

BEAT THE CROWD? Shore-to-shore boats on far northern Saganaga

GRAND MARAIS, Minn. — Sixty miles up the Gunflint Trail in the Boundary Waters canoe area of Superior National Park is about as far as opening day walleye fishermen can go and remain in Minnesota.

That should beat the crowd. But it didn't at Lake Saganaga. Boats were almost shore-to-shore in narrow, favored fishing spots.

Some walleyes were being caught. But it wasn't easy, and the effort on a cold, snowy morning Saturday in the upper 30s brought blanks for some anglers.

After checking out a dozen places on more than 25 miles of water travel, it was not until almost 7 p.m., when the sun started warming the area, that I managed to land a walleye. And that was within a mile of where we had launched the boat at the End of the Trail Lodge.



Bill Hengen

PARK RAPIDS, Minn.—For 19 of his 37 years at the University of Minnesota, Marsh Ryman has had a hideaway cabin 11 miles from Park Rapids. A silent retreat, with no telephone, away from problems first as ticket manager and later during the time he was athletic director.

RYMAN AND HIS FISHING

Apparently most of the walleyes in his area adopted the same policy of disappearing during the inland waters opening Saturday. Those which were caught, and of any size, came from 15 to 20 feet deep in water. They were hiding below white-capped waves on a windy day.

Yesterday the weather was more like it. But fewer boats were taking advantage of the morning sun.

The walleyes were scattered, resulting in the search in deep water. It proved spawning had ended to coincide with an early ice breakup.

On Straight Lake, with Ryman, we first tried the Mill Pond by the dam in the southern corner of the lake. Just last weekend walleyes were seen on the shoreline rocks and in the weeds.

But now they had disappeared. So working against the wind, we crisscrossed the lake for approximately three miles. Three hammerhandles, not varying more than a couple of ounces in weight and not big enough to be called northerns, were the results.

In the afternoon and into the evening, a second stop was at Toad Lake and with Tom Blanchard, Blanchard, a mailman covers 30 miles daily delivering mail to 87 boxes. We covered at least four miles and made six stops, each for a hammerhandle under 3 pounds.

But not a walleye, nor a crappie, nor even a sunfish strike. We tried to cover all possibilities in bait with nightcrawlers, minnows, leeches and even plugs.

"Maybe they're waiting for my retirement June 30," quipped Ryman. He would like to retain contact with Minnesota athletics by continuing a part-time association with the Williams Scholarship Fund.

But if our boat was having problems, others were not. Jerry Fuller's window displaying fish entered in his annual contest was enough proof.

Out of the area came muskies, walleyes, crappies, brown trout, northerns and even a few rainbow trout.

This is an excellent brown trout area. They are there, hiding in holes along the Straight River. Bill Currie IV of Coon Rapids caught a 5-pounder.

And in Straight Lake, Dave Sommers of Minnetonka, used a fly for a 3-pound, 2-ounce brown. While Don Phelps of Omaha, casting a Rapala, hooked a 3-pound, 14-ounce brown on Fifth Crow Wing.

By noon yesterday the best walleye catch was three, totaling 19 pounds, 7 ounces, out of East Crooked Lake. George Proels of Nevis was using a jig.

The best single was a 9-pound, 1-ounce walleye hooked by Ron Krebs of St. Paul. He used a plain, old minnow.

The 14-pound, 8-ounce muskie came out of Big Mantrap Lake. George Duerr of St. Michael boated it.

Early northern fishermen had something to shoot at. Jack and Ray Herlitz, using their best three on two stringers, weighed almost 30 pounds. Which proved that those who live in Park Rapids know where the big ones are and Dared levels found them.

Dana LeBlanc, also of Park Rapids, had the right minnow for a 2-pound, 4-ounce crappie out of Big Sand Lake. While another native, Bob Helgren, used corn for his 1-pound, 9-ounce rainbow trout caught in Little Long Lake.

The largest single fish was 17 pounds, 8 ounces. Steve Fedor of Hopkins hooked that northern, using a Lindy Rig.

If catching something signifies a successful opening, then this area had a good day. A little less wind and some sunshine would have made it better.

Hawks trade Smith, Korab for Tallon

CHICAGO, Ill. (UPI) — The Chicago Black Hawks traded goalie Gary Smith and left winger Jerry Korab to the Vancouver Canucks yesterday for Dale Tallon.

706 bowled

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Bobbie Buffalo, Costa Mesa, Calif., rolled a 706 series yesterday to take the Open Division singles lead in the \$706,000 Women's International Bowling Congress Championship Tournament.

The Seagull River, upper parts of which are closed to fishing until May 19 to protect already spawned fish, was carrying more fishing boats than most suburban lakes on a mid-summer Sunday. Fishing went on right up to the floating markers that indicated the restricted area.

Some good catches were made, but few limits were taken. One of the best I saw was a 7½-pound walleye caught by Harold Chargo of St. Paul. He was fishing in heavy boat traffic near the Seagull River entry to Saganaga.

"I caught a 10½-pounder in almost the same spot last year," said Chargo, who regularly fishes Saganaga on the opener. He was using a minnow and plain hook.

Because of the early ice breakup, fishermen had expected that walleyes already had spawned and would be scattered from their usual early-season haunts. They generally were correct. This did not keep heavy concentrations of fishermen from the favored places.



Saganaga Lake, on Canadian border, drew 'shore-to-shore' crowd of boats on walleye opener

Resorts on Saganaga long since had been booked solid, and public campsites and even roadsides were crowded with motor campers. Early-season tent campers also were put on islands on the lake despite the chill.

I tried first in the area of the Seagull River Inlet, then north through the narrows and finally into a smaller inlet farther out in the lake. One strike was the only reward, but the area seemed too crowded.

Water levels are down about two feet from a year ago. Fishermen could have used a traffic patrolman in a rocky channel into the Seagull River and Gull Lake. There was hardly room for two boats to pass in the swift current.

Walleyes were being caught there, and in most places, but mostly two to three pounders. Nephew Bill Hennessy and I tried again in the busy channel where Chargo had caught his fish.

We tried jigs, spinners, artificials of various kinds,

live minnows and night crawlers. I finally had a hit in the traffic-choked channel and saw a six to seven-pound beauty come up through the water. Bill reeled the net and hoisted in the fish — a 6-pounder all right, but a buffalo fish — a native relative of the carp.

I didn't want to give up without catching a walleye. We moved into a small bay on the way back, less than a mile from the dock.

Most of the bay was deserted, with two boats at the far end. We cruised around the shore in about 10 feet of water. Finally, anchored to a rock, we cast out and almost immediately landed two walleyes in the 2½-pound class.

The action was on Louie's two-hooked rig and a minnow, with a very slow retrieve. I noted a neighboring fisherman doing well with a plain minnow and single shot sinker. That may have been the best answer on a day of cool fish.



HAROLD CHARGO With 7½ lb. walleye

Sports

THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR 88 * Mon., May 14, 1973

Vikings reacquire QB Berry

By DICK GORDON
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

Quarterback Bob Berry was reacquired today by the Vikings football club from Atlanta.

The Vikings also obtained Atlanta's first-round 1974 college draft choice. Both were compensation worked out with Atlanta, which signed middle linebacker Lonnie Warwick and quarterback Bobby Lee of the Vikings.

Warwick and Lee played out their options and became free agents May 1.

In essence, as General Manager Jim Finks hinted in announcing today's exchange, the Vikings get an experienced quarterback with some impressive statistics in return for Lee, plus a top draft pick for Warwick.

The 31-year-old Berry

Also get draft pick for Warwick and Lee

ranked fourth among all National Football League quarterbacks in the 1972 season with a 55.6-percent pass completion mark, hitting on 154 for 2158 yards and 13 touchdowns. Ahead of him, in order, were Norm Snead of the New York Giants, Earl Morrall of Miami and Viking Fran Tarkenton.

Finks said Berry expressed some surprise when he was informed of the transaction. Bob could not be reached at his home in San Jose, Calif.

He naturally is not figured to replace former Viking teammate Tarkenton as Bud Grant's No. 1 quarterback. And he may not be overjoyed at the prospect of being backup after three years as a regular at Atlanta.



Berry Warwick Lee Tarkenton

When he was released on waivers by the Vikings just before the 1968 league season began, Berry expressed displeasure about being sold for the \$100 waiver price at time when most teams had filled their rosters.

Berry came to the Vikings in 1965 after setting an all-time University of Oregon passing record with 271 completions for 4,148 yards and 37 touchdowns.

He started only one league game while Norm Van Brocklin was Viking coach and never started at

all during Bud Grant's first season of 1967. With Joe Kapp and Gary Cuozzo both on hand in 1968, Berry became expendable.

The Vikings inherited the multi-year contract Berry signed with the Falcons last season. Finks said Bob was expected next week when Grant will conduct the usual pre-season sessions with his quarterbacks.

Lee, drafted by the Vikings in 1968, was No. 1 for five of the last six games in 1971. Last year he understudied Tarkenton the entire season and played out his option largely because he wanted

to be No. 1. At Atlanta he should get that chance.

The 31-year-old Warwick, signed as a free agent in 1964, became a Viking regular in Van Brocklin's final year here in 1966 and was a star on the 1969 NFL championship team which went to the Super Bowl. But leg and knee injuries sidelined him for 10 games in 1971 and the final eight games last season.

With Jeff Siemon, Viking No. 1 draft pick in 1972, performing capably as a rookie in Warwick's place, the popular Lonnie admitted he was "in a poor bargaining position." Finks wished both Warwick and Lee "the best" in their new jobs.

BASEBALL STANDINGS

American League							
West Division		East Division					
W	L	Pct.	GB				
Chicago	18	8	682	Milwaukee	17	14	548
Kansas City	20	12	625	Baltimore	14	16	467
California	15	13	536	New York	14	16	467
Oakland	17	15	531	Boston	13	15	464
MINNESOTA	12	14	462	Detroit	14	17	452
Texas	10	17	370	Cleveland	14	18	438

National League							
West Division		East Division					
W	L	Pct.	GB				
San Fran.	25	12	676	Chicago	20	13	606
Houston	22	12	647	New York	17	14	548
Cincinnati	19	13	594	Montreal	13	15	464
Los Angeles	19	15	559	Pittsburgh	12	14	462
Atlanta	12	19	387	Philadelphia	11	19	367
San Diego	12	22	353	St. Louis	8	22	267

Walleyes in same haunts

By JOE HENNESSY
Minneapolis Star Outdoor Writer

Walleyes were in their old haunts at Mille Lacs and fishermen who braved high winds and cold were catching them. The same conditions generally seemed to prevail at most other favored lakes on the weekend's opener.

An early ice breakup led to an early spawning season. After the fish lay their eggs and leave for other spots in the lakes to feed, they supposedly are more difficult to find. Such, apparently, was not the case.

Don McShane, conservation officer at Isle, said the fish seemed to be in a little deeper water, but "the same fishermen seemed to be catching fish in the same usual shallows." The crowd at Mille Lacs was down some from previous years. One aerial check Saturday, showed about 4,500 boats, McShane said.

Duane Betker, operator of the Roll-In Lodge, said fishing was about the same as in previous years despite the different spring. Jack Naciosek of Jack's Twin Bay Resort, said the best fishing was at night.

After a slow daytime start, Ed Helms of California caught a limit of six that weighed 38 pounds, the biggest 8½ pounds. Most of the fish caught were loaded with minnows.

Dock fishermen caught about 40 walleyes in front of Izaty's Resort, owner Jerry Dubbs reported. He said fishing picked up Sunday, with anglers getting fish in the same shallow water spots as always. Walleyes ran larger than last year, he said.

Northern pike were hitting on Trelpe Lake near Remer. Staff Writer Bob Schramck had no trouble getting a limit of white jibs and minnows.

Snow and cold winds hampered fishing farther north. Robert Jacobson, conservation officer at Ely, said the crowd of fishermen was far above average despite 22-degree temperatures. The cold had delayed spawning in the area, but most fish seemed to be taken in 20 to 25 feet of water.

The Minnesota river below Ortonville gave up an unusually large number of northern pike, reported officer Warren Breeze. "It was excellent," he said. Walleye fishing on Big Stone Lake on the South Dakota border, already open for two weeks, has been the best in his 13

years at Ortonville, Breeze said.

Roosevelt Lake didn't produce many full stringers of walleyes, but northerns were hitting well, fire warden Roger Ekstrom of Outing reported.

Closer to the Twin Cities, throngs of fishermen tried North and South Center lakes in the Chisago chain. Officer Larry Peterson said a few walleyes, up to 6 pounds, were taken in South Center. More were catch-

WALLEYES
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