



ZLF BASS FEDERATION

The Best Angler You Have Never Heard Of

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Never before in the history of bass fishing has one man dominated one body of water so completely. Well there was the time when I won three consecutive ZLF tournaments, but that's only impressive to my wife. How about winning four consecutive B.A.S.S. tournaments on the California Delta. Now that would be impressive, and Robert Lee accomplished this by winning the first four tournaments that B.A.S.S. ever conducted on this body of water.

In 1997, Lee claimed victory at the Bassmaster California Western Invitational by throwing hollow rats on top of grass mats. Yes, you read that correctly; hollow rats on grass mats. They are fished much the same way as a frog, and the strikes are violent. He won that event by nearly three pounds.

Lee repeated his victory in 1999 and then again in 2001. B.A.S.S. had come to California three times and Lee had won every event that they had run so far on the Delta. Keep in mind, these were not local club events. These were tournaments run by the largest bass fishing organization in the country, and each event had over one hundred anglers.

He had made some good money (mostly in merchandise prizes and boats), but he was only warming up for what was going to be the big payoff.

In 2003, he entered the first ever Bassmaster elite event on the Delta, with some serious money on the line.

He started off slowly, finishing the first day almost nine pounds behind the leader. On day three, he landed an eight pound seven-ounce bass that moved him up on the leaderboard and allowed him to fish the final day with the top six anglers. He dominated the final day, and when he landed a nine-and-a-half-pound bass, he had locked up the \$102,000 prize. He won the event by over thirteen pounds.

B.A.S.S. had now run four official events on the California Delta, and Robert Lee had won them all. So how is it that you have never heard of this angler? Probably because that 2003 event was his last tournament victory. He has won a couple of Angler of the Year titles on the Costa FLW tour, but he focuses mostly on the Western events, so the publicity isn't there.

Four for four is an accomplishment we will probably never see again. Imagine a B.A.S.S. angler winning four major tournaments in a row today. It's just not going to happen. You may have only heard the name of Robert Lee from your history lessons about the Civil War, but the modern Robert Lee's accomplishments on the California Delta should be remembered as well.

