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Backlashes

Crappie fishing abounds nearb

By BRUCE L. SUBLETT
Battalion Outdoor Writer

Out in West Texas, they're crappie. Around the Piney Woods they're white perch. In Louisiana they're sac-a-lait. Whatever they're called, they're abundant, easy to catch and dynamite on the dinner table.

To be technically correct, they're crappie. Crappie come in two species, black and white. The two are so closely related that it's not worth worrying about. Around here, they're all white anyway.

Starting right about now, crappie fishing will start to improve and will stay good until the weather gets hot. The best news of all is that Somerville is suddenly one of the best crappie lakes in the state. Good strings are already being taken from the docks at Overlook and Big Creek Marinas.

There are four kinds of crappie action to be had at Somerville. The first is the most comfortable and often the most successful. Just pay a buck and a half and walk onto the marina docks, drop a small minnow on a light wire hook over the side and

start catching fish. Well, sometimes it's that easy. In any case, it's not a hard life. Lazy folks like myself use tiny yellow jigs in a double rig so we don't have to rebait.

The more ambitious brave the wind and cold to hunt the schooling fish around the creek channels and brushpiles. The technique isn't any different, but competition for fishing space isn't as stiff.

A place where space is at a premium is below the Yegua Creek dam. If the Corps of Engineers is letting water out of the lake, this area is shoulder to shoulder with fisher-

men chunking jigs, rock shrimp or minnows. They're all catching fish—crappie, white bass, drum and channel catfish. Some of the crappie down there are real barn doors, weighing up to two pounds. Occasionally a jig fisherman will tie into a big drum. That's excitement.

Before heading below the dam, it's wise to call the Corps of Engineers to find out if it's letting any water through. If it's not, don't go. It's usually not worth it.

The last way is my favorite, unless I'm specifically after freezer fodder. Despite the propaganda that crappie only hit small, slow baits; they can be caught on big, fast baits. They're usually big, fast crappie. I've taken crappie over three pounds on Hot Spots, Little Georges, Hellbenders and Spinnerbaits (artificial lures), all in shad or white color patterns.

Don't believe that crappie can't pull. Once I was sure that I had one of the famous Murvaal Monsters, a bass of over six pounds. Wrong again, it was a three pound crappie that attacked the fast-moving Hot Spot.

Somerville isn't the only hole for crappie by any dam below Livingston has one of the best holes any crappie. Toledo Bend probably most consistently large ever seen. Don't call them there, the natives won't be you're talking about. T-B crappie country.

Caddo is the granddaddy when it comes to white crappie guides take two fishermen half-day's fishing with crappie minnows and come back with a load of big ones. The secret is to have a guide at a respectable fishing the same spots. Guides don't stay in one place enough to fish it out. Some following boat does better. Last spring, my daddy and I fishing behind a guide. The party caught three small crappie, nabbed 33 big ones.

Filleted, soaked in cornmeal, rolled in cornmeal, fried and eaten with cajun hot sauce, are a table delight well worth fishing minnows for.

Houston's Fouke recalls bygone days of Cougars

Associated Press

HOUSTON — It's easy for University of Houston Athletic Director Harry Fouke to look out from his comfortable office over the multi-million dollar athletic complex he oversees and reminisces about his 30-year labor of love.

Fouke's memories flow back to 1946 when he had to scrounge for uniforms to field the school's first football team, to sweeping out the gym after basketball practice, to proudly accepting membership into the Southwest Conference in 1971.

Houston's athletic program is 30 years old this year as the Cougars complete their infiltration into the SWC by competing in the basketball and football championship races.

They earlier entered SWC competition in other sports.

It gave Fouke, UH's first and only athletic director, an opportunity to remember.

"When Dave Williams took over the golf program, we didn't have a golf trophy to our name," laughed Fouke, who was UH golf coach until he appointed Williams. "Dave went out and bought the biggest trophy he could find and had a playoff among his team so the golf team could have a trophy in the trophy case too."

That first trophy is still there, somewhere among the 12 national championship trophies Williams and his Cougar golfers went on to win.

Fouke takes pride in the modern facilities the Cougars now use but he says his biggest rewards come from the accomplishments of people like Williams.

Fouke was hired in October, 1946 to install an athletic program at Houston. By December, the Cougars were playing basketball in the Lone Star Conference, which they won and advanced to the Na-

tional Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) tournament in Kansas City.

"We started out with one basketball to our names and it was peeling," Fouke said. "We worked out in old gray sweat suits but it wasn't the sweat suits that counted, it was what was in them. All those people we've had over the years have made the difference at Houston."

"It was not only a challenge from the opponents but a challenge from within."

Since joining the SWC, Houston's golf team has won three SWC fall tournaments and won or tied three spring tournaments. The Cougar tennis team won the 1974 team title and last year provided the singles and doubles champions, but did not win the team title.

When the Cougars finally were accepted into the SWC after years of rejection, fans figured Houston's long tradition of winning basketball and football teams would dominate the league.

In 1971, the year Houston came into the SWC, the Cougar football team completed a 9-3 season, including a 29-17 loss to Colorado in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl. The basketball team was en route to its sixth appearance in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) playoffs in seven years.

But as 1976 begins, the Cougar football team is coming off a 2-8 season, which equals its worst in history. Cuy Lewis' basketball team is struggling to stay in the first division of the SWC race.

Noting that basketball hasn't been a SWC strongpoint, one SWC official told a Houston official, "Well, we finally brought you down to our level."

Fouke thinks it's the opposite — the SWC basketball teams have come up to Houston's level.

"Once the schools knew we were coming into the conference they knew they'd have to improve and they have," Fouke said. "I think we've already helped the conference because of the basketball improvement. The SWC used to be looked on as weak in basketball but that's changing now."

Tech's Meyers invents new winning formula

Coach Gerald Meyers of Texas Tech found a new formula for victory. Get two of your starters sick with the flu and ambush your opponent with unexpected reserve strength.

Meyers was in bed with the flu during Tech's Southwest Conference victory over Houston Saturday night and three days later starting forwards

Rudy Liggins and Grady were struck down with sickness.

Reserves Grant Dukes and Russell started in their place combined for 35 points while guard Geoff Houston also gave Tech an 86-78 victory over Kansas. The victory gave Tech a record, a half-game behind A&M, which moved to 85-69 triumph at home over

In other games, Methodist crushed Rice, Texas Christian upset Baylor in Waco and Houston, Houston Baptist 91-71 in conference battle.

"Dukes and Russell really well coming in like they did," Meyers said. "It was the first time of them and they really through. They have really well this year but... you're concerned with two starters main thing, too, is that we'd deeper when we had a 17 bench."

Russell scored two baskets 23 points late in the game, Kansas had whittled an early deficit to five at 69-64.

"We didn't think Dukes, that outside shot but he's Coach Eddie Sutton of who perhaps will look for a toxin for his players before the game."

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

Military: K-1 vs. Sq-4 H-2 vs. F-1, 41-54; Sq-4 vs. 34-33; C-2 vs. Sq-8, 46-33; C-1, 37-34; M-Band vs. M-B-1 vs. A-1, 29-42.

Independent: Hobbits dogs, 57-22; Bearkats vs. Cock's No. 2, Craigs Cock's Vet III vs. Animal Science Law vs. Pero, 29-31; BSU vs. M. Raiders, 36-46; BSU vs. A&M Dunlops, 49-50; Nailers vs. 4, 63-25; Utay Ex's vs. Mead suspect ico forfeited; Moses X's vs. Pears-old 49-87; Saints vs. Pines at Bre 80; Briarwood 76' ers vs. 0; 36-43; Gulf Coast vs. O after beir 43; Bad Company vs. T-pital's em 39-26.

Women: Colonels vs. 8-21; Keathley 2, vs. Hugu Co-Rec: Castaways vs. 47-19; No Wheels vs. Per 8-32; IM's vs. Angola Oct 61; Wesley Weenies vs. S 113; The Group vs. Will 47-37; Outcasts vs. Perse Personnelities forfeited; Colonels, 43-29; Bud's B Dribblers, 50-45; Hot S I, Vet I forfeited.

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