My uncle, mom and I got up at about 4:30, then we were picked up by Jason "hammer" Klugow. Before daylight, we went around to different bait sites and checked for tracks. We didn't find any tracks worth looking after, so we took to the dirt roads to look for tracks.

We found a good sized track going across the road and then we set out the dogs and the chase was on. The dogs were on the bear for about 45 minutes to an hour before he took to the tree. We drove to the location where the bear was up the tree and we all got out and I was shocked about the number of people and vehicles crowded around the area. Then the dogs were pulled back and I set up on my tripod with my 20-gauge slug shotgun.

I then put a bead on the bear and squeezed of the shot. The bear didn't stay in the tree for long and before I knew it, he was on the ground, lifeless. I then put the "safety shot" in the neck and then about 15 or so men shook my hand and said how good of a job I did and other complements.

I was so excited and it seemed so unreal. I would like to give a huge thanks to the bear hunting group in Danbury, Wisconsin.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Gathered at the tree, Ely posing with his bear, Ely with his mom and uncle, Ely with Bob Gokey and Hammer.