



Date: 05/21/17
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– **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** –

Junior and High School Champions Crowned on Cayuga Lake

Auburn, New York---Cayuga Lake was the site of the 2017 NY BASS Nation Junior and High School Championships. The Junior Anglers fished on Saturday May 20th and the High School Anglers fished on Sunday May 21st. Bass Pro Shops in Auburn was the host and title sponsor for both events.

On Saturday, the Juniors eased out of Union Springs launch at 7 am to a beautiful, sunny, calm day. All of the anglers and their boat captains headed north and within 20 minutes a picture came through social media with a young angler holding a 5 pound plus bass he had just landed. That set the tone for the day. More anglers began reporting catches of largemouth bass which were shallow and were feeding in a pre-spawn pattern.

At 2 pm the anglers returned and turned in their scorecards to NY BASS Nation Youth Director Fred Blom. Because these events are during the catch and release season, the anglers had to weigh and immediately release the bass and record the weights. No live weigh-ins were held. Everyone returned to Bass Pro Shops where the scores were tallied up while the anglers enjoyed hot dogs and sodas.

Final results in the 7 to 10 year old bracket were first place Dom Bianchi of Rochester Junior Bassmasters with 17 pounds even, second place to Marcus Skinner of Southern Tier Junior Bassmasters with 10 pounds even, third place to Isaac Quonce from Port City Junior Bassmasters with 4 pounds 6 ounces.

In the 11 to 14 year old bracket, the winner was Rein Golubjatnikov from Rochester Junior Bassmasters with 22 pounds 4 ounces. This was Rein's third consecutive year winning his division. Finishing second was Caden Chartier also from Rochester Junior Bassmasters with 14 pounds 14 ounces and third place went to Caden Mathews from Port City Junior Bassmasters with 12 pounds 9 ounces. Others competing were Christian Misciagna, Aiden McCormack, Marcus Wilson and Mathew Pitcher.

The overall standings determined who qualified to attend the B.A.S.S. National Junior Championships in June at Paris, Tennessee. Rein Golubjatnikov, Dom Bianchi, and Caden Chartier qualified this year from New York.

Sunday dawned a totally different day. Strong winds from the south were predicted to increase in the mid-morning creating whitecaps on the main lake and a threat of rain was in the forecast. Fortunately the only a slight rain shower occurred but the winds definitely had an impact on fishing areas. Despite the weather, every team weighed bass and everyone made it back safely by the 2 pm cutoff.

The teams returned to Bass Pro Shops in Auburn where the presentations were made. Finishing in first as repeating winners for the second year in a row with 20 pounds 15 ounces was the team of Matthew Arndt and Logan Ukleya from Oneida Lake High School Club. Second place was the team of Aiden

Blake and Lock Holmes from McQuaid High School with 20 pounds 7 ounces. In third place was Mike McChesney and Nick Lenhardt from Corning Painted Post with 18 pounds 15 ounces and also from Corning Painted Post in fourth place with 16 pounds 9 ounces were Cale Donegan and Gabrielle Moshier. In all, seventeen teams representing eight high school clubs participated.

The top two Junior anglers will fish in the BASS Junior National Championships on June 20th and 21st on Carroll County Lake near Paris, Tennessee and the top two high school teams will fish in the BASS High School National Championships on Kentucky Lake at Paris, Tennessee on June 22nd to 24th.

Special thanks to Bass Pro Shops for hosting this event and for providing the winning team with a college scholarship prize.

Pictures....

- #1 Junior Top Three L-R Dom Bianchi, Champion Rein Golubjatnikov, Caden Chartier
- #2 High School Champions Matthew Arndt and Logan Ukleya
- #3 High School Second Place Aiden Blake and Lock Holmes
- #4 All of the 2017 High School Competitors