

# YOUTH DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Photo courtesy of David Herrera

From left: Cole Bingham, David Herrera and J'Ray Cox will represent the junior contingency at the divisional event.

## Juniors make some angling history

A divisional tournament will be underway by the time you receive this issue of *BigMouth*.

For the first time in history, there will be a junior contingency at the divisional event. Cole Bingham will represent New Mexico in the 15 to 18 age group and J'Ray Cox in 11-14.

Unlike past years where the state champions earned an automatic berth into the Junior World Championship, only the top finisher in each of the respective age groups from the Western Divisional Tournament will advance to the Junior World Championship.

The current format calls for the New Mexico state champion to act as boater and guide for his state junior champions as they compete for the title of Western Divisional Champion.



David Herrera  
Youth Director

Cole will compete for the second time as our state champion; his first trip was to the JWC in Pittsburgh, Pa., in conjunction with the 2005 Bassmaster Classic.

This is J'Ray's inaugural trip, but considering the effort he put forth this year, and the growth in his angling skills, I doubt this will be his last trip to the big show.

Both of our junior state champions will travel to Idaho, at the Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Harrison Chain of Lakes on May 17

for a single competition day.

As I write this, both our state champs are currently fishing Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Harrison Chain of Lakes, because during the Federation Nation divisional tournament water will be off-limits to our junior anglers.

I wish to extend my gratitude to Monty Striegel and Jerry Stevens, members of the Four Corners Bassmasters, who used their valuable vacation time and personal resources to take our junior state champions to Idaho before the off-limits period.

Sir Winston Churchill once stated; "We make a living with what we get. We make a life by what we give." The generosity of these men cannot be measured in money and time, to do so would trivialize the investment they have made in our youth.

We are indebted to these men and those like them who take action above and beyond to enrich the lives of our youth.

In closing, I will remind you that its time to plan your Casting-Kids event.

It takes approximately four weeks to receive your competition kit, so don't wait until the last minute.

We will conduct a state championship this fall so you have a few months to get organized.

I am asking each chapter to host an event.

Coordinate with a local tackle shop, marina or anyone in your community with a history of supporting our youth.

The event takes little effort and creates a positive image for your local chapter, and the state Federation Nation.