

# Gowan and Rude Win on Lake D'arbonne

The second ACT tournament was held over the weekend at Lake D'arbonne in northern Louisiana. The fishing, although post-spawn, was great throughout the week as anglers pre-fished the lake, catching and releasing 1000s of quality fish. 54 boats competed for over \$51,000 in cash and prizes, including an RT188c Ranger Boat.



Josh Gowan and Alex Rude took home the win with a total two-day weight of 24 pounds. Their winnings included the new Ranger Boat, plus contingency money from B'n'M Poles, Midsouth Tackle, Rockport Rattlers, and Lucas Oil, bringing their total prize value to over \$26,000. The B'n'M Poles and Prefish Gear team from Missouri were spider-rigging in 12-14 feet of water through thick stumps. They were using B'n'M BGJP 16 ft. poles and Pro Staff reels with 14 lb. hi-vis P-line, pushing 1/32 oz. heads with a variety of plastics tipped with minnows.

On day one, the team launched early and spent a long time scanning and marking under-water structure they'd avoided during the week due to the visibility of the area. They pushed baits into clusters of stumps and caught a ton of fish throughout the day, with their best seven weighing 11.84 pounds, putting them in a tie for seventh place. They returned to the same area on day two and made a last minute decision to tie on top hooks above their jigs. Although the hang-ups increased, so did the bites, making them one of only two teams in the top ten that increased their weights on the second day. Their 12.16 pounds on day two was enough to pull off the win.

The Strike King and B'n'M Poles team of Tim Blackley and Jackie Vancleave took second place in an extremely close race on day two. The team was also spider-rigging jigs tipped with minnows, and led on day one with an impressive 13.15 pounds, the heaviest stringer of the tournament. They needed 10.85 pounds on day two to take home the win, but fell just short with 10.76 for a two-day total of 23.91 pounds. The team took home \$6,550 for their efforts.



Bob Robinson and Paul Turner won third with 23.64 pounds, making a strong comeback from 28<sup>th</sup> place on day one. The team was also spider-rigging jigs and minnows, and brought in 12.87 pounds on day two to put them in the hot seat until the eventual winners knocked them out. Robinson and Turner took home \$4,100 for third place.



The Big Fish of the tournament was caught by Tony Edgar and Travis Lepley, which helped them to secure an eighth place finish overall. The 2.39 lb. crappie won the team \$1810, which added to their \$1250 purse for eighth, totaling their take-home winnings at \$3060.