

Suskie Bassmasters Wednesday Night Series

– Week 6 Recap

The smoke has cleared... literally.

After several days of Canadian wildfire smoke drifting across Northeast Pennsylvania, anglers were welcomed back to a beautiful summer evening on the Susquehanna River for Week 6 of the Wednesday Night Series. While the skies were much clearer this week, a few anglers' hopes of climbing the leaderboard must have disappeared with the smoke.

Forty-seven anglers launched in search of that one quality bite, and by the end of the night, 20 bass found their way to the scales. Those fish totaled **29.19 pounds**, averaging an impressive **1.46 pounds** each. As we've come to expect this season, just a few ounces made all the difference, keeping the leaderboard in flux until the very last fish was weighed.

Sponsor Spotlight – James Auto Service

This week's Wednesday Night Series was proudly sponsored by **James Auto Service**, a clean, family-owned and operated automotive repair shop located at **251 George Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705**. Since opening its doors in **1974**, James Auto Service has built a reputation for honest, dependable service and is now proudly under **second-generation management**, continuing a tradition of quality workmanship and customer care.

Whether your vehicle needs routine maintenance, diagnostics, brakes, suspension work, inspections, or general repairs, the experienced team at James Auto Service is committed to keeping you safely on the road. Their dedication to treating every customer like family has made them a trusted name in the Wyoming Valley for more than 50 years.

 **251 George Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705**

 **(570) 825-5050**

 **Monday–Friday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

 **Saturday: By Appointment**

Please join us in thanking **James Auto Service** for supporting the Suskie Bassmasters Wednesday Night Series. We encourage everyone to support the local businesses that support our club!

Tournament Stats

 **Anglers: 47**

 **Bass Weighed:** 20

 **Total Weight:** 29.19 lbs

 **Average Weight:** 1.46 lbs

River & Weather Conditions

 **Air Temperature:** 78°F (5:30 PM)

 **Conditions:** Sunny and clear

 **Wind:** Light, around 6 mph

 **Barometric Pressure:** 30.08 inHg

 **Wilkes-Barre River Gauge:** 1.5 ft

 **River Flow:** 4,459 CFS

 **Water Clarity:** Clear

The recent Canadian wildfire smoke that had lingered over Northeast Pennsylvania earlier in the week was finally gone, revealing blue skies and excellent visibility across the Susquehanna River. Stable water conditions, comfortable summer temperatures, and light winds made for one of the nicest evenings of the season—and the bass responded with another strong showing.

Season Update

Six tournaments are now in the books, and every point is becoming more valuable in the race for **Team of the Year**. **Team Hamm** continues to lead the standings, **Team Matty Centak** remains the **Lunker of the Year** leader with his impressive **2.23-pound** smallmouth, and **Team Geist** continues to hold the **Small Fish of the Year** lead. With the season now past its halfway point, every fish weighed has the potential to make a difference in the championship race

Bubble Club

This week's **Bubble Club** honors go to **Team Hamm**, whose **1.72-pound** smallmouth came up just one spot shy of the payout. While the bubble is never where you want to finish, another quality bass helped Corey protect his lead in the Team of the Year standings. Sometimes the difference between cashing a check and joining the Bubble Club is only a few ounces.

Wildcard Winner

Congratulations to **Team Ciravalo**, this week's **Wildcard Winner**!

Team Ciravalo had quite an evening. In addition to taking home Wildcard honors with an **11th-place** finish, Brian's number was also drawn for the night's **50/50**. Some nights everything just seems to go your way, and Wednesday was one of those nights. Congratulations on a productive evening!

4th Place

Congratulations to **Team Kresge**, whose **1.84-pound** smallmouth earned a fourth-place finish. With several fish separated by only a few hundredths of a pound, every ounce mattered. Team Kresge found themselves on the right side of a tightly packed leaderboard and added another solid finish to his season.

3rd Place

Congratulations to **Team McGovern**, whose **1.85-pound** smallmouth earned a third-place finish.

Poor Dave.

It seems like every week he finds himself sitting near the top of the leaderboard, only to watch angler after angler walk to the scales with a fish that's *just barely* heavier. Wednesday night was no different. Dave patiently waited as the field weighed in, and one by one, a couple of fish edged past him by mere ounces. When the final fish was weighed, Team McGovern once again found themselves on the podium with another impressive finish.

2nd Place

Team Aufiero: Nice fish.

1st Place

Congratulations to **Team Hughes**, who captured their first victory of the 2026 Wednesday Night Series with a beautiful **1.88-pound** smallmouth. Chris found the quality bite he needed on a night where every ounce mattered, holding off a tightly packed field to earn a well-deserved win. It was a patient, consistent performance that paid off when the final fish was weighed.

After...

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Wait a minute.

We can't do that to the guy who spends every Wednesday night running the scales.

After six weeks of weighing everyone else's catches, Ralph finally had one worthy of spending a little extra time on the scale himself. His **1.86-pound** smallmouth earned a well-deserved second-place finish, edging out Dave McGovern by just **0.01 pounds**.

Now...there may have been a few whispers around the weigh-in table asking, *"Was that weight verified?"*



We can assure everyone it was...probably.

Congratulations, Ralph! It was great to see the scale operator on the other side of the leaderboard for a change.



1st Place (For Real This Time)

Now...back to our regularly scheduled programming.

Congratulations to **Team Hughes** on capturing their first victory of the 2026 Wednesday Night Series! Team Hughes put together an outstanding evening on the Susquehanna, locating the quality bite they needed on a night when nearly every position on the leaderboard was separated by only ounces. Their **1.88-pound** smallmouth ultimately proved to be just enough, finishing **0.02 pounds ahead of third place** and **0.16 pounds ahead of the Bubble Club**. That's about as close as a Wednesday night tournament can get.

While everyone was watching the leaderboard shuffle throughout weigh-in, Team Hughes quietly sat in the top spot as one quality fish after another came to the scales. Ralph made it interesting. Team McGovern made it interesting. Team Kresge made it interesting. But when the final fish was weighed, nobody had enough to knock **Team Hughes** from the top.

Winning any Wednesday Night Series event is an accomplishment. Winning one decided by mere ounces makes it even sweeter. Congratulations to Team Hughes on a hard-earned victory, and welcome to the 2026 winners circle! 🏆



TRENDING

Six weeks into the season, the numbers continue to tell the story.

- **Another Nail-Biter:** Just **0.04 pounds** separated **1st through 4th place**, while only **0.16 pounds** separated the tournament winner from this week's Bubble Club. It doesn't get much closer than that.

- **The Team of the Year race is tightening.** Team Hamm continues to lead the standings with **9.86 pounds**, but Team Matty Centak remains within striking distance at **9.36 pounds**. With nearly half the season still ahead, every fish is becoming more important.
- **Consistency continues to pay off.** Through six tournaments, only four teams have topped the nine-pound mark for the season, showing just how difficult it is to consistently bring quality fish to the scales every Wednesday.
- **Quality Over Quantity.** Although no bass eclipsed the two-pound mark this week, the top of the leaderboard was packed. The difference between taking home the trophy and joining the Bubble Club was less than the weight of a stick of butter.

SMALL FISH OF THE YEAR

The Small Fish of the Year race remains unchanged.

Team Geist continues to hold the lead with the smallest qualifying bass of the season. As always, it only takes one slightly smaller fish to take over the top spot, so every fish that reaches the scales still matters.

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!

50/50

Congratulations to **Brian Ciravalo**, who took home this week's 50/50 prize!

Brian also happened to win this week's **Wildcard**, making him one of the biggest winners of the evening.

Coincidence?

Brian only needed one lucky number Wednesday night...he ended up getting two.

The committee has reviewed the results and, unlike last week's ongoing Lori investigation, no suspicious activity has been detected...yet.

SUSKIE BASSMASTERS WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES – WEEK 7

We'll do it all again next Wednesday!

 **Registration:** Approximately 4:30 PM

 **Launch:** 5:30 PM

 **Weigh-In:** 9:00 PM *(All boats must be between the bridges by 9:00 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.

Six weeks are now in the books, and the 2026 Wednesday Night Series continues to produce exciting finishes. The Team of the Year race is tightening with every tournament, the competition remains fierce from top to bottom, and Wednesday night proved once again that every ounce counts.

Will Team Hamm continue to defend their Team of the Year lead? Can Team Matty Centak reclaim the top spot? Or will another team make a move as we head into Week 7?

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

Let's do it all again next Wednesday.

Good luck, tight lines, and heavy bags! 🎣