

# YOUTH DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Photo courtesy of David Herrera

Chase Rahm, who will represent the 15 to 18-year-old age group, and Jordan McMorris, 11-14, as they qualify for the Junior World Championship.

## Next stop is Lake Onondaga for JWC

The Junior State Champions who qualified for the JWC last year and who were slated to contend for the title in this year's Bassmaster Classic will be headed to Syracuse, N.Y., on August 9, 2008.

Jordan McMorris will be representing New Mexico in the 11 to 14 year old age group while Chase Rahm will represent in the 15-18 year old group.

The Junior World Championship will be held at Lake Onondaga and the contenders will be paired with an Elite Series Pro.

Now, most of us have never heard of Lake Onondaga and if we had, we might have expressed some dismay at the selection of this 4.5 square mile impoundment



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Youth Director

as the site for the JWC.

Why? Because Lake Onondaga has the dubious distinction of being the most polluted lake in the United States.

Considering the cancellation of the 2008 JWC in conjunction with the Classic; what could BASS possibly be thinking when they chose Lake Onondaga as the fishery hosting the JWC?

BASS has a history of promoting conservation, habitat reconstruction and resource management, just think of the impact that catch and release has had on our sport.

In 2005, BASS launched the Bassmaster Classic from downtown Pittsburgh; you might remember that the Three Rivers Fishery produced some of the lowest weights ever recorded in a Classic competition.

What you might not remember is that just a few short years before the Classic, the Three Rivers Fishery was considered a dead body of water incapable of sustaining a sport fishery.

The selection of Pittsburgh was important to the future of

sportfishing and the funding of conservation projects.

It is my opinion that this year's JWC will again highlight the positive impact that our sport can have on a ruined resource.

Perhaps Lake Onondaga will not produce record numbers or weights for our JWC contenders, but if the lake proves to have a viable sportfish population, we can chalk down another success story directly related to the sport of bass fishing and our conservation program.

What better lesson can we teach our youth; no body of water is too far-gone to restore, even in the most extreme cases we can have a positive impact and effect beneficial change.