

# BIG MOUTH

New Mexico B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Newsletter

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Photo courtesy of Kenny Hansel

From left: Don Stapleton, who finished in first place, followed by second-place finisher Cole Bingham and Kenny Hansel in third at the second qualifier at Conchas Lake.

## Coping with the unconventional

The NMBFN 2008 second qualifier was held at Conchas Lake from May 31 through June 1 and most people were expecting the fishing to be incredible — and to the credit of the lake the fishing proved to be so, that is for “non-keeper” fish.

After Fridays prefish, everybody was scratching their heads trying to understand what was going on with the fish. Everybody was talking about how many fish they caught, with some saying they caught over 100 fish but only one or two of them were keepers.

People were wondering, “where did all the big fish go?” when three weeks earlier people were catching 11 to 13 pounds a day.

“Did they die off, or did they all get eaten?” “What was going on?”

The only theory that makes any sense was with the water temperature ranging from 64 to 74 degrees most of the bigger bass at Conchas Lake had the dreaded “post-spawn blues”.

Yep, what luck or as I should say the lack thereof, we had hit the post spawn right smack in the middle. So it seemed that the

larger female bass were in a neutral mood and not wanting to feed.

This meant that the second qualifier was going to be a challenging and mentally tough tournament. If a person could stay focused and put together a limit each day, he/she would have a really good chance at winning the tournament.

The first day’s launch took off around 6:15 a.m. from the North Dock Marina. The weather was beautiful, not a puff of wind nor cloud in site.

The majority of the field headed

North while a few boats headed South. The first day’s weigh-in was held at 3 and 3:30 p.m. at the North Dock Marina.

Lots of people brought fish to the scale, but as anticipated not a lot of limits were weighed — only seven.

Mark Willever took Saturday’s top honors by weighing in 11.7 lbs with only four fish while Don Stapleton finished in second with 10.1 lbs and Cole Bingham at 9.4 lbs to round out the top three.

*Please see page 5*



### PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Read Bob Lechel’s tidbit on the changes that have happened over the month and some congratulations. **PAGE 3**

### YOUTH DIRECTOR’S NOTE

David Herrera will catch you up on junior bass anglers Chase Rahm, Jordan McMorris and the JWC. **PAGE 5**

### CONSERVATION REPORT

Ron Gilworth helps you understand the importance of the warm water hatchery and the price of gas. **PAGE 13**

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The second day's launch took off around 6:15 a.m., weather was the same as the day before — beautiful. Unlike the previous day, about half the field headed South; Was it because the water up North had been beat up the day before, or did people figure something out?

Your guess is as good as mine.

As in most tournaments the second day always proves to be tougher and this day was no exception. Very few fish were weighed in Sunday and only three limits were brought to the scale.

When it was all said and done, Don Stapleton took first place with 19.8 lbs, Cole Bingham (a Jr. BASSMaster) finished in second with 17.4 lbs and Kenny Hansel placed third with 16.1 lbs. Over-all Big Bass honors went to Mark Willever who weighed in a 4.11 lb. largemouth, The GLoomis 60 percent off gift certificate drawing between the top-three places for Conchas Lake was awarded to Cole Bingham.

Congratulation guys and nice job!

### Here are the top-three patterns:

**First place:** Don Stapletons' pattern included rocks/mud on sloping banks in 1 to 5 feet. He was fishing with a 4-inch guacamole tube and a 1/4-ounce brown and red bitsy jig with a twin tail trailer. Equipment used: Quantum Feather light Rod 6-foot-9 casting rod, Quantum Tour Edition reel spooled up with Vanish transition fluorocarbon line.

**Second place:** Cole Bingham's pattern included muddy water with brush in 1-3 ft. He was fishing a 1/8 oz black/blue jig and a weight-less Senko.

Equipment used: All-star rod med/heavy action, Shimano Curado u200 reel spooled with 14 lb Excel Bass pro line.

**Third place:** Kenny Hansels' pattern included sloping rocky/mud banks with salt cedars in 1-3 feet of water, individual boulders in 3-8 ft and shadows along rocky shorelines. I was fishing a 1/4 oz Texas rigged 4" melon pepper tube and a Sweetbeaver in both Big Texan and Road Kill. Equipment used: GLoomis IMX heavy action rods, Shimano Chronarch MG reel spooled with Sunline Sniper FC 16 lb fluorocarbon line and Shimano Curado reel spooled with Gamma 20 lb fluorocarbon line.

This was the second tournament that the NMBFN allowed the "Observer" rule and two members took advantage of this new opportunity.

This is proving to be a successful and viable resource for the members of the NMBFN. Let's keep up the good work and get more new people to show up as observers and see just what the NMBFN is all about.

One of the Conchas observers is going to join the Federation so it has already been a success!

I can never say this enough but I would like



Photo courtesy of Kenny Hansel

Above: Mark Willever won Big Bass with a weight of 4.11 pounds during the second qualifier at Conchas Lake. Below, right: Steve Bell shows off his 4.8 pound hog he hauled in at the second qualifier.

to thank everyone who helped out with the tournament. I really appreciate all their hard work.

These people are as follows: Denise Hansel, Diane Cones, Kathy Adams, Yolonda Smith, Lacey Cones, Melissa Cones and Cody.

Thank you all very much and a job well done. Also, thank you to Conchas North Dock for allowing us to hold the registration and weigh-ins.

The next time you see any of these fine people I have mentioned, please tell them "thank you". Without them the NMBFN wouldn't be the strong and successful organization we are.

See you all at Elephant Butte Lake on July 18.

### Notice:

We have decided to change the pairing meetings for the remaining season from 7 to 6:30 p.m. This will allow people more time to get ready for the following days event without having to waste time waiting around.

