

Sun Country Bass Association
East & West Points, Super Team and Ranger Cup
Ute Lake Logan, NM March 27-28, 2010

Sun Country put on another great show at Ute Lake this past weekend. Although Mother Nature did her part to make it a challenge, it was a lot of fun and hard work. The team of Chester and Cory Hales deserve a huge congratulation putting together an incredibly impressive two-day victory with 21.63. Mark Sawyer and Dale Wagy also deserve kudos for their victory in the West with 13.57. Obviously the East guys showed the West how things were done at this one as the margin between the two sides was very significant. Seth and I didn't have much to say on either side as you are only as good as your last result and ours was...well...not good (that is an understatement).

From Doug Stewart, Sun Country President:

65 teams showed up to fish the windy cold waters at Ute Lake. As a disclaimer lake temperatures last year at this time were 5 degrees warmer and as always wind are a hit and miss all spring. With that said fishing was more than tough even with weather conditions on Sunday being very good. A complete update will follow but results are posted under the link on the Tournament page. Logan Chamber of Commerce and the Logan Lodgers Tax Board have been strong supporters of us and we appreciate the effort of all the local business people and anglers. Thanks again to all for showing up and I will get everything posted by March 30 for Super Team and the full recap.

Without going into a lot of detail on how we strained a lot of water for 4 days, it was tough to say the least. The results are a reflection of how tough the fishing was. Seth and I had a fairly solid game plan on Friday thinking we would be able to fish 50% of what we found pre-fishing, but that was not the case. With winds starting at 15-25 mph before sun up gaining speeds up to 45 during the day, it was challenging to say the least. The weather man in Amarillo said winds of 50-70, but I don't think we got there at Logan. Surface temps on the lake ranged from 44-52, but mostly 46 is what we saw.

We found fish throwing tubes, jigs and beavers in pre-fish. We never really had a good jerkbait, crankbait or spinnerbait bite going, but the weather during practice was much milder. Location really didn't matter much as there were fish in most areas of the lake. Having pre-fished for two days probably only hurt us as we went to fish that were either not there or not active on Day 1 of the tourney. Many of the Logan Bass Club guys have always said Ute is the "here today, gone tomorrow" fishery and they were right. Not one spot produced for us from practice, but we also were fishing a lot of the windiest spots on the lake, which was not really fishing it was more of a controlled high speed drift. The Maxxum got a workout this weekend as Saturday the range was 60-90% of full throttle on

the trolling motor. Even on the protected side of the lake, you had to stay on the trolling motor to stay anywhere for more than a couple seconds. At the end of the day, we had nothing to show for our efforts, a big fat zero in the livewell. Needless to say, this was quite a different feeling from the last event.

Sunday morning came and it was a beautiful day, although I am not sure the fish felt the same as the spin cycle from the day before probably still had them in some kind of altered state. We didn't really have much to go on so we just decided to go fishing and cover some water. Bob and Kenny had put together a solid bag on Saturday "junk fishing". Of course, in hindsight, this should have been our plan Saturday and then went back to what had worked for us in similar conditions on Thursday and Friday. This is the great part of our sport, there are no prescribed methods for what to do when. It is a moment-to-moment challenge that is never over until the end. This was proven as most teams (Hales excluded) that did well Saturday, struggled on Sunday and some that struggled on Saturday (Sawyer/Wage) shined on Sunday. The fishing was the hardest I have ever seen it at Ute Lake. Speaking to one of our local big sticks (Chuck Rizuto) Sunday night, he has never seen conditions so tough at Ute.

Sunday at 2:30, with a 3:30 weigh-in on the horizon and not one fish to show for our efforts, Seth and I went out into some deep water and decided to send out the weenie worms. We needed just one bite to at least go through the weigh-in line. Finally at 3:00 we got our first bite. After we landed the solid smallmouth, I told Seth we only needed to get one every five minutes...shouldn't be too hard. All kidding aside, we tried our best and fished up until the last minute and went in.

We at least got to go through the line and weigh our almost 3 pound smallmouth and think about all the stuff we did wrong; thankfully we had 3 hours to drive home and discuss it over and over again. At the end of the day it was a learning experience and we hopefully can put what we learned to use at the next one. Whether you like Mike Iaconelli or not, he is the "never give up" guy and that is the attitude that you have to have on tourneys like this. We have no regrets as we did our best and that is the way it goes...there will always be a next time. The people that were on top at this one really deserve it because it was a grind the entire time.

Thank you to Rob and Maria Blum from [The Tackle Box](#) for putting us up (and putting up with us) and making some great food, [Mercury Marine](#), [Navionics](#), [Loc R Bar](#), [Berkley](#), [Abu Garcia](#).