

Posted - March 11th, 2008 7:30am CST

IKE FEEDBACK OVERWHELMING FROM BZ VIEWERS

Mike Iaconelli Makes a Wish Come True

Story by Pete Robbins - Photo by Mark Jeffreys

Orlando, Fla – Since our Quick Flip on Mike Iaconelli's Make-A-Wish effort was first published on February 28th, The BASS Zone has been overwhelmed by correspondence from fishing fans eager to express their thoughts about Ike's good deed.

All too often, Ike's press focuses only on the perceived negatives of his personality, so we figure that turnabout is fair play. Therefore, we've decided to share with the fishing public some of the letters written in response to our piece. The following selections comprise a small but representative portion of that feedback:



Michael Garrett
Woodruff, South Carolina

I read the story about Ike taking the child from make a wish foundation on a fishing trip in disney world. What a great thing that was to read. Today's fisherman are extremely busy with prior commitments and travel and everything else. I have had the pleasure of attending a seminar that Ike was one of the speakers, the guy knows his stuff and is perhaps one of the most misunderstood men on tour. I also have seen him at two BASS events the last being the 2008 classic in Greenville SC (I live only 20 min from the city) as I was watching the weigh-ins and IKE left the stage he was met with a lot of young kids wanting his autograph (he had the most kids of any angler there wanting his autograph) as I was watching the other anglers come and go I kept noticing Ike still over on the side of stage still signing autographs. He "NEVER GAVE UP" until each kid got his or her autograph, or picture or both. The guy is a true ambassador for the sport. I as a parent of a 4 year old say THANKS IKE FOR WHAT YOU DO.

Michael Bury
Coweta, Oklahoma

For the people out there saying Ike's does all the screaming for the show and he's probably not that way he just does that for the camera's. People acting like he's really not that great of a guy. Well..... I've met the guy, from what I seen he spends a lot of time with fans, as taken picture signing autographs, hick I've seen a fan ask him to come to his boat a do a break dance. After spending time with the fans for a hour, he remembered to go do that. I even have it on film. All I have to say is Ike's a class act. I wish more fisherman would be this way. Hats off to Ike good luck in 2008!!!

Brian Hilton

Texarkana, Texas

Why would anybody in their right mind want to hate on somebody as selfless as Mike Iaconelli?
CONGRATS MIKE!!!! Keep on keepin' on!

Larry McGill

Gibbstown, New Jersey

Just goes to show where his heart is. To cut his own vacation down to help out a very special young man. How many people would do that. Go that far for some one else. Especially for some one they don't even know.

Patrick McMath

Chesapeake, Virginia

Mike....Just wanted to say that was a first class act to cut your vacation short and spend time with a kid fishing. We have region event kids fishing days here in Virginia and always have a good participation in "Take a kid fishing day" and definitely applaud your efforts in the world of professional fishing and the service you do for the other parts involved with people of your class. Great job man!!!!

<http://www.basszone.com/2008quickflips/ikewish2.htm>

Courtesy of Bass Zone