

SUSKIE BASSMASTERS WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES – WEEK 8

Good afternoon everyone!

If last week's tournament proved the fish were getting bigger, this week erased any doubt. Despite a **high, muddy Susquehanna River** that looked more like chocolate milk than the clear water we've enjoyed recently, the bass didn't seem to mind one bit. Fourteen fish made it to the scales, and they averaged an impressive **1.66 pounds each**—the highest average fish weight of the season so far.

Forty-two anglers took to the river for Week 8, and while the conditions looked challenging from the launch, the quality of fish told a different story. Bigger bass continue to show up as summer rolls on, proving that sometimes ugly water produces beautiful results. Several fish pushed the two-pound mark, making Wednesday night one of the strongest weigh-ins we've seen all season.

WEEK 8 TOURNAMENT SPONSOR

This week's Wednesday Night Series was proudly sponsored by **Window World of Wyoming Valley**, located in **Duryea, Pennsylvania**.

For years, Window World has been helping homeowners throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania improve the beauty, comfort, and energy efficiency of their homes. They specialize in replacement windows, entry doors, patio doors, siding, shutters, gutters, and roofing, all professionally installed and backed by outstanding customer service. Their commitment to quality workmanship and customer satisfaction has made them one of the area's most trusted home improvement companies.

 **308 Lincoln Street, Duryea, PA 18642**

 **(570) 471-3262**

 **Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM**

 **Saturday & Sunday: Closed**

Please join us in thanking **Window World of Wyoming Valley** for supporting the Suskie Bassmasters Wednesday Night Series. We encourage everyone to support the local businesses that support our club!

WEEK 8 TOURNAMENT STATS

 **42 Anglers**

 **14 Fish Weighed**

 **23.21 lbs Total Weight**

 **1.66 lb Average Fish Weight** *(Highest average of the season!)*

RIVER & WEATHER CONDITIONS

 Wilkes-Barre River Gauge: 4.3 ft

 River Conditions: High

 Water Clarity: Muddy – "Chocolate Milk"

 Air Temperature: 81°F

 Conditions: Warm with periods of rain throughout the evening.

 Wind: Light Northeast, approximately 6 mph

 Barometric Pressure: 29.77 inHg

Although the river was running high and looked more like chocolate milk than the Susquehanna we're used to seeing, the bass didn't seem to mind one bit. If anything, the tougher conditions may have actually worked in the anglers' favor, producing the **highest average fish weight of the season**. Sometimes the fish don't read the same playbook we do.

SEASON TOTALS

 121 Fish Weighed

 163.34 lbs Total Weight

 1.35 lb Season Average Fish Weight

NOW FOR THE RESULTS...

If you thought a high, muddy river would make for a slow night...the bass had other plans.

The Susquehanna looked more like chocolate milk than a bass river, but somehow the fish got the memo that Wednesday night was feeding time. Fourteen bass hit the scales, producing the **highest average fish weight of the season**. Apparently muddy water doesn't bother bass nearly as much as it bothers fishermen.

On the Bubble

This week's unfortunate honor belongs to **Team Matty Centak**, whose **16¼-inch, 1.92-pound** smallmouth finished **5th**.

On most Wednesday nights, a fish pushing two pounds is more than enough to cash a check. This week, it earned Team Matty Centak an invitation into the **Bubble Club** instead.

The Bubble Club still doesn't pay...but it continues to offer **free emotional damage** every Wednesday night.

Wildcard Winner (6th Place)

Congratulations to **Team John Centak**, whose **15½-inch, 1.73-pound** smallmouth earned this week's **Wildcard** prize.

This week's Wildcard payout was worth **\$60** after last week's prize rolled over when the winning team had already headed home before the announcements.

This week, Team John Centak was there to collect, proving that sometimes patience really does pay off. Congratulations on taking home the biggest Wildcard payout of the season!

4th Place

Congratulations to **Team Hamm**, whose **16½-inch, 1.97-pound** smallmouth earned another trip to the payout table.

When you're leading the Team of the Year standings, nights like this are exactly what you're looking for. Another quality fish, another check, and another week protecting the top spot. It may not have been another tournament victory, but championships are built on consistency, and Team Hamm continues to prove that every single week.

3rd Place

Congratulations to **Team Kresge**, whose **16¾-inch, 1.98-pound** smallmouth earned another podium finish.

At this point, seeing Team Kresge near the top of the leaderboard has become almost routine. Week after week, they continue to find quality fish regardless of conditions, and Wednesday night was no exception. A fish of this caliber wins a lot of tournaments—it just happened to run into two even better fish this week.

2nd Place

Congratulations to **Team Lacomis**, whose **16½-inch, 1.99-pound** smallmouth earned a well-deserved runner-up finish.

With Jimmy unavailable this week, Team Lacomis called on an old friend, **Wyatt Tompkins**, to come out of retirement for one more Wednesday night. Longtime club members will remember Wyatt from his years fishing alongside Chris Ostrowski before Chris joined Team Lacomis, and Wyatt still holds the **#6 spot in the Suskie Bassmasters Lunker Hall of Fame**.

Apparently retirement hasn't slowed Wyatt down one bit. He stepped back into the boat like he never left and helped Team Lacomis come within a fraction of a pound of winning the tournament. Not a bad night's work for someone who was supposed to be retired.

1st Place – WEEK 8 WINNERS

Congratulations to **Team Orloski** on capturing the Week 8 victory!

Even with their team captain unavailable, Team Orloski proved that preparation, experience, and teamwork can overcome just about anything—including a high, muddy Susquehanna River. While many anglers struggled to adjust to the changing conditions, Team Orloski found the quality bite they needed when it mattered most.

Their **16⅞-inch, 2.09-pound** smallmouth was the only bass to break the two-pound mark Wednesday night and ultimately proved to be the fish to beat. On an evening that produced the highest average fish weight of the season, Team Orloski still managed to separate themselves from a very competitive field and earn a well-deserved victory.

Winning any Wednesday night tournament is an accomplishment. Winning in difficult river conditions against one of the strongest fields of the season makes it even more impressive.

Congratulations to **Team Orloski** on an outstanding Week 8 performance!

JUST AN OBSERVATION...

One of the more interesting storylines from Week 8 had nothing to do with the fishing.

Team Orloski won the tournament without their team captain, while **Team Lacomis** brought Wyatt Tompkins out of retirement and finished second.

Apparently substitute anglers were the hottest pattern on the river Wednesday night.

Team captains across the club may have some explaining to do...or maybe they should all consider taking next week off and letting the replacements fish again. 

TRENDING

Eight weeks into the season, the story continues to evolve.

- **The Team of the Year race is still wide open.** Team Hamm continues to lead with a season total of **13.25 pounds**, but Team Matty Centak remains within striking distance at **12.61 pounds**. With six tournaments still remaining, every fish—and every ounce—continues to matter.

-  **Biggest Move: Team Lacomis** made this week's biggest jump in the Team of the Year standings, climbing from **10th to 6th place** after their second-place finish. That's a four-place leap in one week and one of the biggest moves we've seen all season.
-  **The Fish Keep Getting Bigger.** Week 8 produced the **highest average fish weight of the season** at **1.66 pounds**. Even with the river running high and muddy, the bass continue to get noticeably fatter as we head deeper into August.
-  **Dirty Water, Big Bass.** The Susquehanna looked more like chocolate milk than a bass river Wednesday night, but the fish clearly didn't mind. Sometimes the toughest-looking conditions end up producing some of the best fishing.

SMALL FISH OF THE YEAR UPDATE

The Small Fish of the Year race remains unchanged.

Team Geist continues to hold the lead with the smallest qualifying bass of the season. Every week presents another opportunity for someone to knock them off the top, but through eight weeks, Team Geist is still hanging on.

Remember...sometimes the smallest fish of the year can still earn you some bragging rights—and a little extra money at the end of the season!

LUNKER OF THE YEAR UPDATE

The Lunker of the Year race also remains unchanged.

Team Matty Centak continues to hold the top spot with their **2.23-pound** smallmouth from Week 5. Week 8 came close with Team Orloski's **2.09-pound** winner, but the Lunker title survives for at least another week.

50/50 UPDATE

Congratulations to **Chris Ostrowski**, fishing with **Team Lacomis**, for taking home this week's **50/50** prize!

It turned out to be a pretty profitable evening for Chris. Between helping Team Lacomis bring home a second-place finish and winning the 50/50 drawing, Wednesday night treated him pretty well.

At this point, we're starting to think Wyatt Tompkins wasn't the only good luck charm in the boat.

Congratulations, Chris!

We'll do it all again next Wednesday!

 **Registration:** Approximately **4:00 PM**

 **Launch:** **5:00 PM**

 **Weigh-In: 8:30 PM** *(All boats must be between the bridges by 8:30 PM.)*

Tournament results, Team of the Year standings, and weekly recaps are also available on our website at www.suskiebass.org. If you notice any mistakes, omissions, or discrepancies in this week's recap or standings, please let us know. We do our best to keep everything accurate and appreciate your help in making sure our records stay correct.

Eight weeks are now in the books, and the 2026 Wednesday Night Series continues to deliver outstanding competition every Wednesday night. The Team of the Year race remains tight, the fish keep getting bigger, and with only six regular-season tournaments remaining, every cast, every fish, and every ounce could make the difference when Championship Night arrives.

Will **Team Hamm** continue to hold on to the Team of the Year lead? Can **Team Matty Centak** close the gap? Or will another team make a big move up the standings next week?

There's only one way to find out...

We'll see everyone next Wednesday!

Good luck, tight lines, and heavy bags! 