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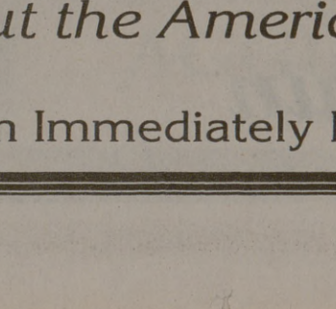

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Carolina rig helps improve fall fishing

JEFF GREGG
Outdoors

As much as I hate to admit it, as the fall progresses, bass fishing in non-power plant lakes, which is most lakes in the state, will slow to a crawl. However, it's not dead yet.

Area lakes yielded good numbers of bass last week on anything from topwaters like Slug-gos and Bass Assassins to buzz baits to soft plastics fished on the bottom. I'd like to discuss the latter.

While most of the anglers I saw on the water this past week were throwing buzz baits and other various topwaters, my buddies and I fished bottom structure with excellent results. The secret is something called a Carolina rig.

It's one of the easiest, most effective methods of catching largemouth bass which have fallen into their fall patterns, and this what you need to take advantage of the situation.

First, although it's not necessary, a long rod is a luxury. I use a six-foot heavy-action rod that serves the purpose, but I would probably boat more fish with a longer rod. A seven footer in either medium/heavy or heavy is ideal for this type of fishing, giving the fisherman plenty of backbone for a solid hookset.

Don't laugh, but I prefer 20-pound test monofilament when Carolina rigging. It sounds heavy, but when fishing this way, you tend to pull baits through brush which can, and usually will, snag your line. To be honest, you're going to break off more often than you will when fishing other methods, but the fish are in the brush. A few hooks and weights are worth sacrificing for the quality of fish you can pull in when Carolina rigging.

As far as the rig itself goes, it takes a couple of minutes to tie, but it's pretty simple. Thread a 1/2-ounce or 3/4-ounce egg sinker onto your line and tie the line to a no. 6 barrel swivel. If you want, you can use a pink not saver bead between egg sinker and the swivel. I don't know how much they work, but I use them to give me any edge possible.

Now, tie a piece of monofilament leader to the other end of the barrel swivel. The leader should be between two and five feet long depending on your personal preference and what happens to work at the time.

To the leader, tie a 3/0 or 4/0 offset shank worm hook. Spend a little extra and buy sharp hooks, not something cheap and dull. Texas rig the bait by burying the hook back into the body of the bait. As far as soft plastics go, let your imagination run wild. I've used worms, lizards and soft jerkbaits with this rig and caught fish on all. It just depends on the day.

Retrieve the bait, lifting the rod tip slowly. When you feel it snag, pull the rig slowly over the brush. Pay attention because sometimes the fish will inhale the lure as it falls over a limb. When you feel that "tick," reel down and set the hook with determination, not apprehension. It takes a strong hookset to pull the hook through the bait.

Like I said, this is a fairly easy way to fish, and it is reasonably productive during this time of year. Good luck.

Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department:

Freshwater

•Fayette County - Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 6-3/4 pounds on Bass Assassins, topwaters, worms, lizards, live water dogs and slabs; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 16 pounds on water dogs and slabs

•Gibbons Creek - Water clear, 80 degrees, two feet low; black bass are fair to six pounds on Ring Rascals; crappie are fair on minnows; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on catfish bait and shrimp

•Somerville - Water slightly murky, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 6 pounds on artificials; stripers slow; crappie are fairly good on minnows in 9 feet of water; catfish are fairly good to 42 pounds on minnows

•Fork - Water clear, 71 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are good to 10.76 pounds on black jigs; crappie are very good with many limits to 2 1/2 pounds on jigs in 15 to 18 feet of water; catfish are slow

Coastal

•Freeport - Inshore fishermen are catching good numbers of flounder in Christmas Bay; good numbers of redfish have been caught at the mouth of the Brazos and in the surf. Offshore fishermen are catching good numbers of snapper to 18 pounds, most fish are in the 2-5 pound range, 40-55 miles offshore; some limits of kingfish caught in the same area; good numbers of triggerfish and vermillion snapper caught.

•Rockport - Fishing has been good with steady numbers of trout and redfish; keeper redfish caught in South Bay on gold spoons, cacohoe minnows and live mullet; flounder are making good showing, Cedar Bayou fishermen have been catching limits on a wide variety of baits; trout have been good near the ship channel near Ingleside, most fish are in the 15 inch range with an occasional larger fish; live bait shrimp are $10 per quart.

•Matagorda - Flounder run is going, some limits to 4 pounds in gigs and with rods and reels baited with live finger mullet; redfish are scattered in East and West Bays, not many limits but many small fish caught; East Matagorda producing 4-6 pound trout with some limits on Hogies strawberry and chartreuse colored Swimming Shad; some fish caught on the walkway at the jetties; live bait shrimp available at $10 per quart.

Blue Jays take 3-1 lead in World Series

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORONTO — Jimmy Key put a lock on Atlanta bats and the Toronto Blue Jays moved within a game of bringing the first World Series title to Canada.

Key, passed over in Toronto's playoff rotation, pitched as though he hadn't missed a start. He blanked the Braves until the eighth inning, and led the Blue Jays to a 2-1 victory Wednesday night for a 3-1 Series lead.

Of the 34 teams to take 3-1 leads in the World Series, 28 have gone on to win. Toronto will try to do it Thursday night when Jack Morris, the MVP of last year's World Series, starts against Atlanta's John Smoltz.

Pat Borders put Toronto ahead with a solo homer in third inning off Game 1 winner Tom Glavine. Key made it stand up until relievers Duane Ward and Tom Henke closed it out for the save. The Blue Jays' bullpen has allowed one hit in nine scoreless innings.

For the ninth time in the last 10 Series games, it was a one-run decision. And, for the 10th time in 10 Series games, a non-dome team lost indoors.

Key went 7 2-3 innings, allowing five hits, and the one run. He struck out six without walking a batter. He had not started since the last day of the regular season and pitched just three relief innings in the playoffs. From the first through the seventh inning, Key retired 20 of 21 batters.

Borders has caught a lot of criticism throughout the postseason for throwing out only three of 29 basestealers. He has not thrown well, that's true, although Toronto pitchers have not helped by allowing runners to take big leads and throwing plenty of pitches in the dirt.

Whatever, Borders heard only cheers when he led off the third inning with a shot into the lower deck in left. The blow extended Toronto's record streak of hitting home runs in all postseason games, and underscored how the Blue Jays were winning a Series that has shaped up into a battle of power versus speed.

Borders' homer had a few other distinctions. It extended his postseason hitting streak to 12 games, a record for catchers (Yogi Berra and Thurman Munson each had 11). Also of Borders' 15 home runs this season, it was his first off a left-hander.

Lady Aggies

Continued From Page 7

fense," Jones said. "Those guys (A&M) played great.

"Both teams had a lot of great digs."

Digs were the key in this match, as Tech entered the night as one of the best digging teams in the Southwest Conference. But the final numbers belied that fact, with A&M finishing with 84 digs to Tech's 72.

"I thought that defensively, that was the best we've played all year long," Givens said. "Not many teams have outdug Texas Tech. We did tonight."

A&M's Genny Wood led all players in digs with 18. Setter Ginger Carter led Tech with 17, and also had a game-high 39 assists.

The loss drops A&M to a precarious position in the SWC with a 2-4 conference record, 11-8 over all.

Tech improves upon their near-spotless record, rising to 16-3 overall and 4-2 in the conference.

The Lady Aggies will be at home again this weekend as they host the Rice Lady Owls Saturday in G. Rollie White Coliseum at 7 p.m.

Foster

Continued From Page 8

The UIL says women can play football. That's great. They also say men cannot play volleyball with women. That's not so great.

Two steps forward. Two steps back.

Maybe men shouldn't be allowed to play volleyball with women, but the UIL does not sponsor volleyball for men. So what are the male volleyball players supposed to do for extracurricular activities?

The only answer: Play with the women.

The entire argument of gender discrimination in sports is that everyone is created equal, and that given the right opportunity, women could play football just as well as men, right?

If not, at least they should be given the chance.

Yet, men are not allowed to play volleyball with the women, because it would not be fair to the all-female teams, right? Because, as facts have proven, men on the average have more potential to be stronger and faster than their female counterparts.

But that argument completely contradicts the one on why women should be able to play football. I know plenty of women who would probably be pretty mean on the football field. Hell, I think I dated a few of them. But men aren't allowed to compete against those same females on their own turf—the volleyball court.

Suddenly, we have a new kind of discrimination. Men are being put at an unfair advantage by not getting to play volleyball, either by themselves or with women. The UIL either needs to sponsor volleyball for men, or let them play with the women.

Maybe it doesn't seem fair, men playing volleyball against women. But does a 6-4, 250-pound linebacker blitzing and knocking the helmet off a female quarterback sound any more fair? Not that she couldn't take it, but if she can, she can handle playing volleyball with the men.

And if we can say men won't dominate and conquer the women on the football field, they won't do it on the volleyball court, either.

One or the other must be done.

The UIL can't stand on both sides of the fence.

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