

Fishing



By

"The Crappie Catcher"

There is an old, and very true statement among fishermen, "fish are where you find them." However, there are always spots where fish are more likely to be found than other spots. Fish are most likely to be found where they can find food. In most cases, the food is usually some variety of smaller fish. Thread shad and shiners are the main dish of the fish we seek in our Lake Mead waters. Nature's rules of survival have taught these bait fish to frequent places where they can quickly find refuge from larger fish which feed on them. Underwater brush and jagged rocky reefs and ledges are the natural hiding spots for the bait fish, so consequently these are the types of spots where one should try his luck.

Whenever you are lucky enough to spot a large school of bait fish, you know that you are fairly close to a likely spot to find larger fish like bass, crappie, channel cats, or bluegills. As a general rule, you can expect to find bait fish in those spots where you have found them before. It will always be in areas where you will also find plenty of snags to hang and foul your rig.

Night fishing for crappie is just about to get real good. If you have not had a red hot tip from fishermen who have already found good crappie holes, your best bet is to go to the places where you have found them before. Crappie have a habit of feeding in the areas where they have found something to feed on before. If you follow the same rule that the fish follow, you will be most likely to have good fishing luck.

There are a few rules of the road which produce better crappie catches once you get into them. Use razor-sharp small hooks (size 4 or 6) and use small minnows. Smaller minnows usually attract larger crappie. Always keep a file or a stone in your tackle gear so that you can keep your hook sharp and clean. Sharp hooks catch twice as many fish as dull ones because they set more firmly, and won't pull out as easily. Even touch the point of new hooks before using them. Retouch the points of your hooks several times during the time you are fishing. Always run a light file or sharpening stone over your hook after each time you pull loose from a snag.

Move your bait ever so often and ever so gently and you will lure more crappie. The slower you move the bait, the faster the crappie will hit it.

Ignored By Wire Polls But Not By Pro Scouts

By COLLIE J. NICHOLSON

GRAMBLING, La. - (NPI)--Grambling college was completely ignored by the wire service weekly polls this Fall, but don't be surprised if the Tigers have the last lugubrious laugh.

While Coach Eddie Robinson and his talented Giants were being snubbed by Associated Press and United Press International pollsters, pro scouts were beating daily paths to the North Louisiana campus to watch likely leaders in the pro rookie class of 1968.

It might even be said that Grambling ranks as a consensus choice of the pros. Twenty-seven American and National Football League scouts watched the Tigers defeat Texas Southern in mid-October. They converge on campus en masse throughout the football season.

Many insist that at least nine Grambling stalwarts will automatically qualify as early choices in the pro draft. This is the biggest material bonanza at Grambling since 1961.

Football buffs are still intrigued by the fact that 15 players on the '61 club--generally regarded as the best team developed by Robinson--eventually played on AFL and NFL teams. Twelve are still active; 20 Grambling graduates are listed on 1967 pro rosters.

Coach Robinson avows that his current crew, irresistible on offense, impregnable on defense, ranks in player quality with any team in the country.

Appropriately, the Tigers compiled an impressive 8-1 record in winning their third straight Southwestern Athletic Conference championship, and there is no apparent explanation why they were overlooked in weekly small-college polls unless they are considered a kind of superman species.

The awesome Tigers are so ponderous that they don't have a tackle weighing less than 250 pounds. Eighteen squad members weigh 225 pounds or more, and the starting line averages 240 pounds per man. Flanker Keith Moore, 180 pounds, is the smallest Grambling player, while tackle Gerald Fields, the biggest, tips the scales at 300 pounds.

To give added indication of the team's enormous bulk, seven tackles boast a combined weight of 1,907 pounds, an average of 271.7 pounds per man.

TALENT SCOUTS are drooling over All-American candidates Henry Davis, a tremendous 240-pound "blue chip" guard who holds the offensive line together, and big Richard Lee, a rugged 265-pound tackle whose exploits are so impressive they sound exaggerated. Both are rated among the finest prospects to grace a football field.

Emlen Tunnel, New York Giant defensive backfield coach, watched Davis intently in Spring drills and pointedly called him "the best" lineman produced at Grambling since "Buck" Buchanan.

Tackle Earnest Sterling, 250 pounds; guard Clarence Powell, 225; guard Harold Jones, 240, the little brother of All-Pro "Deacon" Jones of the Los Angeles Rams; halfback Essex Johnson, 185; Robert Atkins, and Wesley Bean, both 215, have made significant contributions while gaining wide individual recognition.

Atkins, a brilliant pass catcher and free safety, and Bean who doubles as a quarterback, field goal kicker and punter, can perform at different positions without signs of diminishing results.

Two more Grambling names keep cropping up in pro football conversations. They are James Harris, a quarterback equipped with a magnetic passing arm and a diagnostic brain, and flanker Charlie Joiner, 185 pounds, rated by many the best college player in the country at chasing an expertly-flung football.

HARRIS, A rangy 6-4, 210-pound junior, has completed 83 of 178 passes for 1,249 yards and 15 touchdowns. By coach Robinson's own assessment, he is a pro star of the future. Joiner, an ultra-dangerous receiver, has good hands, great speed and moves, and only needs an inch of daylight to maneuver with the ball. He has lugged 32 receptions for 436 yards.

Grambling does everything with assembly-line precision. The potent Tigers have racked up 3,335 yards in total offense in nine games, averaging 370.5 yards per outing, while mustering enough sophistication on defense to hold

The Sports Parade

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

HOT HAND

BALTIMORE - (NPI)--Nate Thurmond, the San Francisco Warriors star center, had one of his "best evenings" this season last week when he scored 28 points and rebounded beautifully to lead the Warriors to a 117-110 victory over the Baltimore Bullets. The hot hand also enabled Thurmond to regain the NBA scoring lead at that juncture.

STILL REMEMBER HIM

NEW YORK - (NPI)--Without throwing a punch, Joe Louis, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, last week won the James Walker Memorial Award for his contributions to boxing. Louis, who won the title 30 years ago and subsequently defended it 25 times, reacted sentimentally to his election by the Boxing Writers Association. "It means," said Louis, "those guys still like old Joe."

WAIVERS ON HARDING

CHICAGO - (NPI)--The floundering Chicago Bulls professional basketball team last week asked waivers on their controversial pivot man, Reggie Harding. Harding recently was suspended for overstaying leave granted him to attend his mother's funeral.

MUDCAT TRADED

MEXICO CITY - (NPI)--In a headline-making move last week, the Minnesota Twins granted the wishes of pitcher Jim (Mudcat) Grant by trading him to the Los Angeles Dodgers as part of a five-player deal. Grant, who slumped to 5-6 this season after his brilliant 21-7 won-lost record in 1965, was shipped to the Dodgers along with shortstop Zola Versalles in exchange for L.A. catcher John Roseboro and relief pitchers Ron Perranoski and Bob Miller.

COACHES CHOICE

CHICAGO - (NPI)--Star back Leroy Keyes of Purdue last week was named to the 24-man All-America team of the American Football Association. He was the most prominent player named to the team.

FOSTER AIDED

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--Top-ranked light heavyweight contender Bobby Foster last week received help from the District of Columbia Boxing Commission which asked the WBA to see to it that champion Dick Tiger gives Bobby a crack at his title. The D.C. commission pointed out that the winner of the recent Tiger-Roger Rouse title bout was supposed to defend against Foster.

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the opposition to 90.1 yards in rushing offense. Intensely loyal fans proudly point out that SWAC is the toughest small-college conference in the country, and persist that the Tigers could make most teams in the AP and UPI top 10 salivate. The evidence seem overwhelming, but Eastern TV viewers and Saturday night's Orange Blossom classic crowd of 50,000 can make their own evaluation. The game was televised in New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta.