

EVENT PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Otter Street Fishing Club
Linda Nikolaus; Marketing
fishingclub.otterstreet@gmail.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTER STREET/BATTLE ON BAGO 2020 WALLEYE TOURNAMENT WINNERS

[OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN – October 4th 2020] As we wrap up with the last of the Club event's for the year, Otter Street and Battle on Bago are happy to recognize and congratulate Joe Pausha and Eric Palmquist (Team #3) on their first place finish in this year's record-setting walleye event. Their total tournament weight was 30.610 pounds, edging out the rest of the participants in a hard-fought battle won. The tournament was held over Father's Day weekend, June 20 -21st, and was a historic year for many reasons: 2020 marked the 40th anniversary of the Otter Street Fishing Club Walleye Tournament, the final year with the catch and release format, and most notably – a record-setting event with 375 boats, making this event the new "Largest Tournament Field" in a Fishing Tournament in the eyes of the Guinness Book of World Records; the previous record was 356 boats. In a year where the field was very competitive, Pausha and Palmquist leveraged their more than 20-years of fishing experience with decisiveness in their fishing spot and confidence with their skillset, style, and presentation choice. To get ready for the event – they mapped out two or three spots they wanted to hit, and while Pausha noted "the pre-fishing wasn't that great," they knew they needed to "stay with their game plan and grind it out in the areas they knew." Now that they had their location set, they were able to troll to find successful bites on both days of the tournament. In the way of presentation – the duo used spinners and a traditional harness approach to bring in full baskets on both Saturday and Sunday. Palmquist and Pausha fished in a Lund boat, with a Mercury motor, using B&B Custom Fishing Rods.

Pausha and Palmquist returned early on day one, around 1:45pm – after finding success mid-day, with their day one weight coming in at 12.97 pounds (5 fish brought in, 5 fish released). When asked what factors played a role in their success (speed difference, water temperatures), Pausha indicated that "for us it was a speed thing. We were marking fish and we knew they were active earlier in the week and we had to find a way to get them active again." And finding fish is exactly they did. Day two brought even more momentum to this fishing two-some as they returned to shore early on the second and final day of the tournament, with a Sunday total weight of 17.64 pounds. That paired with their day one success had them securing the number one spot, and the \$20,000 first place prize.

Anyone who has fished a multiple day tournament on Lake Winnebago knows that it can be a battle; these anglers gave it all they had to come away with the title. Joe and Eric noted that while winning the tournament "didn't set in for a day or two," the experience of fishing in the tournament was surreal: "bringing in that last fish onto the boat, reeling it in and we just sat down and thought 'unbelievable...' we just appreciate the experience." Congratulations again Joe and Eric!

As with any Otter Street event, we could not do it without the support of our hard-working volunteers, loyal anglers and generous donors and event sponsors. Otter Street/Battle on Bago Walleye Event sponsors include: Mercury, Fleet Farm, Blackfish Gear, Badger Sportsman and Sondalle Motors. There are several other generous donors who played a role in the success of this event, and we appreciate each one.

Otter Street's mission is to support our community by remaining dedicated to the betterment of fishing on the Lake Winnebago system. We are based locally in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and have been involved in providing funding and support for several community projects, all in the name of conservation. Otter Street has partnered with Battle on Bago for the last 8 years to put on an excellent walleye event for all anglers, attendees, sponsors, and volunteers.

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For more information on the Otter Street Fishing Club, 2021 events, membership opportunities, volunteering and donation information and more, please follow us on Facebook + Instagram, and subscribe to our blog at www.theosfc.com.

To keep up with Battle on Bago, check out www.battleonbago.org