

Hess & Lamecker lead the way in the 2025 Safelite Walleye Classic!

May 18th, 2025....Mark Hess and Joshua Lamecker weighed 6 walleye, averaging more than two and a half pounds each, to win the 20th Safelite Walleye Classic (formerly the City Auto Glass Walleye Classic), presented by First National Bank of Gilbert and Hoyt Lakes...and powered by Janisch Realty...on Saturday, May 17th, 2025, out of Fortune Bay Resort Casino on Lake Vermilion.

Hess, of Foley, and partner Lamecker, from Sauk Rapids, had a tournament-winning total catch weight of 13.22 pounds. This total was nearly 10 pounds less than 2024, evidence of the tough fishing conditions faced by the anglers this year. The winners took home \$20,000, which included a special day-before 20th anniversary bonus from First National Bank.

2nd place this year went to Justin Chromy and Paul Klancher of Cook, a half-pound back of the winners at 12.69 pounds. Finishing in 3rd place, both in the standings and in the Big Fish contest, were Steve Tauer of White Bear Lake and Johnathan Tauer of Columbus, MN, with 12.55 pounds of walleye. The rest of the Top 5 included the team of Davin Wagner of Angora and Carter Thome from Britt in 4th place, at 12.38 pounds...and Jarek Wujkowski and William Hanson of Cook, in 5th at 11.78 pounds.

A full field of 125 boats entered the year's tourney, held since 2006 on Lake Vermilion. Despite a tough cold-front, which saw temperatures drop from the upper 80's the weekend before to just over 40 with a day-long northwest wind on tournament-day Saturday, a total of 538 walleyes were weighed and released. More than \$50,000 in cash and prizes were once again awarded, with cash pay-outs to the top 21 teams, the last-place team, and the top three teams in the Big Fish contest, including winners Dan and Erik Davis of Hugo, with a 7.86 pound walleye.

Proceeds from this non-profit event produced by The CAG Foundation are donated to organizations that uplift, educate, and improve the lives of area kids. Many area businesses support the event, making for successful fundraising efforts.

Volunteers included Safelite employees and family members, players from the Rock Ridge baseball program, Hibbing Kiwanis Club members, and additional family and friends.

Safelite is the nationwide leader in auto glass repair and replacement, and purchased Minnesota-based City Auto Glass in 2024. Safelite provides convenient windshield rock-chip repair, high-quality windshield replacement, safety systems recalibration, and the industry's only national lifetime warranty. Safelite Repair, Safelite Replace!

Later this year, look for the first-ever Safelite Legacy Challenge walleye tournament, presented by Limitless Precision Machining...Saturday, October 4th, also out of Fortune Bay on Lake Vermilion. Registration is now open at www.vermiliontournaments.com.

Complete results are available on Facebook and at www.vermiliontournaments.com

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For more information, contact tournament chair Red Lowen at red.lowen@safelite.com