

Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

Twin kickers lift Hamblin and Brown to Bassmaster High School Series win at Sam Rayburn Reservoir

JASPER, Texas, May 19, 2024 — Typically, anglers strive for something unique en route to tournament success, but for Aiden Hamblin and Austin Brown, a shameless dose of redundancy delivered victory in the Strike King Bassmaster High School Series at Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

Sacking up a five-bass limit of 18 pounds, 2 ounces, the seniors representing the Pilot Point Bearcats Bass Team edged their nearest competitors, Ridge Mabile and Evan Aucoin of the Assumption Mustangs Bass Club by a margin of 2-1.

Earning the \$2,214 team prize, Hamblin and Brown claimed their spot in the Strike King Bassmaster High School Series Championship scheduled for Chickamauga Lake, Aug. 1-3.

“This means the world to us,” Brown said. “We’ve been at this for four years and we’ve had some really close finishes, but we’ve never been able to secure the win.”

“Especially on one of the greatest lakes in the country, to come out here in May — the best time to fish Rayburn — and win, that means a lot to us and our team.” Hamblin said he and Brown stayed on the lake’s west side and fished coves in Caney Creek. They rotated through three main spots and targeted flooded bushes, trees and stumps.

“We fished another event on Rayburn in March and it was 6 feet low at that time,” Hamblin said. “We finished fifth in that event and we figured out what was going to be under water (when the lake rose), so that helped us.”

Noting that he and his partner caught all of their fish in 5 to 8 feet, Hamblin said they fished a Texas-rigged black/blue Strike King Rage Menace on a 3/0 Gamakatsu straight-shank hook with a pegged 3/16-ounce weight, wacky-rigged 5- and 6-inch Yum Dingers (black/blue and junebug, respectively) and a



Aiden Hamblin and Austin Brown of the Pilot Point Bearcats Bass Team have won the 2024 Strike King Bassmaster High School Series at Sam Rayburn Reservoir with a total of 18 pounds, 2 ounces. (Photo by Tommy Sendek/B.A.S.S.)

Spro Bronzeye Popping Frog. The latter produced their best bites, including a pair of 5-pound, 7-ounce kickers. Brown said the bait’s color pattern — black body with chartreuse legs — played a key role in tempting big bites.

“The bluegill the bass were feeding on had bright (chartreuse) tips on their tails, so that frog imitated them really well — it stood out on top of the water,” Brown said. “You had to get it really shallow and in the shade and then you had to pop it really slow. They would pop it after the pause.”

As Hamblin explained, he and Brown would switch to the plastics in the less dense cover. The wacky rig ultimately out-per-

formed the Texas rig. “I was skipping the wacky rig under branches and popping it,” Hamblin said. “It was hit or miss. Sometimes, they’d hit it after I’d pop it. Sometimes, they’d hit it after a long pause.”

The winners had their limit by 7:30 a.m. and culled throughout the day until finishing their weight at 1:30 p.m. Brown caught the two 5-7s on the frog — one at 11 and the other at 1:30. “The first 5-pounder that I caught, the reel wasn’t connected to the rod very well and when I set the hook, the reel exploded off the rod,” Brown said. “I had to hold the reel and fight the fish at the same time. It was (nearly) a catastrophic event.”

Amplifying the day’s drama,

Brown said their second kicker was nearly identical to the first. “The two 5-7s were on the same tree about 2 1/2 hours apart,” he said. “It was right at the end of the day and we were like, ‘Let’s just roll back to that tree where we caught that first big fish.’”

“I cast the same frog and the strike was identical to our first big fish. That tree won it for us, for sure.”

Mabile and Aucoin finished second with 16-1. Connor Crawford and Brody Beam of the Liberty County Anglers won the Phoenix Boats Big Bass award for their 6-12. Crawford and Beam finished 11th with 14-7.

The Jasper-Lake Sam Rayburn Area Chamber of Commerce and Jasper County hosted the event.

B.A.S.S., which encompasses the Bassmaster tournament leagues, events and media platforms, is the worldwide authority on bass fishing and keeper of the culture of the sport, providing cutting-edge content on bass fishing whenever, wherever and however bass fishing fans want to use it. Headquartered in Birmingham, Ala., the 500,000-member organization’s fully integrated media platforms include the industry’s leading magazines (Bassmaster and B.A.S.S. Times), website (Bassmaster.com).

The Memphis Showboats to honor heroes with Hats Off to Heroes game from sports page 1

www.fevo.me/frf24

• Alpha Omega Veterans Services: www.fevo.me/alphaomega
In addition to the fund-raising ticket offer, FedEx Cares is inviting Alpha Omega Veterans Services as well as some FedEx team members, who are veterans of various branches of the U.S. military to participate in Sunday’s game-ball delivery prior to kickoff. FedEx Cares and the UFL are proud to support Alpha Omega Veterans Services and to thank them for their service and contributions.

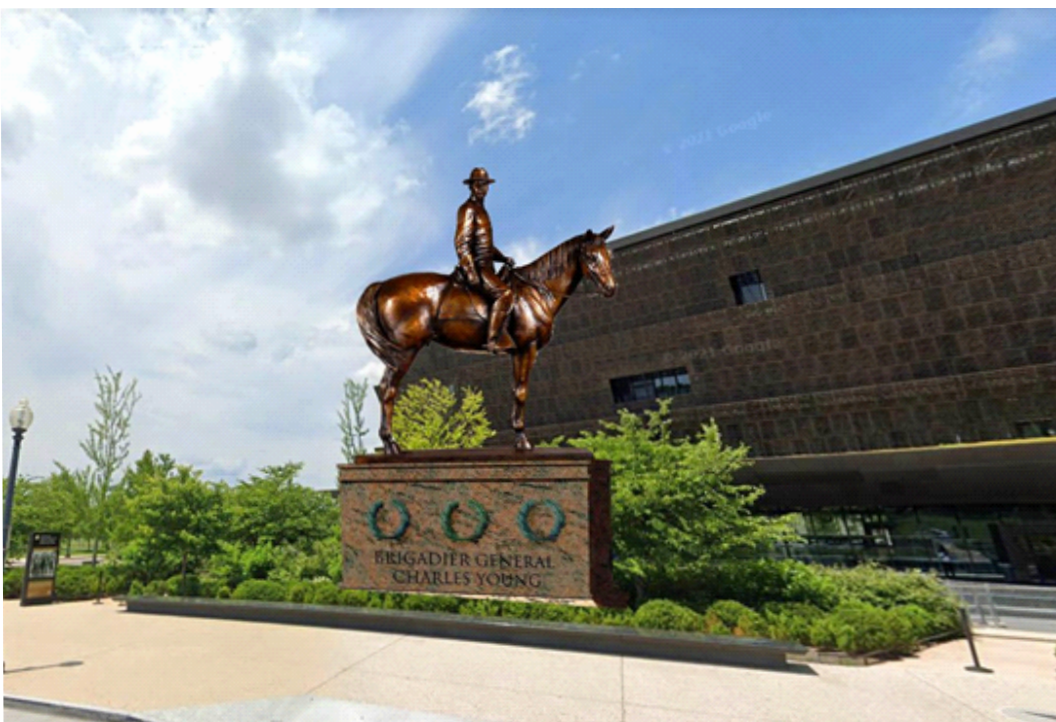
In addition, heroes from each of the four groups mentioned above - military, healthcare, educators

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and first responders - will have the opportunity for some on-field fun. Representatives from each group will team up and compete against each other in four events: a hot-dog eating contest, a pushup contest, a 40-yard dash and a punt, pass and kick relay. A winner amongst the groups will be declared during the fourth quarter of the game.

In addition, as a thank you to fans, Memphis Showboats-themed grilling spatulas will be given away, while supplies last, following the game.

National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations to commemorates Brig. Gen. Charles Young’s interment from sports-Military 2



This is a clay model created by sculptor Antonio Tobias Mendez. It depicts Buffalo legend Brig. Gen. Charles Young on horseback. The National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations is campaigning to have the statue on the grounds of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. (Photo/Courtesy: National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations)

the ComTel documentary of Blacks in World War II on YouTube]

The Coalition will introduce plans to erect Young’s statue in Washington, D.C. In past years, veterans have gathered at Arlington to commemorate his service. Also, the National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations and sponsor Veterans N Transition are commemorating this year’s

anniversary by hosting a panel of Black Military historians, descendant(s) of General Young, advocates, and public officials to engage in conversation about history and comment on the ongoing efforts to uplift the history of the legendary Buffalo Soldier.

In addition, the Coalition is inviting those who are traveling to explore The Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial His-

torical Corridor in Kentucky. The Corridor is the longest historical route in the Nation named commemorating Black History. (Please, view the initial groundbreaking ceremony on YouTube in the link on the photo of Brig. General Charles Young with flag on sports-Military page 2.)

For more information, you may email Charles Blatcher at cnmmmf@aol.com.

Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders gets historic flag...



Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders receives the first flag flown over the USS Arkansas from Clyde Faulkner on Wednesday, May 15.

(Photo credit: Hogan Bark)

An Editorial Comment from The Mid-South Tribune
We believe real women should play in women’s sports!

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