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Namibia has its very first FLW Final

Namibia hosted its very first FLW finals at Oanob dam from the 24th till the 26th of August 2019. Joining at almost the same time as Zimbabwe, Namibia is the 10th international member of the new international division that can compete at the Costa FLW Series Championship which will be hosted on Lake Cumberland in the United States from the 31st of October till the 2nd of November 2019.

Oanob dam located about 7km outside of Rehoboth was completed in 1990, the same year that Namibia became independent. It has a capacity of about 34 million cubic meters. The dam is known to boast some lunkers and the Namibian record has been caught in this dam. Oanob, with its clear water and rock ridges that disappear into the depths, make for any bass anglers paradise. The resort has everything from beautiful chalets to the most luxurious camp sites making it the perfect destination for a family to spend a weekend.

Although the dam water level was a bit low at 45.6% due to a bad rainy season, the news was out that the bass were on the beds. The atmosphere at the captains meeting was electrifying with the anticipation of some big bags that were going to make it to the scales. Sight fishing the bass on their beds was definitely on the mind of every angler as they pulled through the gate and sped off to their first stop for the morning. There was a bit of a cold breeze in the early morning on day one but as soon as the sun was high, those all too familiar white pebble circles with a dark shadow luring over them, got the heart racing of many anglers.

As many avid bass anglers know, sight fishing can be very rewarding but also extremely frustrating. When have you spent too much time on a stubborn fish? Should I go now or is it about to bite? Questions that are only answered with time as your experience grows.

The biggest bag weighed in on day one was by team Varkaneli Namibia (Andrew Hall and Max Pieper) weighing in at 8.484kg. Biggest fish of the day was caught by Team WBM Soft-baits (Richard Grant and Neil Engelbrecht).

Fishing on day two improved even more as the heaviest bag of the day was weighed in by Team WBM Soft-baits (Richard Grant and Neil Engelbrecht), a whopping 10.044kg and Richard Grant also catching the biggest fish of the tournament at a weight of 2.974kg.

The boat and fishing pressure as well as a cold wind that came up during the night, definitely came into play on day 3 as the bag sizes became smaller and Team Last Minute (Johan Coetzee and James van Rooyen) caught the heaviest bag of the day, weighing in at 6.812kg. Only two boats managed their 5 fish bag limit on day 3, a telling tale of some tough conditions on the water that day.

A total of 85 fish made it to the scales over the 3 day tournament with a total weight of 133.471kg, resulting in a 1.570kg average weight per fish.

Executive Council:

Richard Grant (Chairman) • Johan Coetzee (Vice Chairman) • Neels van Tonder (Treasurer) • Collette Carstens (Secretary) • Pierre Fourie (Conservation Officer) • Andrew Hall (Public Relations Officer) • Neil Engelbrecht (Tournament Director) • James van Rooyen (Development Officer)



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Team Last Minute (Johan Coetzee and James van Rooyen) moved into the first position with a solid performance over the 3 days. Their main strategy was sight fishing and they had identified quite a couple of beds holding fish during their practice sessions before the tournament. Their first stop on day one was a shallow wind protected bay which they identified during practice. They started throwing a Storm ratling Chug Bug on which Johan caught some good fish during practice. Their first decent keeper for the day was however caught on a Rapala X rap in Scoop colour, one of James's favourite baits during spawn.

Their strategy was to fill up every day and find some nests during the end of the day to start on the next day, a key to their success for the tournament. Day three was a tough day on the water but they still managed their bag limit. The biggest keys to their success for the tournament was covering as much water as possible every day, finding beds and throwing a combination of reaction baits and softbaits.

Mercury Marine was the main sponsor of the event alongside Optic Exclusive, Old Mutual Namibia, Lake Oanob Resort, Surf and Turf Namibia, Radio Wave, WBM Lures, Radiant, Eurolux, KTE, Tyre Rack, Cymot and SA BASS. FLW Namibia would like to thank all of the above sponsors for their support, sponsorships are what make these events possible and we would not have been able to host such a successful event without them.

FLW Namibia is excited about the tournament trial for 2020 and we are sure its going to be a tight battle till the end for the opportunity to represent Namibia at the next Cost FLW Series Championship in the United States.

Written by Andrew Hall, Public Relations Officer, Nambian Bass Angling Association

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