

Bouldin hooks \$50K

Local nets FLW Fishing tournament win

DUANE SHERRILL
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A Smithville fisherman has won a major angling title and is \$50,000 richer after winning the T-H Marine FLW Bass Fishing League tournament on Cross Lake in Shreveport, La.

The win by Matthew Bouldin came after a rally on the final day of competition as he caught 18 pounds, four ounces to defeat Jesse Parks of Avondale, Ariz., by a scant four ounces. Parks had led the first two days of competition but settled for second and a \$15,000 check.

FLWFishing.com reported that Bouldin caught limits each day while fishing with Pat Upthagrove, Nick Deering and Roger Fitzpatrick. He started Saturday's championship round in third place, having weighed in qualifying-round limits of 16-9 and 9-11. He outfished his pro partner Saturday to close a gap of more than five pounds and walk away a champion.

Bouldin fished the 1/8-ounce shaky head on spinning tackle, and the heavier heads on bait casting tackle. He started out using the 5/16-ounce model, but midway through the tournament realized the heft of the Mag Finesse Worm made it possible to flip and skip with the 3/16-ounce head.

It was his go-to "heavy" model for the final day and was a big producer in the end because he could fish with bait casting tackle more easily and efficiently in the wind or when his boater was covering water at a fast clip. He got seven bites on the final day of the event, pulling in five and weighing in three bass.

Bouldin is a minister and a student at Tennessee Tech where he is studying accounting.

The 2018 BFL is a 24-division circuit devoted to weekend anglers, with 128 tournaments throughout the season, five qualifying events in each division. The top 45 boaters and co-anglers from each division, along with the five winners of the qualifying events, advance to one of six regional tournaments where they compete to finish in the top six, which then qualifies them for one of the longest-running championships in all of competitive bass fishing – the BFL All-American. The 2018 BFL All-American was held May 31-June 2 at Cross Lake in Shreveport, La., hosted by the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission. Top performers in the BFL can move up to the Costa FLW Series or the FLW Tour.

The tourney will come to Center Hill Lake on June 9 for the Music City Division anglers with up to 400 competitors expected. Top prize will be \$8,000.



Photo provided
Matthew Bouldin proudly displays the fruits of his labors for winning the T-H Marine FLW Bass Fishing League tournament in Shreveport, La.



Former Tigerette Tyra Graham, above, was named to the Academic All-District team for her play on the field and her excellence in the classroom at Cumberland during her sophomore season. The Smithville native batted .426 while holding a 3.75 grade point average.

Kayley Caplinger, at right, didn't make a single fielding error this past season at Cumberland and was awarded the Mid-South Conference Golden Glove Award for her tenacious defense.

Tigerettes make mark on next level

A pair of Tigerettes now playing for Cumberland have received prestigious post-season honors for their play this past softball season. They include Tyra Graham and Kayley Caplinger.

Cumberland sophomore Tyra Graham earned CoSIDA Academic All-District 2 College Division honors, as announced by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) recently. Graham is now entered into the pool of candidates for Academic All-America accolades.

Student-athletes must be a sophomore, junior or senior, hold a 3.30 GPA and above and be a starter or major contributor off the bench to be eligible for nomination for the CoSIDA Academic All-District award. Graham posts a 3.75 GPA in Exercise and Sport Science.

The Smithville native batted .426 with 20 doubles, six home runs, 37 RBIs and 62 runs scored this season for the Phoenix, adding 35 stolen bases. She ranked sixth nationally in runs scored, seventh in hits (87), 10th in doubles and 13th in total bases (129) and stolen bases.

Graham led the Mid-South Conference in runs scored, hits, dou-

bles and total bases and ranked second in batting average and stolen bases. Cumberland improved from 17-33-1 in 2017 and 36-23 this season, doing so with four freshmen or sophomores as well as four newcomers, all junior transfers from junior colleges.

She has also been honored by being given honorable mention from the NAIA as All-American. She is only the second All-American in the team's history.

Cumberland's Kayley Caplinger, Tawnee Hegre and Taylor Woodring were named to the 2018 Mid-South Conference Gold Glove Team, as announced by the league office during the conference tournament in Bowling Green, Ky.

The 2018 Mid-South Conference Gold Glove Team is selected by the coaches and based solely on fielding percentage at each position from the regular season.

Caplinger did not make an error in 34 chances in the circle for the Phoenix, posting 23 assists, while Hegre posted 155 total chances without an error, including 129 chances at first base. Woodring was one of three outfielders without a miscue, recording 95 total chances with five assists.

