

# Tupper Lake high school skier invited to Finland

by Laurie Mitchell

After studying Tupper Lake skier, Charlie Bencze's race results last March, Vermont Ski Academy Coach, Alexi Stotskov made the talented skier an offer he could not refuse. Charlie, a current Tupper Lake ninth grader, was among the youngest of five carefully selected skiers to experience the world's best underground ski tunnel located in Vuokatti, Finland. The group of ambitious skiers supervised by Coach Stotskov, arrived on July 5, 2007 and toured the area for nearly two weeks.

Coach Stotskov witnessed Charlie's exceptional races at a renowned ski festival back in March. He did not speak directly to Charlie but rather e-mailed his mother, Sarah Bencze, inviting him to ski in Finland. Sarah and her husband Doug Bencze, had to contemplate the opportunity for Charlie. After a few family discussions and the admiration of Charlie's eagerness to ski with the best of them, Mr. and Mrs. Bencze agreed to the trip

and even offered to cover half of the fare. Charlie earned the other half working for his Uncle Ed caretaking land.

When asked, "What was your response to Alexi's invitation to Finland?", Charlie replied, "I was so excited he picked me, especially being from New York." According to Charlie, his family was very proud of his accomplishment and his older brother, Willie, also a talented skier, "was a little jealous but really psyched (Charlie) could go." Both Charlie and Willie belong to the Saranac Lake / Tupper Lake Varsity Ski Team.

These remarkable athletes trained every day and planned activities with the Russian National Ski Team as well. Some of their vigorous workouts included running up a mile long sand hill, racing against the Russian skiers, weight lifting, roller skiing into Finnish towns and of course skiing in the world class Olympic facility where the underground tunnel was built. Aside from the strenuous

workouts, the young American skiers had fun driving go-carts, shopping in the village and dining with the Russian skiers. According to Bencze, dinner time was an opportunity for the two cultures to exchange stories and teach their native language to each other. In fact, Charlie learned to say "yellow blue bus" quickly, which translates to "I love you" in the Russian language. As the exciting trip came to an end, Charlie began setting

goals for his upcoming high school ski season. Charlie would love to participate in the Junior Olympics, which he has qualified for in the past but his family agreed he was too young to attend. He hopes to improve his times and record many more personal bests.

Upon his return to Tupper Lake, Bencze stated, "Finland was really cool and it reminded me a little of Lake Placid except the ski jumps were better." Charlie felt very fortunate he

was chosen to ski with other gifted skiers in a world class facility. He hopes to qualify for the Junior Olympics again this year and someday accept the

invitation to ski in them. Charlie is a dedicated athlete and acknowledges that his focus and his family has helped him achieve this success.

 Please join us in Saranac Lake on **Sunday, November 18th** Sparks Athletic Complex

**22nd Annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair**

10:00 am until 3:30 pm  
Admission \$2 (12 & under are Free!)

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1,000's of Holiday Gifts, Clowns for the Kids, Free Balloon Animals and Face Painting, Refreshments

**Good Luck Adam #55 and team in the States.**

*We love you and are very proud of you.  
Love, Dad, Mom, Jay, April & Alexis*




**NOTICE**

This is to advise that privately owned basketball backboards and post should be removed from the town and village right-of-way for the safety of snow removal vehicles.

Thank you  
Town of Tupper Lake  
Highway Superintendent



Willie Bencze

## Tupper Lake Civic Center Schedule

**Wednesday, November 7**  
Public skating, 12 noon - 3 p.m.; High school, 3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.; Initiation, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.; Mites/House, 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.; Girls, 6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.; 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Open Men's hockey.

**Thursday, November 8**  
Public skating, noon - 3 p.m.; High school, 3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.; Squirts, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.; Pee Wee, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.; Bantams, 8:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.

**Friday, November 9**  
Public skating, noon - 3 p.m.; High school, 3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.; Skate Club, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.; Open curling, 7:15 p.m.

**Saturday, November 10**  
Squirts vs Lake Placid, 8:30 a.m.; Mites vs Saranac Lake, 10 a.m.; Pee Wee, 11:15 a.m.; Public skating, 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.; Skate Club, 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.; Public skating, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.; Titan Hockey, (Adk.

Classic Design vs LeRoy's Auto) 8:45 p.m.; Titan Hockey, (T.Lamere's contract vs Old Northern), 10:15 p.m.

**Sunday, November 11**  
Mites vs Lake Placid 2, 10:15 a.m.; Pee Wee vs Louisville, 11:15 a.m.; Squirts, 12:45 p.m.; Public skating, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.; Public skating, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.; Open Men's hockey, 8:45 p.m.

**Monday, November 12**  
Public skating, 12 noon - 3 p.m.; High School, 3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.; Initiation/house, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.; Mites/House 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.; Girls, 6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 13**  
Public skating, 12 noon - 3 p.m.; High School, 3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.; Squirts, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.; Pee Wee, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.; Bantams, 8:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.

359-2531

# What makes Logan Klossner run?

by Maynard Peroza

Logan Klossner is an impact player. There is no question about the impact he has had on the Lumberjack football team.

He has scored twenty-one touchdowns. His two-point conversion run on the last play of the overtime at Ticonderoga provided the margin of victory in a 22-21 win. He has been a marked man throughout the nine game season and has managed to amass a league leading 1587 rushing yardage total.

Logan was just named the offensive player of the year for the Northern Football Conference.

His defensive achievements while playing the cornerback position is overshadowed by the attention paid to his offensive stats. On Friday evening he recorded eight unassisted tackles and assisted on 5 others.

A young man of few words, Logan, would rather let his actions on the playing fields tell his story. But, he was confident enough to agree to answer a few questions for this article.

**1. You got a lot of your football training in Colorado. What was in like?**

"We were a 5A size school. The largest... graduating 750 kids. Training went on during the summers. If you missed three days, you were dismissed from the team. Practices were from 7am to noon, five days a week. It combined lifting and speed drills and football skills. It made you mentally and physically tough. There were

75 varsity level kids there every day."

**2. How difficult was it to transfer to a school our size?**

"I like the smaller town. You know everybody. I like it better here. In Colorado, I didn't know anybody."

**3. You lead the league in rushing and scoring. Did you anticipate this much success before the season started?**

"I knew we'd have a good season. I wanted to do my best... try to get 200 yards per game."

**4. Teams tried to focus on stopping you. Which team(s) were the hardest hitting?**

"Saranac Lake seemed pretty tough. They were blitzing their linebackers...keying on me. Canton at the beginning hit hard. Once we started running over them, they backed off."

**5. What is your reaction to the offensive line receiving the "athlete of the month" award?**

"They deserve it. I get all the credit in the newspapers. When it is them that make the big holes for me. Anyone could be as successful with the blocking they do."

**6. Are you interested in any other sports?**

"Lacrosse. I plan on playing for Canton in the spring. My dad thinks I am better at lacrosse than football. I did some wrestling. It is a hard sport, but, if you do it, it keeps you physically fit."

**7. What interests outside of sports do you have?**

"I like to hunt. I did some in Colorado....deer and small game mostly. I enjoy lifting. Sports is pretty much my thing."

**8. What does this year's football team have that is making it so successful?**

"The guys believe that no matter what the score is we can come back and win. We are stronger cause we work out in the weight room. We just believe in each other."

**9. How far do you think the football team can go in the playoffs?**

"I think we can beat any team we want to. We can beat Cambridge and go on to the next level. I know the guys think so too. We have been working hard all season. Playing at the State level is fun."

**10. Do you plan to pursue athletics after high school?**

## NCCC open soccer set

North Country Community College's men's soccer program will be hosting Open Soccer Nights at the Sparks Athletic Complex on Wednesdays, from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Open Soccer Night is free to all NCCC faculty, staff, and students. There will be a small charge to the public.

The program will run on the following dates: November 7, 14, 28, and December 5. For more information, please contact Head Men's Soccer Coach, Adam Parker at 891-0025.

"I am applying for the Air Force Academy. (in Colorado) I'd like to play football and lacrosse there. If that doesn't work out, I'd be looking for local (New York) colleges. Maybe, St. Lawrence University, Cortland or Albany."

  
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## Long Lake/Raquette Lake Community Calendar

**Wednesday, November 7**

10 a.m. - noon- Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service will hold their Flu and Pneumonia Immunization Clinic at the Long Lake town hall. Make your appointment by calling (518) 648-6497  
5 p.m.- Christmas Craft Class in Raquette Lake- at the library. Please call 354-4400 to sign up.

**Friday, November 9**

7 - 8 p.m. - Free Square dance lessons at the Long Lake town hall.

**Saturday, November 10**

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.- New York State Snowmobile Safety Course at the Raquette Lake School . Call (518) 624-3077 to register.

7 - 10 p.m.- Free square dance at the Long Lake town hall.

**Monday, November 12**

8 p.m.- AA Open Discussion /Meeting. Long Lake Town Hall Nutrition Site.

**Tuesday, November 13**

9:30 a.m.- Northern Needles sewing group meets at the St. Henry's Parish Center in Long Lake .

**Wednesday, November 14**

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.- Hamilton County Public Health Nursing Service will hold their Flu and Pneumonia Immunization Clinic at the Raquette Lake Post Office. Make your appointment by calling (518) 648-6497.

5 p.m.- Christmas Craft Class in Raquette Lake at the library. Call 354-4400 to sign up.

7:30 p.m.- Board members meet at the Long Lake town hall.

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## Tupper Lake fall athletes to be feted Nov. 13 and 14

All athletes who participated in fall athletic teams at the Tupper Lake High School will be recognized with an awards ceremony Tuesday and Wednesday, November 13 and 14 at 6:30 p.m. each evening at the high school.

Refreshments will be served in the cafeteria both nights prior to the awards ceremonies from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday night the girls volleyball team, the boys and girls cross country team and boys (with Long Lake) and girls soccer teams will be recognized.

On Wednesday night the varsity football team and the varsity cheerleaders will be recognized.

Certificates, pins and special awards will be given at this time.

Athletes, parents and friends are invited to attend.

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