



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BELACK/ASTLE MEMORIAL AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

BRADFORD, VT April 6, 2017 – World Cup Supply is happy to announce the winners of the 2016 Berlack/Astle Memorial Fast Skier Awards:



Ski & Snowboard Club Vail's Kaitlyn Harsch and Matthieu Cote from the Northwood School in Lake Placid were each awarded the prize for U16 racers.

Kaitlyn Harsch from Avon, CO has raced for 11 years and was ranked 1st in the NPS QRP (overall) GS standings, winning the opening GS at Copper Mountain and was 10th in the Seven Nations' Cup slalom in Hinterreit, Austria. She was also a member of the 2016 U16 National Training Group. Kirk Dwyer, executive director at SSCV, wrote that Kaitlyn "is in love with the fall-line" and is propelled by both "heart and talent." She proved that as she recovered from a knee injury in the 2015-2016 season which cut her season short and challenged her during pre-season conditioning as well. She was also involved in raising funds to purchase computers for underprivileged families and is maintaining a 4.0 average in school.

"North Country" skier Matthieu Cote is from Plattsburgh, NY and has been racing for only three years. Impressive considering Matthieu won the New York State championships in alpine combined, tied for 1st in GS at the same event and came in 4th in GS at U16 Nationals. The secret to his rise in ski racing may be his years of playing hockey. In fact, until his decision to pursue ski racing hockey was the family sport for generations of the Cote family. J.P. Daigneault, Program Director at the



Northwood School recruited him to join the team after seeing him ski "arc to arc, generating speed in a tight course" at the New York State Championships in 2015. Matt is a strong student and has been involved in a variety of community projects in Plattsburgh and Lake Placid.

Both athletes will receive a \$1000 cash award, a helmet, goggles and back protector from POC and a jacket, backpack and t-shirt from World Cup Supply.

This is the 9th year the "Fast Skier Award" has been awarded and the 2nd year that the award has been presented in memory of Ronnie Berlack and Bryce Astle, two USST athletes whose lives were lost in an avalanche in Soelden, Austria in January 2015. The award is based on race results, academic excellence, coach's recommendations and community involvement...the type of qualities that both Ronnie and Bryce exhibited. Brad Williams, President and CEO of WCS noted, "this award gives us

a chance to recognize excellence in the U16 community, and also continue to remember Ronnie and Bryce, two gifted athletes whose character on and off the hill was an inspiration to others."

The staff at World Cup Supply congratulates Matthieu and Kaitlyn and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors. We'd also like to thank Barry Levinson at 1to3go, as well as POC USA and, Atomic, N.A. for their generous donations and help recognizing Kaitlyn and Matthieu's achievements.

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