

Big Prizes In Fishing Tournament

Lake Norman - Crappie anglers are having a field day at this popular North Carolina lake participating in the Johnson Reels CRAPPIETHON USA fishing tournament.

Sunday, Ivey Ellis of Troutman, caught "Catawba Luke 5", sponsored by the Catawba Cricket Hatchery worth \$5,000.

Ellis checked the valuable crappie in at Stutta Marina after catching it about noon Sunday while fishing with Troy Josey and Mike Gryder.

On Saturday, in the one-day competitive tournament which is completely different from the tagged crappie tournament, three



Stokes McClellan of Charlotte, and Wayne Ferrell of Huntersville with 13.85 and third place winners were a father-son team, Randall and David Anderson of Lincoln, NC.

Gary Travis of Vale won the big fish honors in the one-day tournament and on Friday night Bobby Hunter Jr. of Matthews took home a \$5,000 Lowe boat and Mercury motor rig that he won as a door prize at the CRAPPIETHON seminar.

"This tournament is really something on Lake Norman," said Bob Maxwell of CRAPPIETHON USA based in Decatur, Alabama. "We have had seven big winners

in the tagged event and over a 100 smaller winners." The seven Big \$4 crappie alone were worth over \$13,000.

The Lake Norman tournament will continue through May 30 and there are still more than 400

tagged crappie in the lake worth almost \$195,000. The entry fee is only \$5 per person.

The top crappie in the tournament is Tangle Free Tom worth \$20,000. If Tom is caught on a

Johnson Tangle Free Reel, he is worth a \$15,000 bonus giving him an overall value of \$35,000.

The NBA announced that it would introduce two new teams in a few more years. The cities in questions are Charlotte, North Carolina, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Commissioner David Stern and Co., may not know it yet, but by expanding to the sites mentioned, they are hurting basketball. There are certain areas of the country that are hotbeds for various college sports.

In football, Texas, Alabama, Ohio, and Michigan are great areas for athletes and fans. The enthusiasm generated at high school and college games is unparalleled. In basketball, we can look at the states of Indiana, Kentucky, and North Carolina as the best places. By selecting Charlotte, the NBA is looking to divert the fans that attend college games and draw them to pro games. This will not happen. The people in Charlotte are used to great college basketball. They will be able to pay less for the same, if not better, entertainment.

An alternate city that the NBA seems to be dodging is Orlando, Florida. Geographically, it is about the only place an NBA franchise would have a chance to do well in without conflicting with a major college power. The "Big O" is up against Miami for a future NBA club. Although it doesn't seem to support basketball at any level very well, Miami will probably get the nod due to it being such a huge television market.

The instant replay camera spent a controversial year in the National Football League, but it seems to have withstood the storm and will be back this season. Now the other sports are considering the possibility of implementing a video check system. In some sports, it will work, but in others it is clearly a mistake.

The National Hockey League considered having the camera for its playoffs this year, but the planning and expenses were never quite ironed out by season's end. They may, however, have it next season. Admittedly, the NHL needs the camera to handle the goal or no goal situations that arise during the season. The action on the ice is too fast for the human eye to catch all of the time. A little electronic help when needed wouldn't hurt.

Major League baseball, on the other hand, would be making a mistake by bringing in a replay camera. Yes, there are certain situations when it would help the close-play-at-the-plate or the tag-and-catch on the double play, but overall the replay rule would complicate the game. Sooner or later, managers and players would want to consult the camera for balls and strikes and no one needs that peril hanging in the pressbox.

Basketball also would not benefit from the instant replay. Some argue that last second shots and three-point shots are some of the calls that officials are missing, and that the camera could correct some missed calls. Most calls the officials make are good ones. Of course, they are entitled to miss a few - something called the "human factor." The fact is, however, that the League would opt to bring in another official before it would employ the instant replay rule.

Every sport will probably institute some sort of video system in the future, but the process will be gradual. As fans, let's not get too hung up on the replay as a cure-all.

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PITTSBURGH	Even-6	Atlanta
Los Angeles	Even-6	MONTREAL
San Diego	Pick'em	PHILADELPHIA
HOUSTON	7-8	Chicago
AMERICAN LEAGUE		
New York	Even-6	SEATTLE
Baltimore	5 1/4-6 1/4	CALIFORNIA
KANSAS CITY	Even-6	Milwaukee
MINNESOTA	6-7	Boston
Texas	7-8	CHICAGO
Cleveland	Pick'em	DETROIT
Oakland	5 1/4-6 1/4	TORONTO

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