

A jubilant
Brad Gushue.



Alberta skip Kevin Koe lost a heartbreaker to Newfoundland and Labrador, but rebounded to beat the Territories Wednesday night to keep his playoff hopes alive.

Shot to the heart!

GUSHUE MAKES A PISTOL TO PUSH ALBERTA TO BRINK



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Shot his 'best ever' *Gushue was jumpin' for joy*

By **JOHN KOROBANIK**

Tankard Times Associate Editor

Brad Gushue nearly jumped out of his shoes after a spectacular final shot he called his 'best ever' gave his Newfoundland-Labrador team a heart-stopping 8-7 victory over Alberta Wednesday at the Tim Hortons Brier, presented by SecurTek Monitoring Solutions.

"I think I pulled an oblique muscle jumping up there but at least I've got the night to recover," a still emotional Gushue said later. "That's a huge emotional lift (for the team). That game felt like we should win and then it felt like we were letting it go and then we played a great eighth end to get up by two. They played a great ninth to tie it."

The win moved his team from The Rock to 7-2, within range of at least a tiebreaker, while across the other side of the Scotiabank Saddledome ice Brad Jacobs of Northern Ontario clinched a berth in the Page 1-2 game with a tough 4-3 win over



**SCORES
PAGE 15**

Steve Laycock of Saskatchewan.

Gushue and Jacobs will meet in today's 8:30 a.m. draw in what could be a preview of the 1-2 game.

Asked to describe his final shot, with Alberta sitting two and looking to have the victory in hand, Gushue said it was the "best shot I've ever made."

"When you put in the importance and the difficulty of it, to pull it off is pretty special. Definitely going to be something I will remember, but more importantly it's big for this event. For us to win that, we're going to get a tiebreaker, worst case."



KEVIN KOE

I think if we win one of our last two games we should get into the 1-2 game. I might be a little quick saying that but at least the ball's in our hands going into tomorrow."

But what was the shot?

"I guess it was a double raise, double, around the horn backwards, something or other," he laughed. "It

was crazy. That's the only shot we thought was there. I envisioned it the way it happened. It's just the percentage of actually making it happen are so small, because not even a millimetre on the top rock and we miss it."

The shot was a huge emotional lift for Gushue and teammates, third Mark Nichols, second Brett Gallant, and lead Geoff Walker. It was an arrow through the heart of Kevin Koe and his Alberta team of third Marc Kennedy, second Brent Laing and lead Ben Hebert.

"A tough one," Koe said of the loss. "I didn't think (the shot) was there. I thought we had it in the bag honestly. I don't know how many times out of a 100 he makes that but unfortunately for us he did and that's just kind of the way it's been going, wrong side of the inch."

Koe beat his brother, Jamie and his team from the Northwest Territories in the evening draw to keep alive Alberta's slim hopes of getting into at least a tiebreaker.

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ABOVE: These two gents came dressed for the occasion.
LEFT: P.E.I. skip Adam Casey exhorts his brushers to lean into it in a game against Saskatchewan.
RIGHT: Northern Ontario skip Brad Jacobs has a leg up on the opposition.



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Profile: Newfoundland/Labrador

Mark Nichols

THIRD

Born: Labrador City
Age: 35
Residence: St. John's
Family: Married to Colette, son Beckett.
Employment: Director of Fitness, the Energy Centre.
Born: Labrador City
First major success in curling: Canadian Junior Championship 2001
Loves curling because: You can always get better.
Curling would be better if: There were no picks.
Three words that describe him: Strong, determined, quiet.
Major curling influence: Russ Howard.
Other life interests: Strength training, coaching, travel.



Brett Gallant

SECOND

Born: Charlottetown, PEI
Age: 25
Residence: St. John's
Family: Single
Employment: Business manager
Years curling: 21
First major success in curling: 2009 Canadian Junior Champion.
Loves curling because: Camaraderie among teammates, travelling to different parts of the world.
Curling would be better if: Curling clubs were warmer!
Three words that describe him: Talkative, sarcastic, determined.
Major curling influence: Kevin Martin, family.
Other life interests: Golfing, training, cold beer.



Geoff Walker

LEAD

Born: Beaverlodge, Alta.
Age: 29
Residence: St. John's
Family: Single
Employment: Golf Course & Ice Maintenance/Rocks & Rings Instructor
Years curling: 18
First major success in curling: Alberta Juvenile Champion 2002
Loves curling because: People met and events like the Brier.
Curling would be better if: Leads didn't get stuck with the bad or questionable rocks.
Three words that describe him: Quiet, hard working, honest.
Major curling influence: Kevin Martin, Kurt Balderston.
Other life interests: The outdoors, hockey, travelling.



Brad Gushue

SKIP

Born: St. John's
Residence: St. John's
Age: 34
Family: Married. Children Hayley (7) and Marissa (3).
Employment: Owner, Menchie's Frozen Yogurt/real estate investor.
Biggest success in curling: Won 2006 Olympic gold medal throwing fourth rocks for Canada.
First major success in curling: Canadian Junior Championship 2001.
Loves curling because: Strategy and teammates.
Curling would be better if: There were cheerleaders.
Three words that describe him: Focused, sarcastic, blunt.
Major curling influence: Russ Howard and Kevin Martin.



**Bally Haly
Country Club
St. John's**

COACH: Ken Bagnell

FACTS

Population: 514,536
Area: 405,212 sq. km
Joined Confederation: 1949
Motto: "See you first the Kingdom of God"
Capital City: St. John's
Languages Spoken: 97.6 English, 2.4% other
Economy: Mining, fishing, oil production, manufacturing, tourism, service industry.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR AT THE BRIER
Last five years:
2014: Brad Gushue (6-5)
2013: Brad Gushue (8-3)
2012: Brad Gushue (5-6)
2011: Brad Gushue (9-2 Bronze)
2010: Brad Gushue (8-3)
Last championship — 1972 Jack MacDuff
Canadian titles — 1
World titles — None
Other prominent male curlers from Newfoundland and Labrador — Bob Cole.



DID YOU KNOW . . .
■ There is a crater on Mars that has been named for the town of Gander, Newfoundland. The 39-km (diameter) crater was dedicated to Gander in 1991 because of the town's history of pioneering aviation and aerospace

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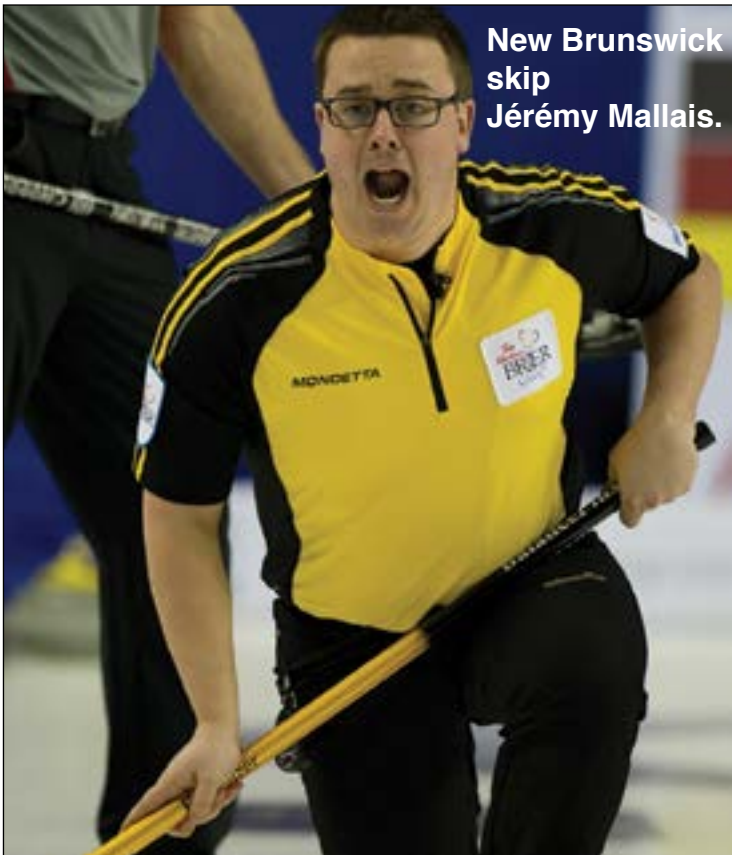


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“
So coming off the ice as Team New Brunswick, we’re feeling pretty good right now.

— Zach Eldridge



New Brunswick skip Jérém  Mallais.

Taking their lumps

Team New Brunswick remains upbeat, proud

By JOHN KOROBANIK

Tankard Times Associate Editor

They are four Tim Hortons Brier rookies without a hope of making the playoffs, they had just been handed their sixth straight loss, and yet Team New Brunswick was still upbeat, optimistic and proud.

Hey, said the words of skip Jeremy Mallais, what’s not to be proud of?

“Our first Brier, we’re fighting hard, we won our first game, which was a big high, and we’ve been battling hard ever since. We’re proud of the way we’re playing. We’re turning some heads, which was one of our main goals.”

A mostly unknown, surprising entrant out of New Brunswick, they won their first game 6-5 over Northwest Territories, nearly beat Team Canada and have been competitive in every game but a 10-2 loss to Brad Gushue of Newfoundland-Labrador. Wednesday they got their second win, 9-4 over Ontario in eight ends.

“Finally felt good to bring a whole game together. All eight ends were well-played and we fought hard,” said Mallais.



See N.B. Page 16

Concession Menu GRAB & ENJOY

cold

Veggie Dip	5.50	Nachos	6.50
Yogurt	2.25	Popcorn.....	4.00
Fruit Cup	2.00	Twizzler	3.50
Fresh Fruit	1.00	Chips/etc	1.75

daily specials

Chili & Cheese Scone.....	7.00
Beef on a Bun with Crispy Onions	8.00
Beef & Cheese with Crispy Onions.....	8.50
BBQ Boneless Pork Rib Sandwich	6.50
Cheese Burger.....	6.50
Beef Stew & Cheese Scone	7.00
Baked Potato with the fixins	8.75

Plus new daily specials!

watch. eat. party. repeat.

hot

Hot Dog	4.75
Soup & Crackers.....	4.00
Soup & Sandwich Combo	10.00

sandwich/wraps/salads

Turkey & Fruit Wrap with Curried Aioli.....	8.50
Quinoa Vegetable Salad with Curried Yogurt Dressing	7.50
Chicken & Roasted Vegetable Wrap	8.00
Chicken Caesar Salad	8.50
Greek Salad	8.50
Rustic Sandwiches	7.00



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FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

Crête makes himself heard

By **DAVE KOMOSKY**
Tankard Times Editor

Russ Howard, ol’ Hurry Hard himself, was the poster boy for the ‘scream-at-the-top-of-your-lungs’ curler. Howard abused many an eardrum over his long and rich curling career, before retiring to the broadcast booth. The story goes the mute button was invented because of Howard’s exhortations on the ice (just kidding there, folks). But there’s a serious rival in the screeching department at this Tim Hortons Brier, presented by SecurTek Monitoring Solutions, and he could give Howard in his prime a run for his money in the decibel department. Martin Crête, third on Team Quebec, can belt them out like



nobody’s business — and in both official languages, no less. Crête says he’s just doing what comes naturally. He’s trying to get his sweepers attention, and there’s nothing like a bullhorn voice to get it done. “Hurry hard,” he screeches. “Yes! Oui! Gotta go! Suffice!” “That’s just the way I play on the ice, the intensity I have,” says Crête. “It’s been that way ever since I played junior. It keeps me in the game.” Crête’s level can be a bit much for some of his opponents, especially those who have the misfortune of playing on the adjacent sheets. Crête says nobody has complained to him about yelling too loud, at least to his face. So he keeps on hollering.



See **CRÊTE**
Page 16







Quebec’s Martin Crête can belt out the orders to his sweepers.



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WEEKNIGHTS 6



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Two great acts hit the stage in the Patch tonight, starting with the Real Deal Band. The talented group pumps out a powerful performance, with a playlist ranging from blues and r & b to funk, soul and swing.

Then Suite 33 takes the party to the next level. These five polished musicians, who have toured all over North America in the past decade, are highly skilled entertainers with a rock solid sound.

Meanwhile, Oh Brothers will entertain fans in the Purple Heart Lounge with their eclectic repertoire of rock, folk, reggae, bluegrass and pop tunes.

This Afternoon Real Deal Band

Tonight Suite 33

Friday Afternoon: Chevelles

Night: Chevelles and Wonderland

Saturday Afternoon: Playground Zone

Night: Retrofitz

Sunday Afternoon: Counterfitz

In the Purple Heart Lounge

Tonight Oh Brothers

Friday & Saturday Night: The Orchard



Another winner's on the way!

The Cool Shots competition moves into the sixth day of play. Sign up for free and you could walk away with the daily cash prize and a ticket to the finals on championship weekend.



Junior Stars

Junior Stars Tommy Waite and Evan Crough wear Team Manitoba colours prior to the Wednesday afternoon draw.



Three Canadian Olympic champions, John Morris, Brad Jacobs and Brad Gushue, got together at the Wednesday Up Close and Personal interview.

Up Close & Personal Interviews

Get the inside word from the athletes at the Up Close and Personal interviews. The Quebec representatives will be on hand to chat with fans at 12:30 pm, followed by Team New Brunswick at 5:30 pm.

Today
12:30 pm Team Quebec
5:30 pm Team New Brunswick

in the Purple Heart Lounge

Friday, 12:30 pm: Teams SK & ON

Sweet Tweets!



Tweet your best pics of the Brier experience to @curlingcanada for the chance to win prizes. You could also be a winner in the Patch selfie contest. Tweet party shots to @curlingcanada #patchselfie.

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Team Prince Edward Island skip Adam Casey signs a program for a Tim Hortons Brier fan.

Team Autograph Sessions

Drop in to the Purple Heart Lounge for today's autographs sessions, featuring the Newfoundland/Labrador and British Columbia teams.

Today
12:00 pm Team Newfoundland/Labrador
5:00 pm Team British Columbia

in the Purple Heart Lounge

Friday, 12 pm: Team MB
 Saturday, 5 pm: ALL TEAMS



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CURLING QUIZ

Gather 'round, folks, we're going to test your curling know-how.

1. The Brier's single-game attendance record was established at this arena:
- a) MTS Centre in Winnipeg
 - b) Rexall Place in Edmonton
 - c) Saskatchewan Place in Saskatoon
 - d) Scotiabank Saddledome in Calgary

2. No skip has won more Brier games than this curling legend's 113:
- a) Glenn Howard
 - b) Russ Howard
 - c) Kevin Martin
 - d) Jeff Stoughton

3. Fifteen teams have run the table at the Brier. The last skip to go undefeated was:
- a) Kevin Martin
 - b) Greg McAuley
 - c) Randy Ferbey
 - d) Vic Peters

4. True or False: The most points scored by one team in a Brier game is 30.

5. He said it: "Curling, you can make a little bit of money at it, but it sure doesn't pay like a regular job or have a pension."
- a) Ed Werenich
 - b) Pat Ryan
 - c) Paul Gowse
 - d) John Morris

ANSWERS:
1. When Kevin Martin and Vic Peters locked horns in the 1997 Brier final, they had 17,024 eye witnesses in the Scotiabank Saddledome. Martin won, 10-8, with a steal of one in the 10th end as Peters' time clock was about to expire.
2. Russ (Hurry Hard) Howard represented both Ontario and New Brunswick at the Brier, collecting 113 victories.
3. Not only did Kevin Martin and his Alberta mates run the table in 2008, they repeated the feat a year later just to prove it wasn't a fluke.
4. It's true. Garnet Campbell of Saskatchewan defeated New Brunswick's Ken Everett 30-3 on Draw 2 of the 1957 Brier.
5. Those words of wisdom came from Team Canada skip John Morris, whose regular job is fighting fires.



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Is there a medic in the house? Yes!

By **AMANDA DUCHEMINSKY**
Tankard Times Editor

Whether you're stopping by for help with a nasty scrape or need a Tylenol for a hangover, you're in good hands in the medical room at the Tim Hortons Brier, sponsored by SecurTek Monitoring Solutions. Tom Kulisz, one of the event's full-time paramedics, has already had to deal with a few on-site injuries.

"Mainly cuts, bumps, bruises and headaches. Nothing major, so far," says Kulisz, who explains that these types of "injuries" are normal during the Tim Hortons Brier.

A normal day at the Tim Hortons Brier is fairly quiet, but can heat up.

"With the Brier and the general population that's here, I find that they are not as rowdy as concerts or hockey games," Kulisz says.

A regular day for Kulisz would be weaving a few stitches, lending a band-aid to a curling official in need, or accepting lost medication from volunteers.

The Tim Hortons Brier on-site medical staff can handle almost any kind of emergency.

"Anything and everything that I can be faced with as a paramedic I can treat. So trauma, medical cases, etc.," says Kulisz.



See **MEDICAL**
Page 16



Paramedic Jason Fong.

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Buffet Menu

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FOOD & BEVERAGE

western

AAA Alberta Beef
served on a fresh Kaiser Bun with Stampede Horseradish, Roasted Baby Potatoes, Stampede Baked Beans, Caesar Salad **15⁰⁰**

mexican cantina

Chipotle Pulled Pork
on a fresh Kaiser Bun with Salsa Verde, Roasted Baby Potatoes, Stampede Baked Beans, Chili Spiked Coleslaw..... **15⁰⁰**

italian

Baked Country Chicken
in a Tuscan Tomato Sauce, Roasted Baby Potatoes, Stampede Baked Beans, Pasta Salad **15⁰⁰**

chili & salad bar

Vegetarian Stampede Chili
Soup of the day with medley of Tossed Greens with Dressing, Caesar Salad, Pasta Salad, Chili Spiked Coleslaw, Rolls and Butter..... **15⁰⁰**

European

Grilled Bratwurst Sausage
with German Sauerkraut and Onions on a Fresh Top Sliced Bun, Roasted Baby Potatoes, Stampede Baked Beans & Caesar Salad **15⁰⁰**

sweets

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Carrot Cake.....3.00
Gluten Free Brownie.....2.50

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Profile: Saskatchewan

Kirk Muyres

THIRD

Born: St.Gregor, Sask.
Age: 24
Residence: Martensville, Sask.
Family: Single
Employment: Business Development Specialist, Decisive Farming
Years curling: 18
First major success in curling: 2007 Canada Winter Games; 5th place.
Loves curling because: Friends, competition, passion and drive to get better every single day.
Curling would be better if: Cheerleaders, heckling.
Two words that describe him: Passionate, motivated.
Other life interests: Entrepreneurship.



Colton Flasch

SECOND

Born: Biggar, Sask.
Age: 23
Residence: Saskatoon
Family: Single
Employment: Contractor
Years curling: Nine
First major success in curling: Junior National championship.
Loves curling because: It's a great way to socialize with friends.
Curling would be better if: There was more prize money.
Other life interests: Love to play all sports especially golf.



Dallan Muyres

LEAD

Born: St. Gregor, Sask.
Age: 28
Residence: Saskatoon
Family: Single
Employment: CAD/design technologist, Saskatchewan Research Council.
Years curling: 14
First major success in curling: Brier in London in 2011.
Three words that describe him: Perfectionist, easy-going, intense.
Major curling influence: My dad, Lyle.
Other life interests: Not a whole bunch. Curling takes up most of my time. A little golfing in the summer, hanging out at the lake.



Steve Laycock



SKIP

Born: Yorkton, Sask.
Age: 32
Residence: Saskatoon
Family: Married (Gina) with a 3-year-old son Owen.
Employment: Compensation Specialist, University of Saskatchewan
Years curling: 23 years.
First major success in curling: 2003 World Junior Championship.
Loves curling because: Cerebral sport that also requires finesse and athleticism.
Curling would be better if: More of the social traditions would make a comeback without losing the increased level of play.
Three words that describe him: Intense, poised, even-keeled.
Other life interests: Golf, softball, travelling.



Nutana Curling Club Saskatoon

ALTERNATE: Gerry Adam
COACH: Lyle Muyres


FACTS

Population: 1,033,381
Area: 651,900 sq. km
Joined Confederation: 1905
Motto: "From many peoples strength"
Capital City: Regina
Languages Spoken: 95% English, 1% French, 4% other
Economy: Grain farming, beef cattle, food products, machinery, oil and gas production, potash.

SASKATCHEWAN AT THE BRIER
Last five years:
2014: Steve Laycock (6-5)
2013: Brock Virtue (5-6)
2012: Scott Manners (3-8)
2011: Steve Laycock (4-7)
2010: Darrell McKee (4-7)
Last championship — Rick Folk (1980)
Canadian titles — 7
World titles — 5 (Ernie Richardson 1959-60-62-63; Rick Folk 1980).
Other prominent male curlers from Saskatchewan — Pee Wee Pickering, Garnet Campbell, Harvey Mazinke.

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Thank you to the organizing committees and volunteers who have worked diligently in preparation for this event. Your famous western style hospitality coupled with the pride and enthusiasm you have for your city have created a welcoming invitation for fans across Canada to come and enjoy what is sure to be a memorable experience!



BRIER SCOREBOARD



STANDINGS

	W	L
N. Ontario (Jacobs)	9	0
NL (Gushue)	7	2
Quebec (Ménard)	6	3
Team Canada (Morris)	6	3
Sask. (Laycock)	5	3
Alberta (K. Koe)	4	4
Manitoba (Carruthers)	4	4
B.C. (Cotter)	3	5
N.B. (Mallais)	2	6
Ontario (Kean)	2	6
P.E.I. (Casey)	2	6
N.W.T. (J. Koe)	0	8

SCHEDULE

TODAY

8:30 a.m. Draw

A—P.E.I. vs. N.B.; B—N. Ont. vs. N.L.; C—B.C. vs. N.W.T.; D—Que. vs. Can.

1:30 p.m. Draw

A — Man. vs. Ont.; B — N.B. vs. B.C.; C — Alta. vs. Sask.; D — P.E.I. vs. N.W.T.

6:30 p.m. Draw

A — NL vs. Que.; B — Alta. vs. Man.; C — N. Ont. vs. Can.; D — Ont. vs. Sask.



LINESCORES

Draw 11

8:30 a.m.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
Team Canada (Morris)	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	2		— 8
B.C. (Cotter)	*1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	0		— 7
Quebec (Ménard)	*2	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	1	x		— 8
N.W.T. (J. Koe)	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	x		— 5
NL (Gushue)	0	1	0	3	3	1	0	1	0	x		— 9
P.E.I. (Casey)	*1	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	x		— 6
N.B. (Mallais)	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	x		— 4
N. Ontario (Kean)	*0	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	x		— 7

Draw 12												
1:30 p.m.												
Sask. (Laycock)	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	x	—	3
N. Ontario (jacobs)	*1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	x	—	4
Ontario (Kean)	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	—	4
Team Canada (Morris)	*1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	—	7
Manitoba (Carruthers)	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	x	—	4
Quebec (Ménard)	*2	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	x	—	7
NL (Gushue)	*2	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	—	8
Alberta (K. Koe)	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	—	7

Draw 13

6:30 p.m.

Alberta (K. Koe)	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	2	x	—	7	
NL (Gushue)	*0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	x	—	4	
Sask. (Laycock)	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	—	7
P.E.I. (Casey)	*0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	—	6
N.B. (Mallais)	*2	0	1	0	2	3	0	1	x	x	—	9	
Ontario (Kean)	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	x	x	—	4	
B.C. (Cotter)	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	x	x	—	3	
Manitoba (Carruthers)	*0	2	0	0	2	1	0	3	x	x	—	8	

* — Last rock

* — Last rock

[illegible]

Precisely Put.



When the margin of error is small, precision wins the game.

John Deere is a proud supporter of the 2015 Tim Hortons Brier.

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Medical

FROM PAGE 11

“On-site I have advanced life support equipment, defibrillators, medications, IV supplies, stretchers and hospital beds.”

Kulisz has been a practicing paramedic for six years and works for Aaron Paramedical Services. The company prepares all of its staff before the event.

“There is a training process,” says Kulisz. “You have to know the building. You have to know your site.”

Alberta has varying regulations for on-site medical personal at events. Kulisz says it’s usually determined by attendance numbers.

“It depends on the amount of people. The number of on-site staff goes up as the number of people escalates. Right now, I’m the only one that’s in the Saddledome. Other than that, there are people here who have first-aid training who can definitely assist. I think that’s how things are

balanced out.”

Kulisz says first-aiders are a huge support for paramedics at events like the Tim Hortons Brier.

“You develop a certain value for every level of medical care as a paramedic,” he says. “I don’t know who is or who is not trained in first-aid. Usually if I get to a scene people, more often than not, voluntarily tell me, ‘Hey I’m a first-aid. I can give you hand.’”

After working the event for the past couple days, Kulisz says his opinion on curling and the fans hasn’t changed. He’s happy to be here and help keep the public safe. Kulisz reminds us that the best way to avoid paying him a visit is to just be aware.

“Stay responsible. Drink responsibly. And make sure that you know where your medical facility is and that you have good people take care of you,” he says.

The medical centre is located on the Saddledome’s main level near the west entrance. It has a giant “Medical” sign above it that can’t be missed. Kulisz encourages anyone to stop by when needed.

N.B.

FROM PAGE 6

They could have meekly surrendered after giving up three to Olympic champion Brad Jacobs Wednesday morning but they fought back, scored a rare deuce against the unbeaten Northern Ontario crew and took the game into the 10th end before surrendering 7-4.

“I can’t say we’re feeling badly at all right now, coming off that game,” said third Zach Eldridge, the oldest of the team at 30. “We thought about an end where we gave up three, could have been a two. Had a chance for a deuce and only got one. Just thinking about those two shots, if they’re executed we’re coming home down one with the hammer, against probably the best team in the world right now.”

“So coming off the ice as Team New Brunswick, we feel pretty proud right now,”

The week has been a huge learning experience for Mallais, Eldridge,

second Chris Jeffrey, lead Jared Bezanson, alternate Jason Vaughan and coach Mark Wood.

“You learn a lot about the ice, about this type of conditions, but at the end of the day you really learn a lot about your teammates and stuff that you can build on for next year,” said 26-year-old Mallais, the only married member of the team.

“It’s a very stressful environment, we’ve lost six games, so you kind of get into that funk where you start nit-picking a little bit. But our team has done a real good job of communicating so I think the biggest (thing) we’re going to take from it is what we learned about each other.”

They’ve also learned things like how to play with Brier rocks and on arena ice.

“Been a lot of firsts for us,” said Eldridge. “First time on the main TSN network, first Brier game, a lot of emotions to deal with, lot of things that you just have to live and feel to understand. I guess we’ve come a long ways if we just think about where we were when we started.”

Crête

FROM PAGE 7

Crete admits he’s toned it down over the years.

“Five or six years ago I was screaming a lot harder,” Crete admits. “But now I

tone it down.”

Howard, when he played in Calgary, used to say the dry Alberta air played havoc with his voice.

No such trouble for Crête. “I drink a lot of water,” he says. “I’ve never lost my voice in a tournament. I have the strong vocals. I have endurance.”