass Fishing Club of the University of Illinois will be hosting our 1st annual High School Open Tournament on Clinton Lake! This tournament is open to all high school fisherman, and schools can field as many teams as they want (registration will be capped at 75 boats). The first 25 teams to register will receive prize packages from our sponsors. Lunches will be provided to all anglers and coaches. Top finishing teams will also win great prizes including a Dobyns rod, Quantum reel, Abu Garcia rods and reels, and much more! To find out more information about this tournament, click [here](#).



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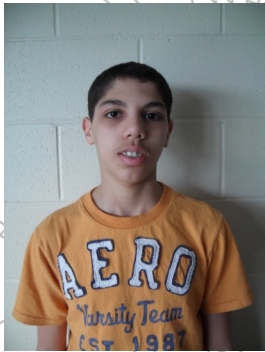

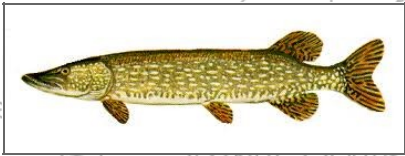




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# Spartan Angler Profiles

What is your favorite:	Noah Geobel 	Kim Ruane 	Ahmad Abdulla 
Fish to Catch	Catfish 	Northern Pike 	Carp 
Lure	Topwater 	Mepps #5 	Spinnerbait 
Color	Green	Black/Orange	Green/Yellow
Fishing Spot	Shabbona	Corey Lake, MI	Rock River
Season to Fish	Fall	Summer	Summer
Time of Day	Evening	All Day	Evening
Fishing Style	Casting	Bobber	Bottom Fishing
Dream Fishing Trip	Cass Lake, Minnesota	Fishing the ocean off the Mexican coast	Canada



## Congratulations to Jonathan Metelski

Congratulations to freshman **Jonathan Metelski** for catching the largest muskie entered into the **2011 Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail (IMTT) Youth Honor Roll!** Jonathan caught a 46 inch muskie on Lake of the Woods, Canada. Jonathan was honored for his catch at the Chicago Muskie Show and was presented the trophy by Bob Jeffries of the Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail (pictured below). All kids who entered into the competition received a commemorative plaque with the engraved details of their catch. Kids who attended the ceremony at the Chicago Muskie Show also received a muskie rod and reel combo.

Young anglers from across the state are encouraged to take part in the program by simply following the directions set forth in the article below.



*...USA Tournament continued from page 3*

up and Tyler Bachelder won in the girls division and Michael Hentgen won in the boys division. Winners received a trophy which was sponsored by **SpitFire Automotive** and a rod and reel combo donated by **Mik-Lurch Fishing Tackle Outlet**. Rounding out the top three finishes were freshmen Andrew Jensen (2<sup>nd</sup>) and senior Ben Masek (3<sup>rd</sup>). For the girls, Alexis Kosek won second and Lauren Cappel took third. All the Spartan anglers who participated in the competition had the opportunity to pick baits off a prize table in the order of the place they came in. This year, each member got to pick ten baits!

This competition would not have been possible without the judges from **Fish Tales Fishing Club**. The anglers of the Spartan Fishing Team would like to thank these guys as well as **SpitFire Automotive**, **Mik-Lurch Fishing Tackle Outlet**, **Draggin' Baits**, **Bizz Baits**, and **Hyla Baits**.



## News for High School Muskie Anglers

The Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail, with its' interest in promoting Muskie fishing among young people in Illinois, will be sponsoring the **IMTT YOUTH HONOR ROLL** starting January 1, 2012. Honor Roll entries will be accepted until November 1, 2012.

The program seeks to recognize young anglers that catch a muskie in the US or Canada, and to promote conservation practices such as catch-and-release fishing. There is no cost and any kids from across the state can participate by simply submitting a completed entry form. Bob Kerans, founder of the **Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail**, says successful anglers will receive a wood plaque with an engraved plate, including the youth's name and the particulars of the catch. The particulars of the program are:

1. Two age groups: 0 to 10 years old and 11 to 18 years old.
2. Awards to every entrant, special award to winner in each age group with largest Muskie caught and largest collective inches of Muskies caught.
3. A special drawing will be held for a Muskie rod and reel with each entrant being entered for every Muskie reported.
4. All catches must be made within the United States or Canada.
5. An entrant must report name, age, contact information, lake caught, date of catch, lure used and length of the Muskie caught.
6. A media useable photo is required with each report.
7. An entrant may submit as many catches as so desired.
8. Catches do not have to be made from a boat.

A running account of reported catches will be placed monthly on the IMTT Web Site, as well as in the IMTT newsletter.

Entry forms available at: <http://www.illmuskie.com/youthtrail.shtml> .





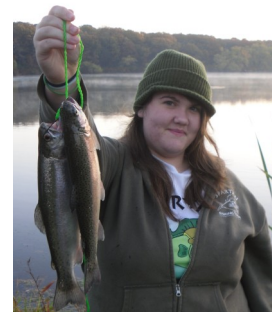
## Why Bass Strike by Alexis Kosek (grade 11)

Bass strike for three basic reasons. The first reason is that they want to **eat**; the second is because of **reflex**; and third is **anger** associated. Bass will usually strike out of hunger. When they do, they will hit almost any lure reasonably presented.

Bass have a main survival concern that involves having plenty to eat, protecting eggs and fry, and controlling habitat where food is almost abundant. When bass strike as a reflex, the bass will see something out of the corner of their eye and quickly strike before the opportunity is gone. They are taking advantage of the situation. For example, as lure moves quickly past a bass hiding under a log, the lure will flash by right over the log the bass is using for its cover. If the bass doesn't strike immediately, the opportunity is lost for the fish to feed. Lures that are likely to cause a reflex strike are fast moving lures like diving crankbaits or spinner baits. Sometimes, when bass strike out of anger, it is because they think their territory is being invaded. When the invader will not leave, the only thing the bass can do is bite and carry the intruder away. There are other reasons why bass strike. You will have to understand

the bass' strike zone. The elements of the strike zone are the bass' mood, light conditions, water clarity, and the energy of the animal. The bass' mood is the most important element in the decision to strike. If the bass is in an inactive state or just not interested in anything then the strike zone would be small. Bass are sight feeders, so the light condition becomes very important. Water clarity is also something that should be considered. When the water is dark and the fish cannot see, the strike zone will be smaller, and when the water is clear the strike zone will be much larger. The energy of the bass is based on the mood of the bass. If it feels aggressive then the bass will be more willing to use more energy. The number one goal for a bass is to use the least amount of energy possible to gain the most amount of food. There are also some bass that will strike out of **curiosity**, that is why some of the most random colored lures will get strikes. **Source:** Summarized from Nine Reasons Why Bass

Strike by Roland Martin & Bill Dance



## Types of Fishing Reels by Noah Goebel (grade 9)

When fishing, you always need to have a reel on your rod. This is what the line is attached to and what allows you to fully hook and catch a fish. There are three different types of reels. There are spincast reels, spinning reels, and bait caster reels.

The spincast reel is for beginners and is the easiest to use. This reel consists of a button that you push which allows you to then cast out your line. This reel goes on top of the rod and is used most often for catching small to medium sized fish. There is a downside to this reel. This reel is not very reliable and can fail many times. It has been said that the drag system is not good and also it doesn't have a lot of line capacity. This reel is definitely not good when it comes to casting for accuracy.

The spinning reel is a little bit harder to cast than the spincast, but meets the standards of most fishermen more than the spincast. The spinning reel comes in a lot of different sizes which makes it great for people who like to fish for a variety of fish. It is also great for casting for long distances. This reel is designed for casting light baits which makes it ideal for finesse fishing. It has a greater line capacity and is a favorite for many anglers. Because this is a better reel, it is not recommended for beginners.

The baitcaster reel is said to be the hardest reel to cast with because it is the most challenging to learn how to use properly. This reel has the widest variety of sizes. It is the best for handling large fish such as big bass and muskie. This cannot be your only fishing reel though because it is not meant

to handle light baits. Most fishermen also agree that this is the best reel when it comes to accuracy. You cast out and put your thumb on the line whenever you want it to stop. It takes a lot of practice to master the reel though. If you are inexperienced when it comes to fishing and casting with baitcasters, try to stay away from this reel. If you do not cast correctly with this reel, your line will get all tangled up and it could take hours to get it untangled. This happens if you do not apply the correct amount of pressure on the spool while your casting.

It is important to know what each reel is capable of. If you do not know what type of reel you are planning on using for fishing, you have many options that will help you in your choice. Each reel is good in its own way. The spincast is good for beginners who are still learning and having trouble with casting. The spinning reel is good for intermediate fishers who are good at casting. The bait caster is for experienced fishermen who have a lot of casting experience and know how to use it properly.



Spincast Reel



Spinning Reel



Baitcaster Reel

# Radio Show Launches “Illinois High Schools Fish Here”

The Fishing and Outdoor Radio Show announced today that starting on March 7, the show will have a weekly segment dedicated to Illinois high school fishing. The segment has been titled, Illinois High Schools Fish Here.

The Illinois High School Association approved bass fishing as an official activity here in Illinois in 2009. Today, the number of high school fishing teams throughout the state has grown to over 230.

The new segment of the Fishing and Outdoor Radio Show will be dedicated to bringing high school fishing news and human interest stories to the show listeners each week until the end of May.

“Our goal with this new segment is to be the clearing house for high school fishing news.” said Jim DaRosa, the radio show founder. “We will interview coaches and others who have high school fishing related news every week so that we can acknowledge the accomplishments of the student anglers be it while fishing the IHSA tournaments, local fishing competitions, involvement in the community, or about their individual accomplishments in angling.”

Fishing and Outdoor Radio Show hosts, Jim DaRosa, Don Dziedzina, and Ray Ludkevich will key in on recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of the young anglers and their involvement in the outdoors as well.

At the end of the season, the radio show will honor one school team with the “Illinois High Schools Fish Here – Team of the Year” Award.

This award will be provided to the school team who, as judged by the radio show co-hosts, exhibits the greatest effort to promote fishing not only at their school but also within their community. The school’s ranking in the tournament standings is not a factor for winning this award.

Along with the award, radio show sponsors will provide the team, through the school/team coach, a

prize package that will include a variety of new fishing equipment.

New releases from and about high school fishing teams will also be posted on a special “Illinois High Schools Fish Here” page at [www.FishingAndOutdoorRadio.com](http://www.FishingAndOutdoorRadio.com).

High School Fishing coaches are encouraged to contact the Fishing and Outdoor Radio Show with any questions, news items or special interest stories related to high school fishing in Illinois by emailing [OutdoorRadioShow@comcast.net](mailto:OutdoorRadioShow@comcast.net).

About the Fishing and Outdoor Radio Show: The Fishing and Outdoor Radio Show is a very popular long running outdoor radio show that has been on the air since 1983, making it one of the longest running outdoor radio shows in the nation. The show is heard simulcast on five stations throughout Chicagoland. The show airs on WCSJ AM 1550, WCSJ FM 103.1, WSPY FM 107.1, WSPY AM 1480, and WSQR AM 1180 live every Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. All shows are archived and can be heard on the LISTEN NOW page of [www.FishingAndOutdoorRadio.com](http://www.FishingAndOutdoorRadio.com).

Contact Info:

Jim DaRosa

Email: [jtd648@comcast.net](mailto:jtd648@comcast.net)





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

E-mail: [ckuchyt@olchs.org](mailto: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.

### Fish Fact

In 1937, a bull shark was caught in Alton, IL, over 1,700 miles from the Gulf! Click [here](#) for more on the story and a picture.



## **Spartan Fishing Team Offers 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 2011–2012 fishing team. [Happy Hyundai of Oak Lawn](#), [Spitfire Automotive](#), [Stars & Stripes Chicago](#), and the [US Air Force](#) have generously offered scholarships in each organizations 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 scholarships and unique outdoor experiences to the kids. The team would like to thank these wonderful organizations 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](#)

"The solution to any problem—work, love, money, whatever—is to go fishing, and the owrse the problem, the longer the trip should be."

-John Gierach

### **Featured Video**

[Gone Fishing](#)

[Kids Catching](#)

[Success](#)

[Nightly News with](#)

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**Thank you for supporting the Spartan Fishing Team!**



March

### Flavor Of the Day List

- 1 Butter Brickle
- 2 Cookies & Creame
- 3 Double Marshmallow Oreo
- 4 Chocolate Almond Salted Caramel
- 5 Red Raspberry
- 6 Turtle
- 7 Brownie Batter Overload
- 8 Double Salted Caramel Pecan
- 9 Nestle's Crunch Swirl
- 10 Just Drummy
- 11 Peanut Butter Chocolate Banana
- 12 Mint Oreo
- 13 Turtle
- 14 Double Strawberry
- 15 Chocolate Éclair
- 16 Rocky Road
- 17 Mint Explosion
- 18 Raspberry Cordial
- 19 Chocolate Covered Banana
- 20 Turtle
- 21 Chocolate Dream
- 22 Caramel Cashew
- 23 Caramel Fudge Cookie Dough
- 24 Chocolate Heath Crunch
- 25 Boston Cream
- 26 Oreo Cheesecake
- 27 Turtle
- 28 Chocolate Caramel Twist
- 29 Salted Caramel Banana Nut
- 30 Really Reese's
- 31 Snickers Swirl

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# 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>





# Midwest Musky Club

*5201 West 115<sup>th</sup> Street*

*Alsip, IL 60655*

[www.midwestmuskyclub.com](http://www.midwestmuskyclub.com)

**Meetings:** We meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30PM  
@ The Village Sportsman's Club (5201 W. 115<sup>th</sup> Street, Alsip, IL).

No admission fee; free food (although donations are appreciated);  
Great fishing speakers; Monthly raffle; Club fishing outings throughout the Midwest & one Canadian summer trip; Monthly newsletter;  
Reasonably priced membership fees (families are always welcomed to join).

## It shall be the object of the Midwest Musky Club to:

1. Preserve and propagate Midwest musky fishing,
2. Be involved in conservation efforts,
3. Educate & refine the members' skill in the sport of musky fishing
4. Practice good sportsmanship and safety afloat,
5. Sponsor group activities related to the sport of fishing
6. Observe the rules and regulations of the various Departments of Conservation and National Resources of the states in which members' fish.

Feel free to attend one of our meetings (bring your family & friends along) & expand your fishing knowledge!

