

McConnell's team snatches biggest catfish in tourney

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

It was another successful catfish tournament Saturday, April 20 for the Izaak Walton League (IKEs). Twenty teams, from as far east as Bellevue, Neb. and west as Summit County, fished for catfish at Enders Reservoir in Nebraska.

Two-person teams could each weigh in five fish. The winning team was Brian Hattendorf and Lou Visser, both of Imperial, Neb., with a total of 14 pounds, 11 ounces.

Second place went to the team of Calvin Clermont of Enders, Neb. and Ernie Turpin of Madrid, Neb., with a total of 11 pounds, 15 ounces.

The third-place team of Brian Callahan and Troy Mannis, both of Goodland, Kan. had a total weight of 9 pounds, 12 ounces.

A total of 24 fish were weighed. The largest was caught by Houston McConnell of Holyoke and Shayna Perry of Greeley, weighing in at 4 pounds, 3 ounces.

Spokesman Tom Elder said people waited to see what the weather was going to do before signing up, but there were about the same numbers as in past years.

"It was a little colder than anticipated," he said, especially at the 7 a.m. start when it was 32 degrees. "We had a good day."

The tournament is a fundraiser for IKEs, mainly for the kids fishing day coming up May 18. It's also a way to get the IKEs name out to the public, Elder explained.

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Holyoke Enterprise May 9, 2013