

Berkseth & Wherley catch the Safelite Legacy Challenge title!

September 28th, 2026.....Wade Berkseth and Lawrence Wherley broke records on their way to capturing the 2nd annual Safelite Legacy Challenge, presented by Limitless Precision Machining, and powered by Miners National Bank....on Saturday, September 26th, 2026 out of Fortune Bay Resort Casino on Lake Vermilion.

Berkseth, from Superior WI, and his partner Wherley, from Ashland, WI, landed not only a tournament-record 11.37 pound walleye, but also a record 26.05 pounds of total weight for their six fish. Berkseth and Wherley topped the 2nd place team by nearly four and a half pounds, on their way to the grand-prize of \$15,000, big fish money, and the championship trophies.

2nd place went to Nathan Lease and Justin Cofell, both from Brookings, SD, with a total catch of 21.56 pounds. 3rd place finishers this year, as they were last year, were Allan Nistler of Dresser, WI and Marissa Mellum of Chisago City with 20.56 pounds. 4th place went to Evan Rosemore of North Branch and Steven Rosemore from Cloquet, with 17.90 pounds. Rounding out the Top 5 were Jordan Reeves of Kelliher and Trenten Juelson from Blackduck, champions from 2025, at 15.58 pounds.

A field of 77 boats entered the tournament, and enjoyed partly cloudy skies and temps in the 60's throughout most of the day on Lake Vermilion. A total of 322 walleyes were weighed and released, and more than \$40,000 in cash and prizes were awarded to the anglers, including cash pay-outs to the top 12 teams, the last-place team, and to the top three teams in the Big Fish contest.

Lease and Cofell took home the inaugural Marine General Cup, awarded to the team with the top combined weight from both the Safelite Legacy Challenge, and the spring Safelite Walleye Classic. The team's combined catch was 34.75 pounds. Marine General, on London Road in Duluth, also awarded 2nd and 3rd place prizes.

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 supported this fall tourney. Volunteers included Safelite employees and family members, youth from the Duluth Gospel Tabernacle, and additional family and friends.

Safelite is the nationwide leader in auto glass repair and replacement, providing convenient windshield rock-chip repair, high-quality windshield replacement, safety systems recalibration, and the industry's only national lifetime warranty.

Next on the tournament schedule, look for the 22nd annual Safelite Walleye Classic, on Saturday, May 22nd, 2027 out of Fortune Bay on Lake Vermilion. And remember next fall's Safelite Legacy Challenge, to be held Saturday, October 2nd, 2027.

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

#

For more information, contact tournament chair Red Lowen @ 218-966-3866, or red@vermiliontournaments.com