

# Capps and Coleman Win ACT on Kentucky Lake

The one resounding remark about Kentucky Lake over the weekend was, simply, tough. The crappie were post-spawn, and although small fish seemed to be abundant in every depth of water on the lake, the big fish were scattered and shy, causing a number of seasoned tournament anglers to come to the scales with extremely light bags.

As is the case with every tournament, regardless of the conditions, someone has to win, and when those conditions make the fishing extremely difficult for the majority of the field, look to anglers who are well-seasoned, with a history of strong tournament results on the lake, to rise to the top. There is no arguing who the dominant team on Kentucky Lake is, and although they finished day one over one-pound behind first, eight-time National Champions Ronnie Capps and Steve Coleman were still considered by many to be a favorite to win.

Capps and Coleman have won countless tournaments, including National Championships, on Kentucky Lake, and their knowledge, experience, and ability once again bested the field. Spider-rigging has been around for decades, but the veteran team from Reelfoot Lake perfected the technique and was influential in bringing it to the masses. “We pushed Capps and Coleman Minnow Rigs both days,” said Capps. “We didn’t fish our best spot until day two. We knew it held really good fish, but we didn’t know if it held enough for both days, so we left it alone. It was a gamble, and we got lucky breaking ten pounds on day one, but in the end it worked out.”



Capps and Coleman won a \$25,000 Ranger RT188C with a 115 Evinrude H.O. and a Minn Kota trolling motor, along with \$1,200 in contingency money and \$457.50 for splitting the “Big Fish” pot with their 2.23-pound slab. Second place went to the Rod Safe team of Tony Hughes and Bart Gillon. The team held the lead on day one with the only seven-fish limit over eleven pounds, but came up just short on day two, finishing with a total weight of 19.86 pounds. Hughes and Gillon spider-rigged big stumps in eight to twelve feet of water using Strike King Mr. Crappie Jokers and Midsouth Tubes, tipped with minnows. Both tournament anglers are strong on Kentucky Lake, as well as many other lakes throughout the country. The team took home \$6,000 for their second-place finish.

Robert and Gina McCord of South Fulton, Tennessee took third with a two-day total weight of 19.26 pounds. Robert has been fishing Kentucky Lake for 50 years and prefers to fish deeper water most of the year. The husband and wife team pulled crankbaits in deep coves both days, and although their biggest fish died on the way to the weigh-in on day one, they still put themselves in a good enough position to move up the field into third on day two, winning \$4,500.

