

Hello everyone,

The first tournament of my 2010 season is over. I hope everyone had a chance to read my Tournament Journal covering the highs and lows of the Bass Open on Okeechobee. This is something new that I adding this year. Consider it an expanded version of my previous Tour Summary.

Okeechobee was by far one of the toughest tournaments I've ever fished. After Day-3 I landed in 25th place – not bad to start the season, but a Top 10 would have been nice.

Next up is the Red River, Shreveport Louisiana. This event will kickoff FLW's Tour lineup. It's been about 7 years since I've competed on the Red River, so I'm not sure what to expect. From what I'm hearing the system is really high right now, which might cause the Red to fish different and could cause her to be stingy. One thing about high water, it does allow a lot of targets and ambush places for the fish to hide. I'm remaining optimistic on this one.

In the last couple of months I've signed with some really great companies. I'm excited to work with them and help brand and market their products – Fishouflage, Bow to Stern, US Reels, Humminbird, and El Grande Lures. Relationship building and company culture are important to me when forging new sponsorships. I feel that these companies produce some great products, and I'm happy to be part of their team.

This week the PAA released the tournament locations for their PAA Bass Pro Shops Tournament Series.

- July 8-10 Lake Cherokee - Morristown, Tennessee
- August 12-14 Lake Norman - Charlotte, North Carolina
- September 9-11 Lake Tawakoni - Garland, Texas
- October 14-16 Table Rock Lake - Branson, Missouri

Two of the locations will be repeats for me this year – Lake Norman and Table Rock. One I've historically done very well on, and the other I've historically done pretty badly on. The other two I've never fished, so I'm excited to see what they have to offer.

Don't miss "Outdoors in the Heartland" on Versus Feb. 19th & 20th at 6:30 to 7:00pm, and Fox Sports Midwest Feb. 14th 8:00am. Bob and I continue a fishing trip we had this past fall to a great private lake just down the road from my house. What a day, we caught a ton of really large bass.

Congratulations to Jason from Murphysboro IL - February's Fan Club winner!

Tip of the Month: Time to pamper your boat

For the most part hunting season is over, so it's a great time to pamper your boat before spring fishing starts. I've been using Bow to Stern on my boat for months now. Even though my boat is wrapped, in just a few minutes and with minimal effort the shine to my vinyl is back. I've found it also works awesome on almost any surface including seats, and the windshield. It also protects from UV penetration and brings everything to a high gloss shine. No more waxing! Checkout additional applications and information at www.btsproducts.com.

Bass wishes,
Chad

