Sean Andrachick stays consistent to win the TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation Western Regional at Lake Powell in Arizona

PAGE, Ariz. — Coming into the TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation Western Regional at Lake Powell, Sean Andrachick's main goal was to catch a limit each day to help Team Montana compete in the team competition.

Not only did Andrachick secure limits each day, he found the winning group of bass. With a three-day total of 30 pounds, 12 ounces, the Marion, Mont., boater took home the victory, edging Idaho's Jess Pottenger by 1-4.

After landing in second the first two days with 11-0 and 10-14, Andrachick caught 8-14 on the final day to jump into the top spot. It is not only his first-ever victory in a Regional, but also the first time Andrachick has qualified for the TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation Championship.

"I'm pretty excited," said Andrachick, who also earned the $500 Garmin Rewards bonus. "I have fished these for so long and this is pretty surreal for me. I'm surprised and blown away by the whole thing. I really didn't think much about winning. I felt like I was going to come down and try to get the team a win. I never thought I would take the whole thing."

"I'm pretty excited," said Andrachick, who also earned the $500 Garmin Rewards bonus. "I have fished these for so long and this is pretty surreal for me. I'm surprised and blown away by the whole thing. I really didn't think much about winning. I felt like I was going to come down and try to get the team a win. I never thought I would take the whole thing."

Sean Andrachick of Marion, Mont., has won the 2023 TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation Western Regional at Lake Powell with a three-day total of 30 pounds, 12 ounces.
(Photo by Chase Sansom/B.A.S.S.)

A local to Noxon Reservoir, Andrachick has been to Lake Powell several times in the past, including in 2006 when the Montana state team won the team competition.

In his search for limit fillers, Andrachick located two main areas that held bass. Both areas featured chunk-rock points with brush and tumbleweed mixed in. There were also big balls of shad in his areas as well, which he could see with his eyes and on Garmin LiveScope.

His starting spot featured mostly largemouth in 5 to 10 feet of water, and he was able to catch the majority of his green fish on a Lucky Craft Gunfish walking bait.

"I caught most of my bass off stuff that most people weren't fishing," he said. "People were fishing the backs of the coves and all my fish were out in front of all of that. I was probably a third of the way back. I had a morning topwater bite and caught my kicker fish that way."

As soon as the sun rose over the canyon, he moved to his second location where he caught mostly smallmouth in anywhere from 5 to 20 feet of water with a small Keitech swimbait in the smallmouth magic color on a drop-shot rig. He also used a Berkley Flatworm and a 3-inch Yamamoto Senko in smoke purple.

His biggest smallmouth was over 3 pounds.

"The bigger smallmouth would come later in the afternoon, especially with the sun," he said. "Those smallmouth will start roaming around and eating when the sun comes up. When you find the right spot, you can sit there and pick them off."

Sun and some wind prevailed the first two days and Andrachick caught several limits of bass both days. On Day 3, a morning storm system rolled through and left cloudy conditions in its wake, which changed his bite.

Even still, he filled his limit within the first three hours of fishing and made several more culls throughout the day.

"I was catching three limits a day pretty consistently and today, it was really tough," he said. "There were a few fish in my box that were small that normally I would have culled out. Today I caught almost all of my smallmouth on topwater, which normally would have been a largemouth bite."

In his first time fishing a Nation Regional as a boater, Pottenger qualified for the Nation Championship with a three-day total of 29-8. The Harrison, Idaho, native was one of the few anglers who improved his catch each day, landing bags of 8-10, 10-5 and 10-9.

Using mostly a topwater walking bait and a fluke, Pottenger targeted pockets with a mix of rock and brush. He caught a mix of smallmouth and largemouth.

A local to Lake Powell, Riley Nielsen of Murray, Utah, finished third with 29-3 with daily limits weighing 10-10, 8-11 and 9-14. Nielsen focused on flats with little drops where the smallmouth were waiting for shad.

He used mostly a topwater walking bait the first two days before switching to a drop shot on the final day.

Idaho's Zach Taylor earned $500 for catching the Big Bass of the Tournament, a 4-12.

Arizona's Hayden Spradling won the nonboater division with a three-day total of 18-11. California's Kin Pui Wong finished second with 17-5 and Arizona's Brandon Kahoun finished third with 17-5.

Arizona's Eric Hammer caught the Big Bass of Tournament for nonboaters, a 4-4, which earned him a $250 bonus.

The top boater and nonboater from each state qualified for the 2023 TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation Championship at Lake Hartwell scheduled for Oct. 18-20. The winner of that event will be crowned Nation's Best and will earn an invitation to the 2024 Bassmaster Elite Series as well as a spot in the 2024 Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Toyota.

Visit Page hosted the tournament.

F.Y.H. = For Your Health: September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month; Know the warning signs and new important treatments ... from sports page 2

Currently, the main screening test for prostate cancer involves taking a blood sample and testing it for the level of a marker called prostate-specific antigen (PSA). Higher levels of PSA in the blood can indicate prostate cancer, but also may be higher in benign conditions such as an enlarged prostate, so it is important to follow up with a doctor to discuss the results and the next steps. There is good evidence showing that regular PSA screening can reduce prostate cancer mortality, including from randomized trials. However, there is some controversy with screening for prostate cancer since the test can pick up slower-growing cancers that will never lead to harm. An area of active research now is aiming to do more effective screening approaches, targeting the men who are at the highest risk of prostate cancer and then also safely letting people know they can screen less regularly. The ACS launched the "I Love You, Get Screened" campaign to encourage everyone to talk to their loved ones about cancer screening.

6- What age should men be screened for prostate cancer?

The ACS recommends that men at average risk for prostate cancer discuss the benefits and limitations of screening with their healthcare provider at age 50. Men at high risk (which includes Black men in general and any man with a first-degree relative who had prostate cancer before age 65) should have the conversation at age 45. Black men with a family history of breast, ovarian, or prostate cancer, and men with more than one first-degree relative who had prostate cancer at an early age should discuss screening at age 40. Detecting prostate cancer early can lead to more effective treatment and improved outcomes.

7- What is the ACS doing to combat prostate cancer?

To address the burden of prostate cancer for all men and the large racial disparities that exist, we established the IMPACT initiative. This cross-institution initiative will address urgent unmet needs with the goals of significantly improving outcomes for all men including survivorship and survival; reducing disparities; improving diversity in prostate cancer clinical trials; accelerating engagement and awareness and accelerating the implementation of known prevention strategies into at-risk communities.

For more information on prostate cancer, go to https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/prostate-cancer.html.

About the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is a leading cancer-fighting organization with a vision to end cancer as we know it, for everyone. For more than 100 years, the organization has been improving the lives of people with cancer and their families as the only organization combating cancer through advocacy, research, and patient support.

The American Cancer is committed to ensuring everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

To learn more, visit cancer.org or call 24/7 helpline at 1-800-227-2345. Connect with them on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Memphis Hustle releases 2023-24 NBA G Schedule ... from sports page 1

urday, Feb. 3, and Sunday, Feb. 4. For the first time in team history, the Hustle will visit the Rip City Remix on Sunday, March 3, and Monday, March 4.

The NBA G League season will begin with the Showcase Cup schedule from Nov. 10 - Dec. 17, featuring seven home games and seven road games against teams in a regional pod. The teams with the best winning percentage in each of the four regional pods, as well as the four teams with the next best win percentage across the league, will go on to play for the Showcase Cup Championship in a single-elimination tournament at the NBA G League Winter Showcase from Dec. 19-22. The remaining NBA G League teams who do not qualify to compete for the Showcase Cup Championship will each play an additional two games at the Winter Showcase outside of the tournament format.

Following the Showcase Cup, all teams' win-loss records will reset, and the Hustle will start a 34-game regular season slate featuring 17 home games at Landers Center and 17 road games before culminating with the 2023 NBA G League Playoffs. Entering his fifth season, head coach Jason March and the Hustle will tip-off the regular season on a five-game road trip starting against the Indiana Mad Ants on Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Fans are encouraged to guarantee their seats to all the best Showcase Cup and regular season matchups by purchasing 2023-24 Season Tickets and can do so by calling (901) 888-HOOP. Season Ticket Packages in the lower bowl start at just $10.50 per game and feature multiple Season Ticket Member benefits, including member discounts on gear and merchandise, playoff ticket priority for both the Memphis Hustle and Memphis Grizzlies, invitations to select Grizzlies games during the 2023-24 season and more.

All-inclusive Floor seats and tables are still available, with other ticket packages set to be announced later. Additionally, the Memphis Hustle are accepting $50 deposits for groups of 10-or-more. Single Game Tickets will be available for purchase starting this fall at all Ticketmaster locations, Ticketmaster.com, the Landers Center Box Office, online at memphishustle.com or by calling (901) 888-HOOP.

The Memphis Hustle will host its sixth annual Education Day Game on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 10:30 a.m. against the Stockton Kings. Each Education Day Game thousands of students in the Mid-South pack Landers Center for a game in which the students receive a unique experience. Hustle & Hounds returns for a sixth season on Sunday, Nov. 19, against the Mexico City Capitanes. A second Hustle & Hounds night will take place on Saturday, Feb. 3, against the G League Ignite.

The Hustle host a season long seven-game home stand beginning on Saturday, Jan. 27, against the Santa Cruz Warriors and culminating on Sunday, Feb. 11, vs. the Texas Legends. The 2023-24 schedule features a total of seven back-to-backs (including the Showcase Cup) and a season-long six-game road trip from Feb. 28 – March 9.

The Hustle continue competition in the 16-team Western Conference, which now includes the Rip City Remix. Of its 34 regular season games, the Hustle will play 30 games against Western Conference foes and four games against the Eastern Conference. The Hustle's interconference schedule sees them host the Cleveland Charge, with away games against the Osceola Magic, Indiana Mad Ants and Westchester Knicks.

The complete 2023-24 Hustle Showcase Cup and regular season schedule is attached. More information on single game tickets, promotions, theme nights and other attractions will be announced in the coming weeks.

For more information on the Memphis Hustle, visit memphishustle.com, follow the team on Twitter/X and Instagram (@MemphisHustle) or like Memphis Hustle on Facebook.

Kyle Welcher named Bassmaster Progressive Angler of the Year

From The Fishing Wire.com

Congratulations To Gamakatsu Pro Kyle Welcher On Securing The 2023 Bassmaster Progressive Angler Of The Year Title.

Tacoma, WA – Congratulations to Gamakatsu pro Kyle Welcher on securing the 2023 Bassmaster Progressive Angler Of The Year title. Welcher held off a stacked Bassmaster Elite Series field during the 9 event schedule, besting South Carolina pros Brandon Cobb and Patrick Walters to secure his first AOY title. The Opelika, AL pro never finished below 44th place during the 2023 campaign, proving his diversity as an angler from Florida to New York. Logging 2 top 10, and 3 top 20 finishes along the way, Welcher utilized a variety of Gamakatsu hooks throughout the season in both finesse and power fishing scenarios. Welcher is extremely grateful to join the ranks of former Bassmaster AOY winners.

"I don't think it has really set in. I can't believe it is true just yet, It has been a great season and winning AOY is one of those things where everything just has to go right for nine tournaments.

Please see sports-Ent. 5

Email sports news to MSTsports@prodigy.net

Matching Donors

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DONATE A KIDNEY TO SAVE A LIFE
DONATE YOUR CAR, BOAT, REAL ESTATE, OR PLANE!

We take donations in any condition, with fast, free pickup.

Every donation is tax deductible.

100% of the proceeds help save the lives of people needing organ transplants on MatchingDonors.com, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Call us at 781-821-2204
or donate online at
MatchingDonorsDonations.com