

Press Release – January 23rd, 2006

Jaycees Report Extravaganza a Success

Anglers from as far away as Venezuela, China and Australia were among the 11,300 participants in the 16th Annual Brainerd Jaycees \$150,000 Ice Fishing Extravaganza held this past Saturday, January 21st.

Contest organizers had their hands full when they moved the contest from Gull Lake to Round Lake just two weeks prior. Logistical changes were many and the Jaycees are happy to report a smooth transition and a successful event.

The move to Round Lake had some concerned about the possibility of catching as many fish as in the past on Gull. It took only moments after the noon start to alleviate this concern as organizers watched the line at the weigh in tent grow to nearly 100 yards long. More than 1000 fish were registered by the time the cannon signaled the end of fishing at 3:00pm.

Volunteers from the local Walleye Alliance, T.I.P. and regional DNR assisted the Jaycees with handling fish and report good success in returning fish back to the lake. The fish caught ranged from mere inches to Jake Scherer's 1st place Tulibee that weighed 2.22 pounds. Scherer, of Foley, MN was awarded a Ford F-150 4X4 pickup as top angler.

Earning \$10,000 cash was Christopher Smith from St. Cloud, MN. His 0.38-pound perch matched the weight of five other anglers but due to the time registered, landed him in 100th place. Walleye, perch, crappie and tulibee made up the bulk of the fish registered. No northern pike or eelpout found their way to the scales this year.

Anglers were happy with Mother Nature who came through for them with just enough cold weather to meet the required 14 inches of ice. By the day of the event, close to 16 inches of ice covered the 250-acre fishing area on Round Lake.

The Jaycees were also happy with the turnout, which ranks as one of the highest in the Extravaganza's history, and are looking forward to donating the proceeds to charities. Seventy percent of the funds raised will benefit the camper's at Confidence Learning Center, an outdoor education and recreation facility for persons with disabilities. The remaining dollars will benefit an array of programs from the Brainerd Lakes Area. The Jaycees will announce donations once the tournament's financials are audited.

A complete listing of lucky anglers along with Extravaganza photo's can be found at www.icefishing.org. The date for next year's event has tentatively been set for January 27, 2007.