



Susan Giuti, Bob Carr, Tarynand Erin Carr and Kevin Savage with their winning striper.

ROCKS ON AT BASS RIVER

by Bob Flocken

Cape Cod—God's gift to the striped fishermen. Just pick up a chart of these historic waters and you'll be amazed at the hundreds, no thousands of nooks and crannies of all shapes and sizes where these striped speedsters can forage and find cover to ambush their favorite meal. Hard bottom, sandy bottom, gravel bottom, wrecks, rocks and shoals: whatever structure or cover that you like to fish. Deep water, shallow water, rips, rivers and ponds,

just point your boat away from the ramp and start fishing. If you can't find something there to wet your appetite than why not try Nantucket Island, Martha's Vineyard, Monomoy (watch out for the whales), the Elizabeths, the famed Cuttyhunk Island, (home to many of the sports largest fish) or any one of a dozen more Islands where the big bass stop on their summer migration North from their Hudson River spawning grounds.

If you can't find something there that turns you on than you could make the eighty mile run south to Block Island, Montauk or the Long Island Sound or just zip north

through Buzzard's Bay or run out around Provincetown and fish for the big bass that live in Cape Cod Bay or even wet a line in Boston Harbor. Like to fish live herring, eels or pogies or would you rather just anchor and chunk cut bait or clam bellies for a big fish? Maybe you should troll spreader bars, parachute rigs or big jigs. Should you use conventional or spinning tackle, wire line or mono? Where can we catch bait? Confused? Join the club.

I was watching Chuck Arnold and David Nova discussing their strategy after the Friday night captains meeting. David, who normal-

ly fishes in the Chesapeake, had 10 or 12 charts spread out on the floor of his hotel room. All he could do was shake his head and talk about the structure that seemed to cover each chart from one end to the other. They had spent several hours over the last two days visiting local tackle stores to see if they could pick up any local knowledge that may lead them to a winning fish and he and Chuck were trying to decide on when and where they should fish. It was all I could do to keep from laughing. David must have put his finger on forty or fifty spots that he wanted to try and Chuck had sev-



The Silver Bullet with 2nd place bass.



Harry Turner and crew of the River Fin 30 finished 3rd.



5 For Fighting takes 4th place.

eral already loaded into his plotter. These are just a few of the choices that everyone fishing the ASA Division One opener at the Bass River Marina on Cape Cod had to make.

As it turned out, fishing was quite slow on Saturday. The barometer had taken a dive during the night and the dropping pressure had shut the fishing off cold. The fish that had been quite plentiful the past couple of weeks were nowhere to be found. Only a few boats arrived at the marina to weigh their fish. The "5 for Fighting's" 26.38 pounder was tops on the leader board at the end of the day followed by the "Hickory" who weighed in a 24.56 pound bass. Third place, going into Sunday, was "Team Intruder" with an 18.96lb fish. Chuck and David had taken their "Can't Touch This" Fountain to several of the spots they had plotted, but only succeeded in burning lots of fuel. They didn't have a fish to weigh so they decided to stop in Nantucket to visit a friend of Chucks on his 97' Cheoy Lee for dinner and to see some of the sights of this historic island. Hopefully things would change and the bite would be back on for Sunday.

When I arrived at Bass River on Sunday, Harry Turner and the crew of his beautiful new "Blue Fin 30" were waiting at the dock to weigh a fish. Their 27.27lb striper took over the lead. By 2 pm boats were starting to line up outside of the Bass River Marina's face dock and it looked like the fishing had indeed

improved. Here's how we ended up.

Point Judith second place finisher Kevin Savage on the "Rock On" fished out of Boston Harbor and weighted a 32.34-pound bass to win the tournament. "We were chunking herring and mackerel just North of Boston harbor in 50 to 60 feet of water," said Savage. "We only caught 2 fish all day but both were over 30 pounds. Fishing has really slowed down over the last week. The bay was full of bait last week but it all has moved way north and apparently taken the bass with it". Fishing with Kevin was his partner, Bob Carr and Top Lady Angler Susan Giusti. Also aboard were the Rock On's lucky charms, Erin and Taryn Carr, last years Top Junior Anglers.

Captain John Bunar, Ben Ewing and Boomer Ewing from Hanover, Massachusetts, fishing on the "Silver Bullet" came to the scales with a 27.61lb striper to capture second place honors. They caught several bass and lots of bluefish drifting dead mackerel in 30 to 40 feet of water outside of Provincetown. "We can't wait to fish Monahan's next month and try to win this division," said an excited Bunar.

Harry Turner and the "Blue Fin 30's" 27.27lb fish held up to win third place. "We were drifting live scup in 30 to 50 feet of water near some structure just outside of Falmouth Harbor," said Turner. "We caught several 15 to 25 pound fish before 7:30 when everything shut down. We tried some different places but couldn't find any bigger fish."

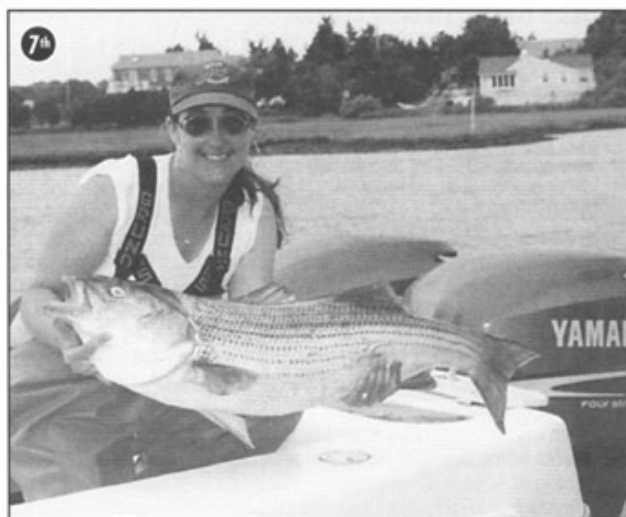
First day leader "5 for Fighting's" 26.38 pound fish held up for 4th



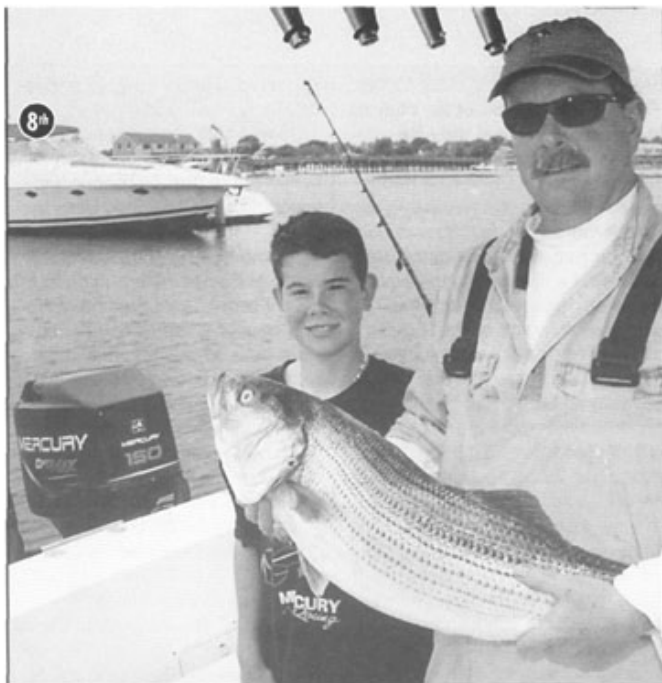
David Eaton's Team Intruder had good fish both days and finished 5th overall.



Bob Ohlson and the crew of the Hickory.



Last year's Top Angler, Jennifer Clarke, with her 7th place fish.



John Turner and Jr. Angler Mathew took 8th place on their Blue Fin 26.



Team Penalty Box finished ninth.



Jason Goldfagr's Traynor was 10th



Chuck Arnold and David Nova fished hard for their 16.31 16 bass.

place. They fished both days near Quicks Hole and caught several fish on Saturday using live pogies and eels. They ran out of live bait and couldn't get any decent fish on dead bait or artificial baits on Sunday. David Mullahy and his crew have consistently put their new Fountain in the top 5 in all of the tournaments they have fished so far this year. They should continue to do well now that they are fishing in their home waters.

Team Intruder caught a 24.97-pound bass on Sunday to keep them on the leader board and finish 5th in the contest. They were fishing in 50 feet of water near Wayski Point using big chartreuse jigs on wire line and caught several bass and lots of big bluefish. What happened to Chuck and

David? They talked with Al Conti at the Snug Harbor Marina in Point Judith, Sunday morning. He told them about all the fish that he had weighed in on Saturday up to a 63-pound monster. So the boys made the 87-mile run to Block Island to try and catch a good fish. They said that they caught lots of fish all day long but at the scales their big fish on Sunday weighed in at 16.31 pounds.

Many thanks go to Bob Bratton and his crew at the Bass River Marina. All of them worked hard to make the tournament a success. The food at the Captain's Meeting was great, specially the big shrimp. Sea Chain and Mercury Marine will also host the tournament at Hewitt's Cove Marina, July 26, 27, and 28 in Hingham, Mass.

FINAL STANDINGS:

1. Kevin Savage ROCK ON32.34lbs Fountain/Mercury	7. Jennifer Clarke FEMME FATAL22.40 Contender/Yamaha
2. John Bunar SILVER BULLET27.61 Pacific/Yamaha	8. John Turner BLUE FIN 2620.50 Blue Fin/Mercury
3. Harry Turner BLUE FIN 3027.27 Blue Fin/Mercury	9. Richard Jensen PENALTY BOX19.64 Wellcraft/Mercury
4. David Mullahy 5 FOR FIGHTING26.38 Fountain/Mercury	10. Jason Goldfagr TRAYDER18.83 Contender/Yamaha
5. David Eaton TEAM INTRUDER24.97 Mako/Yamaha	Top Lady Angler Susan Giusti – ROCK ON
6. Bob Ohlson HICKORY24.56 Srsu/Mercury	Top Junior Anglers Erin and Taryn Carr – ROCK ON