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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** Alright, let's start with, tell me some of your earliest fishing memories. Like, do you remember being a little kid, like the first few times?

[00:00:06] **Speaker 2** Oh yeah, uh, I know, I remember a lot out on the ice when it was frozen because when we're ice fishing, we just kind of play around and wait for a tip up to go off. When we're ice fishing it's kind of like, I just remember sledding around or we'll wet the ice a bit so it's super slippery and we'll take our feet and we will just go flying. And I remember, um, oh yeah, I'll set booby traps on the eyes so like used until I fell in once. On my own booby trap, but people get so mad at me, and I'd just sit there and laugh. Or when we drill holes, we have to take ice skimmers and skim them out. And I'd follow my uncle around, and after he'd skim him, I'd take my skimmer and fill all his holes.

[00:00:52] **Speaker 1** So you were quite the little prankster yeah but that's maybe that was part of the fun I'm sure oh yeah too mad at you yeah well so your dad was telling us a story about how you caught the northern oh yeah right mm-hmm so how old were you

[00:01:08] **Speaker 2** I don't know uh it's probably about two years ago so probably 12 um 11 or 12 and yeah that was my first time I ever drilled all the holes set the depth put everything together on my own and then did it in a tournament and then I won it so we decided we had to mount that one.

[00:01:27] **Speaker 1** So what do you enjoy about fishing other than setting booby traps?

[00:01:31] **Speaker 2** I really just like hanging out with everybody and then especially when it comes to ice fishing it's just a rush to get there and there's so much excitement and adrenaline over something that some people would consider so simple but it's really fun.

[00:01:46] **Speaker 1** So when you are, when you see the tip of the flag go up, what's the reaction? What's that like?

[00:01:52] **Speaker 2** Finally, oh my gosh, we gotta go. Let's go, let's go. Come on, everybody run, and everybody sprint. And then people will try and catch up to the UTV because dads will ride in the UTVs and drive over there and we'll try and race them, which we lose every time, but, let me try.

[00:02:11] **Speaker 1** And so what's your process for knowing when to pull the line, when to set the hook, what are you looking for?

[00:02:18] **Speaker 2** Well, for tip-ups, and summer fishing is kind of different, for tip- ups, like all the lines going out, so I'll watch the thing and see if it's spinning on top, and then once it stops spinning a bit, then I'll pull it up, or if it stopping and starting, I'll put on one of the stops, and I just start pulling it up. Set the hook and keep pulling it.

[00:02:39] **Speaker 1** And so when you feel that something's on there, what's that like?

[00:02:42] **Speaker 2** It's like, okay, I'm doing this. Okay, don't lose it. Keep going. You got it, you got it. And then when I get it up there, my dad will reach out and grab it from the hole. It's just like, oh, we did it. It's there. It's right here. It never gets old.

[00:02:56] **Speaker 1** So, we were out in the boat today and you caught some small fish, but you caught a couple bass later on. Yeah. So you talked about pike being one of your favorite ones. I'm assuming you caught musk and walleye before, right?

[00:03:08] **Speaker 2** Yes.

[00:03:09] **Speaker 1** Is there something different about a wildlife? Is there?

[00:03:13] **Speaker 2** Yeah, it's a way they kind of fight when you're pulling them up, while they don't really fight. They just kind of let you pull them up. They're like, okay, we're coming. Whereas northern or bass, they'll try and fight you a ton. I honestly kind of like winter fishing more than summer fishing because we can just play around until a tip-up goes off, where summertime you're casting all the time, which depends on kind of the mood I'm in, whether I like to cast or not. Where I also like northern fishing because we can just kind of let the suckers just sit in the water. And then all of a sudden we can call it productive because we're technically fishing while we're just reading or hanging out. And all of the sudden, boom, we get to fight a fish.

[00:03:53] **Speaker 1** I mean, do you have other bad days in the boat?

[00:03:58] **Speaker 2** A good day fishing is, or no, a bad day fishing is better than a good day doing nothing here.

[00:04:07] **Speaker 1** So do you ever say to your dad, hey, let's go fish? And he's like, no, not today. I'm not interested.

[00:04:14] **Speaker 2** I don't think there's any time he would say, no fishing. Unless we're about to go somewhere. Otherwise he's like, huh, let's go throw a few lines out on the pier. Yeah.

[00:04:23] **Speaker 1** I mean, that's one of the beauties of being living on the wall. Oh, of course. Yeah. Can you imagine if you didn't live here and you had to like.

[00:04:31] **Speaker 2** What we did, well, we remodeled this place a bit. I'd say, oh, it was a while ago now, about four years ago. So when we were building it, we weren't on the lake when we are renting a house. So I never realized until then how much I really loved the water. Like I knew I really enjoyed it, but like when you're away from it that long, it's like, oh my gosh, how do people live away from this thing? This is amazing. It definitely made me a lot more grateful to be spending all this time on the Lake.

[00:05:05] **Speaker 1** So of all the activities that we've been able just to watch you do today, you've got your slide, you got your dog, you have your pads, in fishing, where do those ring?

[00:05:16] **Speaker 2** Oh, I don't know if I can rank those. They're all just really fun. Swimming, it's a great kind of communal activity. Like we'll gather all the neighbors and we'll all swim together. Or people will come over when they're bored and they'll be like, hey, can I come swim? It's super hot, I'm bored, I dunno what to do. Of course, come on over and we've got all these different games you can play. So swimming, I think, is definitely my number one up there. Then I'd say tubing. Playing with the dog in the water is the best part of swimming, though. She just absolutely loves it. She goes crazy, and she'll jump in, try and save us when we don't need saving, just swim with us. Or we can go under the raft, too, with goggles, and we can see schools of fish, and they'll come right up to you. That's really cool.

[00:06:04] **Speaker 1** So we met you doing some of the wall eyes for tomorrow thing. What was that like for you? What was fun about being able to do that?

[00:06:11] **Speaker 2** That was the funnest thing ever. I look forward to it every spring. I like just kind of seeing a difference being made and that I'm helping create baby walleyes and running back and forth. I feel like I've got a purpose there. I've a job to do, I've something to do. And then we'll come back and we'll check on the fry and we get to see the little babies grow. And it's just really cool to see how they're made and watch them grow up. Something pretty interesting.

[00:06:43] **Speaker 1** And then, I mean, just the feel of the weight of it in the neck, right? Yeah.

[00:06:47] **Speaker 2** Um, and be able to like figure out how, oh yeah, I'm distincting female walleye from male walleye. This one's bigger. This one has more colors. Boom. It's a female. And then you run them over. It's like, I don't know, it kind of feels like you're a secret agent bringing prize possessions there and guarding the walleye, it's really fun though.

[00:07:10] **Speaker 1** Do you ever notice that, like, you're one of the only kids there? Oh, yeah. Like the old guys? All the-

[00:07:15] **Speaker 2** all the time. It's pretty funny to always have the old guys there because it's all guys too and so I am a girl that's a kid so it's just me and Raina there and occasionally there's another kid there but he's a guy so the older guys don't bother him as much but I fight back with them Cause they'll make comments and dig at me for fun and...

[00:07:40] **Speaker 1** But it's a fun environment, right?

[00:07:41] **Speaker 2** It's a really fun environment. Especially, alright, old fishermen, there's no way you can put this other than they are great storytellers and really funny and very charismatic and because they know how to feel silence. They've been in a boat before for hours on end with people so it's definitely fun to hang out with them.

[00:07:59] **Speaker 1** Either way. Do you enjoy fishing with your sister or is it just she gets to come along too?

[00:08:05] **Speaker 2** Um, depends on the day. Most of the time I enjoy it though.

[00:08:09] **Speaker 1** I mean, it's a way to spend time together, right?

[00:08:13] **Speaker 2** It's something that we both, like she's got her sport of soccer, I've got my sport of diving, but we both fish with dad. Something where we can kind of come together on.

[00:08:22] **Speaker 1** Yeah, and it's probably one of the places where you can be together and still ignore her if you need to, right?

[00:08:27] **Speaker 2** That too. She won't get too mad if I just pull a book out and read, especially because we've been out there for hours on end or when we're out on the ice. I can just go to a different part. It's nice where we can be together and there's like, it's just kind of perfect out there. There's no stress of home, well not home, stress of what like schoolwork is at home and Chores. But out on the boat, there's no chores. There's no schoolwork, because I'm not bringing that out there. That's like, stress-free. So then we can just kind of hang out and it's...

[00:09:06] **Speaker 1** So what's it mean for you to have your fish up on the wall, along with your grandpa's and your dad's?

[00:09:13] **Speaker 2** That was a big thing, like I was fishing for years and years and years and like, Dad, when am I going to get my mount or when am I gonna finally get my mouter? And he's like, it's got to be either really big or there's got to a really big significance to it. And when I finally caught that fish and he's like, hey, if you win this thing, you can mount it. And so the entire time I was just like, nobody catch another fish. Please nobody catch another fish because it's kind of like You're going, enjoying the wall of legacies and stories and stuff, and finally, I am a good enough fisherman that I get my fish on the wall.

[00:09:46] **Speaker 1** Did you get to pick out the piece of driftwood or did that just come from a taxidermist?

[00:09:50] **Speaker 2** Um, I think we found that piece or something.

[00:09:55] **Speaker 1** Anything else you want to add?

[00:09:56] **Speaker 2** Mmm, not really, no.

[00:09:58] **Speaker 1** Okay, can I get you to say and spell your name for me? To say that correctly.

[00:10:01] **Speaker 2** Yes, Sage Haldeman, S-A-G-E-H-A L-D-E M-A N-N.

[00:10:09] **Speaker 1** And you are 14. Yes. For now. Pfft. Alright, great, thank you.