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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** Okay Alright, you can talk to me.

[00:00:06] **Speaker 2** Okay, yep. You want me to shut them shades?

[00:00:08] **Speaker 1** Nope, that's fine, they're not fun or anything. Alright, let's take me back to when you were a little kid. Did you grow up fishing? Was the family fishing, was that a part of your life from birth on basically? Oh yeah.

[00:00:20] **Speaker 2** Oh yeah, we started, oh gosh, as far as I can remember we were in diapers yet and there is one one little story that rings a bell is my brother Mikey. He liked to poop his pants a lot and it was in the springtime and that is one thing that I remember that he just grabbed him and dunk him right over the boat to wash his butt off. That's that's not a lie. If my brother was here right now, he would tell you yelp daddy did that So yeah, that is Yeah, we started pretty young and and actually where we were today That's in a pretty close in the same area is where we that that's where they fished back then in the Then this that would be in the 80s, you know that I can remember, you knows, so

[00:01:16] **Speaker 1** Was that trolling back then too?

[00:01:18] **Speaker 2** No, it was all jigging. It's kind of weird. Actually, our family was a jigging family up until, oh gosh, when I probably, I don't know, probably 16, 17. You know, I started tournaments when I was 17 with my dad, Wally Weekend. And then every, pretty much from there to now that it's been tournament time, you know, for me. So. Yeah, the laid-back fishing going out there is, that really doesn't consist, you know, assist in my world. You know, it's just competition all the time, you know, and it's hard to change that now.

[00:01:59] **Speaker 1** Yeah, when you think of people that say, oh yeah, just go out on the boat and have a few beers and relax, and if you catch some, get a bite, you know, I mean, that doesn't even register with you.

[00:02:10] **Speaker 2** Well, we still drink beer in the boat while we're fishing, you know, pre-fishing anyways. But yeah, it's fun. Either way, it is fun. Even if I'm out there, even like today, that we were just having fun, but I was actually still pre- fishing because I have a tournament this weekend. So there was a reason why, you know, but because I'm fishing tournaments every weekend. That's why it's, it's not just a leisure thing to go out there and do, you know. Yeah, I'm sure I will get that, you know, soon, you know, sometime soon. But no, but it's just, it s all tournaments for me these days, but

[00:02:57] **Speaker 1** Was it always walleye or were there other fish that you liked going for when you were young?

[00:03:02] **Speaker 2** Nope, just walleyes and sturgeon. That's it that everything else. I Mean, obviously you've seen today everything bit it doesn't matter, you know, obviously, you're catching whatever comes but but yeah targeting Yes walleye 100% Yep, I'm not a bass guy Not a not a hunter. What is that? 1001 casts or whatever they say with that musky stuff, but no no no patience for that at all and no patience for jigging anymore. But yeah, but jigging was, it was fun when we were younger. That was, we were pretty, we did pretty well at it. You know, we, my dad and I and my brother and my dad and my other brother, Jason, yeah, we jigged a lot, you know, a lot on Longpoint, you know. And we did very well. We took a lot of firsts, you know, always in the top, you know, jigging, but, but then I met some buddies like, oh boy, you in. Just a bunch of guys that, you know, Scott Schwartz and all them. Yeah, they're all trollers, you know, and they always have been trollers. And yeah, so I kind of jumped on that wagon with them and yeah, and I do pretty well, I'm not bragging, but I do pretty well doing that. So yeah, that's where I'm at now.

[00:04:19] **Speaker 1** So, you said you started tournaments when you were 17. Was that in part because that was when you realized, hey, I'm pretty good at this? Or was that just there were enough tournaments available?

[00:04:30] **Speaker 2** Oh yeah, there was a lot of bar, actually at that time it was pretty much just walleye weekend if I remember right. Maybe out of street, but a lot a local bar tournaments on the east side here. I mean we had quite a few of them. So and my dad always was a big fisherman when he was a little boy because my grandpa, you know, they did a lot perch fishing too. And oh, we did too when we were kids with my grandpa. You know, before tournament days, but and that was always fun. As we always. We'd always joke around with them and, you know, tie a line on their line and then sit up in the front of the boat and jerk it like they got a bite and they'd be like them little sons of bitches, you know, and yeah, I remember all them days, but yeah, that was fun. But yeah, it's. Yeah, if I could go back, I wouldn't mind. It was fun. It was fine.

[00:05:27] **Speaker 1** So then as you got older, how did you find that balance between having to work and having to fish, and just like where did fishing fall in terms of like priorities for life?

[00:05:40] **Speaker 2** Yeah, well, if you ask my family and my brother, yeah, the priorities went over to fishing a little bit more, especially to last, you know, probably five years, you know, we're getting older. You know, plus we own our own business, that's a little bit easier, you don't for guys to take off to go pre-fishing. But there's sometimes where we don't pre-fish and we do very well. We just we like to the wind, you know, there's a bunch of times that... We don't even go out there, or even if we did go pre-fish, we don't go to that spot because of the wind direction. Win a bagel, you gotta play the wind as best as you can, you know. And there's times where, yeah, like I said, we didn't even pre-fish that spot. Like last year, my son goes, where are we going today? I said I don't know, wait till we get out to the buoys. Let's do that. So, and I said okay, we're going up by Mud Creek. Did you pre- fish that? Nope. And we ended up taking third. So it's all wind stuff with that.

[00:06:46] **Speaker 1** Obviously, there's a lot of, there is an element of equipment, there is an elements of knowledge, and there is element of luck. How do you balance all that?

[00:06:57] **Speaker 2** Wow. Boy, that's a tough one. Yeah, there's definitely luck in it. That's hands down, it's gotta be. I mean, obviously you've seen that today. That just doesn't happen. That was pure luck today, but. I would say, I mean, yeah, you got to be good at it to even, even have a chance. And I don't know if that makes sense, but you got to be, good at to have a change to be lucky. I don't know if it makes sense or not, but yeah, yeah. You just got to, in it's years of experience, you gotta have that. You know, I don't expect anybody just to go out there right now, you know, that hasn't fished in golden catch fish because it's tough. For the pros and, you know, the guys that grew up on the lake, you know, especially Lake Winnebago, everybody knows that one. It's, it's just hit and miss, you know, one day they're there, one day they are not, you know, that's normal for here. But yeah, yeah, you gotta, you gotta have experience, experience for this, you know, to, to do it. And it, and it comes, you know, too competitive part of it is where the experience comes in. The more you do, the more you learn. And the more, you know, the more you learned because you're struggling to get, if you're to catch fish, you're going to do different techniques, blah, blah blah, back, you know, and then you just, that's all you learn, you know to be better. So luck is just, luck just falls into play. You know, what luck means is if, to me. Okay. So, so it's totally different when you're not pre or when you pre-fishing. Okay. Um, like today, that fish or any fish, any day you could, when we're pre-fish and we don't like the net, so we're just hanging it out because there's a boat next to you, so, we're, just hanging on to that fish until they're looking away and you go down and grab it instead of netting it and you can, and that fish will stay on, but in a tournament that does not happen at all. It's hard to even get them like like last week and my partner Mikey and I we fished the aim series and Yeah, two of them two of the 20 inchers. They got off immediately when I netted them. It was like That and it was they were gone. They were already in a net or off in the net. That's lucky You know, but yeah, but that yeah, it's you got to have a lot of luck

[00:09:35] **Speaker 1** Well, when you look at the difference between taking first or taking third, is that difference often luck or is that more skill? And then is it more skill that plays out in the fact that you took third and third and third and third like every time you're consistent

[00:09:51] **Speaker 2** when you're consistent. Yeah, yep. Usually...

[00:09:58] **Speaker 1** Like if you have a good day out of the boat and you think, oh, we've got a good basket here and you're coming in and you end up third, are you like, oh that guy's got luckier than me or is it just that's how it goes?

[00:10:10] **Speaker 2** That's just how it goes. That's the name of the game there. Who catches is the biggest or a bigger one. But yeah, if you're always in the top 15, you know, depending, in the bigger tournaments, if you are in the Top 15, you're doing pretty, you should be proud of yourself. Definitely, 100%. I mean, because you're, you know mostly the main tournaments that we always fish, you're fishing against the big dogs. You know, the ones that are pro, pro fishermen, that's all they do. That's their job. I can't consider myself a pro fisherman because I got a job. I still got to work. So, um, you know, yeah, maybe in a few years when I retire, that, that's that, uh, that option is up on the table for that and guiding and stuff like that. But yeah, no, you should be definitely proud of yourself. If you, if you're in the top 15, you know, especially out of the 300 tournament boats, you know, even if you make the top 50 out of 300, 350, that that's very good. You're doing, you're doing excellent, you know, and if you do it year after year after year, you don't, which, you know, that happens, you know, That's, yeah, that's going back to that other being luckier experience. Like that's, that all experience for sure. You know, you know what you're doing, you know, everything's got to come play together. Yeah, I would say experience all day long, but...

[00:11:38] **Speaker 1** So we've seen you in the bowl. You see it's starting to fish on there. At what point are you most excited versus most nervous or anxious? There's a lot of emotions in that whole maybe three-minute sequence.

[00:11:54] **Speaker 2** Yeah, yep. Well, the first thing that when I get It's when the board goes back and how the board goes back, and how it reacts. Then, because I pretty much know what it's gonna be. That's when I get that's when i start you know start wheeling it in and then that board's popping a wheelie and Help and it's just laying back there and all it's solid weight and that that's When I start getting nervous, you know, hey, hey you know and then we're talking to each other and Oh, yeah, you, know don't screw this one up, you Know and Whatever, but it stuff happens, you Know and it happened to me, you Know a couple of well a few times it happens to everybody Where you where you miss a fish or you hit it with the net on the outside and gets hooked in the crank And then yeah, yeah, there were tough times when that happens, but yeah, other than that.

[00:12:47] **Speaker 1** As you're bringing it in, are you getting more and more anxious before you're about to net it? Or are you more and excited once you can finally get a sense of, oh, it's close, now it's starting to pull down?

[00:12:58] **Speaker 2** Yeah, oh yeah. Yeah, then I get then I really get nervous like what like today when that fish was just going to want to go down, down, and down. Normally that doesn't happen in deep water like that. That like that intense. I mean, that was I haven't really seen that a whole lot. Unless we're in shallow water three feet because you can only go so far down you get they go out. But yeah, that's when I get that's, when I start getting nervous. Yeah. But yeah.

[00:13:25] **Speaker 1** When do you actually get excited?

[00:13:28] **Speaker 2** Oh, when the fish is on the floor, and then I got a little issue where I get a little too nervous, and I and I start dry heaving a little bit here and there, you know, everybody knows that, all my partners. And actually that happened last week and when we had them 220s, because that one was really fat. It looked like a 23, 24, but it was only 21 and three quarter, but really girthy. Yeah, yeah, oh yeah, I started gagging a little bit there. But yeah, that's when I get nervous. Yep, and then I start shaking a little but. Number of good times, that's when I'm pumped up, when that happens, you know, any time, actually. Especially in a tournament, that doesn't really happen when I am pre-fishing, it's just when you're competing, today is the day, no screw-ups, pay attention, you know, that is where the nerves kick in.

[00:14:23] **Speaker 1** And has that changed over the years? I mean, the reaction that we see, is that any different from you today than it was when you were 17 or 20 or 30?

[00:14:33] **Speaker 2** Oh, yeah. Yeah, that's a little different. Yeah. That's a little different, yeah, that does. This probably didn't start really kicking in till about probably about, I don't know, 10, maybe 10, 15 years ago, when my partner and I stoned the one that passed away. We were getting we were hitting tournaments pretty, pretty hard. We're, we were going all over, get all kinds of different states and stuff. And we were, we're getting into it pretty heavy. And Yeah, that's when it was when everything was getting more intense, you know, and more nerve wracking, more money involved into it. Yeah, pretty much. No, it wasn't my whole life. No, I was more calmer and 17, probably 17 to 30 for sure. I was. So that's, that's yeah, but now, now it's, nothing will change now, no more. I don't think I'll be able to calm down anymore, but it's. But it's the drive. I love it. I love. I told, I, I thought I was going to quit a few times because of different, uh, situations going on in my life, but no, they, all my buddies, all my fishing, uh, buddies. It's in your blood, Junior. You're gonna, that's it. You're in it. You're never gonna quit until, until you're done. You know, until your dead. It's just gonna, that's the way you are. You know? And it's like, yeah, it's hard. It's hard, but it's just the way it's gonna be. And I like it, so.

[00:16:10] **Speaker 1** So tell me about your old partner. He's a relative, right?

[00:16:15] **Speaker 2** Yeah, like second cousin. Yeah. Yep. He grew up in St. Cloud, Wisconsin And I well I grew up and played pipe pipe, Wisconsin, so

[00:16:27] **Speaker 1** So when did you start fishing with him regularly?

[00:16:30] **Speaker 2** Yeah, that's probably, I don't know, it'd be about 18, give or take. I was thinking about that and it's so hard to remember because we fished so many times together. Because I actually lived with them too also. It's got to be right around 18, 20 years that we fish together and we did a lot of, yeah, we did lot of tournaments and we were a pretty good team. We were kind of unstoppable. It was tough to beat us. And the reason, you know, we always were thinking what each person was thinking. Each other was thinking, you know, if I was thinking of a color of a bait, he already had it on or vice versa. And I'd ask him, did you do this? That's already out there. Or did you, did you put a bottom on? So it's on the first board, you know, and I wouldn't even, cause I'm paying attention what I'm doing. And we just know each other and fished like we were brothers or like we were, I should say like we were twins. Like, we're thinking everything identically the same, and it's kind of creepy, but that's just how it went, you know, and I lost the best partner ever, I mean, and everybody knows that, you know, he was best friends with everybody, you, know, but he was a good guy, but, and then cancer came along, and he wasn't doing good for, you know, a few years, and, then it was going away, and all of a sudden, You know, that would have been three years ago now. Yeah, he was passed, two years ago, he passed away on February 18th, if I remember right. And then... Yeah, then it came back. Cause he had a spot in between his heart and his lung. And yeah, that just, that took him. Yeah, that was, they can't cure that one no more. But yeah, he had, at first he had lymph node and then all of his, you know, that was doing better, you now, and they pretty much had it gone, if I remember right, but. Yeah, then all of a sudden this one, this one came about and I crushed it because it was too close to his heart. And, you know, that was sad. That was sad, that's hard.

[00:18:49] **Speaker 1** Were you still able to fish with him in those last few years?

[00:18:53] **Speaker 2** Not I think two years prior, if I remember right, two years prior that we actually did, yes, yep, yes we did. Because we had a fishing tournament in Saginaw Bay. And he still went. He was feeling OK. But his arms, they were pretty tough on him. Buh-Dah! Um, what was I going to say? Yeah, so we knew about the spot before this and he was a pretty quiet guy. He didn't, he didn't say a whole lot and he didn, he didn't bitch, he, didn't uh, um, how do you say that? Uh, want anybody to feel sorry for him? He just, even though he was in so much pain, he just acted like he wasn't in pain, you know, but that, yeah, I think that, I think that was pretty much the last tournament. Yeah. And actually we, and it sucks. And now looking back at that, I wish we missed the ring. We were in a, I think it was an NWT, NTC or something like that. And we missed a ring. Um, it was by like three or four ounces. And that would have been, that would've been super nice. You know, we didn't know that was the last tournament for him, but it was so close. You know we took 26 and we had to be in 25th, you know, and that's out of, I think there was, I don't even know how many boats was in that, 400 or something. And it was on a, and it was, on a It's, which bay was I on again? Uh, yeah, that was up in, up in Michigan, upper Michigan or whatever. So, yeah. That was, uh, and we never fished it before. And we went out there just talking to people, going to different bars, you know, when we went for supper, talking to them and bullshitting with them, trying to get a little bit of information here and there and stuff. And, and it worked. It, it was, yeah and we did pretty well, you know, and never fishing in. Hundred, two hundred feet, or three hundred feet and put, you know, pulling them out of there. It's pretty neat. Then you got to fizzle them, and you got take a, you have to get a needle because they're, they're they're air sacks that are inside their belly. They'll blow up and it'll kill the fish because you can't kill, you know, they got to be alive. So then you got a take a needle. You just go to your local, you know, hospital and just get little needles and then you seven over and seven up scales, you know, from the butt, seven over, and then seven up. And then you poke it in, but you have to have it underneath the water. And then, you just rub the belly, and then the bubbles come right out. And then just like that, that fish is upside down. It flips right back over, like it's brand new life. Yeah, it's pretty neat. It's a whole different extreme up there, just like South Dakota, that's a different character up there. That's deep water, but. Yeah, you pull them out of there, you got to do that too.

[00:22:09] **Speaker 1** After he passed, what was that like for you to have to try and go back out there without him and know that that partner was gone?

[00:22:16] **Speaker 2** Well, that was that was one of the things I was saying before situations where that I didn't want to do it no more. But I know that he wanted me to quit, you know, because that's what we love. But it was tough. It was tough, it was super tough. And all my friends were supportive and helped me out. Kick me in the, kick me an ass a little bit, and hey. You got to get, you know, we understand, you know, it's hard. And it was hard, super hard, but no, I got back in it. And, and actually I still have Stone's ashes in my boat. So he's with me every day, you know, and there's times where my son and I, you know, were going and we're doing good or whatnot. And he just opened up the, he'd open up the glove box so Stone could watch, you know, or just making little jokes, you Usually every tournament that we're in, either whoever I'm fishing with, Mikey Blank, Scott Schwartz, you know, my buddies. You know, all my buddies, when we go out there, we always, we got two, actually we got two good buddies that passed away, Louie Voight and Jason Gable also, but every time we go, we always look up when we're on the way out, you now, hey, come on boys, get us a couple today, you no? And in a... That is luck, but it seems to be helping a little bit. So that matters. But yes, we pray to them pretty much every day I go out in that lake, especially during the tournament. That's, we're always talking about them. Stories will never die, never, ever, ever. They're talked about a lot. By different people in different bars, you know, you remember so-and-so and, you know, yeah, yeah all the good times. But yeah, that was tough. That, that, that it was super tough to get back in the boat, you know, cause then you sit there and then you look over and he's not there or he's now telling me to do what, what we did for years, you I'm really sorry. Okay. Like my son, you know, maybe tell me to do this, you know, cause you know it's a, it was a hundred percent total different change. You know, yes. My son knows what he's doing fishing. I taught him that he, nothing wrong with them. You know? Very good. All my buddies are good. They're, they're all pro fishermen. They're all, I love them all, you know? No, that was tough. But I'm over that. I'm over that now, you know.

[00:25:11] **Speaker 1** Well, it seems like it's mostly the good, the good memories.

[00:25:15] **Speaker 2** Yeah. And we really didn't have no, I mean, a few times we, we yelled at each other, but it was, you catch a fish and then your fist pumping. That just went away. That went bye bye. We forgot about that. Or we'd have a beer and then, oh yeah, you know, no, we're having fun, whatever. Yeah. No, it's, yeah, they're, like I said earlier, that he was a quiet guy. I mean when I first met him and when I first asked him to fish a tournament with me. And it was the MTCMWC, actually that plaque is out there, so then I can tell you exactly, but the year. He owned a bar. He owned the bar. It was called Fat Boys in St. Cloud, Wisconsin, and I walked into the bar, and he's a pretty quiet guy. So he just sits down, he's just, he minds his own business, whatever, and i sat next to him, and then he, I remember him looking over at me, he goes, what's up? And I said, what is going on today? Just got done with work, whatever. Blah, blah, blah. I said I got a question for you. He goes, What's that? He goes well, would you like to like like to start fishing with me? Tournaments and stuff and I said there's one coming up and it's a big one just wondering if you'd want to be interested and he goes Well, give me a few days. I'll think about it and Yeah, we drank it He didn't say another word after that every drank the beer had a couple beers whatever and I left and then he called Me a couple days later, and he says yeah, let's do it. You know and And then we had a few sponsors. I asked my uncle Dave Berger. He owns Dave Mark Metals and yeah, he sponsored us and a couple other team, you know, like river house. He was always my sponsor and then Yeah, we ended up fishing that tournament and we and we did we did pretty well for the first time fishing together We actually took six plays that I do remember Yeah, that's pretty much when it started. Then we were hooked. Then we went out and got a bunch of sponsors, Mercury, you name it, all over the place and that's how that ended up, us fishing together. So that was pretty cool.

[00:27:34] **Speaker 1** One of the things that we're interested in is the relationships that exist in the book, that are created in the books, whether it's between cousins or spouses or friends, but there's a different relationship that comes out of people that spend that time.

[00:27:52] **Speaker 2** Yeah. Oh, yeah. You come closer and closer, you know, the more time you spend, you know, and relate. And, and I guess it doesn't matter who anybody's with, you know, you're out, you having fun, you out fishing, you know. Yeah, there's times where you know you dumb, you know, it's just, it, it is what it is. But family, you know, I always fish with family. That's, that's all the time, you are my whole family fishes. And, uh, no, it's just. Yeah, between friends and family, it's about the same for me. I treat everybody the same, you know. I don't yell too much. I don't even yell at my guys at work. It's not me. You know, we always have fun out there. I mean, and obviously, you've seen that a few times. And then there's always stuff that happens. It seems to happen to me, but yeah. But it makes it interesting. I love it. Yeah, it's always, I love having family out on the boat. You know, my son, this year I didn't get to fish with him too much. Um, uh, I fish with my partner, um, Kevin Schaefer majority this week, but, or this year, but next year I'll fish more with my son. Yeah, because he's been fishing with other guys and the little, the little poop. He's, he's, He beat me a few times, but, but he's he's got to remember who taught him and who showed him the spots where to go. So, yeah, but eat, he always, he gives me a little hard time on that, but I'm just proud of him, you know, cause when I can't do it no more, he is going to take my spot and I want him to be like I was, you know, definitely a hundred percent, you know, but and I hope he gets his daughter into it. Also, Addison, yeah, I just, I hope it keeps going on. Like my brother, Jason, my brother Jason, he's got, he's has got how many kids, you know, and they all like to fish too. You know, so the Gable name, yeah. We're keeping, we got kids out there that hopefully it will take our spots someday. So.

[00:30:08] **Speaker 1** Yeah. We've heard there are obviously some husband and wife teams that are people that fish together, and there's plenty of where it's a couple of friends or siblings or something. When it comes to relationships, how do you manage a relationship when your spouse or your partner doesn't wanna fish? Would it be possible for you to date someone who is like, or is that a conflict sometimes when they're like, well, why are you married to the boat?

[00:30:40] **Speaker 2** All right, well, you're asking the right guy that question. Yeah, that's pretty much the story of my life. Why I'm single now, most, yeah, most of my, well, two main relationships, yeah. I was fishin' too much, constantly goin' out of states and stuff, you know, and like my partner Stone, he didn't, he had one bad relationship and that person happened to. Do a lot of stuff wrong and you know she ended up you know passing away so he never dated anybody else after that that was and that was way when he was younger and after that he was always single so then when I moved in with him after I got divorced from my first relationship yeah so it was always me and him I mean we did everything together and it wasn't and it's not Like, we were just partners, not any funny stuff. We were just... We were just good buddies and that's it, you know, and we fished, we hunt all the time. That's all we did. So it was kind of hard to get a girlfriend, which I did get a girlfriend, but that didn't end up, you know, yeah, there I was gone too much. Way too much, you Yeah And all these other, you know, and I got partners and I know people, which I'm not going to say their names, that went through, went through and recently went through divorces because of that reason that we're fishin' too much. And it's tough. It's tough to keep a relationship, you now, I'm actually... I would like to be in a relationship with this one now, but, um, and, and if I was, I would definitely, cause this one, I really, really love this one. I would probably quit a lot of the tournaments or give up, you know, a majority of them. I won't be fishing every weekend, not even close. I just do the bigger ones, few of the bigger one's out here and maybe a couple of bar tournaments and that's good. You know, you got to keep mama happy. That's Boys, I got to tell you that. You got to keep them happy because it doesn't end well, you know. And I seen that on Facebook the other day. Just a meme. And it had a half a boat. She got my other half. It was funny but, yeah. So, yeah, when it comes to relationships and fishing. If you want to keep your relationship. You better not do what I do. That's all I got say.

[00:33:23] **Speaker 1** Find a way to get him in the boat with you.

[00:33:24] **Speaker 2** Yes, yes. And yes, I would love that. But it's just hard to find. It's hard to find one like that. They just don't fall out of the sky like that, you know. That's just the way it goes. I mean, and yes, there is a lot of guy-girl teams, husband-wife teams. Yeah, and that's awesome. I wish that was me, you know, but I didn't find the right one for that one yet, you and I don't think the one that I want or that I do love right now is doesn't really want, she likes boarding. She loves boarding, but. That's that's about it and swimming and stuff like that, you know

[00:34:02] **Speaker 1** A different intensity that's not required to work with you on that.

[00:34:06] **Speaker 2** Yeah, yeah, you got to have the drive a little bit, because otherwise it just probably won't work, you know. That's where we're getting arguments, and that's no fun. You know, I hate arguing, especially with women. I hate it. You know that's just not my gig, you.

[00:34:23] **Speaker 1** So have you, this kind of may sound like a weird question, but have you tried online dating? Have you done it before? No, no. Do you know guys that have done it? Oh yeah. Okay.

[00:34:33] **Speaker 2** Yeah. And it's actually worked, it's some of my buddies, uh, actually one, one that's coming tonight, Dave Bose. He, he just went through a, uh divorce also and, uh he, yeah, he online and yeah, he's already, he already found one already that, that he's, he really, really likes, you know, and, and like my buddy Scott up North, um, he meant, he met his. Soon-to-be-wife here. I think they've been together for eight years or something now. It meant, I don't even know what site it was, but it was an online dating one. Yeah, and it worked for him. There's a bunch of guys I know that it worked, but I'm just not... No, I like the one that I'm after right now and I'm never going to quit.

[00:35:19] **Speaker 1** No, I guess the question there is, do they actually post a picture of them with a fish? Because we talk to a lot of women who have a lot very strong feelings about guys on dating sites with a picture. Oh, bet. Are you aware of whether, if you were going to do something or one of your friends, would you say, oh yeah, get that nice one at the big wall?

[00:35:45] **Speaker 2** I guess, I don't know if that's a turn on or turn off for them on a dating site. Yeah, yeah. Oh, the guys, oh, soy fishes, nope. Scroll to the left. So I don't think I would probably do that, just because of my prior relationships. It just doesn't work with a fish. So obviously I better not do that.

[00:36:11] **Speaker 1** Do most guys have pictures of them smiling without a fish or is it on all of them?

[00:36:20] **Speaker 2** Oh yeah there's a lot of yeah guys with pulling fish oh my god yeah there are tons of them just yeah that's what we're supposed to do you know but

[00:36:30] **Speaker 1** I mean, how many pictures do you have of yourself where you're smiling and you're not holding a face?

[00:36:35] **Speaker 2** Oh my lord. Oh, how many times? Say that again?

[00:36:40] **Speaker 1** Do you have pictures of yourself where you're smiling, but you're not willing to fish? Oh yeah. Are the only, like, the most of the smiling pictures of you, like we want to...

[00:36:50] **Speaker 2** Oh, no, no. No, I smile. Yeah, no I smile in other pictures. Yeah, oh, I see what you're getting at. That was funny. No, no no. I'm always, I'm usually a pretty happy guy all the time. Yeah, that's, no but I, yeah, I really do smile a lot when I'm holding a fish. Oh, for sure. Yeah. Because that's you know, yeah. And how can't you, like all the fish that I have in my garage up on the wall, how can you not smile when you, when you got them on the end of your line and And they're fighting and it's crazy, it's intense, it is what we do. And then, yeah, and then you're high-fiving in the boat. That's when I'm really smiling, but no, I do smile, otherwise. Yeah. And if I ever did do that on line dating, which I won't, I'm sure I'd probably put a picture of smiling in there, but yeah.

[00:37:43] **Speaker 1** So as far as. Do people who don't fish walleye understand what it is about walleye, or why are walleye like the fish?

[00:37:56] **Speaker 2** Well, it's just how you got brought up. You know, there's guys that bass fish that, they can't stand while I, that's what they do, is just bass. Yeah, I think that's just how you get brought up, because I'm sure I'd be bass fishing if my dad was a bass fisherman, right? I'm guessing. But in it, also who your friends are, who you grow up with. You wanna be with them also and hang out with them and that's what they do, that's you do. That's just the way you do it. But yeah, that what it, yeah, yeah. It's just how you got brought up, I'm guessing. That's how that works.

[00:38:37] **Speaker 1** But for you, why didn't you switch to bass at some point? They fight more. There's people who, you know, muskier, bigger, you can catch more pants.

[00:38:47] **Speaker 2** Yeah, well while I, yeah, while I are bigger, bigger than Bass, you know, than being a Bass guy, and obviously Muskies are bigger than that, but if you've got the patience for Muskie, which I have, absolutely not. Walleye are like in the middle, that's like, you're getting every excitement, every, everything out of a walleye, you know, you get the, you get the fighting, which I know you get fighting in bass, but the bass, you know, yeah, you can catch 10 pound bass, but that's just, you know, I just don't get excited over that, you know, but, you know, coming from other people's, how they think, you for me to tell people that. Walleye is dead center that You get every everything out of a walleye, you know you get You get you get the action you get to the pullbacks you get that you get there's there's so much more Yeah, you don't get a wall I jumping out of the water like a bass That's how we know when bass are on all the time. They jump out. You know, and it's like yeah, but Yeah, no, I would it's you know, it's hard to say you know about that, but

[00:40:03] **Speaker 1** And you've got a sink for the walleye behind us, right?

[00:40:06] **Speaker 2** Yes, yes, you know

[00:40:07] **Speaker 1** That was that eerie wall I then...

[00:40:09] **Speaker 2** Oh, yeah. Yep. Them are all your eerie walleye. Yep, yeah, that's that's the other thing with us, you know What I mentioned that earlier With us we always us tournament fishermen. We always like to keep the walleyes in the lake. We I Don't hardly know any of my buddies and I know a lot of them, you Know because fishing tournaments you you learn to know a Lot that actually keep them because most of these guys most of my guys almost all of my guys. We go to Erie because Erie, they want you to take them fish, you know, because there's so many, I mean, there's there's millions of them, you now, so they need you to take them out. We always like to keep in our local lakes and lakes that, you know, that we're trying to make better. You know, we put them back. So yes, all them walleyes that we keep are from are from Erie for sure.

[00:41:02] **Speaker 1** So what is it about a walleye fish fry that makes it so special?

[00:41:08] **Speaker 2** Well, it's when you, yeah, when you get your guys together, all your teammates and stuff, and wish we could do it more, more often, but yeah, it is the camaraderie, it, you know, everybody's, we're gonna be sitting out there talking, you know talking, fishing stories, and I'm sure talking about what happened today, and you know and all the past, you know with Stone, and it's, and we're all together, and we are just, you now. Even though we're just, we're friends, to me it's more like family. We're all family no matter what. I don't care if you got the last name or if we're a cousin or not. To me, we are friends, we were family. That's my brother. All my brothers. And it's fun just to get everybody together. We always play bags or we have cocktails and talk smart and yeah, it's, it' fun, it fun.

[00:42:06] **Speaker 1** So one of the other things that we're looking at is the amount of research that the state is doing right now. The DNR, Glyphwick, and the universities, they're looking, there's groups like Wall Ice for Tomorrow and some other volunteer groups. They're spending so much money to try and figure out where walleye are declining, how we can get more walleye or to raise walleye to put back in the lakes or figuring out what's the best possible way to do all this docking. What's the best way to keep a fish alive if you do plan to catch and release? There's a lot of money being spent on that oh yeah is there a justification that it's worth it or if oh yeah decline that it would just be you fish for something else

[00:42:49] **Speaker 2** Oh, no, it's definitely worth it. I mean, they're doing their job. That is for sure, you know, especially with the walleye. Like this year, oh my gosh, there's so many little fry walleyes out there that made it that... This year it's insane out there how many walleyess, you know, and when we're out there trolling, it looks like we're in eerie. You can go out in the mud and the arcs on your screens are just like in eery. No, they're- They're definitely a hundred percent doing their job, you know, with walleye, with, um, restocking it with, with food, you know, there's abundance of that out there this year. And then especially with sturgeon spear and that's. That is doing very, very well. They, I give them 100% credit on that. That is, they're doing their research, they're doin' their, you know, their nettin', you know their restockin', you know it's amazing. You know, I gotta give it to them. You know there's a few things I disagree with, you know which we talked about today a little bit, you know with puttin' on a limit, you know cause a lot of. A lot of locals keeping them little guys, you know, and that isn't helping our system out at all. But, but otherwise, other than that, yeah, no, I agree.

[00:44:10] **Speaker 1** Like, there'd be something lost if while I... Oh, I got it.

[00:44:12] **Speaker 2** Oh god, if they didn't do, if the universities and all these places, the DNR and all of them, if they didn t do this, oh no, that lake wouldn't be nothing. Nothing at all. Or even, any lake. It doesn't matter. Any lake. I mean, because obviously, like in Erie, holy cow, they can't even keep up with them, you know. But yeah, yeah, no, they're definitely doing their job. I can, I can tell you that. I have nothing against them guys. Just on a few little issues, you know, that could be easily taken care of. But yeah. But otherwise, yeah. They're definitely doin' their job, yeah

[00:44:46] **Speaker 1** But as far as like the need for to do this, like Walleye has a place in Wisconsin as far in society and culture.

[00:44:59] **Speaker 2** Yeah, that's that's like the king of the fish and, well, besides sturgeon in Wisconsin, that that's just. That's just the fish you fish. Well, that you should fish anyways, you know, because they're fun. They're fun to catch, you now. And they're hard to catch too. You know, they're finicky, especially out in Winnebago. Yeah, day by day, like I was saying, but.

[00:45:25] **Speaker 1** It's like they're the right balance of skill required to do it, but then the size is the reward.

[00:45:30] **Speaker 2** Yeah, the sizes are the reward. I mean, it's that the size out here is definitely coming back You're catching a lot of 20s. I'm in nurse 28 sirs 29 Actually, my partner stone and I you know, I think we got like if I remember right like three 28s out there We got a 29 and one just shy of 30 The one tournament that we were that we we're in It was it was called monkeys tournament. It's on the west side It's Mikey blanks uncle passed away. That was a long time ago already and we they do a memorial every year not no more but That that one year we had we came in with 28 pounds That's the most that the most set we've ever the best we've every done for like just I want to bagel That's unheard of you know to do you know and that that's real pounds That's not aim aim scale or nothing like that because aim scale. That's a total different You know, if you get 30 pounds, you pretty much got like 22 or 23 pounds, just because of how they got it calculated out, you know, between, between length and pounds. So, but yeah, no, they're doing good. The system is doing, it's on fire right now, you know, and I just hope it keeps up. There's a weight on plenty of bait. Uh, the minnows and the, uh, the white, or the, the white or not white perch, but the perch minnow's there. They came back and I don't know how they came into the system, but yeah, there's tons of them all over like during like during sturgeon spirit and holy cow, you can see if you're using a Down view panoptics or live scope, whatever you got You can just see the whole bottom and you're dead still because obviously you're not moving on ice So the whole bottle is just moving isn't it's all It's all bait. I mean them fish the fish are healthy, you know, the one today we got was a little bit skinnier, but You know, most of them that we're catching out there, they're fat, you know, they're doing, yeah, the restocking, what they're doing, they are definitely doing a very, very good job.

[00:47:37] **Speaker 1** For people that don't fish, do you think they understand how much money goes into the economy through fishing? Through fishing? We were at the tournament with you, just walking through the parking lot.

[00:47:50] **Speaker 2** Hundreds of thousands and millions, or actually millions of dollars is sitting in a parking lot. No, you take a big tournament. Each boat is $100,000 and there's a $300,000. Oh, that's just in boats. Now you got equipment, now you got trucks. Now you've got, yeah, there's millions and millions. It's crazy what a guy puts into it. Do you have to do that? Absolutely not. You could just, and that doesn't make you me or better than you if you go out there with just a 16 foot puddle jumper. That's fine, I'm not, you can go out there and catch them same fish, you know, it's who you are, you know. Do you want to fish tournaments? A lot of people don't, you know, or they're older or they, you know, they just want to go out and have fun. Yeah, you don't need a boat like that to do that, you know, but there is a lot of money that flies around. I mean, all the bait shops, everything, bait. It's crazy. If you would take fishing away, period, or the DNR would just shut it down and say no, that would be a huge, huge mistake. That hurt the economy, something fierce. Like, something bad would probably happen if that would happen, you know. So, and I don't even, I don't see that in the future, ever.

[00:49:20] **Speaker 1** No, but if fishing declined because they weren't doing enough to keep enough fish there.

[00:49:25] **Speaker 2** Yeah, that would definitely hurt, yeah.

[00:49:28] **Speaker 1** I feel like it's worth to spend the money.

[00:49:29] **Speaker 2** Yeah, are you saying if they didn't do what they did? Yeah. Yeah. Well, then no, we would it would be gone Oh, definitely. I wouldn't want to go out there fishing for nothing, you know, or or very few You know that that'd be pretty tough

[00:49:44] **Speaker 1** It would be harder for some of the people to justify the new boat and all the... Oh yeah.

[00:49:47] **Speaker 2** Oh, yeah. Yeah, because nowadays they don't get boats away no more. I mean, your average boat is a buck, you know, 120 to 150,000. You know, that's hard to swallow.

[00:50:01] **Speaker 1** Is it easier for you if you don't add up how much you spent on fishing?

[00:50:04] **Speaker 2** Oh, we don't talk about that stuff. Yeah. Yeah, but I actually I couldn't talk about it because I don't have I don't have a wife so I really don't care but yeah but otherwise no no I wouldn't I didn't wouldn't bring that stuff up too much about the past with that because I I could be retired way a long time ago already if that was the case because I bought enough boats I don't even know how many I don t know but Would I give it back, or how would I say that, would I take it back?

[00:50:37] **Speaker 1** Would you trade it?

[00:50:38] **Speaker 2** No, no, I think I'd keep it the same. I don't know. No, I'm glad I did what I did You know, yeah, I give my dad crap. You're my buddies. I talk about my dad. It's like It's all because of you, it's all your fault that I, yup, that I'm divorced and I gotta spend all this money on fishing, yup, thanks dad, you know, I appreciate it a lot, you know and. Yup, no problem son, I'm here for you all day. You know, but.

[00:51:06] **Speaker 1** Could've just golfed or got into woodworking.

[00:51:08] **Speaker 2** Yeah, no, golf is not my, that is one thing I can't stand, hitting a ball and going to chase after it and picking it up and hitting it again and then chasing after it, not my gig. No, and a lot of my buddies do, and they ask me to go along, well, you just be the cart, drive the beer around and stuff, you know, and it's like, just that whole thing doesn't, it doesn't turn me on at all. Sorted. It's mainly hunting and fishing, that's pretty much what I do, you know, all I shoot pool. We shot pools since we were little. We always had a pool table in our basement, so we were pretty decent at pool, our family is too, so we're in leagues and stuff. That's another thing, you know, you're gone every once or once or twice every every week at night, you know, old ladies don't like that neither, you know, so it's. Yeah, so it's pretty, if you want to keep a relationship, you might as well just quit it all and stay home if you want to have a loving one anyways, unless she likes to fish and do all that stuff, you know, that's, hey, getty up, that more power to you. You know, I wish everybody the luck like that, but I'm lucky, but not, not that type of luck in that direction anyways, bye.

[00:52:30] **Speaker 1** I think we're good on this end. We would like to put the mic back on and have you walk us through out in your garage. Okay. The mounts and some of the trophies and stuff. Yeah. Kind of talk us through there, but we're going in here.