

OUTDOORS

Allen Park team lands a huge fish

By Mike Zielinski
Outdoors Writer

As a graduation present, Devin Lacrosse, 17, of Allen Park, received a chartered musky fishing trip from his father, Bernie.

Bernie Lacrosse booked Captain Don Miller and on June 20, they boarded the Musky Hunter II for a day of fishing on Lake St. Clair.

Since Devin was the honored angler, he was elected as the "up" man if and when the first muskie struck. They trolled the waters of Lake St. Clair for almost seven hours without a strike. All the while, Miller constantly changed baits and cleared them of weeds.

Muskie fishing is never a sure thing, and more often than not, muskies strike when you least expect it.

With less than an hour remaining in the charter, one of the rods being trolled from a planer board went

into a deep bend, indicating that something had chomped down on the lure.

After a 30-minute struggle, Devin had his first muskie in the boat. And what a fish it was.

His 34-pound, 53-inch fish is the longest muskie caught in Michigan since 1993. Devin has a Master Angler Award from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to prove it.

Miller is a firm believer in the late Homer LeBlanc's method of landing these ferocious fighters. The angler just reels and doesn't pump the rod to relieve the pressure. After about five minutes of this, it is like having a toothache in your wrist.

"I reeled and reeled for half an hour, and the only way to describe the experience is to say that my wrist hurt like hell near the end," Devin said.



Devin LaCrosse hoists his 53-inch, 34-pound catch from Lake St. Clair.