



By TJ Maglio

February 20, 2013

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ever between appearances and has allowed him an interesting perspective on what it means to qualify

for a chance at the ultimate prize.

"I've fished several other championships since my last Classic," Gluszek mentions, "But this one is

special. With all the time I've been spending in the industry and on the educational side of the sport, I

forgot how great it is to be a Classic qualifier."

So what kinds of things does Gluszek know now that he might not have in '99? "I really think it's all

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but also the pre-classic distractions like getting a wrap done and jerseys ordered. In '99, there were no

wraps and the event actually fished a lot more like any other tournament, so I'm glad I've had other

experiences in the interim.

Gluszek also cites his experience as the "Dean" of the Bass University as another thing that has helped

him prepare for the event. "I've been so busy running BU events all winter and that has probably helped

me keep the right level of focus on the event. It's definitely possible for an angler to put too much focus

into a tournament and then lose their perspective. Running the Bass University has also allowed me

to become more comfortable with crowds, the media, and the industry which will also make me more

comfortable once we get to Tulsa."

Preparation

Another difference between Gluszek in '99 and today is that has become a lot more relaxed and

focused, something he would have definitely pointed out if he could somehow speak to his younger-self

prior to the '99 event. "I would have told that kid to just relax and fish his strengths." Meaning that back

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the high-energy, jump all around the lake type of guy. I call it a relaxed intensity, by which I am able to

completely focus on the process, which in turn leads to my success.”

Gluszek’s maturity, confidence, and experience are not the only things that have changed in fourteen

years. The event and even the sport itself are significantly different, which resulted in a much different

practice strategy than he could have attempted years ago.

“It’s amazing how much different the actual tournament process is when you compare it to a decade

ago. There are so many resources out there that can help you before you even lay eyes on the

tournament waters. It used to be that you go fish to find your fish. With advances like Google Earth and

the internet, you can get past tournament results and figure out what to expect before you even get

there.”

Gluszek did take a scouting trip before the lake went off limits and spent several days scouting for likely

locations throughout a variety of possible conditions. “I really just idled around and used side imaging,

which is another tool we didn’t have in ’99. I thought my pre-practice went really well and I was able to

break the lake down into different cover types. I have a ton of structure marked.”

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heavily in the top-finisher's arsenals?

Not so fast, says Gluszek, "A lot of that talk was farther out when we thought we were gonna get an

extremely cold winter and that water temps would be in the 30's and 40's. Barring a massive cold front

between now and then, the water temps will likely be in the 50's somewhere, which I consider perfect

plastics weather."

Two GYCB staples that Gluszek plans to employ on Grand Lake are the Senko and the Double Tail Hula

Grub. "I've been throwing Senkos for almost as long as they've been around and it's a major confidence

bait for me. You can expect me to have at least a couple on the deck at the start of practice and with the

water being warmer than a lot of people thought, I anticipate Senkos will play more of a factor."

The Double Tail Hula Grub is also one of Gluszek's standbys and he plans to take a "real heavy - real

light" approach depending on the conditions. "If we get a cold front where the water temp is dropping;

that Hula Grub fished with really light weight is one of the best finesse baits out there. Contrastingly, if

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As far as color choice, Gluszek typically lets the water color make his choice for him, but as he found out

in pre-practice, Grand has water in almost any clarity you could ask for. “I was amazed at how diverse

the water color was when I was there the first time. I found some creeks that had some good color,

some that were slightly stained, and some that were pretty muddy, and that was during a relatively

stable weather period, so the whole spectrum of bait color is available for use.” Gluszek’s full array of

colors isn’t all that diverse though, and he says he’ll, “Be well stocked with blacks, green pumpkins, and

watermelons.”

Outlook

Overall, Gluszek feels about as confident as he can be going into the event, in part due to his maturation

and experience in previous tour level events, but also because he feels that he covered all his bases

during the months leading up to the derby. “If I do poorly in Tulsa, it won’t be because I didn’t put in

enough time studying maps, graphing structure, or planning my attack. I feel as prepared as I can be,

and as long as I fish with relaxed intensity and don’t try to get away from the things that work for me,

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Pete's practice on Grand Lakes looks promising.

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