



Photo provided  
**Samuel Vandagriff was one of 12 anglers to be named to the Bassmaster All-American team Monday. Vandagriff is a senior at WCHS.**

# All-American angler

BY **JEFFERY SIMMONS**  
*Sports Editor for the Southern Standard*  
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Honors keep rolling in for WCHS angler Samuel Vandagriff.

The Pioneer senior was named Monday to the Bassmaster All-American team, one of only 12 high school students to receive the prestigious national honor.

Vandagriff was praised in the release from Bassmaster for his accolades on the lakes, as well as his involvement in the community.

"Samuel leads off the water in his school, church and community, participating in things like hurricane relief, Habitat for Humanity and Relay for Life," David Lowrie, Tennessee B.A.S.S. Nation High School state director to Bassmaster.

"He always volunteers to assist in the setup and teardown of the Tennessee B.A.S.S. Nation stage and equipment for tournaments. Samuel provides leadership for Warren County's fishing team and sets an example for other Tennessee B.A.S.S. Nation high school and junior anglers."

Everybody associated with Vandagriff praises his work ethic and ability. His coach J.W. Holt has nothing but good things to say about his newly minted All-American.

"Receiving this award speaks volumes of his leadership, work ethic and dedication," said Holt. "He and his brother Matthew (his partner in several tournament wins) have a knack for fishing.

They put the time in, they work hard and practice. When you dedicate yourself to something like they do, you're going to reap the benefits."

Vandagriff is set to graduate in May with a 3.87 GPA and is already slated to attend Tennessee Tech. His fishing exploits have already earned him over \$10,000 in scholarship money, a total he can add to this spring when he goes for more titles.

The Vandagriff brothers are slated to hit Dale Hollow Lake this weekend for competition before competing in the The Battle of Chick on Lake Chickamauga April 28. Samuel will also compete in the state tournament on Old Hickory Lake May 3-4 and has already qualified for the Bassmaster National Championship in August.

Holt knows what the goal for his senior is right now.

"I know he wants to win the national title. He's been on Kentucky Lake three times and has gotten better each time," said Holt. "The ultimate goal is to win."

Even if Vandagriff isn't able to bring home the national trophy, he's already helped put Warren County on the map in the angling world.

"He's taken our program to the next level. He's brought more attention to our team with tournament wins and now this honor, just being one of the best 12 kids in the nation," said Holt.

Among the other honorees was Jacob Woods from Lenior City High School. Woods and Vandagriff, friendly competitors during the high school season, could be teammates next year at Tech.

## Preds drop game three in Colorado

**DENVER (AP)** — Nathan MacKinnon and the Colorado Avalanche leaned on their speed to get off to another flying start.

This time, it held up. MacKinnon scored twice, including one as part of a three-goal first period and another to chase Nashville goaltender Pekka Rinne from the game, and the Avalanche beat the Predators 5-3 in Game 3 on Monday night to pull to 2-1 in the first-round series.

Blake Comeau and Gabriel Bourque also scored in a furious opening period that revved up a pom-pom waving capacity crowd. Gabriel Landeskog was credited with an empty-net goal for the Avalanche, who snapped a 12-game skid against the Predators.

"Our guys were energized," Avalanche coach Jared Bednar said. "We were on our toes and the aggressors early in that game and it paid off for us."

Game 4 is Wednesday in Denver. The game is set to begin at 9 p.m. and will air on NBCSN.

For a third straight game in the series, Colorado scored first. But the A's were able to make it stand in this one. MacKinnon and his teammates have been a different bunch at home this year. Their 28 home wins in the regular season was tied for the most in franchise history with the 2000-01 squad that hoisted the Stanley Cup.

"They gained a lot of momentum, used their atmosphere to their advantage and we weren't able to respond in that first period," Predators forward Ryan Johansen said. "That can't happen."

MacKinnon's goal at 4:25 of the second period gave Colorado a 4-0 lead and prompted the Predators to pull Rinne in favor of backup Juuse Saros. Rinne allowed four goals on 15 shots.

"We weren't very good in front of him," Predators coach Peter Laviolette said. "I didn't think we were giving him the support he needed."

Laviolette wasn't in a mood to elaborate on what exactly went wrong.

"It wasn't good," Laviolette said of the first period.

Any particular reason? "We didn't play very well," he said.

One thing was clear: MacKinnon was as fast as ever on home ice. He led the league in home scoring in the regular season with 67 points.

"He thrives on the energy in the building," Bednar said. "He's just so explosive at home. He's dangerous every time he touches the puck at home."

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