

FIRST IN...



Special to The Log

FIRST COBIA: Keith Cantwell of Pensacola weighed in a 27.2-pound cobia on Sunday afternoon. His catch was the first and kicks off the HarborWalk Marina Destin Cobia Tournament. He was fishing aboard Team Outcast.

Let the competition begin

Sunday was the day; they just knew it.

When Capt. Tommy Holmes and the group aboard the Team Outcast headed out Sunday the sentiment was "today's the day" — somebody is going to catch a cobia.

And 42-year-old Keith Cantwell of Pensacola did just that. He pulled in a 27.2-pound cobia to mark the start of the 2008 HarborWalk Marina Destin Cobia Tournament.

Cantwell received \$300 for his catch. More than \$37,000 guaranteed cash and prizes are on the line during this year's tournament.

Sunday was Cantwell's first time to go cobia fishing this year, although he said Capt. Holmes and Team Outcast had been out looking about three times already.

But the cobia Cantwell landed Sunday was the only

one they saw.

"We had to throw a pinfish at it," Cantwell said, noting they didn't have any eels for bait.

The crew were fishing about 100 yards off the sandbar at Pensacola Beach.

"He ate the fish, but he didn't get hooked," Cantwell said.

So he threw a red and white jig at the cobia.

"He jumped on it," the angler said. "He did just what he was supposed to do ... a lot of times they just

look at it." Cantwell said it didn't take but about 10 minutes to get the fish on the boat.

"He was on the small side, so it didn't take long," he said.

Once the fish was onboard, they hurried back to HarborWalk Marina to weigh it in and claim bragging rights for



Tina Harbuck

FISH FLASH