

The '26 Safelite Walleye Classic title goes to Dobias & Dulas!

May 18th, 2026.....Chaz Dobias and Cole Dulas weighed more than 21 pounds of Vermilion walleyes, leading to victory for them in the 21st annual Safelite Walleye Classic, presented by First National Bank of Gilbert and Hoyt Lakes, and powered by Janisch Realty....on Saturday, May 16th, 2026, out of Fortune Bay Resort Casino on Lake Vermilion.

Dobias, of Nevis, and Dulas, from Bemidji, had a tournament-winning total weight of 21.39 pounds, including a big fish weighing 6.83 pounds. Topping the field earned Dobias and Dulas the first-place prize of \$20,000, thanks to another Friday night rules meeting dinner bonus offered up by First National Bank of Gilbert.

2nd place this year went to AJ Wiesner of Duluth and Dave Selle from Lino Lakes, just over two pounds back with a catch of 19.29 pounds. 3rd place honors went to Ryan Berg from Bloomington, and Grant Johnson of Inver Grove Heights, as they weighed 6 fish for a total of 15.13 pounds. Rounding out this year's Top 5 were Eric Idziorek of Monticello and Aaron Blair from Big Lake in 4th place with 13.41 pounds, while Nathan Lease of Brookings, SD and Hays Baldwin from Nisswa finished less than a quarter-pound back at 13.19 pounds.

A full field of 125 boats entered this year's tourney, held since 2006 on Lake Vermilion. A mild early morning, with temps in the 50's with light wind, gave way to a blustery day on the lake, making boat control tough. By the afternoon weigh-in, temps were in the low 50's, with wind and overcast skies. A total of 458 walleyes were weighed and released this year. 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 the largest fish going to Johnny Neisen of Woodbury and Mike Neisen from St. Paul with a 7.52 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 partner with the foundation, including Limitless Precision Machining, Anderson Auto Service, Electric Power Door, Artim Industrial Property, Stifel & Dana Pakkala in Virginia, and State Farm agent Mike Dahl from Cook.

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, which includes providing in-store and mobile service to the majority of Minnesota, and the industry's only national lifetime warranty.

This fall, fish the 2nd annual Safelite Legacy Challenge walleye tournament, presented by Limitless Precision Machining, and powered by Miners National Bank...Saturday, September 26th, also out of Fortune Bay on Lake Vermilion. The team with the highest combined catch from both tournaments will win the inaugural Marine General Cup!

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

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For more info, email foundation chair Red Lowen (red@vermiliontournaments.com)