

# Matt Stanley of Alexandria, TN wins Toyota Series event on Lake Chickamauga after sitting in 69th place on day one

From the Fishing Wire.com

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. May 9, 2022— After sitting in 69th place after Day One of the three-day tournament, pro Matt Stanley of Alexandria, Tennessee rallied on Day Two, finishing in 13th place with 29 pounds, 9 ounces going into the final day. On Saturday, Stanley brought another limit weighing 22 pounds, 2 ounces to the scales to win the Toyota Series Presented by A.R.E. at Lake Chickamauga. Stanley's three-day total of 15 bass weighing 51-11 earned him the win by a 1-pound, 11-ounce margin over second-place pro Kevin Meunier of Lamar, Indiana and earned Stanley the top payout of \$60,000.

Hosted by Chattanooga Sports, the tournament is the third and final event of the season for the Toyota Series Central Division anglers and will feature the region's best bass-fishing pros and Strike King co-anglers casting for a top prize of up to \$75,000. Stanley said he is typically hard-headed and tries to win the event on Day One, then ends up struggling toward the end of the tournament. However, he decided to switch up his mindset for this event.

"I fished a little slower during this tournament and made sure I caught five fish each time I went out," Stanley said. "I just focused on maintaining a solid bag, that way I could have a shot of making it to the final day, then on the



Matt Stanley shows off his winning Toyota Series presented by A.R.E. Trophy. (Photo/Courtesy: Toyota Series Event)

final day, I swung for the fences. I went from catching 8-15 keepers per day on the first two days, to only catching five on Day Three, but I dramatically increased my weights."

Stanley said he threw a variety of baits over the three days, including a 3/4-ounce Picasso Inviz R Wire Double Willow Spinnerbait with a 6-inch Culprit Skinny Jerk trailer, as well as a 5-inch Gary Yamamoto Senko, wacky-rigged, in bubble gum color.

"I feel like I got really lucky, getting on a big bite," Stanley said. "The guys at the top after the first two days had at least one big fish, so I knew that was going to be

the key to making it to the top of the leaderboard."

Stanley said he only caught five fish on the final day, but one of those fish was a 9-pounder that was one of the catches of a lifetime, and that was all he needed. "I'd been catching the outskirts of a large group of fish throughout the tournament and on Day Three I was finally the only one fishing that group but couldn't get them to bite anything I was throwing," Stanley said. "Eventually I had one hit the spinnerbait, so I knew they were bass. I pulled out a Megabass Jerkbait and tied it on 10-pound Seaguar Red Label Fluorocarabon Line

on a Lew's Speed Spool LFS Casting Reel with an iROD Genesis III Series Casting Rod, and they started biting."

After catching a catfish earlier that morning that had completely wrecked his line and hooks, Stanley said he re-tied his jerkbait and blindly threw it out toward a shallow area, where he got another bite that he was positive was just another catfish.

"It was swimming away slowly, so I just held pressure on it, then it shook its head three times and I realized it was a giant bass. My line started coming up real slow, then the bass jumped about 40 yards from the boat, and we could see how big it was and I said, 'Oh my God, what a bass.' "It hit the water, then realized it was hooked and the fight was on. It jumped around and was being super erratic, acting crazy like a smallmouth and jumping several more times," Stanley continued. "I told my co-angler I couldn't look at it, because if it came off the hook, I was going to be sick." His co-angler netted the bass neatly, and Stanley had his limit — and a 9-pound kicker fish — by 9:30 a.m.

"This win feels great — It's not really about the money, because I love fishing so much, but catching that 9-pounder made the whole week for me," said the first time Toyota Series winner. "The trophy, money and bragging rights are an extra bonus, but catching a fish like that is the reason every guy out there

started fishing in the first place. "Everyone wants to win. You aren't going to need all that money when you're 100 years old, but you will look back and remember catching a fish like that," Stanley added.

The top 10 pros on Lake Chickamauga finished:

- 1st: Matt Stanley of Alexandria, Tenn., 15 bass, 51-11, \$60,000
- 2nd: Kevin Meunier of Lamar, Ind., 15 bass, 50-0, \$25,500
- 3rd: Tommy Brown of Louisville, Tenn., 14 bass, 48-12, \$17,000
- 4th: Andrew Nordbye of Guntersville, Ala., 15 bass, 48-7, \$15,000
- 5th: Cody Nichols of Fayette, Ala., 15 bass, 46-8, \$14,000
- 6th: Kevin Drake of Cleveland, Tenn., 15 bass, 45-11, \$11,500
- 7th: Clay Reece of Lexington, Ky., 15 bass, 45-4, \$9,000
- 8th: Michael Black of Toledo, Ill., 14 bass, 44-15, \$8,000
- 9th: Carl Gillespie of Old Hickory, Tenn., 15 bass, 44-15, \$7,000
- 10th: Casey Martin of Brownsboro, Ala., 15 bass, 44-8, \$5,000

Complete results can be found at MajorLeagueFishing.com. Pro Andrew Johnson of Glencoe, Alabama won the \$500 Day One Berkley Big Bass award in the pro division Thursday, bringing a bass weighing 9 pounds, 13 ounces to the scale. Meunier won Friday's \$500 Berkley Big Bass award, bringing a 7-pound, 11-ounce bass to the scale. Drake took home an extra \$1,000 as the highest finishing Phoenix MLF Bonus member. Boaters are eligible to win up to an extra

\$35,000 per event in each Toyota Series tournament if all requirements are met. More information on the Phoenix MLF Bonus contingency program can be found at PhoenixBassBoats.com.

Jeremy Bouldin of Kings Mountain, North Carolina won the Strike King Co-angler Division Saturday with a three-day total of 14 bass weighing 44 pounds, 6 ounces. Bouldin took home the top prize package of a new Phoenix 518 Pro bass boat with a 115-horsepower Mercury outboard motor.

The top 10 Strike King co-anglers on Lake Chickamauga finished:

- 1st: Jeremy Bouldin of Kings Mountain, N.C., 14 bass, 44-6, Phoenix 518 Pro boat w/115-hp Mercury outboard
- 2nd: Anthony Mondo of Ooltewah, Tenn., 13 bass, 32-12, \$7,700
- 3rd: Pop Catalin of Cookeville, Tenn., 12 bass, 32-1, \$6,000
- 4th: James S. Burns of Nancy, Ky., 12 bass, 30-7, \$4,500
- 5th: Richard Arnold of Owens Cross Roads, La., 12 bass, 28-12, \$4,000

6th: Randy Wiggins of Birmingham, Ala., 11 bass, 27-6, \$3,650

7th: Mitch Friedman of Colleyville, Texas, 10 bass, 26-7, \$3,000

8th: Tommy Pritchard of Bargersville, Ind., eight bass, 24-12, \$2,250

9th: Charlie Crouch of Waterloo, Ala., nine bass, 23-8, \$1,700

10th: Andy Vance of Danville, Ind., 11 bass, 23-7, \$1,700

The Day One Berkley Big Bass \$150 award winner in the Strike King co-angler division, was Michael Corbett of Oxford, Alabama with a 7-pound, 12-ounce bass, while the Day Two \$150 award went to Jim Opetaiia-Williamson with a 6-pound bass.

The Toyota Series Presented by A.R.E. at Lake Chickamauga was hosted by Chattanooga Sports. It was the third and final tournament in the Central Division. The next event for Toyota Series anglers will take place on May 19-21 — the Toyota Series Presented by A.R.E. on the Harris Chain of Lakes in Leesburg, Florida, hosted by the Visit Lake County, Florida. For a complete schedule, visit MajorLeagueFishing.com.

The 2022 Toyota Series Presented by A.R.E. consists of six divisions — Central, Northern, Plains, Southern, Southwestern and Western — each holding three regular-season events, along with the International and Wild Card divisions. Anglers who fish in any of the six divisions and finish in the top 25 — or the top 12 from the Wild Card division — will qualify for the no-entry-fee Toyota Series Presented by A.R.E. Championship for a shot at winning up to \$235,000 cash. The winning Strike King co-angler at the championship earns a new Phoenix 518 Pro bass boat with a 115-horsepower Mercury outboard.

The 2022 Toyota Series Presented by A.R.E. Championship will be held Nov. 3-5 on Lake Guntersville in Guntersville, Alabama, and is hosted by Marshall County Tourism and Sports.

Sponsors of the 2022 MLF Toyota Series Presented by A.R.E. include: 4WP, 13 Fishing, Abu Garcia, AFTCO, A.R.E. Truck Caps, B&W Trailer Hitches, Berkley, Black Rifle Coffee, E3, Epic Baits, Favorite Fishing, Gary Yamamoto Baits, General Tire, Lew's, Lowrance, Lucas Oil, Mercury, Mossy Oak, Onyx, Outlaw Ordinance, Phoenix, Polaris, Power-Pole, Strike King, Tackle Warehouse, T-H Marine, Toyota, Wiley X and YETI.

For complete details and updated information visit MajorLeagueFishing.com.

## B.A.S.S. founder Ray Scott, known as the 'Father of Modern Bass Fishing,' has died ... from sports page 1

tion and his advocacy and passion for anglers and our sport set the standard for tournament fishing and are something we will always strive to uphold.

"Our hearts and prayers are with the Scott family."

The bass tournament competition Scott created rewarded anglers who caught the heaviest limits of bass in the three- or four-day events, which served as the proving grounds for rapid advancements in bass boats, outboard engines, fishing tackle, lures and electronics. Everyday anglers began purchasing whatever the bass pros were using, spawning a massive bass fishing industry that today has an economic impact in excess of \$125 billion per year and employs more than 800,000 people nationwide.

Before Scott began pursuing his dream of organizing America's bass anglers, the sport was a laid-back, mainly Southern pastime that was largely overlooked by the trout-focused national outdoor media. To serve B.A.S.S. members and to publicize the tournament trail, Scott launched Bassmaster Magazine, which the New York Times described as "the Bible of Bass Fishing," and which ultimately would be delivered to 650,000 B.A.S.S. members monthly.

In 1984, he and then-Bassmaster Editor Bob Cobb created The Bassmasters TV show, which attracted more than 1 million viewers weekly on The Nashville Network. Aired today on Fox Sports, the program is one of the longest-running and most-watched fishing shows in history.

Not only did Scott help grow the sport of bass fishing, but he also did more than any other individual to preserve it.

In 1972, he debuted the "Don't Kill Your Catch" campaign and mandated that all tournament competitors' boats feature an aer-

*"I didn't invent catch and release," Scott acknowledged, "but we did make it popular in bass fishing, and that changed the sport in so many ways. We preached that a bass is too valuable to be caught only once. We helped fishermen learn how great it felt to catch a 5- or 6-pound bass and then lean over and let it go and watch it swim away, hopefully to be caught again."*

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As a result, the catch-and-release ethic caught on so well that more than 90% of all bass anglers today release all or most of the bass they catch.

Scott and his rapidly growing B.A.S.S. organization also crusaded against the industrial pollution of America's waterways. In 1970 and '71, Scott filed some 200 anti-pollution lawsuits, drawing national attention to declining water quality and contributing significantly to passage of the Clean Water Act of 1972.

He was an early advocate of bass fisheries research, and he campaigned zealously for passage of the federal Wallop-Breaux Sport Fish Restoration Amendment of 1984. When the bill stalled in Congress, Scott's friendship with then-Vice President George H.W. Bush helped ensure enactment of the amend-

ment. As a result, approximately \$375 million in sportfish restoration allocations are provided annually to state fisheries agencies for management, aquatic education and public access projects.

Few individuals have had a more positive impact on boating safety than Scott. Early on, he began requiring tournament competitors to wear personal flotation devices whenever boating, and he convinced manufacturers to make emergency shut-off devices — "kill switches" — standard features on motorboats. In 1994, he was instrumental in passing the comprehensive Boating Safety Reform Act in Alabama, which became the first state to require that boat drivers pass a written exam and obtain a boat operator's license.

In recognition of his efforts, President Jimmy Carter appointed Scott to the U.S. Coast Guard's National Boating Safety Advisory Council, and in 2002, he was inducted into the National Boating Safety Hall of Fame. Scott earned numerous other accolades and honors for his contributions to outdoor recreation over the years.

Field & Stream Magazine listed Scott — along with President Theodore Roosevelt, environmentalist Rachel Carson and naturalist/conservationist Aldo Leopold — among 20 individuals who most influenced outdoor sports during the 20th century.

He was inducted into the inaugural class of the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame in 2001, the International Game Fish Association Hall of Fame in 2004 and the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in 1987. He was named the 1988 Sport Fisherman of the Year by the Sport Fishing Institute.

The elder President Bush picked Scott as his Alabama state

chairman during his 1979-80 presidential campaign, and the two remained good friends and fishing companions throughout Bush's terms as Vice President and President of the United States.

Scott's was a true rags-to-riches story. He was born in Montgomery, Ala., on Aug. 24, 1933, and grew up there during the depths of the Great Depression. His father operated an ice cream cart and his mother worked as a hairdresser to support the family, which grew to include Ray, his brother and three uncles — all living in a one-bedroom home. Scott contributed to the family treasury by delivering groceries on his bicycle, mowing lawns and selling peanuts at baseball

*His brainchild, the annual Bassmaster Classic world championship, grew from two dozen competitors and about that many spectators at Lake Mead, Nev., in 1971, to become the biggest event in sportfishing over the next half-century. Today, the Classic and related events such as the Bassmaster Classic Outdoors Expo record more than 100,000 fishing fans each year.*

Scott suffered from dyslexia, which contributed to his having to repeat eighth grade, but he eventually managed to earn a degree in Business Administration from Auburn University and soon afterward became one of Mutual of New York insurance company's top salesmen in the Southeast.

In recognition of his successes, Scott received the 2003 Horatio Alger Award, which honors the achievements of outstanding Americans who have succeeded

in spite of adversity.

After a decade in the life insurance business, Scott had a vision that he might be the one to elevate the national profile of bass fishing to be, as he said, "on par with golf" and worthy of television exposure. That year, 1967, he quit his job and began organizing the first major national bass fishing tournament, the All American at Beaver Lake, Ark. The event was successful enough for Scott to begin holding tournaments at other reservoirs in the South and to launch B.A.S.S. and Bassmaster early in 1968.

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He sold B.A.S.S. to an investment group including his executive vice president, Helen Sevier, and other employees in 1986, but he continued to serve as emcee of the Classic for several more years.

He later became a consultant and a popular spokesman for numerous companies in the fishing industry, and he launched a successful hunting industry enterprise to market deer feed and related products through his Whitetail Institute.

After a half-century of helping to grow and shape the sportfishing industry worldwide, Scott retired to his farm near Pintlala, Ala., where he remained mostly out of the public eye in the years prior to his death. He is survived by his wife Susan and his four children.

## Red Cross needs blood for summer ... from sports page 4

to socially distance wherever possible at blood drives, donation centers and facilities. While donors are no longer required to wear a face mask, individuals may choose to continue to wear a mask for any reason. The Red Cross will also

adhere to more stringent face mask requirements per state and/or local guidance, or at the request of blood drive sponsors. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at a drive.

### How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All

blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients.

A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

Watch for  
The Mid-South Tribune's Special  
Fatherhood Edition in June!