



Photographers snap photos of the fish caught by Fox television's Nick Billias aboard Reel Estate. The fish took second place in this week's sportswriters tournament at Miller's Marina.

# Free fishing draws writers to Boca

Another tarpon tournament in Boca Grande? Yes, but not with professional anglers or tarpon fishermen. This one featured sportswriters from throughout the southeastern United States - with some coming to Boca Grande from as far away as Mississippi to compete in the first annual "Sportswriters Invitational Tarpon Tournament."

The two-day event, which began Tuesday, was sponsored by Millers Marina and had 10 boats with two anglers per boat on the first day. On the second day of fishing, anglers switched to different boats. The first day saw three releases

and one weigh-in, with Capt. Danny Stewart of the *Poon-A-Tick* weighing in a tarpon at 125 pounds for first place. Claude Lewis of The Venice Gondolier was the angler. On the second day the action heated up with six more releases. Capt. Ed Smith on *Reel Estate* weighed a 122-pound fish for second place. The angler was Nick Billias of WTVT-FOX 13, who is senior sports producer of 'Fish 'n Chips.' The third place fish was caught by Tom Hayden of the Ft. Myers News-Press on board *Buc-n-Jag* with Capt. Steve Ingram. If Ingram's name sounds a little

familiar and the boat name doesn't give it a way, Steve once played for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Jacksonville Jaguars football teams. And last but not first this time is Capt. Jeff Totten with three releases on the boat *Poon Crazy*. Capt. Totten won last Saturday's first Millers Marina tournament of the season.

In addition to the free tournament, the sportswriters were wined and dined, and received complimentary lodging from the marina, which is promoting its planned Million Dollar Tournament.

More photos on page 35