

# Jones, Levesque take Casio downhill

By JIM STOWELL  
Special to the LPN  
WILMINGTON — Nearly 75 riders took on 2.5 miles of challenging terrain Sunday in the downhill portion of the Casio Mountain Bike Classic at Whiteface Mountain.

Starting from near the summit of the mountain, cyclists navigated the undulating, snake-like course under blue skies ideal temperatures.

Pro-Elite riders Lee Jones of Wallingford, Conn. and Stephanie Levesque of Colchester, Vt. captured the top men's and women's classes, respectively.

Jones finished his ride down the mountain in 5:25.20, the fastest time recorded on the day. He just edged feli pro rider John Mutone of Philadelphia, Pa. who finished in a time of 5:29.79. Emmanuel Mercier of Montreal, Quebec was third with a 5:34.01 clocking.

Levesque turned in a 6:45.16 performance to sneak past Courtney Strait of Clifton Park, who recorded a 6:48.17 ride. Donna Fletcher was third with a 7:32.36 effort.

Along with pro-elite riders, the day featured competitors in expert, adult beginner and sport, junior beginner and sport, master sport and veteran beginner and sport classes.

The field ran the gamut from the overall winners to riders such as Jennifer Smith of Ardmore, Pa. In just her second year mountain biking, Smith won the adult beginner class with a time of 8:49.36.

Racing for Bud Light's Pro Dynamix team, the 24-year-old was extremely delighted to have competed. With a generous amount of enthusiasm, Smith called the course "outrageous, technical and really fast." She added, "It was really amazing."

Smith enjoyed the course immensely, saying the faster a course is, the better she likes it. "There was a switchback section that was very technical and steep and I had a little problem there," she said, but it did not interfere with the fun she had.

Hitting the slopes of Whiteface



Jay Burrows of Danielson, Conn. (22) races down Whiteface Mountain during the downhill competition of the Casio Mountain Bike Classic.

Photo for the LPN by Jim Stowell

for the first time, Smith said she came here for the race from the Philadelphia area, where she is stuck riding a course in a city park that is about half the size of the Whiteface course. "It's as technical, but it doesn't have the altitude," she said of her "home" course.

Admitting the downhill event is her best, Smith did all three events (downhill, cross country and slalom) during the two-day event, which served also as the New York State Mountain Bike

Championships.

She found the cross country course most to her liking, saying it was "really tough with a lot more climbing."

She also took a spill on one of the downhill portions of the cross country course. She placed fourth in the cross country and also had a second in the slalom.

After racing on the Olympic mountain, Smith said she needs to work more on her endurance. "It would help to train here," she said.

adding thoughts of moving here to take advantage of the area. She found everything and everyone so good and friendly in her first trip to the area that it might just lead to a more permanent status in the area.

Not quite doing as well in the expert class was Todd Kaskinen, 19, of Cheshire, Conn. Placing 20th in his class with a time of 8:28.62, Kaskinen was also racing for his first time at Whiteface.

The 19-year-old had some difficulties with the course finding "the turns were too tight, they could have been more wide open for speed."

He also found some of the course "a little loose" with stones and dirt. Plus, Kaskinen suffered a blowout near the finish line and had to run his bicycle the last part.

The first-year Pro Flex rider only did the downhill, which is a bit ironic in that he is a basically cross country rider. He did not race in the cross country event and did the downhill "just to try to get in it (downhill)."

Despite his finish, he said he would definitely return to Whiteface for the race. "This is one of the few downhills in the East," he said.

In the other events over the weekend, Andy Bishop of Williston, Vt. won the Pro-Elite cross country event with a time of 2:23.35.

In the slalom race, Lee Jones of Wallingford, Conn. was the men's winner with a two-run total time of :49.26, while Strait was the top woman finisher with a total of :55.18.

Among local competitors, Tim Chien of Lake Placid finished third in the men's expert cross country event (2:03.17.3). Josh Preston of Wilmington won the junior beginner cross country event (4:28.11) and the dual slalom event (57.05).

Brain Delaney of Lake Placid was second in the veteran sport cross country event (1:32:38.6). Mike Sabin of Tupper Lake placed second in the veteran sport cross country event (:58.47) and Joseph Kepes of Saranac Lake finished third in the veteran sport downhill event (9:11.96).



Elizabeth Szotyori, recently named to the United States women's national ski jumping team. LPN photo by Dave Orsini

## Szotyori looks to soar all the way to Olympics

By DAVE ORSINI  
LPN staff writer

Her name may sound unusual. But at the pace she's going, it may become a household name in the near future.

Elizabeth Szotyori (so-CHUR-ee) is a 17-year-old high school senior from Saugerites who has been attending the National Sports Academy for the past year. In that year she went from alpine skiing to becoming one of the best female ski jumpers in the U.S.

At a weekend camp during the 1994-95 winter season the coach of the camp, Peter Mickelson, saw something in her.

"I did extremely well, and he suggested that I take up the sport," she said, "and I took the steps from there."

Szotyori is now a member of the newly formed United States women's ski jumping team, where she is currently ranked second in the country.

"Her skills and brilliance (in the sport) are just excellent," said Diane Weber-Mickelson, a member of the Executive Advisory Board for women's ski jumping. "She has a chance to do everything in the sport. She has moved up so quickly."

Women's ski jumping is still in its infancy both here in the United States and around the world. It is a demonstration event at some men's ski jumping events, but Szotyori said she hopes the sport will be a demonstration sport all its own at the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan in 1998.

"The possibility is very good," she said. "The movement behind women's sports looks very good, especially after the Olympics."

Since the sport is very new, Szotyori sees herself as a pioneer. "I hope that women see that they can take part in any sport they choose," she said.

The fact that NSA added a ski jumping program the season before she arrived is not lost on her. "To come here and train and go to this school is a big advantage," she said.

Szotyori was also recently named as one of the 24 semifinalists in the "TEEN magazine's 1997 Athlete of the Year program."

She was selected from over 10,000 entries received, based on outstanding athletic achievements and participation. Other attributes considered in the selection process are scholastic achievement and individual accomplishments. The 1997 Athlete of the Year will win a \$10,000 college scholarship.

Szotyori said that she found out she was a semifinalist near the end of June. "It was so great to get recognized, it inspired me," she said.

Along with ski jumping, Szotyori is also plays soccer on the boys' team at NSA, and is a member of the National Honor Society.

During training, Szotyori is usually the only girl out there with the men's ski jumping team. "They just treat me as one of the team," she said.

After graduating from NSA, Szotyori said that she will train full-time on her ski jumping.

### Golf Tip of the Week

## Follow through more than just for show

By Joe DeLong  
Craig Wood Golf Pro

The golf swing has many steps to it. One of the more important steps in the follow through. Too many individuals are under the false impression that once contact is made that the swing is completed. Another statement I have frequently heard is that the finish is just to make the swing look good. Both are incorrect.

I have seen too many golfers trying to hit the ball and not through it. This results in quitting on the shot. If you swing through the ball than you will be finishing the golf swing, resulting in more accurate and precise shots.

So what are some thoughts on

helping finish the golf swing? At impact, the left arm is kept straight and the right arm slightly bent. After impact, extend the arms as far as possible with follow-through low, and weight should be shifting to the left side (for right-hand golfers). As you are following through low, visualize throwing the clubhead at the target. Finish facing the target, your belt buckle should be facing the target. Now bring the hands up high.

Remember, if you do not finish than you have only swung the club half way. The finish and the follow through is the other half of the golf swing. In order to create accurate and precise shots, we have to complete the golf swing.



Joe DeLong

## Doran rallies for ski jumping victory

LAKE PLACID — U.S. Ski Team member Brendan Doran rallied with the best jump of the second round Saturday to edge teammate Randy Weber and win the Miller 90-Meter Summer Ski Jump Championship at the Olympic Jumping Complex.

Doran, in fourth place after the first round of competition with a 94-meter leap which yielded 122 points, uncorked a 95.5-meter jump in the second round and finished with 244 points (for distance and style).

Weber, from Steamboat Springs, Colo. like Doran, was the first-round leader with a 97.5-meter jump and 131 points. He went just 87 meters on his second try and finished with 236 total points.

Vladimir Glyvka of the Ukraine was third with 221.5 points after jumps of 83.5 and 96 meters.

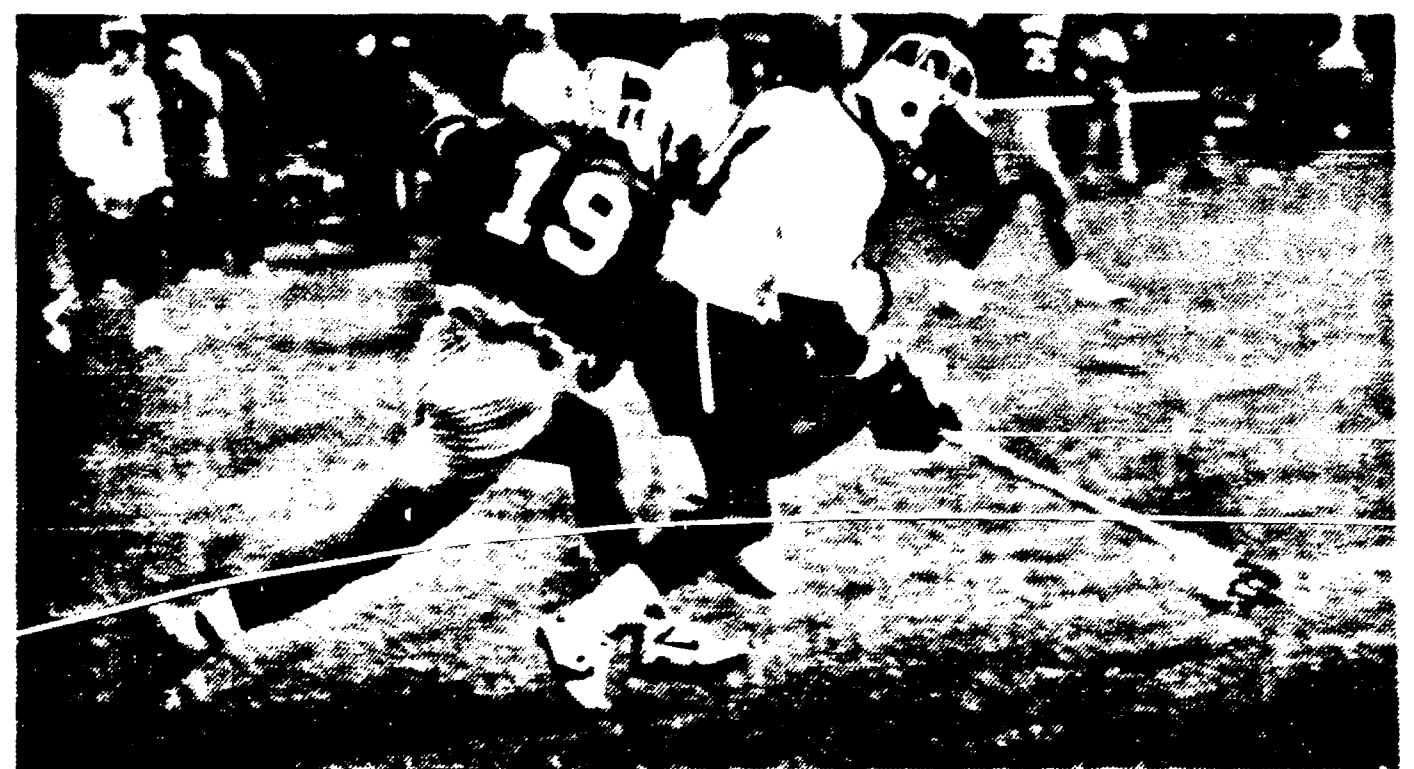
U.S. Nordic Combined skiers Todd Lodwick of Steamboat Springs and Tim Tetrault of Norwich, Vt. were fourth and fifth, respectively. Lodwick totaled 217 points and Tetrault finished with 211.5.

Casey Colby of Lake Placid placed sixth with 90.5- and 77.5-meter efforts for 202 points. Lake Placid's other national-level jumper, Taylor Hoffman, finished ninth with 190 points.

Alan Alborn of Steamboat Springs easily won the junior event with a score of 252 points on jumps of 94.5 and 98 meters.

## Ferraro fires hole-in-one

Nello Ferraro recorded a hole-in-one at the Craig Wood Golf and Country Club on Aug. 7. Ferraro scored his ace on the 145-yard 17th hole, using a 6-iron. Ray and Lucille Randall witnessed the shot.



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