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### **College Bass Fishing Program to Expand in 2007**

The prospect of competitive fishing having a prominent role in colleges and universities, complete with scholarships and inter-conference play, is much closer to reality today as Fox College Sports (FCS) announces its plans for a greatly expanded second season of the National Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship (NCBFC).

In 2007, the program will be boosted to include up to 15 preliminary fishing tournaments around the country in advance of the national championship to be held next fall, accompanied by broadened telecast coverage.

“We’re pleased to showcase college bass fishing to a national audience,” said FCS executive vice president and GM David Rone. “We had a great response from the BoatUS NCBFC tournament held (in October) in Texas, and we’re looking forward to giving these students a national platform to display their skills.”

The 2006 inaugural NCBFC included 41 two-person teams representing 24 schools. Top colleges and universities from well-known conferences like the Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-10 and SEC had a prominent presence in the debut. All competed for part of the \$35,000 in prize money and for bragging rights as the best fishing school in the country. The North Carolina State team won the championship title and the first place prize of \$12,000.

The three-day event had all the fanfare of any major college sports championship, including television cameras filming the tournament for a new series about the NCBFC. The first show is scheduled to run on FCS on Wednesday, January 10 at 8 p.m. EST and will continue weekly at the same time. Each telecast will highlight the competition and provide a behind-the-scenes look at the angler teams and the schools they represent.

“These kids and their stories are what really make this show special,” said Wade Middleton, the on-camera host. “How they got here, their trials and tribulations along the way, and why they even came in the first place are as fascinating as the challenge of fishing itself.”

"Fishing is a unique opportunity for me to compete in a sport at the school of my choice where I couldn't otherwise because I don't have the skills to participate in basketball, football, baseball or such at this level," said Chip Porché, a freshman at the University of Oklahoma. "Just about any college student with the desire has the chance to fish the NCBFC, win prize money and end up on national television."

The full 2007 FCS tournament schedule will be announced next month. The championship will return to Sneaky Pete's Marina on Lake Lewisville near Dallas, October 22 – 27. For more information on the collegiate fishing program and participation requirements, visit [FoxCollegeSports.com](http://FoxCollegeSports.com).

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**2006 Participants:**

Baylor University  
Eastern Kentucky University  
Kansas State University  
North Carolina State University  
Northwestern State University  
Oklahoma State University  
Penn State University  
Pittsburgh State University  
Purdue University  
Southeast Missouri State University  
St. Ambrose University  
Stephen F. Austin State University  
Texas A&M Kingsville  
Texas A&M University  
Texas Tech University  
UNC-Charlotte  
University of Alabama  
University of Iowa  
University of Kentucky  
University of Louisiana-Lafayette  
University of Louisville  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Oregon  
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater