



Sports



Team is third

After finishing the league schedule with a record of six wins and three losses, the team placed third in the district cross country competition at Frances Slocum Park. Dallas had two runners finish in the top 10 out of 150 runners; John Aston, sixth place and Jim Evans, 10th place. Ann Balonis finished second in the girls' division. Shown here, first row, is Phil Navola. From left, second row, Sean Malloy, Becky Gingo, Sandy Corcoran, Ann Balonis, Jennifer Steube. Third row, Brad Lister, John Aston, Gregg Steuben, Hugh Mundy, Jim Evans, Aaron Tillman, Jared Samuels, and Robert Mitkus, Head Coach.

Smallmouth bass action picks up

Turn off the TV set, grab your fishing gear and head for the nearest river - the smallmouth bass action is really beginning to pick up throughout Pennsylvania.

Field personnel of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission report the cool, crisp autumn days are making the "gamest fish that swims" attack a large variety of lures, plugs and live bait.

They are actively feeding to fatten up for the winter months ahead, and any of the natural foods of the smallmouth such as crayfish, hellgrammites, nightcrawlers and minnows are producing nice catches.

Jigs, black roostertails, white poppers and a large variety of smaller bass plugs, spinners, and spoons seem to attract "Ol' Bronzeback" during the fall months.

Although action is really picking up in the major rivers and their tributaries, don't forget the lakes - Lake Erie is still the top producer of citation-sized bass in the Keystone State.

During the afternoon, smallmouth can usually be found lurking in the deeper pools. During the cooler periods of the day - early morning and late evening - they work out of the pools into the riffles in search of food.

Although a boat is helpful on some of the larger waters, many fishermen prefer to use waders or hip boots to wade the shallows. The Commission urges fishermen to use caution when wading as slippery walking surfaces and visual distortions of underwater surfaces can be hazardous.

Fly fishing for bass can be just as much, if not more, fun than fly fishing for trout and the smallmouth will readily strike large bass bugs

and poppers, especially when fished late in the evening.

If you've never tried fishing for smallmouth on one of Pennsylvania's major rivers in the fall give it a try. If you've never tried fishing - ask a friend or relative to take you along on their next outing - fall fishing for smallmouth bass on one of Pennsylvania's major rivers is an excellent introduction to what may be the only true lifetime family sport - fishing!

News from Pa. Fish Commission

Many anglers call them dogfish or mudfish, and some refer to the species as "living fossil." The bowfin is a primitive fish and the only living species of what had been a large family of fishes (Amiidae) which once lived in North America.

According to the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, bowfins inhabit Lake Erie and have also been taken from the Allegheny, Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers. In fact, on July 23, 1985, a new state record bowfin was taken from Presque Isle Bay (Lake Erie) by Gregory M. Luciano, of Erie. The new record bowfin weighed 9 lb. 9 1/2 oz. and was taken from Presque Isle Bay in 1983.

Although the bowfin is most often caught while the angler is concentrating on fishing for some other species, it's fighting ability ranks up there right along with bass and pike. They are particularly fond of live bait, but will take artificials as well. The new state record was taken on a shiner.

The bowfin does not rank high, however, on the gourmet's list of palatable finny creatures and is seldom used for food.

This little-known inhabitant of Keystone State waters has been around for a long time, lurking in heavily vegetated lakes and sluggish rivers. He can easily tolerate warm water temperatures. The bowfin has an air bladder which can function similar to lungs, and is able to surface and push its head clear of the water to take gulps of fresh air.

Olive-green on its back, the bowfin becomes lighter on the sides to yellow on the belly. It is somewhat mottled. Bony plates cover the head, while strong scales dominate the body, both characteristics of so-called "primitive" fish.

The bowfin is a true "survivor". It is the sole remaining representative of an ancient family now almost extinct and known only as fossils in the rocks of Europe and the United States.

Where are those lunker large-mouths lurking in early fall? Go for

the green-vegetation that is, of Pennsylvania's natural lakes and ponds. As water warm in late summer and early autumn, largemouth bass seek deeper, cooler haunts that contain more dissolved oxygen. Green vegetation adds oxygen to the water, decaying vegetation depletes the oxygen supply, so do as the bass do-go for the green.

According to Mike Bickler, Director of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission's Office of Information, cover is another key to finding the largemouth. Because the pupil of this fish's eye does not contract, they seek dark, shaded hangouts such as weeds, moss, lily pads, deep

holes, etc. where they can conceal themselves.

Bickler suggested using 10-pound test line with bait casting outfits and either six or eight pound test with spinning outfit. Largemouth are surprisingly wary and lighter line is less visible to the fish.

Fly rod fishermen can have great sport during this period using bass bugs in shallow water near shore during evening hours. But no matter where or how you fish, use a quiet approach in shallow water, as the slightest noise will frighten them.

Although not as scrappy a fighter as its cousin, the small mouth, the largemouth's popularity is growing at an ever increasing rate.

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