

TANKARD TIMES



Tim Hortons
Brier
London
2011

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London
2011

Issue 8 – Saturday, March 12, 2011 • An Official Publication of the Canadian Curling Association.

Makes... The Final!



Manitoba's
Jeff Stoughton
earns spot in
Sundays finale

Page 2

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2011 TIM HORTONS BRIER • Page 1•2 Final

'99 champ will have another shot

Larry Wood
Tankard Times Editor

The trail has been long, arduous, tortuous and consistently uphill all the way.

The old champ from Manitoba hasn't made it to the apex of the Tim Hortons Brier mountain since 1999 . . . but he's been climbing back, ever-so determinedly, ever since . . . clawing and scratching over boulders and ice and other wintry obstacles of all shapes and sizes.

And now the payoff may be as close as Sunday night at the John Labatt Centre when 47-year-old Jeff Stoughton of Winnipeg plays in the championship final at 7:30, targeting a goal — his third national curling championship — that has seemed so far distant for so long.

"It's just an unbelievably great feeling," said Stoughton, moments after drawing his last stone of an extra end to the button for a 7-6 Page One-Two playoff conquest of Newfoundland's Brad Gushue and Co.

"Just unbelievable! The best feeling in the world. We did not want to play tomorrow. We get the day off, throw some rocks, have some fun, and we cannot wait to play Sunday night. It's just awesome.

"It's what I've been telling everybody from the start. We are only here for one thing — to win this Brier. And we're in the final, just one more win. We don't have to think about anything else now except playing for a gold medal.

"We're not going to be able to sleep, eat, talk to anybody, it's a long two days away. But we're pretty loopy-goopy so we'll probably be OK."

Three teams remain in the race to play Stoughton on Sunday night. Alberta's Kevin Martin and Ontario's Glenn Howard face off this afternoon, the winner plays Gushue at 7:30 p.m. and that winner advances against Stoughton for all the marbles.

The veteran Manitoba skip qualified for the final two years ago but was hammered 10-4 by Martin.

"Do I feel better going into this one? Yes. We've got hammer. And I think we've got a real good shot at it," Stoughton said.

"It's been a long time since 1999. Yeah. I was actually young back then. Now I'm an old fart. It's great, knowing all the work and commitment we've all put in. To get one more opportunity like this is just awesome."

Gushue, based on his No. 1 playoff ranking, owned the hammer and got off to control with a deuce in the third end. He still grappled with control through the eighth at which time the score was deadlocked 5-5.

But the Newfoundlanders played a hor-

rible ninth end and were fortunate to get away with yielding the steal of one point. A first-rock circus shot by Gushue set up the tying rock in the 10th but Stoughton was left staring at an open four-foot in the 11th with enemy stones stationed on either side of it.

"Hats off to our guys for hanging in there, making every shot, giving them nothing in the 10th for that deuce, and Stevie made the nice ticks there and left me the button. It was all I could ask for," said Stoughton.

"The guys put it right there. I let it go, I thought it was going to be pretty close, they said it was there, and it was perfect. It's what you want to be able to do as a skip. I was so glad I was able to throw it and make that shot.

"We finally made better shots, better angles, better placement of the rocks the last three ends. We had them hooped in the 10th and 11th."

Gushue was disconsolate with his team's fade in the latter ends.

"We had our opportunity there tonight," he said.

"Up one with hammer in the sixth end and to come out and play as poorly as we did in the last five ends is pretty disappointing — several ends I didn't have much of a shot so it was very frustrating. Hopefully we can figure out what happened and maybe fix it tomorrow."

Gushue was asked about some strategic calls.

"Strategy had nothing to do with it," he said. "If we'd made a couple of shots the strategy would have been completely fine. You miss six in a row and get yourself in jail it doesn't matter what shots you're calling, you're going to lose."

"We shouldn't have been playing those runbacks," he said. "We put rocks in poor positions. And when your playing runbacks at this level and you hit half-a-rock on one side and you're trying to hit half-a-rock on the other side, it's poor execution.

"If anybody says anything about strategy they have to look at the game because it was just awful, awful execution. No matter what shot you call, if you miss them as badly as we missed them tonight you're going to be in jail.

"We'll try to figure out some technical issues that jumped out there tonight, and be ready to go again tomorrow night. That's all we can do."

Stoughton said he's not concerned about restoring the reputation of Manitoba as a curling force on Sunday, but added . . .

"It would be nice to get Manitoba back on the map for this decade — it would be a great way to start."

Manitoba's Jeff Stoughton advanced to Sunday's final with an extra-end win over Brad Gushue Friday.





Newfoundland/Labrador second Ryan Fry and skip Brad Gushue talk strategy during the Page 1/2 game Friday.



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Time out for Tim Hortons Brier trivia

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

Name the skip of the runner-up team at the 2009 Ontario men's curling championship.

1. His hometown?
2. Until Barry Fry won the 1979 Brier with a 10-1 record, all skips who had won 10 games went undefeated at the Brier. Since Fry, how many skips have won the Canadian title with less than 10 wins?
3. Name them and the years and how many wins.
4. Name the first skip ever to win more than 10 games at the Brier.
5. Where and in what year?
6. One Brier champion was required to win less games in order to claim his title than any other in post-war history. Name him and his home town.

7. How about the year, the place and how many wins?
8. Name the skips of teams that have won the Canadian men's title while absorbing four losses. Hint: There are only two of them.
9. The years and hometowns of those champs?
10. Name the skips of teams they defeated in final games.
11. During the first Canadian championship won by a team recording four losses, who skipped the Ontario entry and where was he from?
12. Name one of Canada's top ice-makers who played on that team.
13. He played which position and what was the team's record.
14. Where was that Brier played?

• **Answers on Page 7**

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2011 TIM HORTONS BRIER SCHEDULE AND RESULTS



Standings

NL (Gushue)	9	2
Manitoba (Stoughton)	9	2
Alberta (Martin)	9	2
Ontario (Howard)	8	3
N.Ont (Jacobs)	7	4
Nova Scotia (Adams)	5	6
B.C. (Cotter)	4	7
Saskatchewan (Laycock)	4	7
New Brunswick (Grattan)	4	7
Quebec (Gagné)	3	8
NT/YT (Koe)	3	8
P.E.I. (MacKenzie)	1	10

Attendance Draw 17: 6953 Total: 78632



Game Scores by Draw

Draw	A	B	C	D	14	15	16	17
1	* SK 6 NT/YT 4	NB 5 * ON 4	* NL 12 PE 1	* MB 10 BC 4	NT/YT 4 * QC 10	* MB 5 AB 1	NB 8 * NS 5	* NO 9 PE 2
2	MB 9 * NB 4	* NS 4 QC 10	NO 2 * AB 6	PE 6 * NT/YT 8	* NO 6 NB 1	* NS 12 PE 3	* AB 7 NT/YT 6	MB 8 * QC 4
3	* QC 10 PE 3	NT/YT 8 * NO 11	NS 3 * MB 8	* AB 8 NB 6	* BC 5 NS 6	SK 3 * NO 6	NL 9 * QC 7	* AB 6 ON 5
4	* ON 7 NS 4	BC 2 * AB 8	SK 8 * QC 7	NO 5 * NL 7	BC 6 * NL 5	PE 4 * MB 9	NB 7 * NT/YT 8	* ON 10 SK 3
5	BC 6 * NL 5	PE 4 * MB 9	NB 7 * NT/YT 8	* ON 10 SK 3				
6		SK 6 * NL 7	ON 7 * BC 5					
7	* PE 2 AB 9	* QC 5 NB 7	* MB 8 NO 4	NT/YT 2 * NS 9				
8	QC 4 * ON 12	NO 7 * BC 5	NS 7 * SK 6	* NL 9 AB 4				
9	* NT/YT 4 MB 10	AB 9 * NS 7	* PE 8 NB 5	QC 5 * NO 8				
10	NS 10 * NO 5	* NL 1 ON 6	QC 5 * AB 7	* SK 6 BC 4				
11	NB 5 * BC 6	PE 7 * SK 8	NT/YT 3 * NL 8	* ON 7 MB 4				
12	AB 11 * SK 3	* BC 8 QC 7	* NO 5 ON 4	NS 3 * NL 9				
13	ON 11	NB 5	* SK 6	* BC 5				

Scoring and Percentages Summary for Draw 18 Page 1-2

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	TOTAL		
C NL (Gushue)	*1	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	6	00:39	
Manitoba (Stoughton)	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	7	02:52	
NL	#SH		PTS		PCT		MB		#SH		PTS		PCT	
1 Jamie Danbrook	22	79	90	1	Steve Gould	22	79	90						
2 Ryan Fry	22	75	85	2	Reid Carruthers	22	76	86						
3 Mark Nichols	22	61	69	3	Jon Mead	22	83	94						
4 Brad Gushue	22	67	76	4	Jeff Stoughton	21	75	89						
Team Totals	88	282	80	Team Totals	87	313	90							

Attendance Draw 18: 6000 Total: 84632

TODAY'S GAMES

2:30
Page 3/4 Game Ontario Howard vs. Alberta Martin

7:30
Semi-final
3/4 Page winner vs. NL Gushue

Team Canada? Heavy hitters weigh in on notion

All right, so what about the concept of a Team Canada at future Tim Hortons Briers?

Your grizzled humble servant expounded his views in this space the other day.

Now for opinions from elsewhere, including the current top four Brier finishers . . .

Says Newfoundland skip Brad Gushue of St. John's:

"I don't like the idea of a Team Canada for the Brier. I like the idea of starting right from zero every year. You have to win your club, your zones, take the first step and work right through. I think that's a unique aspect of the Brier and it has been that way since 1927.

"Bringing in Team Canada, to me, is a bit of a marketing gimmick. The Brier doesn't need a Team Canada to market the event.

"Tonight you're going to have 7,000-8,000 people in the arena. I don't think having Team Canada there will help. And if a new team is brought in that means there's a province or territory that's going to have to go out.

"Even though some of the provinces and/or territories haven't necessarily been competitive the last couple years doesn't mean they're not going to be competitive in the future.

"And the issue I have with this relegation thing is, all you need is one year for Glenn Howard to get upset in the Ontario provin-

cial and you conceivably have a weak team coming through and going 2-and-9. All of sudden Ontario's relegated? I don't think they'd like that situation."

Allows Manitoba skip Jeff Stoughton of Winnipeg:

"I've always thought it would be nice to have a Team Canada but it probably doesn't matter much either way. I think the bigger issue is whether or not you need to bring in teams that can be more competitive as opposed to four or five teams that just aren't going to do well here. I think that's disappointing as a fan to watch 12-2 and 8-2 games. You want to see 6-6 coming home.

"I don't know about more top teams, a relegation round and so forth, but instead of having four or five good teams you'd have eight or nine. It would become more like the Olympic trials. But I wouldn't have an idea how they'd do that. Do you say, two out of Alberta, two out of Manitoba, one out of Quebec? I don't know how you'd ever



LARRY WOOD
HeartChart Editor

do it.

"I guess if you were lucky enough to be Team Canada, it's unique to be that for a couple of weeks. It'd be kind of cool to be that for the whole year. They should look at it. But how do you do it?"

"Northern Ontario already has history and I think they're going to have more with a guy like Brad Jacobs. When you start relegation or dumping teams then the question becomes, what is the definition of the Brier? If it's still that anybody can win it . . . anybody! Then you still have to have regional qualification."

Says Alberta skip Kevin Martin of Edmonton:

"If you look down the road a little bit, I don't think there is any question the defending Brier champion will be returning the following year as Team Canada, as has been the case in the Scotties for years.

"It hasn't changed yet. But they've pretty much told us it's going to change. The defending champion will be back before too long. And I think, considering the Olympic team had to miss the Brier the previous year competing in the Olympics, that team should be in as well. In the year after the Olympics you just make a spot for them, too. It's pretty easy.

"I like the concept of the bottom two at the Brier spending a year away from it. I think it would make them work harder to

develop curling."

Says Ontario skip Glenn Howard of Coldwater:

"I'm an old-school traditionalist. This Purple Heart means a lot to me. Growing up it was the most coveted prize. To earn a Purple Heart you have to win your province to get there. Hypothetically, if we were to win the Brier this year we'd now be Team Canada and if they decided to change it next year they'd be handing me a Purple Heart?"

And you get to go to the 2012 national championship? I didn't earn anything. I won it the year before. I was good last year. I totally get the marketing idea but what are we doing this for? The Brier doesn't need marketing like this. They did it for a reason at the Scotties. I don't know if it needs it any more, either. They say, 'oh well, Kevin Koe could be going around all over Canada promoting junior curling'. Why can't he do that anyway? He's the reigning world champion. But he still has to earn his way back the next year. I'm a big fan of that. And I think we lose sight of why we are doing these things? Is it marketing, money-making? I'm a curler. I want to promote the game. I think you have to earn the right to put that Purple Heart on your shirt. Another thing. They say, we can get rid of P.E.I. or a territory. Question?"

Continued on Page 13

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Answers

QofD: Peter Corner.

1. Brampton
2. Three skips.
3. Mike Riley in 1984, Al Hackner in 1985 and Pat Ryan in 1989 each won nine games.
4. Ed Werenich
5. Sudbury in 1983.
6. Tom Ramsay, Kirkland Lake
7. 1950 at Vancouver, seven wins
8. Al Hackner, Jean-Michel Menard.

9. Hackner in 1985 from Thunder Bay, Menard in 2006 from St-Romuald (although Menard himself lives in Gatineau).
10. Hackner beat Pat Ryan, Edmonton; Menard beat Glenn Howard, Coldwater, Ont.
11. Earle Morris, Ottawa.
12. Dave Merklinger.
13. Second, record 5-and-6.
14. Moncton, N.B.

Tankard Times

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The Party Line

your guide to what's goin' on



the Chevelles are back for another lap!



The Chevelles

Today at 5:30 & 11:00 pm

Hold on to your hats 'cause the **Chevelles** are back! These guys rocked the house Friday – and they're returning for two more shows tonight that are guaranteed to keep the dance floor packed.

They've come to be known as "Legends of the Patch" after regular appearances at Season of Champions events in recent years. And there's a simple reason they keep coming back – they know how to rock the crowds all night long!

The Chevelles recapture the magic of the live music scene of the 60's, 70's and 80's with an explosive performance featuring an extensive repertoire of classic rock and roll hits.

Join Buck Chevelle (lead vocals/lead guitar), Kitty Chevelle (lead vocals/bass), Woody Chevelle (lead vocals/rhythm guitar/keyboards) and T.T. Chevelle (vocals/drums) as they take you on a wild ride around the Patch!

Today at 6:00 & 10:30 pm – Purple Heart Lounge

Paul James is a veteran entertainer who has been singing and playing the blues for more than three decades, sharing the stage with some of the biggest names in the business – including Bo Diddley, Bob Dylan, John Hammond and Spencer Davis. Tonight, he'll be sharing his talents with fans in the Purple Heart Lounge in a solo performance.



last day to play your way to the finals!

The final day of the Cool Curling qualifying round starts today at 12:30 pm in Keith's Patch, with another 32 teams looking to move on to the Sunday finals. Sandi Flemming and Andrew Burgess took Friday's \$60 daily prize and the fifth spot in tomorrow's playoff.

This is your last chance to get in on the action and take your shot at the cash prizes. Just sign up for free in the Patch – the winners take home \$300, \$150 will go to the semi-finalists and \$130 to the third place team.

up
next

Sunday, March 13

Keith's Patch

The Chevelles – 6:00 pm

For complete entertainment
schedule please visit

AtThePATCH.ca



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Full schedules are posted at both departure points and online at seasonofchampions.ca

Complimentary shuttle bus service is available daily to transport fans between the John Labatt Centre and the London Convention Centre. Shuttles will leave each venue every half hour between 11:00 am and 10:45 pm daily. Pick up locations are outside Gate One on Talbot Street at the John Labatt Centre and the front doors of the London Convention Centre.

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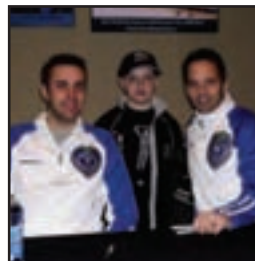
FANTASTIC

autograph sessions

If you missed getting an autograph from any of your favourite curlers at the Team Autograph sessions during the past week, today's your chance to make up for it. All the players are scheduled to be on hand in **Keith's Patch at 6:00 pm** to meet with the fans.

Today – 6:00 pm

All teams are schedule to be available.



great tastes of the Brier

A full menu of fine food is available to satisfy the appetites of Brier fans – ranging from light snacks to full course meals – in Keith's Patch and the Purple Heart Lounge. Light snacks and quick service foods are featured in the Patch while the Purple Heart Lounge is best suited for those looking for a full meal:

Today's Lunch Special (11:00 am - 2:30 pm)
Hot Roast Beef Sandwich - \$6.75

Today's Hot Entree Buffet (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)
Meat Lasagna with Garlic Bread - 13.00

For complete menus go online to

AtThePATCH.ca



There may be no other shot in curling packed with the pressure of the cold draw to the button! Especially during the semi-finals of the Tim Hortons Brier in front of a capacity crowd at the John Labatt Centre.

Well, just imagine yourself trying to make the big one – using a golf ball and an Odyssey White Ice putter. It's a 93-foot putt with a \$100,000 prize on the line!

That's exactly what will happen for two lucky competitors in the Odyssey White Ice Challenge during the fifth-end break of tonight's semi-final match, getting underway at 7:30 pm.

Gerald Gerth from Kitchener, Ontario – qualifying through the White Ice Challenge competition this week at the London Brier – and **Sheila Dixon from Fergus, Ontario** who won the online trivia contest will take to the ice for the putt of a lifetime!



curling hall of fame

The Canadian Curling Hall of Fame has prepared a special exhibit for display during the Brier. Drop by the John Labatt Centre concourse – near section 106 & 107 - to view historic photos, films and memorabilia from one of Canada's most prestigious events.

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You can be a big winner at the Brier! 50/50 draws will be held throughout the event. The prize is awarded following each draw and previous day's winners will be featured daily in the Party Line.

Danielle Melmoth accepts her 50/50 cheque.

the times are **changing**



Remember, Daylight Savings Time takes effect at midnight tonight... make sure you move your clocks forward and get to all the Brier action on time!

The winner is:
Draw 17 Danielle Melmoth – \$4,166.00
Blind River, Ontario

Colourful tradition is what Brier is about

The curling continues to be great, the entertainment at the Patch, both on stage and off has been outstanding, but like any Brier, it's the people you meet who make this get-together an event to remember.

Colourful characters abound. There's the formerly fleet-footed Jack Cox, Ontario's flag waving uber-fan, and the Bluenoser women who have been making friends with their tartan caps and sectional cheerleading efforts. There are folks who have come from far and wide to breathe in the essence of Canadia found only here at the Brier. And then there are the local folks who have played their parts, tended to business on behalf of Brier celebrations both past and present.

It was 40 years ago this week that London's first Brier was conceived. At the 1971 Quebec City championships, Jim "Chico" Heseltine, acting as Secretary of the London/St. Thomas



Rory Munro
Tankard Times
Guest Columnist

Brier Committee, made the official bid presentation to MacDonald Tobacco's David Stewart and the Brier Trustees. A year later, at the St. John's Brier, the announcement was made awarding London the 1974 Canadian Men's Curling Championships.

Heseltine, who worked in radio with CHLO, St. Thomas for over thirty years, had been travelling the country covering curling for listeners and knew a national championship would prove a success if showcased in Southwestern

Ontario.

The event, held at the London Gardens, drew 48,170 people. It was the fifth highest Brier attendance total for its time.

"In 1974 we charged 12 dollars for a weekly pass" said the 81 year old Heseltine. "Drinks were 75 cents and we made a profit of 30,000 dollars. Everything was split amongst the Highland, London, Ivanhoe and St. Thomas curling clubs."

Heseltine, a former President of the Canadian Curling Reporters Association, travelled to Sudbury to his first Brier in 1953 and has taken in countless championships since.

He was also a driving force behind London's successful bid to host the 1981 World Curling Championships.

"It's been a lifelong passion" said Heseltine. "My wife Martha was known as the 'Curling Widow' because of all the time I was away. You get into this game and it gets into your blood."

Teresa Easter, Director of Ceremonies for the 2011 Tim Hortons Brier would agree with Heseltine's sentiment.

"Two of my three sons are competitive curlers and we've been to four provincials so far this year, so we basically have no life in the fall and winter."

Teresa and her husband Trent, whose parents, Arnie and Joan are long standing pillars of the London curling community, have been business partners for 20 years.

Working together on behalf of the Brier's Ceremonies Committee has been a piece of cake. Over the course of the last year they've auditioned singers, met with pipers, prepared scripts, and organized and scheduled volunteers for the 17 draws and closing week-end activities. Teresa even sang the national anthem at the Brier's opening banquet and in advance of a mid-week draw.

"My motto for the week has been every three min-

utes something's bound to change, so it's important to be flexible and calm. We want to make sure things run seamlessly and that the fans, C.C.A. and players walk away thinking that London is the best yet" said Easter.

Based on the feedback from the fans I've polled, she may be right.

"I've lovingly referred to participating on the Brier committee as giving birth to a baby elephant. The gestation period has been over a year, but the end result is huge."

Scott Shaw, one of Teresa Easter's key recruits, is a member of the London Police Services Pipe Band. As one of the ceremonial pipers here at the Brier, his skills have been front and centre at the J.L.C. throughout the week. "I think I've done 8 draws so far and will be doing a total of 12, including the final" said the logistics specialist who worked in transportation and customs until recently being downsized.

Focus is paramount when you're curling in front of six or seven thousand people. The same holds true for the piper who's on display. "You're breathing, walking, squeezing the bag and of course, moving your fingers" said the 56 year old. "You don't want to screw up."

Shaw is no stranger to piping for curling events, with appearances at bonspiels, provincial and national championships. Of those he has covered there's only been one slip-up.

"In the early '70's I was piping for the U.S. National Curling Championships in Detroit in full regimental attire. I was directed to make my way around the outside of the rink with no grippers. Half way around I took a spill and ended up, as I like to say em-bare-assed."

There's certainly been no embarrassment here; just a simple attempt to recognize some of the local individuals who have worked diligently on behalf of the Brier's storied traditions.

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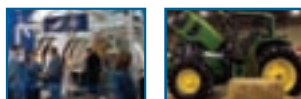


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2011 TIM HORTONS BRIER • Page 3•4 Preview

Bronze bonanza befuddles behemoths

Larry Wood
Tankard Times Editor

They call this afternoon's Tim Hortons Brier playoff match the Page Three-Four for teams finishing third and fourth during the round-robin preliminaries.

Olympic gold medallist Kevin Martin of Edmonton, currently No. 3 at this Brier, and Ontario's Glenn Howard of Coldwater, currently No. 4, beg to differ.

"We are playing the bronze-medal game, 2:30 in the afternoon," retorted Martin on Friday, post-practice at the John Labatt Centre, when asked his opinion of the new system that calls for a bronze-medal game on Sunday involving the loser of the Page Three-Four and the loser of tonight's semi-final.

"The loser doesn't get a medal. And the winner does," said Martin. "That is the bronze game! You play for 11 draws and how many days we've been here — I'm not sure how long — to decide on a ranking. Now Gushue has done pretty well all week and he's ranked No. 1., right? Now he should get a medal. It's up to him which one he gets — gold, silver or bronze.

"But the bronze game just doesn't make any sense to me. Oh, I shouldn't say that. A bronze game makes sense. But we're playing it Saturday afternoon! We put ourselves in that trouble. It took us 11 games to put us in that trouble. And so we deserve that trouble. So whoever loses deserves fourth place. Not worse than that, because there's separation between fourth and fifth.

"But we haven't played very well all week, Glenn (Howard) hasn't been at his best all week, so we have one chance to go on but if we lose that Three-Four playoff game we deserve fourth place and we get on a plane and go home. That's it!"

Alberta's Martin (John Morris, Marc Kennedy, Ben Hebert) faces Ontario's Howard (Richard Hart, Brent Laing, Craig Savill) in what used to be a sudden-death Page Three-Four tilt. But, under the new regime, this game no longer is sudden-death. The winner goes to the semi tonight against Friday night's Page One-Two loser. The Three-Four losers hang around to play another game Sunday for the bronze medal.

"But this bronze game, especially with the four teams involved? I don't know," mused Martin. "Do we switch up the teams, make it fun or something? Because, honest, second, third or fourth, for us or Glenn or Jeff or Brad, they're all the same finishes. Two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, they're all the same finishes. One guy gets to go the Worlds. That's what this is all about . . . winning the Canadian championship. It's not about coming in second, or third, or fourth . . .

"Now, you talk about the Olympics? You'd crawl across the desert to get a bronze medal. But this is not the Olympic Games. It's the Canadian championship and only one team moves on to the next level. It's one more step. Same as zones. Doesn't matter if you're second, third, fourth, fifth. If you're not the winner you don't go on. Provincials, Brier, same thing. Second, third, fourth, fifth, all the same. Only one of us gets to the Worlds. I don't know which one. But I hope they get rid of this concept."

Martin shaded Howard 6-5 in the last round of the Brier round-robin on Thursday night to contribute to this playoff scenario.

"You know?" asks Martin. "There could be some teams in here that really would want to play that game. But these four teams? We all talked about it last night at the meeting. So I know that I'm not outside the box here. We all agreed — the four teams that are in this playoff. It's kind of a shame because people are going to come thinking that it's a huge game and it isn't. I'm not trying to be disrespectful or anything. But the curlers don't want it. We're in a situation where two teams are going to have to play an absolutely meaningless curling match."

Martin said that neither the players nor the players' association as consulted on this issue.

"It doesn't make any sense at all," he said.

"We're already in a bronze game.

"I want to make sure that we don't take it that a bronze game doesn't matter here. Glenn and I are playing the bronze game . . . at 2:30.

"Based on this, though, the loser of the final on Sunday should have to go out and play the winner of the bronze game for silver. Same scenario. And just as ridiculous."

Canadian Curling Association director of event operations Warren Hansen released a seven-point introduction to the new bronze format Friday morning.

The CCA argues it is bringing its championship in line with those of the World Curling Federation which rules an additional bronze game is necessary to ensure a team doesn't win a medal with a loss.

Martin, of course, argues this isn't happening by treating the Page Three-Four as the bronze match.

In addition, the CCA says, the extra game provides for a full schedule at the arena for fans and more television exposure on a day that otherwise would feature just an evening final on Sunday.

Mind you, without tiebreakers, only an evening game was featured on Friday.

Whatever the arguments, the current participants aren't buying.

"Tomorrow's game, to me, should decide third place," said Howard.

"I mean, let's look at a hypothetical situation. Say Kevin beats us and then he loses



Ontario's Glenn Howard and Richard Hart will tangle with ol' Bear and ol' rival Kevin Martin of Alberta in Saturday's 3/4 game.

the semi and comes back and we play again and I beat him. He beat me twice this week, I beat him once, I get the bronze medal. That doesn't make any sense to me, from a curler's perspective.

"You shouldn't continue to play once you've lost the chance to win. I'm pretty sure most skips feel the same way. Most ridiculous of all, Brad Gushue is No. 1 right now. And he has the potential to finish fourth. Absolutely ridiculous. He should get a bye or something."

Howard suggests "a 100-per-cent gimmicky money-making venture"

"Obviously, the players haven't been considered at all in this situation which is unfortunate but it is what it is and I guess we're playing it Saturday, whatever it is.

"I mean, what's the reason? Why don't we just continue to have a fourth and a fifth and a sixth and keep bringing people out here?"

"You guys know I'm not a big fan of this whole playoff system . . . but I'm tired of talking about it."

Howard also scratches his head when he hears the ruling has something to do the World Curling Federation.

"Why do we care what the WCF says?" the Ontario skip inquired. "It's ludicrous. We're in the CCA!"

Wood

Continued from Page 6

Is it because we're getting rid of P.E.I. or is it because they aren't very good curlers? Where do you draw the line? Are you trying to make the field the best? If that's what you're trying to do you have to blow up the whole system and go to a Grand Slam. And you have, say,

three out of Alberta, four out of Manitoba, three out of Ontario and one out of Newfoundland. Is that what you want?

What are we doing here? If you want to keep the Canadiana aspect you'd better keep the provinces. I think so. They have to decide what they're trying to do. And they have to be really careful about it."

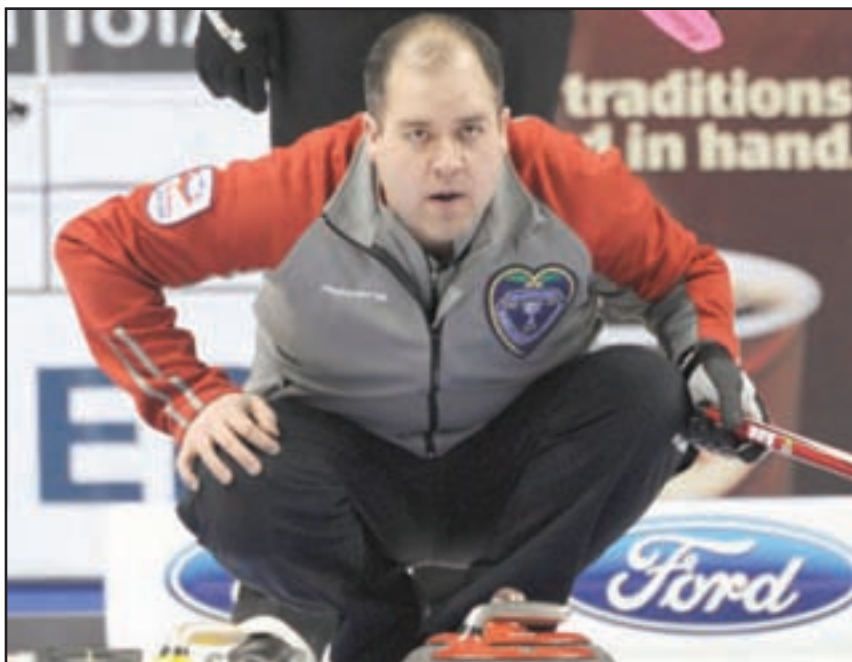
Adds Territories skip Jamie Koe of Yellowknife:

"The Team Canada concept is certainly good. But I think the CCA would have a real eye-opener trying to find teams from all three Territories to play. And then they'd have another eye-opener paying for them all to get down here every year without any competition. I like playing against the Yukon for the right to represent the Territories.

The level

of competition helps you to get prepared to come and play here. If we didn't have that competition to produce one team for the Territories, I don't think we'd be as ready. I think the CCA should survey the fans who come to the Brier every year on this question."

Now there's an idea . . .



Territories skip Jamie Koe says it will be tough to find three polar teams to compete at this level annually.

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Individual and team cumulative statistics

Positional Cumulative Percentages Report

	Draw	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	AVG	
Leads																				
+ Craig Burgess	NS	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	100	**	100	
1 Ben Hebert	AB	**	88	94	93	**	**	94	97	95	90	**	93	**	100	**	85	91	92	
+ Dustin Eckstrand	AB	**	**	**	**	**	**	75	**	**	**	**	100	**	**	**	**	**	92	
2 Craig Savill	ON	84	**	**	93	93	79	**	95	**	95	92	98	88	**	93	**	84	90	
3 Steve Gould	MB	83	83	84	**	86	**	85	**	95	**	99	**	88	98	86	92	**	89	
+ Paul Nason	NB	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	94	**	84	**	89
4 Dallan Muyres	SK	88	**	**	81	91	98	**	83	**	95	80	100	84	**	85	**	90	88	
+ Andrew Symonds	NL	88	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	88
+ Scott Howard	ON	**	**	**	**	100	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	75	**	**	**	**	88
+ Mike Dillon	PE	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	86	**	86
+ Matt Dumontelle	NO	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	88	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	86
5 Jamie Danbrook	NL	90	**	**	80	90	71	**	81	**	97	92	96	74	**	91	**	86	85	
5 Peter Case	NB	70	78	83	**	95	**	83	**	88	**	90	**	83	**	93	**	**	85	
7 Rick Sawatsky	BC	86	**	**	96	74	80	**	84	**	89	80	95	70	**	84	**	89	84	
7 Kelly Mittelstadt	NS	**	85	73	93	**	**	91	89	84	82	**	86	**	96	**	58	84	84	
7 Marty Gavin	NT/YT	71	85	90	**	86	**	98	**	81	**	86	**	81	81	82	86	**	84	
7 Alex MacFadyen	PE	91	85	81	**	86	**	93	**	88	**	85	**	54	70	91	**	**	84	
11 Philippe Ménard	QC	**	72	98	92	**	**	83	88	85	76	**	81	**	78	**	81	84	83	
11 Scott Seabrook	NO	**	86	78	77	**	**	79	88	82	80	**	89	**	71	**	75	99	83	
+ Colin Millar	NT/YT	**	**	**	**	**	**	69	**	**	**	**	**	**	94	**	**	**	81	
+ Jamie Newson	PE	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	75	**	**	**	**	75	
+ Kelly Knapp	SK	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	50	**	**	**	**	**	50	
Seconds																				
+ Craig Savill	ON	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	100	**	**	**	**	100	
+ Marty Gavin	NT/YT	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	94	**	**	**	94	
1 Marc Kennedy	AB	**	96	89	100	**	**	82	91	96	93	**	89	**	92	**	80	84	90	
+ Brad Wood	BC	88	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	88	
2 Reid Carruthers	MB	95	82	92	**	96	**	94	**	88	**	85	**	69	92	84	90	**	87	
3 Ryan Fry	NL	86	**	**	91	85	91	**	94	**	75	92	93	80	**	69	**	93	86	
3 Brent Laing	ON	84	**	**	89	77	91	**	96	**	78	100	89	91	**	79	**	76	86	
5 Brennan Jones	SK	74	**	**	90	94	86	**	79	**	88	83	79	89	**	85	**	86	85	
6 Ryan Harnden	NO	**	79	94	92	**	**	67	94	78	63	**	88	**	81	**	81	93	83	
7 Kevin Folk	BC	92	**	**	70	78	74	**	89	**	84	80	90	81	**	93	**	64	81	
7 Andrew Gibson	NS	**	74	72	86	**	**	100	80	81	82	**	77	**	82	**	86	76	81	
9 Christian Bouchard	QC	**	72	91	70	**	**	75	61	75	86	**	93	**	81	**	82	75	79	
10 Steven Howard	NB	70	67	86	**	72	**	63	**	86	**	65	**	80	90	80	89	**	77	
10 Mike Dillon	PE	73	80	80	**	70	**	59	**	88	**	79	**	83	**	75	**	**	77	
+ Jamie Newson	PE	75	**	**	**	81	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	83	**	68	**	76	
+ Dallan Muyres	SK	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	75	**	**	**	**	**	75	

Positional Cumulative Percentages Report (cc)

	Draw	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	AVG	
Thirds																				
1 Jon Mead	MB	96	88	89	**	77	**	92	**	80	**	79	**	85	97	89	88	**	87	
1 Richard Hart	ON	90	**	**	99	89	91	**	86	**	80	88	84	90	**	91	**	74	87	
3 John Morris	AB	**	82	90	75	**	**	82	94	86	76	**	89	**	67	**	70	93	82	
4 E.J. Harnden	NO	**	68	76	84	**	**	71	75	84	81	**	89	**	83	**	88	89	81	
4 Mark Nichols	NL	88	**	**	78	78	84	**	89	**	67	70	89	91	**	80	**	80	81	
6 Ken Maskewich	BC	80	**	**	70	88	88	**	68	**	88	88	85	79	**	64	**	66	79	
6 Paul Flemming	NS	**	64	77	86	**	**	91	75	71	82	**	73	**	82	**	88	81	79	
8 Robert Desjardins	QC	**	76	95	73	**	**	90	64	73	75	**	81	**	77	**	79	76	78	
9 Charles Sullivan	NB	70	63	85	**	81	**	73	**	65	**	80	**	90	89	85	64	**	77	
10 Steve Laycock (S)	SK	63	**	**	83	66	88	**	83	**	74	85	75	73	**	75	**	68	76	
+ Brad Chorostkowski	NT/YT	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	75	
+ Brennan Jones	SK	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	75	**	**	**	**	75
11 Tom Naugler	NT/YT	71	65	78	**	77	**	70	**	72	**	80	**	71	73	54	71	**	71	
11 Mike Gaudet	PE	75	68	72	**	70	**	70	**	93	**	76	**	65	56	59	70	**	71	
Skips																				
1 Glenn Howard	ON	83	**	**	79	95	94	**	82	**	94	78	82	93	**	95	**	86	87	
2 Brad Gushue	NL	88	**	**	81	62	93	**	80	**	85	84	82	91	**	91	**	87	84	
2 Jeff Stoughton	MB	95	90	89	**	82	**	79	**	81	**	79	**	81	100	70	85	**	84	
4 Brad Jacobs	NO	**	72	86	83	**	**	83	84	89	71	**	87	**	87	**	88	86	83	
+ Tom Naugler	NT/YT	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	81	
5 Kevin Martin	AB	**	89	75	75	**	**	86	69	85	93	**	89	**	85	**	60	78	80	
6 Pat Simmons	SK	83	**	**	84	69	71	**	79	**	81	84	64	82	**	75	**	82	78	
7 James Grattan	NB	84	69	78	**	72	**	95	**	75	**	68	**	83	88	71	72	**	77	
7 Jim Cotter	BC	68	**	**	68	82	76	**	74	**	80	93	80	75	**	73	**	74	77	
7 Shawn Adams	NS	**	66	77	68	**	**	91	85	78	76	**	70	**	74	**	88	80	77	
10 François Gagné	QC	**	85	81	81	**	**	54	54	81	73	**	81	**	75	**	69	79	74	
11 Jamie Koe	NT/YT	82	89	57	**	80	**	61	**	59	**	75	**	80	67	54	79	**	72	
12 Eddie MacKenzie	PE	48	78	67	**	63	**	48	**	85	**	69	**	50	63	54	50	**	63	
+ Steve Laycock (S)	SK	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	63	**	**	**	**	63

** = did not play

+ = player unranked due to insufficient games



Hebert



Kennedy



Mead



Howard

	Draw	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	AVG
Teams																			
1 Ontario (Howard)		85	**	**	90	89	89	**	90	**	87	89	88	90	**	89	**	80	88
2 Manitoba (Stoughton)		93	86	89	**	85	**	88	**	86	**	86	**	81	97	82	89	**	87
3 Alberta (Martin)		**	89	87	86	**	**	85	88	91	88	**	91	**	86	**	74	86	86
4 NL (Gushue)		88	**	**	82	79	85	**	86	**	81	85	90	84	**	83	**	86	84
5 Saskatchewan (Laycock)		77	**	**	84	80	86	**	81	**	84	83	78	82	**	80	**	81	82
5 N.Ont (Jacobs)		**	76	83	84	**	**	75	85	83	74	**	88	**	81	**	83	91	82

	Draw	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	AVG
7 B.C. (Cotter)		81	**	**	76	80	79	**	78	**	85	85	88	76	**	79	**	73	80
7 Nova Scotia (Adams)		**	72	75	84	**	**	93	82	79	81	**	76	**	83	**	81	80	80
9 New Brunswick (Grattan)		73	69	83	**	80	**	78	**	78	**	76	**	84	90	82	77	**	79
9 Quebec (Gagné)		**	76	91	79	**	**	76	67	78	78	**	84	**	78	**	78	78	79
11 NT/YT (Koe)		75	79	75	**	79	**	73	**	72	**	78	**	77	78	63	78	**	75
12 P.E.I. (MacKenzie)		72	78	75	**	73	**	67	**	88	**	77	**	65	68	70	68	**	74

2011 TIM HORTONS BRIER NOTEBOOK

Tankard Times Staff

The P.E.I. curling team that lost the Scotties Tournament Of Hearts final a year ago is splitting up. Erin Carmody, who threw last rocks, and Geri-Lynn Ramsay, who tossed third boulders for skip Kathy O'Rourke, plan to leave the Island to curl and pursue their studies and careers in Alberta.

Carmody and Ramsay will be teaming up with Calgary skip Crystal Webster, who was the alternate with Shannon Kleibrink's foursome at last month's Scotties in Charlottetown. Webster is the wife of Canadian Curling Association national development coach Paul Webster.

Ramsay apparently decided to move west after her boyfriend got a job opportunity while Carmody soon decided to follow. The university courses she's interested in aren't offered at UPEI but are at the University of Calgary.

"I had it figured that way for the last while," O'Rourke, a veteran chartered accountant, said this week. "I knew for the girls to stay home last year and play was a big commitment on their part. By doing that, they were putting on hold their work careers or, for Erin, future schooling. For me? This has retirement written all over it. "I'm going to walk away, that's my plan. I can't imagine what could happen to change that plan."

...

Stonewall, Man., icemaker Mark Shurek is working with Hans Wuthrich of Gimli, Man., fashioning the Brier freeze at the

John Labatt Centre.

But, on Monday, he heads overseas to oversee icemaking at the Capital One Women's Worlds at Esbjerg, Denmark, on the fogbound, rain-bound western coast of Jutland.

"It's a fairly old building but it has all new plants, everything should be neat," says Shurek of Esbjerg, where a curling event never has before held forth.

"One thing we probably won't have to worry about is crowds," says Shurek. "I can't foresee a lot of spectators. Otherwise, the conditions should be very similar to the conditions in the JLC.

"They have a big dehumidification system because their winters are warmer and there's lots of rain. Knock on wood, we shouldn't have any frost issues, for sure."

Shurek spent one day checking out the small Danish city which is three plane rides and a 65-mile drive away from London.

"This will be my third overseas job," he says. "I look forward to making ice in other countries. It presents different challenges. It's always the same thing in Canada."

Shurek handled freeze-making for the Euros at Aberdeen, Scotland, two years ago, also the World Women at Gangneung, South Korea, in 2009.

"I have a couple of assistants working on it this weekend," he says. "Actually, I'm the head guy and I should be there already."

Action starts next Friday night, without Canadian involvement.

"They tell me the Prince of Denmark will be there," says Shurek.

Not Hamlet. The other guy, presumably,

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