

SUNDAY
SPORTS

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Sunday, April 28, 2002

Mediate leads
by 2 in Greensboro

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Winning fish defies odds

First redfish
ever with
only 75 spots

by Joe Julavits
Union outdoors editor

McDanniell, the spot
yesterday's second annual
Redfish Roundup, could
calculator when the first
light to the dock at Sisters

ated the redfish's spots
Daniel slowed his ca-
ne end — "72, 73 ... 74

spots. That's the im-
ber that the team of
of Brandon, Bill Pittman
and and Greg Watts of
threw at the 350-boat

field yesterday in Redfish Roundup II.

Their 22-inch red, caught less than a half hour after the tournament started, won the tournament's top prize of \$2,500 in cash and a \$2,500 gift certificate to Bass Pro Shops. They also won a cash bonus of \$500 for topping last year's tournament-winning redfish, a 25-spotter.

"It's unbelievable — 75 spots," Watts said. "What are the odds? I'm playing the lottery tonight."

"That's incredible," said Jerry Pinto, a Jacksonville University scientist who was monitoring the spot check. "I've never seen anything with that many spots."

Most redfish carry two dark spots, one on each side of their tail. But due to genetic anomalies, some reds wear multiple spots, and that's the basis for the tournament format that awards prizes for legal redfish with the most spots.

John Gill captured second place,

worth \$2,500 in cash, for a 22-spot red, and Frank Gregg finished third with a 15-spotter for a \$1,500 check. Bobby McMillon also had a 15-spotter for fourth place (ties were broken by time of check-in), and Jan Walker was fifth with a 14-spot red.

Seventy-seven of the 350 boats brought a fish in, compared to 79 in last year's 225-boat field. Yesterday's fish sported a much higher spot average. The top five fish yesterday totaled 141 spots, while the leading five reds in 2001 added up to 71 spots.

The imbalance was mostly due to yesterday's spot-festooned winner. Oliverio, Pittman and Watts make up Team Power Pole, one of the sponsors of the tournament. Their game plan was to fish north of Sisters Creek in the Fernandina Beach area, but they never made it that far.

"Along the way, there was a place I wanted to stop where a friend of



— Bob Mack/staff
Greg Watts (left) watches as Vernon McDanniell counts the 75 spots on the winning fish in the Redfish Roundup.



Top 10

Place	Name	Spots
1.	John Oliverio	75
2.	John Gill	22
3.	Frank Gregg	15
4.	Bobby McMillon	15
5.	Jan Walker	14
6.	Scott Ludden	12
7.	Chip Davis	10
8.	Tim Greene	10
9.	John Elixson	9
10.	Lonnie Pitts	9

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Feeling *his* Pain

Lowe no-hits D-Rays