

It was a Bodacious win in the Florida Keys Gold Cup Sailfish Championship Series

Captain Taylor Walsh led anglers Alan Wood of Islamorada, FL Henry and Shay Danzig of Tavernier, FL and Nick Stanczyk of Islamorada, FL to victory in the first leg of the Series at the Islamorada Sailfish Tournament. Mate Chris "Toffer" Wightman grabbed the leaders on 22 sailfish to put the team ahead of the competition. The Bodacious would release 5 Sailfish in the Cheeca Lodge Presidential Sailfish Tournament and never looked back. They released another 5 sails during the Islamorada Fishing Club's Sailfish Tournament with Captain David Morris and Mate Jeffery Leiderman. The team's total of 32 releases would get their names permanently engraved in the Gold Cup Trophy. They also received crystal cups sponsored by the Tackle Center of Islamorada. The captain and mate trophies were sponsored by Valero gas stations and Dunkin Donuts.

Second Place would once again go to the Reel McCoy. Anglers Larry Amyotte of Silver Springs FL, Sean Smith from Pompano FL, Eric Overhardt of Key Largo, FL, Justin Miller of Islamorada, FL, and Matt McLean from Naples FL, would release 27 fish. Captain George McElveen led the team to 10 releases in the Islamorada Sailfish Tournament, 13 sails and a win in the Cheeca Lodge Presidential Sailfish Tournament, and 4 in the Islamorada Fishing Clubs tournament. Trophies sponsored by Caribee Boat Sales we give to anglers, captain, and mate.

Olympic Gold would take home Third Place honors. The Olympic Gold's captain J.C. Cleare led the team to 12 Sailfish Releases in the first leg of the series. Anglers Max Tower and Reggie Rodriguez of Miami FL along with Fulton Ivy of Palmetto Bay FL and Doug Mientkiewicz from Islamorada would have 21 releases by the end of the Cheeca Presidential Tournament. It would be the final 5 releases and a win at the Islamorada Fishing Club's Sailfish Tournament that would land them with the Yamaha Outboards sponsored third place trophies.

It would be a close battle for the much sought after Championship ring sponsored by Mercedes Benz of Cutler Bay. On the final day two anglers would total 13 sailfish releases. It would be angler Nick Stanczyk on the Bodacious that would win on time over Larry Amoyette of the Reel McCoy. Last year's Champion angler Doug Mientkiewicz of the Olympic Gold who released a total of 12 fish this year proudly showed Nick what his ring would look like.

In total 258 Sailfish were released with 74 anglers participating in this seasons event. The Florida Keys Gold Cup Championship Series is a fund raiser for the Islamorada Charter Boat Association. The Series would like to thank the major sponsors, Caribee Boat Sales and Yamaha Outboards for their continued support and our new ring sponsor Mercedes Benz of Cutler Bay. The hosts of the events included Whale Harbor Restaurants and Marina, Cheeca Lodge and Spa and the Islamorada Fishing Club. The series will be kicking off again next year with the Islamorada Sailfish Tournament November 29th. For more information on the series contact Dianne Harbaugh at (305) 852-2102 or visit us on the web www.islamoradasailfishtournament.com